

# The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

April 2024

1. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

This month marks a transition in the life of our church family. Our wonderful Interim Pastor, Pastor Greg Laszakovitzs, ended his time with us on March 31. We were so blessed by Greg’s inspiration, knowledge, and example during the time he was with us. We know Greg will be looking forward to more time focusing on his family and being closer to his home (Lancaster, PA). We appreciate the sacrifice Greg made over this last year, driving over an hour and a half each time he came to Grossnickle to minister to us. We wish Greg and his family many blessings in the days and years ahead.



Now, we look forward, with great anticipation and hope, to welcoming Pastor Sandi Evans Rogers back to our congregation. Sandi led us through the challenging times of church life during the early days of the COVID outbreak; she shepherded us through the unknown waters of the pandemic, calmly leading us, and supporting us individually and as a congregation. We are happy that Sandi has agreed to be our full-time Interim Pastor; she begins her time with us on May 1. Welcome back, Pastor Sandi

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM OF MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**

The Leadership Team of the Mid-Atlantic District is pleased to announce the calling of Douglas Veal as the next District Executive Minister for our district. He will begin his work with the district on June 25, 2024. We look forward to working with Doug as we continue our pastoral search. We are grateful for the time Eddie Edmonds has served in this capacity and for his help in our pastoral search.

## Anchor Ministry Update

As the Search Committee continues its quest to find a pastor for GCOB, the Church Board is aware of the challenges that encompasses. Did you know that the average time that a pastor stays in a congregation is only 4 years? Unfortunately, there simply are not a lot of pastoral candidates in seminaries. Many successful churches have addressed this in a manner that is consistent with our Brethren roots: they have looked within their congregations to identify members who might have the ability and the desire to assist in vital functions of pastoring.

With that in mind, our Church Board appointed an Anchor Ministry Committee to prayerfully discern whether there were any people within the congregation whom the Church could lift up so that they might serve in this time-honored Brethren way. Pam Jouannet, Dale Delauter, Bobby Riggs, and Fred Rudman were asked to take on this task.

The Committee, working closely with Pastor Greg, developed a list of individuals who we thought might be receptive to the call of a preaching ministry. We then prayed for several weeks before we unanimously agreed to ask Danny and Kelly Rumpf if they would consider such a call. After discussing it with their family and submitting their thoughts and concerns to God above, they accepted the calling.

What is envisioned is that once a month Danny or Kelly will develop a sermon and preach it from the pulpit. This will result in our pastor being relieved of the time that is required in preparation of the sermon, thereby freeing the pastor to spend those hours in other endeavors that will strengthen the church, such as home visits, teaching, counseling, or development of child ministries. This will also lessen the need for the Ministry Commission to find ministers who are willing to preach when our Pastor is unavailable.

As Grossnickle Church of the Brethren says farewell to Pastor Greg and welcome back to Pastor Sandi, we are so thankful to Danny and Kelly for their willingness to pursue this ministry. Sandi is a wonderful mentor and we know that she will lovingly share her knowledge with Danny and Kelly in an effort to have them become the very best that they can be! We are certain that our church family will lift them up in prayer and in action!!!

## MANY THANKS



Hearts and Hands sent out "Thinking of You" packages to our college kids. We have received numerous thank you notes. We have posted them on the bulletin board if you are interested in reading them. It's nice to be remembered when away at school and know that they are loved.

Thank you from *Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* for GCOB's gift of \$100. The donation will be invested in research and treatments.

Thank you from *Church World Services* for the donation of \$122 for helping people in need, at home and around the world. This donation will help provide long-term assistance and help rebuild after disasters in the future.

The youth wish to thank everyone for their generosity with both donating and purchasing items at the silent auction. We were able to raise just under \$3,000 to go towards work camp expenses. Our congregation has always supported the youth and we greatly appreciate it. We are excited to serve others this summer.



A very sincere "thank you" to our church family members, Vicki and Charles Grossnickle and Glenn Lantz who have worked tirelessly to keep our Memorial Garden looking so beautiful and ready for the spring and summer seasons.

Many other church members have helped, too, throughout the years to preserve the beauty of this Garden. Your dedication and devotion to the Memorial Garden is so appreciated by our church family. Everyone is always welcome to come, visit and walk through the Garden. It is a restful, peaceful, calming place to visit and reflect.

### *"Our Christian Sympathy"*

*Our heartfelt and Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Kathie Tucker. Kathie passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024. Kathie was the former secretary of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren in Myersville, MD where she worked for eight years. May you rest peacefully in Heaven our dear Kathie.*

*Our heartfelt and Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Florence Minnick who passed away on March 17, 2024.*

## **EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS**

What a beautiful display of bright, colorful Spring flowers that will grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers to be given "in memory" or "in honor" of loved ones. Our sanctuary will have a lovely, sweet fragrance on Easter morning.

## **YOUTH SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON**

The GCOB youth will be hosting a spaghetti luncheon after church on Sunday, April 28. There will be a take-out option available. All proceeds will go towards junior and senior high work camps this summer. We have a large group of youth so please plan to attend the luncheon and support our youth. Thank you!

## **DELIVERY OF "The Dunker"**

The ministry commission is asking anyone that receives The Dunker via mail, to consider getting the newsletter thru e-mail or the website instead. Alternatively, you could pick up a printed copy of the newsletter from the church at the beginning of each month. This would save the church office a considerable amount on postage each month. To be added to the e-mail list and / or removed from the mailing list please contact the church secretary, Angie Kline (301-293-9516, [angie.kline@gcob.org](mailto:angie.kline@gcob.org)).



**Children's Day is Sunday, April 7.** Lois Ann Glessner, our kids' club director, will be here to deliver the message. The children in grades preschool through fifth grade will share some of their favorite songs during worship. There will be a social hour in the parish hall during the Sunday School hour.

Please come and enjoy breakfast treats while visiting with church families. This fellowship time will take the place of Sunday School.

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## Meals On Wheels

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A BIG thank you to Kathy Gaver and her kitchen crew who prepared all the meals on wheels. We are so overjoyed that she has agreed to join us again next year! Kathy will start in October through March. Thank you to our many drivers who lovingly delivered the meals to our friends and church members. We so appreciate all the folks who make this ministry happen. Our next meals will be on April 6 and May 11. Outreach has decided to extend the Meals on Wheels program to May. Hearts and Hands group has agreed to cook for April. May is open for any group/family that feels called to prepare 40 meals for our members and friends. We have a budget, so if interested, please call Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629.



## WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

**Blessings in a Backpack** with Middletown People Helping People (MPHP)

Our church was well represented when nearly 20 persons from our congregation gathered to pack bags for Weekend Backpack program. We packed 108 bags of food which will go to hungry school kids in the Middletown, Myersville, Wolfsville and Valley schools.

Grossnickle has signed up for Tuesdays: April 9 and May 7 with May 7 being the last date to help fill the bags with food. We need a minimum of 6 to 8 volunteers (more is always better). Please contact Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629.

## Save the date.....Fri., April 12 Parents' Night Out

Parents' Night Out will be from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the parish hall with free child care. The deacons will be available to watch your children so parents can have an evening to themselves.

More details to follow. Any questions please call Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629.



## GAME NIGHT



On Saturday, April 27 from 6:00 until 9:00 pm Grossnickle Church of the Brethren is hosting another Game Night at the parish hall. Free pizza provided; please bring a snack to share. Some board games and activities will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Come and have fun and enjoy the fellowship!

## Sub Sale for the Growing Project

Sub Sale for our Growing Project is Saturday, April 27 from 8 am until noon? And the sub sale prep will be Friday, April 26 from 5-7 pm. Both in the Parish Hall.



## Children's Summer Fun Activities Basket

The children and youth Sunday School classes are collecting items to fill a "Children's Summer Fun Activities Basket" for the Disaster Auction to be held the first Saturday in May. This basket will represent our Grossnickle Church and will be auctioned off that day. If you would like to help out by contributing, please bring your items(s) to church and place in the box that will be labeled as "Children's Summer Fun Activities." Suggestions are: sidewalk chalk, bubbles, water toys, jump ropes, crayons, markers, coloring books, any type of fun outside or inside games, snacks, etc. Please bring your donation in by Sunday, April 28. Thank you so very much for your kindness in supporting this project.

## Save the Date

Save the Date! 2024 VBS June 17th -21st! Contact Katie Rudman if you are interested in volunteering.



# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Meat Canning Leave PH at 5:45 am	4	5 Prep for Meals on Wheels	6  Meals on Wheels
7 2¢ Worth Offering  Children's Day	8	9 Backpack Program @Middletown UMC 6-7 pm  6:30 pm Mtg. (PH)	10	11	12  Parents' Night Out 6-9 pm	13
14	15	16	17	18	19  Parish Hall Reserved All Day	20  Wood Cutting 8:00 am
21	22	23 Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm	24  Newsltr Crew	25	26 Growing Hope Sub Prep 5 pm to 7 pm	27 Growing Hope Sub Sale 8 am to 12 Noon Family Fun Game Night 6-9 pm
28 Youth Spaghetti Lunch After Worship	29	30				
<p align="center"><u>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>            9:30 a.m. – Sunday School † 10:30 a.m. – Family Worship            A recording of the worship service will be made available by email and on Facebook on Sunday            afternoons</p> <p align="center"><u>GENERAL IN-OFFICE HOURS</u>            Secretary Angie: Tue-Wed-Thu • 9am-4pm; Fri • 9am-2pm</p>						

### **APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS**

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader	Greeters
7	Lois Ann Glessner		Katie Rudman and Children
14	Mike Manthos	Elvin Stottlemyer	Grimm Family
21	Rachel Black	Nelson Harshman	Barnet Family
28	Rev. Ray Moreland	Ellie Grossnickle	Clemson Family

The QR code on the last page will take you directly to the church web site. You need a smart phone to activate the code. Turn on your camera and point at the code. Then touch the code on your phone and web site will appear.

## Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL – 9:30 am  
SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP HOUR – 10:30 am

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tue-Wed-Thu 9 am to 4 pm & Fri 9 am to 2 pm

Phone – 301-293-9516

Church Secretary – Angie Kline

Website: <http://www.gcob.org>

General email: [office@gcob.org](mailto:office@gcob.org)

Secretary Angie's email: [angie.kline@gcob.org](mailto:angie.kline@gcob.org)

Parsonage

11318 Meeting House Road, Myersville, MD 21773

### GIVING THROUGH TITHES & OFFERINGS

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Offerings to GCOB can be presented in the following ways:

Offering plate – Cash and checks may be placed in the offering plate during worship and Sunday school.

Online – Visit [www.gcob.org](http://www.gcob.org) and click on DONATE.

Mail – Send checks to Grossnickle COB, P.O. Box 575, Myersville, MD 21773. Indicate "offering" on check.

Make checks payable to "Grossnickle COB." Thank you!

Please submit news items for the **May 2024 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than April 18, 2024.

Thank you!



# April

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE DUNKER  
Grossnickle Church of the Brethren  
P. O. Box 575  
Myersville, MD. 21773-0575