

April 2023



Free Spring Church of the Brethren
670 Free Spring Church Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Free Spring Fountain



The water I give will become a spring of water
welling up to eternal life. – John 4:14



Free Spring Church of the Brethren

670 Free Spring Church Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 463-3192
FreeSpringCOB@yahoo.com
Terry Smith, Pastor
Eugene Jones, Moderator
Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Office Hours:

Thursdays

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Sunday Services:

Early Worship – 8:30 am

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship Service – 10:30



Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up
Saturday, April 1
8:00 am



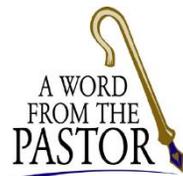
Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 9
6:30 am

Spring Church Council Meeting
Thursday, April 20
7:00 pm



MEETING

All items for the May newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, April 24**. If we do not receive these items by then, we **WILL NOT** be able to put them in the newsletter.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sat down at my desk, I noticed my pocket calendar from 1998. On that very day in March, Derek Ritzman and Dianne Sparks were married! It's hard to believe that it's been twenty-five years already. Then it hits me again that in a few weeks it already will be fifty years of wedded bliss for Wanda and I!

Fifty years was set as a year of jubilee for the people of Israel and they had many ways to celebrate freedom and restoration of property for families. It was supposed to be a fresh start for everybody. On Easter, God gave the world a fresh start with the resurrection of His Son, Jesus the Messiah. Every Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate that fresh start in remembrance of His resurrection and his promise that we too will enjoy that resurrection if we trust in Jesus.

In digging through my desk, I also found my Jamaica Mission Trip diary from fifteen years ago. We were intent upon making progress on the primary school in Cedar Spring. We prayed that a teacher could be found once there were enough students enrolled, and that those small children would not have to walk miles to just meet a bus to take them many more miles to school. The community needed a fresh start for their children and a fresh new building as a social meeting place.

That first week of April I experienced fish biscuits, a dog fight in the middle of the night, along with really loud crickets, smelling an abundance of sunscreen, more children at Bible School than we expected, learning that one should never eat a green mango, and the day when neither toilet nor showers worked. There was too much tension among the female students, and I had to call out a student who failed to quiet down at curfew.

It all came to an emotional climax at the end of the week with an unexpected late night prayer meeting. There were a lot of tears, broken hearts, questions, and confessions. I had forgotten about going to each student, cradling their face in my hands, and saying, "You cannot go where God is not...Nothing can separate you from the love of Jesus Christ." It was a powerful revival and a fresh, new start for many of our students. They had more compassion and concern for each other, as well as a deeper commitment to God.

May this Easter season inspire a fresh and exciting start for you as we celebrate the budding growth in April. May Derek and Dianne fully embrace their next twenty-five years, too.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



Scriptures and Messages for April

	<u>April 2</u>	
Matthew 21:1-11		<i>"Who Is This?"</i>
	<u>April 9</u>	
John 20:1-12		<i>"Different Than Expected"</i>
	<u>April 16</u>	
John 20:19-31		<i>"Reach Out Your Hand"</i>
	<u>April 23</u>	
Luke 24:13-35		<i>"What Are You Discussing?"</i>
	<u>April 30</u>	
John 10:1-10		<i>"His Voice Is Known"</i>

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 am in the sanctuary



Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am in the Free Spring Church sanctuary, followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall. **Pete Brummer** will be our speaker, **Addison Eby** will be playing the prelude, and **Erin Bell** will provide special music. Please plan to attend!

Please note: there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for donations for the breakfast. Thank you!



Thanks to the following who participated in the worship services at Brookline on March 5 at the 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm services. Rosalita Leonard gave the message, Allen Zendt was the worship leader, Dina Zug was song leader, and Sharon Ritzman was the pianist.

The next nursing home worship service will be on May 14 at Northridge at 2:00 pm.

**April Deacons of the Month:
Allen & Ruth Zendt**

Free Spring Library News

The following are fiction books, some are part of a series.

Defend and Protect Series by Lynn H, Blackburn

Unknown Threat – US Secret Service Special Agent Luke Powell is lucky to be alive. Three of his fellow agents have died in unusual circumstances in the past ten weeks. Luke is devastated by the loss of his friends and colleagues, and his inability to locate the killer feels like a personal failure. He's an expert at shielding others, but now the protectors are in need of protection. (This is the first book in the series.)

Heroines of WWII Series by Lauralee Bliss

Escape from Amsterdam – Helen Smit believed she was called by God to become a teacher. Little does she know that her care for kids will take a drastic turn for survival when the Germans occupy Amsterdam and Jewish children and parents begin to be deported. Now all she can think of is helping all the kids escape before it's too late. (This is the seventh book in the series; the other books are The Cryptographer's Dilemma by Johnnie Alexander, A Picture of Hope by Liz Tolsma, Saving Mrs. Roosevelt by Candice Sue Patterson, Mrs. Witherspoon Goes to War by Mary Davis, A Rose for the Resistance by Angela K. Couch, and Season of My Enemy by Naomi Musch.)

Extreme Measures Series by Lynette Eason

Critical Threat – FBI Special Agent Grace Billingsley tracks serial killers, using her skills as a psychiatrist and behavioral analyst to get dangerous people off the street. But prison psychiatrist Sam Monroe knows that just because a killer is incarcerated doesn't mean they're not a threat. His own father, Peter, is a serial killer – in prison but certainly not out of Sam's life, as much as he wishes he was. When bodies start showing up with Peter's MO, Sam and Grace are both called in to consult. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Life Flight and Crossfire.)

A Hundred Crickets Singing by Cathy Gohlke

When a violent storm rips through the Belvidere attic in No Creek, North Carolina, exposing a hidden room and trunk long forgotten, secrets dating back to the Civil War are revealed. Celia Percy, whose family lives and works in the home, suspects the truth could transform the future for her friend Marshall, now fighting overseas, whose ancestors were once enslaved by the Belvidere family. When Marshall's Army friend, Joe, returns to No Creek with shocking news for Marshall's family, Celia determines to right a long-standing wrong, whether or not the town is ready for it.



Triple Threat Series by Irene Hannon

Body of Evidence – Forensic pathologist Grace Reilly has seen her share of unusual deaths in rural Missouri. But when she begins to notice a curious pattern in autopsies of older residents whose demises appear to be natural, she takes her concerns to Sheriff Nate Cox. Nate is skeptical about the link Grace is seeing between the deaths, as well as her suspicions of foul play. But her persistence is compelling. And once they join forces to investigate, danger follows because exposing the truth could destroy several lives – including Grace's. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Point of Danger and Labyrinth of Lies.)

The Deadly Secrets Series by Kathy Harris

Deadly Conclusion – Dog trainer Keely Lambert breaks in Titan, a new shepherd, during a rescue mission to find little Conner Wells. Aided by childhood friend, Beau Gardner of the TBI and Conner's uncle, Keely finds the boy deep inside Beaman Park. But Conner is not all that Keely found. On the way back to the welcome center, she notices something sticking out of the dirt – the military dog tags of her father who disappeared more than two decades before. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Deadly Commitment and Deadly Connection.)

Still My Forever by Kim Vogel Sawyer

When Gilbert moves to New York to pursue music, he encounters constant rejection. Returning home penniless, he forms a youth band – and reunites with Ava, his former flame. The band enters a prestigious competition and Gil believes they'll win first place with the love song he wrote. But will playing it cost him Ava – again?

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Sunday School Classes

The Seekers class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom (formerly the Encouragers classroom), will be studying Mark 11 starting on March 19. You are welcome to join us. You will learn a lot! Teachers will be Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt.

The Explorers Sunday School class, which meets in the fellowship hall, is doing a thirteen-week Life Guide study entitled "Meeting Jesus". The study uses all four gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – to tell us the story of Jesus. Each study explores who Jesus was and how He can be in our lives today.



Port Royal Men's Prayer Breakfasts

The Port Royal Ministerium's Annual Men's Prayer Breakfasts will be held at **7:00 am** every Saturday during Lent at the Port Royal Community Building on 4th Street.

The events are open to all men. If you have questions, please see George King. Hope to see many of you men there.

The following speakers are scheduled:

April 1 – Rev. Perry Monrow of McAlisterville United Methodist Church

April 8 – Rev. Ron Shope of First Baptist Christ

Nurture Commission News

Our Birthday of the Month person for April is Greisyn Bryner. His birthday is Thursday, April 13. Please remember him with your cards, wishes, and prayers.

In April, Greeters are Scott & Sherry Bardell for first service and Ron & Anna Belle Gordon for second service. Worship Leader for second service is Warren Wagner. Deacons are Allen and Ruth Zendt.

Lenten Teas began on February 11 and are being held Saturdays thru April 1 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This year's leaders are Dee Bell and Mary Zeigler. Refreshments are usually provided by the participants.

Lenten Services began Ash Wednesday, February 22 and are being held Sunday evenings, and concluding on Good Friday, April 7. All services are at 7:00 pm.

April 2 is Palm Sunday.

April 9 is Easter Sunday. We will have a Sunrise Service at 6:30 am. Addison Eby will perform the prelude, Erin Bell will provide special music, Pete Brummer will be guest speaker, and Sharon Ritzman will be worship leader.

April 30 is Meet-in-the-Middle Sunday.

May 14 is Mother's Day

~ Jessica Eby, Ron Gordon, David Moist (Chair), and Art Zug



April Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for April is Greisyn Bryner, whose birthday is on Thursday, April 13. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

Free Spring

Relay-for-Life Team Sign-Up

We will be registering a team for Relay-for-Life this year. If you are interested in being part of the team, please let Dina know. Team members will need to register with the team on-line. Donation sheets are available in the narthex. We will also be ordering bags for luminaries if you are interested in purchasing one at \$10. The youth will be decorating them.



Free Spring Church's Website

Check out our website for bulletins, newsletters, photos from various activities, the history of our church, forms for updating your Directory information, and so much more at <https://cob-net.org/church/freespring/>

(Click on the "Updates To Our Site" link under MENU to see what has been updated and when!)

Please remember our shut-ins with your prayers and cards, particularly during this Christmas season:

Evelyn Benner
North Ridge Center
99 North Ridge Drive, Rm 12
McAlisterville, PA 17049

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

Wayne & Dot Benson
389 Raccoon Valley Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(717) 589-3419

Denton Ritzman
North Ridge Center
Personal Care, Rm 17
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049

Bev Oberlin
North Ridge Center
Personal Care, Rm 5
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(717) 463-2249
(717) 994-8807 (cell)

Clair Varner
145 School Street, Apt 202
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(717) 635-0513 (cell)





Christian Education Commission

Movie Night was held Saturday, March 11 with the movie **Family Camp** and was very well attended with 27 people. Many laughs were had as the events unfolded in the movie. Thanks to everyone who came out and for all the goodies that were enjoyed. It was a wonderful night of fellowship.

The VBS Committee has selected Cokesbury's **Food Truck Party – On a Roll with God** using Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread." Children will be reminded that everything we have comes from God and our daily needs are met by God. They will learn about the use of daily prayer to turn their needs to God and how to serve to fulfill the needs of others. Please note the committee is still working out details and that we may be changing the dates of June 19-21 that were originally announced in February's newsletter. They are also reviewing the format, so please watch future bulletins and newsletter for updates.

Spring Bible Study details are still being worked out, but we've chosen Max Lucado's **In the Footsteps of the Savior** where we follow Jesus thru the Holy Land and His ministry. In last month's newsletter we mentioned the possibility of a weeknight pot luck vs Saturday morning breakfast for the Bible Study time, but there were no responses other than a few during March's Board meeting from Board members. It would be nice to hear what others are looking for as it will help with planning May's Bible Study.

~ Shari Book (Chair), Jim Eichman, Alan Naylor, and Mary Zeigler

Reserving the Church or Fellowship Hall



Due to an issue that arose earlier this year when the 2023 calendar on the office door went missing, please note the following change in reserving the church or fellowship hall for any reason:

For members of Free Spring, if you wish to reserve the church or fellowship hall for any reason, you may either check the calendar on the office door first and if the date you want is available, write your reservation in **and** notify Lona by phone, note, or e-mail, or you may ask Lona to check the date for you and have her reserve the date if available. In either case, the reservation will then be saved on the computer in order to prevent any overlaps in the future.

If you are not a member of Free Spring and wish to reserve the church or fellowship hall for any reason, please reach out to Warren Wagner or Pastor Terry for approval. Thank you.

Witness Commission April Food Pantry Delivery by: Ruth Zendt



Hello April! He is Risen!!!! Signs of rebirth are all around us, we only need to open our eyes and enjoy God's beauty!

CWS Health Kits are being collected till the end of April. There are ziplock bags with a list inside of items needed for the Kit on the table in the narthex. Completed Kits may be placed in the CWS chest. Thank you to all those who continue to donate to these much-needed Kits, which are used here in the US and abroad.

We are still looking for walkers to join the Free Spring Steppers at Relay-for-Life. The event will be held Saturday, June 10, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm and we would like to have a spot for the members to gather during the day. Please let anyone from Witness Commission know if you would like to participate.

Southern District Meat Canning will be held April 18-21 at Christian Aid Ministries, Ephrata. There are two shifts – 7:15 am to noon and 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The district office would like to know by April 2 if anyone would like to volunteer. There is also a need for volunteers to provide lunch during the 4 days. The number to call is (717) 778-2264.

From President Eric Chase of Children's Aid Society, "The formalization of the merger with Cornerstone Youth Home was finished on January 1, 2023. We are launching the public phase of our 'Building the Future' capitol campaign to construct a new 20,000 square foot home for the crisis nursery, family advocacy, child centered creative art, play and therapy, parent education and support program, a 60-space childcare facility, play rooms, sensory room, community meeting, a training room, an outdoor playground, and onsite parking in York city. The Annual Auction is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 at New Fairview Church of the Brethren, that is the date of the live auction. The virtual auction begins Saturday, April 22 at 12:01 am."

From Lois Ann Minnich, Interchurch Communications, the final End of Year Totals for the 2022 Disaster Relief Auction are as follows:

- Miscellaneous Contributions - \$54,941
- Food Sales Overall - \$52,931
- Baked Goods - \$11,009
- Farmers Market - \$6,912
- General Auction - \$34,618
- Quilts (93) - \$28,330
- Theme Baskets (103) - \$13,545
- Heifer Auction - \$60,858
- Mechanic Grove Golf Tournament - \$13,500
- Coin Auction/Coin Collection - \$10,275
- Bequests - \$232,032
- Overall Proceeds - \$543,798

This year's auction will be held on September 22 and 23, 2023. It's that time again! The board and committees are already at work. Please mark your calendars. More details will follow later.

~ Jen Sparks, Warren Wagner, Becca Walters, and Dina Zug (Chair)

Juniata County Food Pantry April Update

The month is just rolling on. Easter is right around the corner! We have seen an increase of need at the Pantry since the beginning of the year. Thank you for the continued support and prayers, they are always appreciated!

In February 2023, the Food Pantry served 211 families – 525 of your neighbors! A big thank you to Matamoras UMC for volunteering on Saturdays in February.

Join our family! We are always looking for a few good volunteers!

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive non-perishable donations. Donations of cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot.

Contact Person: Glenda Fultz, Executive Director

Phone: (717) 436-9718 (answering machine)

E-mail: jcfp122017@gmail.com

Address: PO Box 44, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Location: 114 N Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Hours: Tuesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, and 1:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Visit our Website: www.jcfoodpantry.com



Lenten Tea Bible Study



Lenten Tea Bible study is being held each Saturday thru April 1 **at 8:00 am**. We will be using The Ruth Anointing by Michelle McClain-Walters. "Ruth was not afraid to step out of her comfort zone and embrace new possibilities. She ventured past cultural limitations to discover a life of fulfillment. She was willing to risk it all and be stretched."

Please plan to join us! A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex.

Sunday School Classes



The Seekers class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom (formerly the Encouragers classroom), will be studying Mark 11 starting on March 19. You are welcome to join us. You will learn a lot! Teachers will be Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt.

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*2023 Women's District Spring Luncheon
at York First Church of the Brethren*

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:00 am

Brochures / Registration Forms are available on the table in the narthex. Please note that the deadline for registration is **April 15, 2023**. No refunds after the registration deadline date.

Grocery Bags Needed!

Grocery bags are needed for placing in the trash cans here at the church. Please place any clean grocery bags underneath the mailboxes in the narthex. Thank you!

~ Rita Lentz



**Spring Council Meeting
Thursday April 21
at 7:00 pm**

It is very important for everyone to try to attend.

Meat Canning Project



4 Days
April 10, 11,
12 & 13

Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries
Ephrata, PA

Sponsored by:
Southern PA &
Mid-Atlantic Districts COB

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

- Help with canning and labeling, there are 2 shifts each day, 7:15 a.m. to noon and 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sign-up early to secure your preferred day and time.
- Volunteers are also needed to provide meals or finances to help cover the cost of meals.
- See Meat Canning brochure for more details.
- Contact your District Office to **VOLUNTEER!**

2023 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored By:
The McAlisterville Ministerium

Theme
Jesus Offers You the Power of Prayer

Feb 22	James Prepares	East Salem Methodist	Kevin Brophy
		<i>The Ash Wednesday Service includes the sacrament of Holy Communion</i>	
Feb 26	Jesus Teaches	Free Spring COB	Karen Ward
Mar 5	Pray for Anything	Lost Creek Menno	Perry Munro
Mar 12	Jesus Himself	Lost Creek Presby	Jodi Strawser
Mar 19	Jesus' Disciples	Browns Methodist	Doug Mellott
Mar 26	Future Believers	Pine Grove Methodist	Terry Smith
Apr 2	In the Garden	Delaware Menno	Chad Weaver
Apr 7	Tenebrae	Trinity Lutheran	All

All services begin at 7:00 p.m.
Services will also be shared on Facebook Live
www.facebook.com/McAlistervilleMin

The Offering will be divided between
Crossroads Pregnancy Center and
Central World Kitchen

Checks can be made out to: McAlisterville Ministerium