

The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

January 2024

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GREG.....

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Happy New Year! Well, New Year’s Resolution Season is officially in full effect. I think it’s interesting that most of these resolutions typically end with some sort of self-improvement plan: reading more and watching tv less, eating less junk food to improve our health, getting out of debt, flossing daily. But these resolutions usually begin with a dubious set of questions: *What is wrong with me? Am I too fat or too skinny, too lazy or do I work too much, too much of the tight-wad or too much of a spendthrift, too quiet or too loud, too angry or too much of a doormat, worry too much, don’t care enough. Certainly something is wrong with me?!*

But, crazy thought here, what if instead of asking what is wrong with me and how can I fix myself, we asked a different kind of question. What if we asked: *How can I fit into what God is doing in me and in the world?* This is the kind of question that redirects our perspective and energies. We begin to move from self-centered to God-centered (which will inevitably move toward other-centered service). We stop scrutinizing what is wrong with us and begin looking at what gifts God has given us. We slow down and pay attention.

What “new thing” is God doing in you?

In Grace and Peace,

Pastor Greg

Our Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Betty Spahr who passed on Monday, December 11, 2023. Sympathy is extended to Betty’s daughter, Becky Wiles and her husband Greg and their family.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Elwood “Woody” Stottlemeyer on his passing on December 19, 2023.

Snow Schedule for Worship

- 1) If it is snowing at church but not in Greg’s area, we will not open up the physical building (cancel face-to-face worship) and send out a recorded service through email.
- 2) If it is snowing at church and in Greg’s area, same plan as above, with the building being closed and recorded services to be sent out.
- 3) If there is snow in Greg’s area but not in Myersville, we would open our building and have worship as “normal,” and Greg would be zoomed in for the sermon.
- 4) If we are in one of the above scenarios and have a guest preacher for Sunday, there would be a conversation earlier in the week with the Ministry Commission about the best way to worship.



Update from the board:

At a recent board meeting, the board approved a contract extension for Pastor Greg. His contract, at 50% time, has been extended until the end of March. The board also formed a calling team to provide a focus for anchor ministry discussed in the October Dunker. The board appointed Dale Delauter, Pam Jouannet, Robert Riggs, Fred Rudman, and Holly Thomasson to be on the committee and initially focus on pulpit supply. If you are interested in helping to provide pulpit supply, please see a group member.

The board appreciates the congregation's prayers and support during the past year and asks for your continued prayers going into 2024. If at any time you have questions, concerns, or recommendations, please see a board member.

ENGAGING THE QUERY

The Mid-Atlantic District has received a query from the Arlington congregation what will be included in the business for our 2024 District Conference. A query simply is a congregation asking a question of the broader denomination. As a district we are tasked with engaging with the information in the query prior to discerning and voting upon it. Should it be passed by the district next year, it would be considered for inclusion in the following year's business for Annual Conference.

The District leadership team created a Query Engagement Subcommittee, tasked with fulfilling our responsibilities as a district. To that end, regional and on-line engagement sessions have been arranged to provide more information, field questions, and share in meaningful conversations. Please encourage your 2024 delegates and any others who are interested in the ministry of this district to participate in at least one session.

Jan. 20, 2024	Westminster Church of the Brethren	10:00-11:30 am
Jan. 20, 2024	Eastern Shore of Maryland – location TBA	3:00-4:30 pm
Feb. 3, 2024	Brownsville Church of the Brethren	10:00-11:30 am
Feb. 20, 2024	Online via Zoom	7:00-8:30 pm

Sock Drive

GCOB and the Scott Key Center staff and clients came together to make a difference in our community! They ran an amazing sock drive and collected over 1,000 pairs of socks to donate to the Mission! Thank you to everyone who donated. Your kindness and generosity mean so much.



CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2024

As called by the Congregational Meeting in November 2023

*denotes chair)

DEACONS

Cathie Clemson (2026)
Dale & Sheila Delauter (2026)
Fred & Wanda Rudman (2026)
Danny & Kelly Rumpf (2026)
*Patty & Jeff Hurwitz (2024)
Marion & Sharon Leatherman (2024)
Myralee Wiles (2024)
Robert Lee & Betty Grossnickle (2025)
Tom & Pam Jouannet (2025)
Scott & Doris Grossnickle (2025)

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

*Dale Delauter (2024)
Jon Martin (2024)
Kevin Leatherman (2025)
Sam Rudman (2025)
Marion Leatherman (2026)
Walter Bussard (2026)

MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMISSION

Robert Riggs (2024)
Donna Grossnickle (2024)
Vicki Linton (2025)
Vicki Grossnickle (2025)
*Myralee Wiles (2026)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

*Katie Rudman (2024)
Wayne Wallech (2025)
Amanda Ahalt (2025)
Abby Grossnickle (2026)
Fred Rudman (2026)

TRUSTEE COMMISSION

Kevin Leatherman (2024)
Carl Thomasson (2024)
*Marion Leatherman (2025)
Rick Funk (2026)

MINISTRY COMMISSION

Patty Hurwitz (2024)
*Holly Thomasson (2024)
Jennie Leatherman (2025)
Doris Grossnickle (2026)
Thomas Jouannet (2026)

FINANCE COMMISSION

*Trina Delauter (2024)
Dan Delauter (2025)
Brock Skeen (2025)
Denise Boyer (2026)
Paul Smith (2026)

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Judy Lohman (2025)
Suzanne Levitt (2025)
*Pam Jouannet (2026)
Sharon Leatherman (2026)
Pam Doyle (2026)

MODERATOR

Chris Stockslager (2024)

BOARD CHAIR / ASSOCIATE MODERATOR

Danny Rumpf (2024)

BOARD CHAIR ELECT

Glenn Lantz (2024)

CHURCH CLERK

Leslee Wallech (2024)

CHURCH TREASURER

Ryan Harshman (2024)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paul Smith (2024)

CEMETERY TREASURER

Marion Leatherman

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Fred and Wanda Rudman
Grand Rapids, MI July 3 – 7, 2024

DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Four to be appointed for the conference

Hearts and Hands

Hearts and hands met on December 5th and we made 130 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches which were delivered to the Rescue Mission. They were so grateful! In addition we tied two blankets which will be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Fellowship was wonderful and we invite you to join us at our next meeting on January 9th! More details will be forthcoming in bulletins in coming weeks.



Twelve ribbon wreaths were also made for the Beacon House for senior citizens. The Beacon House has adopted 60 seniors in different nursing homes who have no family to celebrate the Christmas Season. The seniors will be receiving a bag of goodies plus devotionals to help spread the Word. Beacon House is a transitional shelter for men and is operated by the Rescue Mission. It is a great program for men trying to get their lives back on track.

Please join Hearts and Hands, this special group who work to make a difference in the lives of others. All are welcome. Please contact Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629 or Wanda Rudman at 301-401-5665.

The January 2024 Hearts and Hands group will meet on January 9th instead of the 1st Tuesday as we usually do from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. We will go back to the 1st Tuesday of each month in February and March.

The Hearts and Hands group has an opportunity to serve lunch on Jan 9th to our friends at the Frederick Rescue Mission. This will be from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We will meet at 10:45 am at the church lot so we can carpool into Frederick. We need five volunteers so if you feel a tug on your heart to spend a few hours with our less-fortunate friends, please contact Pam J. at 301-293-3629.



Family Fun Night
January 20, 2024
6:00 pm until 9:00 in the Parish Hall

The Deacons are planning a game night to all ages. You are invited to share in fellowship and fun. We are having Ping Pong, Corn Hole, Board Games, Cards, and hatchet throwing (for kids). Free pizza will be served as well as other snacks and refreshments.

Please RSVP so we can know how much pizza to purchase.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and/or you can have them call Angie at church during her normal hours.

Blue New Year Service - *a time of remembrance, hope and faith*

You are invited to attend a Blue New Year Service in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm on Sunday, January 28. James Gang, one of the Church's caregiving groups, initiated the first service in January 2009.

The month of January may bring a time of feeling "blue" after all the anticipation and celebration of the Christmas season. And, if you've lost a loved one in recent months or years, or if a loved one died around this particular time of year, then January can be a really "blue" time of year for you.



The Blue New Year Service provides a time to gather for worship and hear the words of scripture again. We will sing and pray together and light candles in memory of our loved ones who have died in the last year or so. It will be a time of remembrance, hope and faith.

If you have lost a loved one in the last year, you will receive a letter of invitation. However, all are welcome! This service offers the opportunity to share your thoughts and hearts. Feel free to share your words if the spirit moves you to read or say a few words about your loved one during the remembrance part of the service. If you plan to attend, please call the church office, 301-293-9516, or email the church secretary at angie.kline@gcob.org so we may calculate the number of candles to prepare.

The James Gang

The James Gang is looking to enlarge its members. We are a great group of folks who pray for others and send cards. We fall under the Outreach Commission.

A suggestion that came through the Deacons is to call on James Gang to help with keeping in touch with our fellow Church Members. This could be as simple as a card letting others know that the Church loves them and are lifting them up in prayer. It can bring light to a dark day to know others love them.

If you are interested in more information, or would like to join James Gang please contact Cathie Clemson at 301-293-3637.

Kids Club and Junior High God Squad

Kids Klub and Junior High God Squad has started classes. Kids Klub and the Junior High God Squad (#JHGS) have much to offer to the younger ones of the congregation and community at large. **Kids Klub** meets weekly on Wednesdays and **#JHGS** meets bi-monthly on Wednesdays. Both groups meet from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.

If interested, please pick up a registration form and information letter in the Narthex or contact Traci Hanser, 240-357-8160 with any questions.

If you know of someone who may be interested, please have them contact the church office. Both groups will meet through the end of March, concluding with a special closing program on March 30th.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Commission would like to take a moment to thank Pam Doyle for agreeing to join our Commission. We accidentally omitted her name from the Slate of Officers presented by the Nominating Committee at the Congregational Business Meeting. We are overjoyed that she said yes and she will be most welcome on our team. If you have any thoughts or new ideas for the Outreach Commission, please feel free to reach out to us.

Meals On Wheels

The Meals on Wheels are rolling! We have lovingly prepared two meals so far. Many thanks to the wonderful folks who have helped prepare, deliver and who donated foods to make this ministry a reality. it.



Future dates of upcoming meals will be: January 6, 2024, *February 10, 2024 and March 9, 2024. March 9, 2024 will be our last meal. If there is inclement weather (snow) we may cancel for the safety of our drivers. Pam will call you if this happens. Questions? Please call Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629.

*The date was previously listed as February 19th which it should have been February the 10th.

Join Us For These Events

of



New Year's Bread and Cup Communion will be celebrated in Morning Worship on Sunday, Jan. 14. The beginning of a New Year is a time for us to remember that we are God's people and we must live in gratitude all year for the sacrifice His Son.

On
20



t and Youth Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 17,

*Watch for more information in the
February and March issues of the The Dunker.*

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Outreach Meeting 6:30 pm to ?? Kids' Klub & JHGS club	4 Music & Worship Un-decorate Christmas 9:30 am	5 Prep for Meals on Wheels	6 Meals on Wheels Brenda White 5 pm till 9 pm
7 My 2¢ Worth Offering	8	9 Hearts & Hands 11:30-1:30 Field Trip to feed Rescue Mission	10 Music & Worship Comm. Mtg. 1:00 pm	11 Scott Grossnickle (PH) 6:30 pm	12	13
14 Bread and Cup Communion during worship	15	16	17 Kids' Klub & JHGS Club	18	19 Linda Stottlemeyer Church & PH 11:00 am-4:00 pm 10:00 am to decorate	20 Deacons Family Fun Night (PH) 6 pm to 9 pm
21	22	23	24 Kids' Klub Newsletter Crew 9:00 am	25	26	27
28 Blue New Year Service 3:00 pm	29	30	31 Kids' Klub			

	<p align="center"><u>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & 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 <u>GENERAL IN-OFFICE HOURS</u> Secretary Angie: Tue-Wed-Thu ▪ 9am-4pm; Fri • 9am-2pm</p>
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Kids' Klub: Every Wednesday

JHGS Club: First and Third Wednesdays of each month

Deacons for 2024:

January-Pam and Thomas	July – Scott and Doris
February – Myralee	August – Robert Lee and Betty
March – Patty and Jeff	September – Sharon and Marion
April – Danny and Kelly	October – Cathie Clemson
May – Dale and Sheila	November - Myralee
June – Fred and Wanda	December – Dale and Sheila

Deacons for the Month of January: Pam and Thomas Jouannet

JANUARY WORSHIP HELPERS

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader	Greeters
7	Eddie Edmonds	Danny Rumpf	Pam & Thomas Jouannet
14	Pastor Greg	Patty Hurwitz	Lori Cline
21	Paul Munday	Scott Grossnickle	Pam & Dave Doyle
28	Pastor Greg	Sharon Leatherman	Tina & Alan Spade



Thank you for all the prayers and calls during Tyler and Jeremy's recent heart surgeries. They are both doing very well -- God is so good !!

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

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!

Happy New Year

And Blessings to All

Please submit news items for the **February 2024** issue of *The Dunker* no later than January 19, 2024.

Thank you!



January

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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