

# The Dunker

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Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

October 2023

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

*Messenger Magazine*, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren, recently invited a number of ministers to share what in their ministry they are grateful for. I was fortunate to be asked, and here's what I wrote:

"As an interim pastor, ministry consultant, and coach to pastors, I am grateful for those church leaders who are willing to look at the challenges their churches face and say, "It's going to take some work, but we can overcome this challenge; for the sake of the Gospel and the sake of the church." Sometimes that means taking a position we know may not be popular publicly but is clearly a Jesus position. Other times it looks like not bending to the will of a bully in the congregation (yes, they're out there). Perhaps most often, it's the courage to say, "We have a problem that needs our attention," without that clear-eyed acknowledgement being seen as a sign of unbelief in the church or God. But rather, the belief that God is calling us ever-forward into a changing world that needs Jesus' way now just as much as ever. Thank you church leaders!"

I hope you see yourselves in this note of gratitude. Since I began here more than 6 months ago(!), you have worked hard to address the challenges before you. This attitude of hard work has been especially evident at the leadership level. More than that, there's been a sense of optimism, dare I say joy in the Lord. A sense that you will survive, and you are among the blessed who get to call this place your spiritual home. What a joy indeed.

Pastor Greg

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## **Updates from the Board:**

The board met recently and achieved the following three agenda items.

The first is extending the Interim Pastor's contract for September 1st through December 31st. Since we are entering the season of advent and there are more expectations placed on pastors, Pastor Greg will be working 60% of the time (his previous contract was 50%).

Second, was to ask the trustees to explore renting the Parsonage until it is needed for a full-time pastor. The trustees have found a tenant to accept a monthly lease from September through December.

Finally, the board is exploring the concept of anchor ministry. This is a model that used to be used by the Brethren and is currently being practiced with our district leadership. The idea is that there is an anchor (lead pastor) that works with various people to help fulfill the needs within the church. Maybe it's visitation or outreach.

Our next meeting will be on October 24th and we will be working on the budget to present at the November 2nd congregational business meeting.

## **Moving Forward in Our Pastoral Search**

The search committee (Brock, Eddie, Holly, Ryan, Scott, Marion and Trina) hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with the grace of the Lord. As we journey together in the search for a new pastor to lead our congregation, we wanted to provide you with an update on our progress as of September 13th.

We have been hard at work, and we are excited to share that we have received two pastoral profiles for consideration. These profiles represent dedicated individuals with a deep commitment to serving the church and its members.

In our pursuit of finding the best fit for our church family, the search committee has already conducted initial interviews with both candidates.

These conversations allowed us to gain valuable insights into their qualifications, experiences, and most importantly, their possible spiritual connection with our congregation. These interviews also gave the opportunity to the candidates to explore our church through the committee with questions and tours of the church buildings and parsonage.

As we continue in this discernment process, we want to emphasize that we are seeking God's guidance every step of the way. Both candidates have shown promise, and we believe they have the potential to contribute positively to our church community. However, it is important to remember that a successful second interview is essential before either candidate can move forward to the next phase.

In the upcoming weeks, the search committee, in collaboration with Eddie Edmonds, will be diligently working through the process to determine which candidate or both will be invited for a second interview. This step is crucial in ensuring that we make the right decision for our church's future.

Once we have completed the second interviews and feel confident in our choice, the next step will involve inviting the selected candidate to visit our entire congregation for a weekend. During this visit, they will have the opportunity to engage with our church family, learn more about our unique community, and share a message of faith and hope during our worship service.

We kindly ask for your continued prayers and support during this important phase of our pastoral search. Your insights, feedback, and faithfulness are invaluable as we seek God's direction in finding a pastor who will lead us in worship, guide us in our spiritual growth, and journey alongside us in faith.

Let us remain steadfast in our faith and trust that the Lord is guiding us toward the perfect shepherd for our flock. Together, we will continue to discern and pray for His will to be done in this process.

In His service,  
Trina Delauter  
Search Committee Chair

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## ***World Communion Sunday***

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The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday—a call for Christians around the world of all backgrounds and theological traditions to remember that we are, in fact, all one in Christ and that the table from which we receive is God's table, not our own. During the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, October 1, we will receive the Bread and Cup.

Whenever we receive the broken Bread and poured Cup we proclaim, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all..." (Ephesians 4:5). All are welcome at the Table of the Lord!

On Thursday, September 28 at 9:00 am will be the bread baking and juice prep

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## **Fahrney Keedy Yard Sale**

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Thanks to our church members for all their hard work to make the Fahrney Keedy yard sale a great success. They were: Sara Wolfe, Robert Lee and Betty Grossnickle, Vicki Grossnickle, Pam Doyle, Pam Jouannet, Cathie and Robert Clemson, Myralee Wiles, Mark Hinkle, Francene Hinkle and Ruth Hinkle for all her many hours going through and sorting so many items during the past year.

After sweating so much on Thursday while setting up, the storm came through and flipped the tables and destroyed our tents and broke lots of our glassware. We wondered if we would make any money but we pulled through and it was a great success. We made \$3,000.

The residents at the Fahrney Keedy cottages were also a great help along with the maintenance guys at Fahrney Keedy who came through and helped clean up the mess after the storm. So thank you for all of your help and for those who donated items for the yard sale.

Before the Storm



After the Storm



## Outreach Committee

The Outreach committee has decided to do a New Sock drive for October through November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have a box for the socks under the narthex table (where health kits were collected). We are asking for new socks, in the package, for all sizes, infants to XL adults. Warm, dry feet are so important to our friends who are in need. You can make a difference in their lives by giving one or more pairs of new socks. They will be donated to the Scott Key Center, who is working closely with the Rescue Mission to collect and distribute them to the needy in our area. Anyone with questions may contact me at 301-401-8094. Socks should be brought to church and placed in the marked box.

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.



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### *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!

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## Meals On Wheels

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Meals on Wheels will start October 7. If you are interested in receiving a meal please RSVP to Angie in the office to be put on the list for a meal so we know how many meals to prepare. We look forward to serving you. If you are interested in helping as a driver (delivery person) please call Pam Jouannet 301-293-3629.

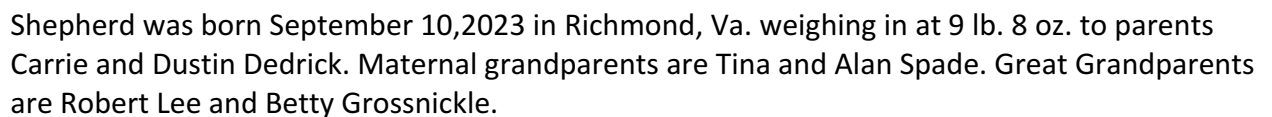




## A GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH



*Welcome Baby Boy Shepherd Psalm Dedrick*



I want to thank those workers who gave of their time and talents to travel to Dawson Springs, Kentucky for BDM. Those who went were: David Doyle, Glenn Lantz, Kevin Self and Marion Leatherman. A special thank you to Glenn for providing the transportation. We were able to build brand new homes to replace the ones that were destroyed by a tornado on December 10, 2021. This deadly tornado killed 19 people. What a blessing it was to help those folks who so desperately needed it.

On behalf of the Outreach Commission I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our summer project of collecting health kits. We collected 60 kits this year and they will be distributed to locations where there is a need. Again, a big thank you for your generosity. It is much appreciated.

Sharon Leatherman

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2023 Growing Project

## Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 8 @ 2:30 pm

Growing Project Farm

11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773

Please join in the fun as we gather to celebrate and thank God  
for another bountiful harvest.

Service of Thanksgiving @ 3:00 pm

Cake Auction

American and Tanzanian Foods

Scarecrow Workshop

Games

Hayride\*

(\*hayride tour at the farm leaves promptly at 2:30)

**During 2023 we are supporting a program in Tanzania Arusha.** 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 1/2 acre, whereas previous harvests in the area averaged 250-500 kg per 1/2 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, 1/4 acre \$62.50).

Persons sharing in sponsorship:

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**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  
Catholic Daughters Court Hagerstown  
Knights of Columbus, Seton Chapter



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

**Deacon for the Month of October: Cathie Clemson**

**OCTOBER WORSHIP HELPERS**

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader
1	Eddie Edmonds	Mindy Conway
8	Pastor Greg	Jeff Hurwitz
15	Paul Munday	Patty Hurwitz
22	Pastor Greg	Nelson Harshman
29	Pat Ricker	Rick and Denise Boyer

Date	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
1	Seth Delauter & Family	Drew Leatherman	Abby Grossnickle
8	Lori Forcino & Rhonda Dunmire	Owen Smith	Doris Grossnickle
15	Holly Thomasson	Landon Smith	Brooke Smith
22	Riggs Boys	Jackson Hanser	Katie Rudman
29	Robert & Cathie Clemson	Mollie Hanser	Sharon Leatherman

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.

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## Advent Choir Practice

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Thursday, Oct 19th 6 pm-7pm  
Thursday, Nov 2nd 6 pm-7pm



Thursday, Nov 16th 6 pm-7pm

Thursday, Nov 30th 6 pm-7pm

For more info contact Robert Riggs or Tanya Miller



# October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> World Wide Communion during Worship My 2¢ for Hunger Offering	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Hearts & Hands 9 am to 11 am (PH)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> District Conference Manassas Church of the Brethren	<b>7</b> District Conference Manassas Church of the Brethren
<b>8</b> Harvest Festival 2:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Board Meeting	<b>25</b> Newsletter Crew 9:00 am (PH)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## 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](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!

**of The Dunker no later than October 15, 2023.**

Thank you!



October

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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