

# The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

March 2024

## **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GREG.....**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with bitter sweetness that I write this last newsletter piece. I will be concluding my interim pastorate with you on March 31, 2024. Please know that this decision to step away was not easy and I did not make it lightly. It is motivated by a desire to spend more time with my family and worship with them more frequently. There are plans in place for an excellent interim pastor to take this important and beloved position of pastor at Grossnickle Church of the Brethren as you continue your search for a permanent pastor.

This last year has been a ministry highlight for me. You are a congregation whose depth of commitment and love is inspiring. Your lay leadership is second to none. Your history is unparalleled. Your future is still bright in my estimation.

Shortly after I began in my ministry I wrote a piece in this newsletter that leaning on these words from the book of Hebrews.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, .... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2*

Back then, I shared the scripture as I completed my Grand Canyon run, noting how I felt your love and support with me at each step of my unique "race." Now, I hope and pray you will feel my love and support with all of you as you continue to run your race as a congregation continuing down this unknown path. There is still much to be sorted out in regard to your long-term pastorate, and much to learn from the challenging journey you are on together. Surely God is in this with you and has much to teach.

Again, I remind you good people of Grossnickle COB, that the world sees this Hebrews spirit of perseverance shining in you. Not perfect in faith, but perfecting in faith, even through life's challenges. Leaning on the great cloud of witnesses who have already walked this way, then joining and rising together.

What a joy it has been to be on this journey with you,

In God's Love and Joy, Even in the Challenges,

Pastor Greg

## LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR GREG



Pastor Greg's last day will be on Easter Sunday, March 31. He will be leaving with a piece of our hearts. What a God send he has been this past year leading us back to what is important...LOVE. We will be honoring him during worship on March 17. After worship the deacons will host a carry-in meal at the parish hall. Chicken will be provided. We ask that you please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please mark your calendar for this special Sunday to show Pastor Greg and his family our appreciation for his dedication to our church family.

### HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Palm Sunday (also known as Passion Sunday) March 24, Morning Worship 10:30 am: We will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with a palm waving procession. Then we will look into the Holy week story, as we remember Jesus' time in the Garden, His Last Supper with His disciples, and His crucifixion on the cross, through hymns and scripture. The highlight of the morning will be a solemn re-enactment of the Last Supper by members of our congregation, around the theme of "Is it I, Lord?"

Maundy Thursday March 28: We will observe Love Feast and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. Jesus taught us this practice, sharing with his disciples a last, loving meal the night before he died. He washed the disciples' feet, ate supper with them, sought to draw them closer into the fold of his love, and offered them the symbolic bread and cup. During love feast, we repeat these simple, meaningful acts. After reconciling any discord among ourselves, we lovingly wash each other's feet, then enjoy a meal together. Quietly we share communion, the bread and the cup that remind us of Jesus' great gift; we renew our commitment to follow his example of sacrificial love. (brethren.org)

If anyone needs a ride to this service, please contact Deacons of the month, Jeff and Patty Hurwitz.

Easter Morning Sunrise Service March 31: The Wolfsville Community Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wolfsville. Refreshments will be served following the service by the Wolfsville Ruritan Club.

Easter Sunday Morning Worship March 31 at 10:30 am: Celebrate with us the Risen Lord as we join to hear the Good News that Christ is Risen! Pastor Greg officiating.

### 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)).

*Thank you*

**Dear Grossnickle Church Brothers & Sisters,**

The cards, notes, and messages we continue to receive from several of you are greatly appreciated and fill my heart with joy as I think of you.

Thanking God for each one of you,  
Kathie Tucker

## Blue New Year Ceremony



## Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands baked red velvet cupcakes for Meals on Wheels; made 3 blankets; prepared valentine packages for our church college kids, and sent cards to Brethren Volunteer Service folks. Wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all! Please consider joining us in the parish hall for our next meeting on March 5, 2024 at 9:00 am. We will also meet on April 6 to help prepare Meals on Wheels. Please note that this is on Saturday whereas our usual meeting day is the first Tuesday of the month.





## Souper Bowl of Caring Donations

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donation to the Souper Bowl of Caring. We collected \$1,215.14. All of the proceeds will go to Middletown Valley People Helping People. The organization helps in emergencies assisting people; transportation to doctor appointments and other medical appointments; giving money to the weekend backpack program and to the food bank.

## OUTREACH

### 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 Blessings in a Backpack this week. We packed 108 bags of food which will go to hungry school kids in the Middletown, Myersville, Wolfsville and Valley schools. Join us next month, on Tuesday, March 26, as we do it again.

Grossnickle has signed up for Tuesdays: April 9 and May 7. May 7 will be 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.

### Volunteers at Work



## CHOIR PRACTICE FOR EASTER

Easter choir practice will be held on Thursdays, at 6:00 pm. The following are the future dates:

Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 pm



## 2024 Church Directory

Have you secured your new 2024 Church Directory? They are available on the table in the hallway. A very big **"thank you"** to all who have worked on the directory in any way by either proofreading, typing or assembling the directories. The helpful workers were our secretary, Angie Kline, Sharon Leatherman, Pepper Delauter, Vicki Grossnickle, Sandy and Leroy Masser and Shane Tracey. We all appreciate your dedication and devotion to producing these new directories.

## 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.

## Easter Egg Hunt



Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30th from 10-12 at the Parish Hall. As always we will be doing a cake walk. It is always a HUGE hit! If you would be willing to donate a cake please bring it to the Parish Hall Saturday 3/30 before 10am or reach out to Katie Rudman at 301-730-6929.



## Save the Date

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



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## Meals On Wheels

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. Saturday, March 2 will be our next meal and then we have 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.



## SKATING PARTY- FREE

On Sunday, March 3 from 1:30 until 4:30 pm there will be a skating party hosted by Grossnickle Church of the Brethren. It will be at the Starland Roller Park, 800 Park Road, Hagerstown, MD. The event is FREE.



## 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!



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## Meat Canning

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**Meat canning in Ephrata, Pa.** will be Tuesday, April 2. We will meet at the parish hall parking lot and leave at 6:45 a.m. If you would like to go, please contact Marion Leatherman at 301-293-4266.

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

Parents Night Out will be from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the parish hall. 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.

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Prep for Meals on Wheels	2 Meals on Wheels
3 2¢ Worth Offering  Skating Party 1:30-4:30 pm	4	5 Hearts & Hands Mtg. 9am to 11am	6 Kids' Klub & JHGS Club	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time	11	12 Board Mtg. 7:00 pm	13 Kids' Klub  Music & Worship Mtg. 1:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Lunch with Pastor Greg and his family	18	19	20 Kids' Klub & JHGS Club	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 Blessings in Backback Middletown UMC 6pm-7pm  *See Below*	27 Kids' Klub  Newsltr. Crew	28 Make Sandwiches 9:00 am  Spring Love Feast 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday	30 Christian Ed Egg Hunt 10 to 12 pm  Music / Worship Easter Décorating 10:00 am
31 EASTER Sunrise Service	<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>					

**Kids' Klub:** Every Wednesday

**JHGS Club:** First and Third Wednesdays of each month

**Sunday, March 17:** Lunch w/Pastor Greg and his family in the parish hall at Noon

**Tuesday, March 26:** Baking Bread 9:00 am; Cooking Beef: 6:00 pm

**Wednesday, March 27:** District Listening Zoom Service 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm



### **MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS**

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader	Greeters
3	Ed Poling	Cathie Clemson	Suzanne and Carson Levitt
10	Tracy Wiser	Karen Riggs	Myralee Wiles
17	Pastor Greg	Wayne Wallech	Keith and Trina Delauter
24	Pastor Greg-Palm Sunday	N/A	Patty and Jeff Hurwitz
31	Pastor Greg-Easter	Glenn Lantz	Dan and Pepper Delauter

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

### 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](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 **April 2024 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than March 20, 2024.

Thank you!



# March

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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