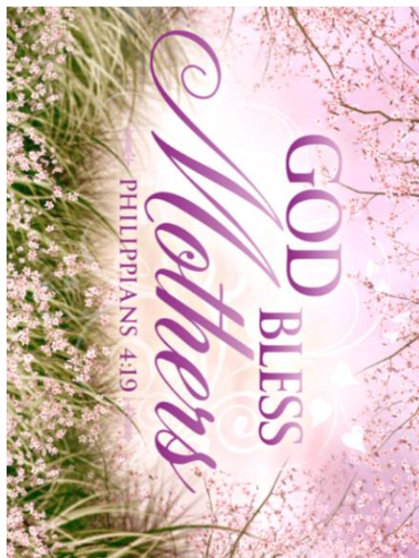


May 2023



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



Monday, May 1
Executive Committee, 6:30 pm
Church Board, 7:00 pm

Mother's Day Service
May 14



Deacons Meeting
Thursday, May 18

All items for the June newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, May 22**. 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,

I find it hard to believe that it's been ten years since our church went to Binghamton and Prattsville, New York on consecutive weeks for Brethren Disaster Relief work. That was the year Amy and Tony were finishing the basement in their townhouse. Many of my Saturdays were spent there until we had made it into a beautiful addition to their home.

Our anniversary fell on a Sunday and part of our celebration was the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Jared Wagner that afternoon. We were preparing for the "not a fan" Bible study on Saturday mornings, and a few weeks later Natalie Zug was in Hershey Medical Center because of a skull fracture. That June, Becky Hengst and Nick Hess would begin their pre-marriage counseling.

It was also a sad day in May as we gathered at the cemetery across the road from our house for Pastor John Layman's graveside service. What a blessing he and his wife Peggie have been to the Free Spring Church of the Brethren.

It wouldn't be long until we would make a second trip to Binghamton for BDM. Shari Book bought dinner for all the students who were along when we went out to eat!

During all of this activity and teaching at JMS, my sister Linda, Wanda, and I were staying overnight with my mother. Our Sunday School class was studying "Acceptable Sins", which weren't really acceptable at all!

Almost forgotten in this trip down memory lane was my anniversary purchase, a new zero-turn lawn mower. It made the mowing of three large lawns much easier and faster.

I pray that you have good memories when you think back to ten years ago. I pray that you look forward to more blessings as we look forward to what God has in store for us the rest of this year.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



May Deacons of the Month:
Eric & Ginger Alexander

Scriptures and Messages for May

May 7

John 14:1-14

"Believe Me That I Am"

May 14

John 14:15-21

"If You Love Me"

May 21

John 17:1-11

"The Time Has Come"

May 28

Acts 2:1-21

"All of Them Were Filled"



Nurture Commission News



Our Birthday person for May is Don Bashore. His Birthday is Saturday, May 13. Please remember him with your cards, wishes, and prayers.

Greeters for May are Eric & Ginger Alexander for the first service and John & Judy Burns for the second service. Worship Leader for the second worship service is John Burns. Deacons for May are Eric & Ginger Alexander.

May 14 is Mother's Day.

June 18 is Father's Day.

June 24 is the Father / Son / Daughter Outing which will be held at the Reinford Farm from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. A Church Picnic at the Smith Cabin will be held later that evening at 5:30 pm. Please bring chairs and a covered dish. Hamburgers and French fries will be provided.

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



May Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for May is Don Bashore, whose birthday is on Saturday, May 13. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

Free Spring Library News

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

My Dearest Dietrich by Amanda Baratt

Based on a powerful true story! Maria never intended to fall in love with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian under surveillance by the Gestapo. But when she does, they find themselves torn between love for one another and Dietrich's determination to fight the evil in his homeland.

Defend and Protect Series by Lynn H. Blackburn

Malicious Intent – Dr. Ivy Collins, founder and CEO of Hedera, Inc, is ready to begin clinical trials of her company's cutting-edge prosthetic. Her work has been heralded by government, medical, and advocacy groups and everyone hopes the device will be a success. Well, almost everyone. Someone is trying to sabotage Hedera and the launch, but to what purpose – and how far will they go to get what they want? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Unknown Threat.)

Closer Than She Knows by Kelly Irwin

Court reporter Teagan O'Rourke has written official records for dozens of homicides but she never thought she'd be a victim – until now. When a serial killer leaves her threatening notes, she turns to her friend Max Kennedy for help. As the obsessed murderer draws closer, can Max protect Teagan – and tell her of his love – before it's too late?

Child of Mine by David & Beverly Lewis

Flight instructor Jack Livingston has been raising his eight-year-old adopted niece, Natalie, since the accident that took her parents' lives. When he travels, Natalie is tenderly cared for by her Amish nanny, Laura Mast, who loves the little girl as her own. Eight excruciating years ago, Kelly Maines' baby was kidnapped. Determined to find her child, Kelly has tirelessly pursued every lead to its bitter end. And now, with the clock ticking, one last clue from a private investigator ignites a tiny flame of hope: Just a few miles away lives a young girl who matches the profile. Can this be, at long last, Kelly's beloved daughter?

Fallout by Carrie Stuart Parks

When an SUV crashes into the school, Samantha Williams rescues her students. Her car gets broken into and her purse has disappeared. But the mysteries are just beginning: skeletal remains, blackmail, murder,



a ghost town, and a secret government project. Why does Samantha seem to be at the center of everything?

Echoes of the Past Series by Liz Tolsma

What I Would Tell You – Mathilda Nissim watches in horror as the Germans invade her beloved city of Salonika, Greece. What angers her most is the lack of resistance her people put up to their captors. In secret, and at great risk to her life, she continues to publish her newspaper, calling her people to action. She doesn't trust God to help them. When she and her husband find out they are expecting a child, Mathilda may have to resort to desperate measures to ensure her daughter's survival. (This is the first book in the series.)

If It Rains by Jennifer I. Wright

It's 1935 in Oklahoma, and lives are determined by the dust. Fourteen-year-old Kathryn Baile, a spitfire born with a severe clubfoot, is coming of age in desperate times. Once her beloved older sister marries, Kathryn's only comfort comes in the well-worn pages of her favorite book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Then Kathryn's father decides to relocate to Indianapolis, and only the promise of a surgery to finally make her "normal" convinces Kathryn to leave Oklahoma behind. But disaster strikes along the way, and Kathryn must rely on her grit and the ragged companions she meets on the road if she is to complete her journey.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Christian Education Commission

Breakfast & Bible Study will be changing to Supper & Study and will be starting Wednesday, May 10 in the fellowship hall. It will continue each Wednesday evening through the end of May. Bring something to share for Supper at 6:30 pm and then Study will start around 7:00 pm. Do not be discouraged if you can't make meal time, still come on out for the study. The study will be Max Lucado's In the Footsteps of the Savior following Jesus' ministry thru the Holy Land. The DVD for the study may be delayed, but we are looking for other alternatives for this portion. Books will be available shortly and a sign-up sheet will be in the narthex starting Sunday, April 30.

Update your VBS info as the dates are now June 26 – 28 using Cokesbury's **Food Truck Party – On a Roll with God**.

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

Witness Commission



We did it again!! 154 bags of Easter cookies were sent off to Truck Stop Ministry in Carlisle. Thank you to all those who bake the cookies, those who helped pack, and for Jim Eichman who so willingly delivers them to the Truck Stop. While attending the Spring Women's Luncheon, the wife of the Truck Stop Chaplain came up to us to thank us for those bags of cookies. She told us that we cannot imagine the joy they bring to the truck drivers who stop at that Truck Stop. We never know how this small act will bless someone along the way!

May begins Baby Bottle month. This is Heartbeat's yearly fundraiser. Free Spring helped fill 50 bottles last year – can we do it again? The collection runs through Father's Day. Jen Sparks heads up this outreach, and will be asking you to fill a bottle. Thank you, Jen!

Also during the month of May, Solid Rock International is celebrating the Dominican Staff. They serve the San Juan region and the focus this year is encouragement! Please remember them in your prayers!

A communication from Sat-7 brings the message to the Middle East, an earthquake update. Most international rescue or relief groups have left the country. Christian groups are still there. The Turkish people ask Christians, "Why are you helping us?" Sat-7 remains, broadcasting through the nations satellite system. Staff reports say there is a growing number of new followers among the survivors. The letter closes with this: someone from Iran, *"I thank God for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I wanted to have fellowship with you, and I am so glad that we have you believing brothers and sisters, because as a result of what you are doing, many of my compatriots in Iran have come to know the God of love, as I have done. It was through watching your program that I came to faith I thank God for you, for helping us to know the God of love despite all the constraints that exist in Iran. May god bless you."*

The CWS Health Kits are filling up the chest! Thank you to those who have completed Kits. I encourage you to attend the event in Carlisle at the Material Resource Center. This Center is the hub of distributions for the Kits around the world. Our church has worked there for many years and we have missed going since 2020. The staff there needs this encouragement!

Food Pantry donations are great, and an even greater way to help is to sign up for the Saturdays in May when our church is asked to send volunteers. Check the sign-up sheet in the narthex to see if there are any times that have not been filled and volunteer!

Compassion Sunday is May 14. If you are already sponsoring a child, we would like you to bring a picture of your child. These will be part of the display for that Sunday. Thank you to Barry Hoffman for preparing the display and providing information during Sunday, May 14!

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

Juniata County Food Pantry May Update



This year is currently flying by at a fast rate! Spring is in full gear and we have been very busy at the Food Pantry. Our number of clients continue to go up each month.

The Food Pantry's Summer Backpack Program will begin its 11th year starting in June. This program provides lunches throughout summer vacation to school students who normally receive free and reduced-price lunches at school. These students often face hunger in the summer months as their families struggle to provide the extra meals. **Volunteers are also needed to help with the Backpack Program!** Call the Food Pantry at (717) 436-9718 to sign up. Thank you for your continued support and most importantly, your prayers!

In March 2023, the Food Pantry served 212 families – 537 of your neighbors! We thank Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church for sending volunteers for the month of March.

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



May is Food Pantry Volunteer Month

Free Spring is responsible for volunteers at the Juniata County Food Pantry for the Saturdays in the month of May. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help out. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Unclaimed Army-Type Blanket

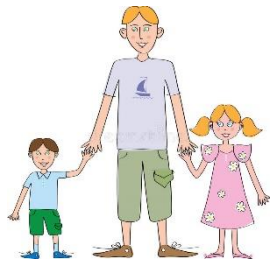
There is an Army-type blanket on the trunk in the narthex which has been there for some time as no one has claimed it. The name **J. W. THORNTON** is stenciled on it. If this belongs to you, please take it home with you as soon as possible!



**74th Annual
Women's Camp Retreat
at Camp Eder, Fairfield, PA
Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6
Registration Deadline: Friday, May 26, 2023**



Guest Speaker is Doris Hess Ortman. Theme is "Who Are You?"
Flyers with additional information and Registration Forms are on the table in the narthex.



**Father / Son / Daughter Outing
June 24, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
at the Reinford Farm**

A Church Picnic at the Smith Cabin will be held later that evening at 5:30 pm. Please bring chairs and a covered dish. Hamburgers and French fries will be provided.

Free Spring


Relay-for-Life Team Sign-Up

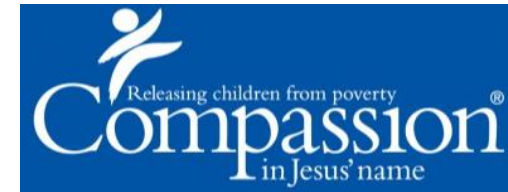
Our Relay-for-Life Team is named Free Spring Steppers! I have just one member who is on the team. If you are planning on walking on June 10th, please contact Dina.

We are planning on having a spot for the day. If you have any ideas for an activity we could do during the day, we would really appreciate hearing your ideas or any help.

Luminaries are available for \$5 each and sign-up sheets are in one of the unused mailboxes in the narthex. If you would like the youth to decorate a bag for you, please complete a form along with your \$5 and give them to Dina.



Happy Mother's Day! 



**AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND
TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH
SUCH SACRIFICES, GOD IS PLEASED.**

– Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

Compassion Sunday is May 14, which is also Mother's Day. What a great day to be a child advocate!

An estimated 356 million children live in extreme poverty. *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.* (Mathew 25:40). Please pray for these children. The cost for sponsoring a child is \$38 per month. Specific children to sponsor will be available on Sunday, May 14.



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

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

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

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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

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

