

The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

September 2023

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GREG.....

'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Luke 9

I don't know much about plowing a field. Actually that's too generous--I don't know anything about plowing fields.

Most scholars tend to read this scripture to mean that when you plow a field you don't look back, because when you look back you lose your line and plow crooked rows. Now, that I understand, because I have mowed a lot of lawns in my lifetime, big and small. When you plow or mow, most people choose the spot in the distance and aim for that spot. Once you get the first row done, if successfully straight, the rest is a piece of cake.



But of course, Jesus wasn't giving farming advice so much as he was pointing to the challenges of following him. The necessity for focus and drive. Singlemindedness and dedication. If you can't do that, then you aren't fit for the kingdom. Like a farmer or mower who keeps looking back, your rows are going to be crooked, your witness distorted.

These last rows (months) have been a challenging few rows to plow here at GCOB. Yet, what I see time and again is that because your initial rows were straight -- the faithfulness and patterns of your past -- you have been able to keep on plowing new rows of witness, care, and love, even when the ground seemed rocky and hard. Keep on plowing forward, Grossnickle Church of the Brethren. You're doing it, and the world is a better place because of you!

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES

A Brethren Disaster Ministries trip is being planned. This year we will be traveling to Dawson Springs, Kentucky and working with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes damaged by a tornado in December. We will be leaving on Sunday, September 3 and returning on Saturday, September 9. If you are interested in going, please contact Marion Leatherman at 301-293-4266.



ADOPT A ROAD

The next dates for "Adopt A Road" are September 9th, and December 2nd. If exercise was on your resolution list, this is the ticket. We walk, talk, pick up trash and make our piece of paradise a little cleaner. Please call Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629 if you are interested or need more information. Thank you.



OUTREACH SUMMER PROJECT

Summer is almost upon us. A time we think of sun, sand, sports. For some in the world it can be a time of storms, squalls, and struggle. To assist those in need we will be collecting **hygiene kits** to be distributed by CWS. Each kit should be placed in a one-gallon size plastic bag with zip closure and should include:

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb (removed from package)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from package)
- One bath-size bar of soap (in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in package)
- 10 regular band aids



Donations can be dropped off in the narthex through September 3. Please include a processing fee of \$2 for each kit donated to assist with the cost of sending kits overseas. Write your check to "GCOB" and on the memo line note "hygiene kits" then place your check in the offering plate. If you put cash please put cash in an envelope and mark the envelope "hygiene kits". (Please do not put money in the kits.) If you have any questions please contact Sharon Leatherman. Thank you!

YARD SALE



Just a heads up!!! We are still looking for donations for our **Fahrney-Keedy Yard Sale** September 8 and 9. If you are in the process of downsizing, moving or still trying to Spring Clean, we would love to help take your treasured items off your hands. The profits help the Auxiliary. If you have questions, or donations please call Sara Wolfe (our fearless Auxiliary President), or Ruth Hinkle. Thank you so very much!



Church Picnic

There will be an **all-church picnic** on Sunday, September 10, at the Ruritan Park in Wolfsville. The picnic will be at noon, immediately following an Outdoor Worship Service at the pavilion in the park. The Deacons will supply fried chicken and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or a dessert to share. There will be games for families after the meal.

Outreach Committee

Please come join us for our first of the season Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. Everyone who would like to join us is invited to our meeting to see what we are about and the things we do throughout the season.

One of the many things we do is the **ROCK MINISTRY**... We have had a great response this year from volunteers who have taken care of our rock ministry and have done a great job. We are requesting volunteers for 2024. Please let Pam Jouannet (301-293-3629) or Diane Moser (240-397-1652) know if you would be willing to help out with this ministry to our community.



Dunker Church Service

This will be the 53rd **annual worship service** to commemorate the peace witness of Brethren and Anabaptists in the Cumberland Valley during the American Civil War. This service is open to the public.

The worship service will be held at the restored "little white Dunker Church" Meetinghouse at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD on Sunday, September 17, 3:00 pm. The service this year is on the actual date of the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 161 years ago.



Guest speaker Carol Scheppard "Being the Church on a Battlefield". Dr. Scheppard is on the faculty of Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. She also served as Moderator of the Church of the Brethren in 2016-2017.

All are welcome to worship with us.

Light the Night

Dear Grossnickle Church family,

As you likely know, we recently lost two dear members of our body to Leukemia. We know others in our congregation have been affected by Leukemia, Lymphoma and other blood cancers. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is a great organization that raises money for blood cancer research, patient education and services. One of their activities is the regional Light the Night event that takes place annually all over the country.

To honor Sylvia and Jane, and others in our congregation, we would like to form a team to participate in this year's event in Frederick. It is on Friday evening, Sept. 22, at the Carroll Creek Amphitheatre downtown. There is no charge to participate, but participants are encouraged to raise money to help the cause. Anyone who raises \$100 or more will receive a tee shirt for the event. Everyone receives a candle to use during the one mile walk. There are activities prior to the walk. Children are welcome and strollers are allowed.

Below is the link to register as part of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren team. If you have questions, please contact Patty at patty@colonialjewelers.com. We hope we can create a strong team to support our families who have been affected by blood cancer, and help contribute to a cure. This activity has the support of the Church Board, Deacons, and Outreach Commission

<https://pages.ils.org/ltn/md/WestMD23/GrossnickleChurchoftheBrethren>

Deacons for the Month of September: Sharon and Marion Leatherman

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader
3	Members of our GCOB	Holly Thomasson
10	Pastor Greg	Pepper Delauter
17	Fred Rudman	Doris Grossnickle
24	Pastor Greg	Judy Lohman

Date	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
3	Lori Cline	Connor Grimm	Brooke Smith
10	Gary and Glenna Moser	Lilly Rumpf	Katie Rudman
17	Jeff and Patty Hurwitz	Allison Rumpf	Sharon Leatherman
24	Robert Lee and Betty Grossnickle	Paige Leatherman	Kristie Delauter



Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands is an Outreach Ministry that strives to reach out to others through projects that let people know they are not forgotten. Examples of services provided include: packages that we send to our college students, soup for those in need, blankets, and cookies and crafts for Rescue Mission and Homeless.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 9 AM-11 AM. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday Oct. 3. Our last meeting will be March 5, 2024.

Please join us for fun and fellowship on these dates. Call Pam Jouannet or Wanda Rudman for questions. We look forward to seeing you! All are welcome!

Big Thanks

Grossnickle Church Family,
Sending a big thank you for the sunshine box filled with cards and assorted items. Your generosity and words of encouragement are appreciated so much, as well as your continued prayers.
God Bless,
Kathie



Congratulations to a New Baby Girl



Congratulations to Gabrielle and Greg Schaub on the August 12 birth of Stella Rebecca. The maternal grandparents are Karen and Robert Riggs.

Our Christian Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to family & friends of the following individual(s) on their recent death.

We extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to family & friends of Martha Hunsberger on her recent death. She was mother to Lois Ann Glessner.



About the Tanzania Arusha Program

In 2021, Convoy of Hope worked with 408 women in the Arusha Region to help them farm a half acre of maize each. Through the provision of seed, fertilizer, pesticides, and technical assistance, each farmer saw exponential increase in their productivity and profitability. Average harvest was 1,000 kg

of maize per ½ acre, whereas previous harvests in the area averaged 250-500 kg per ½ acre. Due to this success, Convoy of Hope is extending this program to assist a greater population throughout the Arusha Region. In 2022 the number of participants increased to approximately 600 women. Subsequent years will also increase the number of participants by about 50%.

**“Field of Hope”
Growing Hope Globally
Sponsor Form**

I/We will sponsor ____ acres at the donation rate
of \$250 per acre (1/2 acre \$125, ¼ acre \$62.50).

Persons sharing in sponsorship:

Total pledge \$_____

All pledges due by October 30, 2023.

Please make checks payable to Grossnickle Church
of the Brethren, designated “Field of Hope.”

Signature _____

Participants

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
Edgewood Church of the Brethren
Grossnickle Church of the Brethren
Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
Harmony Church of the Brethren
Manor Church of the Brethren
Myersville Church of the Brethren
Pastorate of St. Francis, St. Mary and Holy Family
Third Street Church of God (Washington, D.C.)
Welty Church of the Brethren
Catholic Daughters Court Mary Francis
Knights of Columbus, Seton Chapter

Our thanks to Donnie and Donna Grossnickle, farmers
for “Field of Hope”

September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 My 2¢ for Hunger Offering	4	5	6 Deacon Mtg. 7:00 pm	7	8 Fahrney-Keedy Yard Sale	9 Adopt A Road Fahrney-Keedy Yard Sale
10 Church Picnic after services Ruritan Park	11	12 Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm (PH)	13	14	15	16 Deacon Retreat Union Bridge Church of the Brethren 10 am – 3 pm
17 Dunker Church Service 3:00 pm Antietam Battlefield Sharpsburg	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Newsletter Crew 9:00 am	28	29	30

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

GENERAL IN-OFFICE HOURS

Secretary Angie: Tue-Wed-Thu • 9am-4pm; Fri • 9am-2pm

If anyone would like to be a delegate please contact Danny Rumpf at [djrumf78@comcast.net](mailto:djrumpf78@comcast.net).



*Left window panel drawings submitted by the children of the Manassas and Fairview congregations.
Right window panel drawings submitted by the children of the Friendship congregation.*

Mid-Atlantic District 2023 District Conference

Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7

Manassas Church of the Brethren

<http://www.madcob.com/districtconference/>

We Are All God's Children

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 25-27

Saturday morning Bible Study - Jody Gunn

Friday Evening Concert - Please Share Your Musical Gifts

We are seeking individuals or groups who would like to share their vocal or instrumental music selections with us either in person or via a recording. If you're a musician or part of a church music group, please send your submission for our Friday evening concert. Please follow this link to a letter sent to churches earlier this year that explains the details.

[Call for Friday Night Concert Performances](#)

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

PASTOR GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
pastorgreg@gcob.org

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

Secretary Angie's email: 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 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 **October 2023 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than **September 15, 2023**.

Thank you!

September

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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