

# HATFIELD MEETINGHOUSE

Church of the Brethren

1333 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

Pastors: Clay Moyer and Lynne Allebach

Church Office: 215-855-3064

**E-Mail: [hatfieldcob@aol.com](mailto:hatfieldcob@aol.com)**

**Web: [www.hatfieldcob.org](http://www.hatfieldcob.org)**

May 2020 NEWSLETTER

## **LOCKDOWN** by Richard Hendrick

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death.

**But,**

**They say** that in Wuhan after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again.

**They say** that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes  
but blue and grey and clear.

**They say** that in the streets of Assisi, ITALY, people are singing to each other  
across the empty squares - keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear  
the sounds of family around them.

**They say** that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

**Today** a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood  
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

**Today** Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter  
the homeless, the sick, the weary.

**All over the world** people are slowing down and reflecting.

**All over the world** people are looking at their neighbors in a new way.

**All over the world** people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

**To Love.**

So we pray and we remember that:

**Yes there is fear** - But there does not have to be hate.

**Yes there is isolation** - But there does not have to be loneliness.

**Yes there is panic buying** - But there does not have to be meanness.

**Yes there is sickness** - But there does not have to be disease of the soul

**Yes there is even death** - But there can always be a rebirth of love.

**Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.** Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic. The birds are singing again.

The sky is clearing, spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by **Love**.

Open the windows of your soul. And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

**SING**



## OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

### FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS . . .



Personal distancing, masks, hand sanitizing, gloves, shutdowns, unemployment, employee absenteeism (for those still working), PPE, PPP, stimulus checks (for some), one way isles in grocery stores, testing, virtual environment ... it has only been a month and a half - seems so much longer doesn't it. Change is, while occurring can be difficult, but over time can become the "new normal" or just plain normal.

While change has come to the food cupboard, it is hard to say that this new way will become normal. While we are still maintaining our listed monthly open times, we have been opening about 2 hours early unannounced and have been accepting appointments for other times during the week. We have been receiving about 5 – 6 new families a week - that includes some that have returned after several years absence.

Currently, our shelves are stocked and our storage areas are full. We are well supplied with canned food for the 3-4 months. What most likely will become a shortage is fresh/frozen meats. Currently, we are receiving some meats from the government, which is helpful, but often the meat we receive is packaged more for schools and restaurants and not for home refrigerators and freezers. If the current news is accurate, the government meat supply could be ending. In the past, we were able to purchase meats from Philabundance. However, for the past month and a half, they have not had any. We still have grant monies that we can use to buy meat from an outside vendor (Derstine's in Sellersville). It is excellent meat, but quite expensive. Hopefully, our grant money will be sufficient through the end of June, when the new grant is to be renewed the beginning of July.

Now the happy stories: Many thanks to the Hatfield community who continues to support us with food and financial donations. The other day a gentleman stopped in with \$500.00 in cash that came from an individual wanting to be kept anonymous. That donation will most likely go towards meat in the coming months. We also received a large food donation from an individual purchased at two local supermarkets for over \$400.00. Thank you, Pastor Clay

### FRIENDSHIP HOUSE CHILD CARE CENTER . . . News

Friendship House Child Care Center will remain closed until the mandatory closing ends. We ask for your continued prayers for our staff and families.

**We as a church will be giving our Day Care families a Giant gift card for food and gas to assist them as they too struggle through this pandemic. If you would like to donate, please note on the memo line of your check, "Gift cards"**



## FOCUS ON FOLKS!



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 – Dan Sibley
- 19 – Barb Kinsey
- 20 – Maureen Sibley
- 26 – Andrew Hanks
- 31 – Makenna Hanks

### MAY ANNIVERSARY

- 18 – John & Carole Bruning
- 21 – Rev. Brandon & Katrina Hanks

✚ **BDRA Kickoff Dinner, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland** has been cancelled. If you have purchased your tickets and would like a refund, please see Connie Holbert. If you wish, we can donate our ticket money to the auction.

✚ **A big T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U for mailing in your weekly offerings.** That enables us to keep our bills current and maintain our outreach ministries!

### Notice about Sunday Services:

- ✚ Until further notice, Sunday school will be conducted by video conference at 9:30am. Sunday morning. If you would like an invitation to join the discussion, please contact the church office at 215-855-3064 or by email at [hatfield@aol.com](mailto:hatfield@aol.com).
- ✚ Each week's sermon is available on the home page of the church website – [hatfieldcob.org](http://hatfieldcob.org).

*Enjoy a laugh and wish your mom a Happy Mother's Day Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>*

### MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

- ✚ **ANTICIPATION** - "Just wait until your father gets home."
- ✚ **HUMOR** - "When your dog leaves tracks on the carpet, the two of you will clean it up."
- ✚ **GENETICS** - "You are just like your father."
- ✚ **RECEIVING** - "You are going to get it when we get home!"
- ✚ **ROOTS** - "Do you think you were born in a barn?"
- ✚ **LOGIC** - "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
- ✚ **WISDOM OF AGE** - "When you get to be my age, you will understand."
- ✚ **MEDICAL SCIENCE** - "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
- ✚ **TO BECOME AN ADULT** - "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
- ✚ **TO MEET A CHALLENGE** - "What were you thinking?" Answer me when I talk to you!"
- ✚ **TO THINK AHEAD** - "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job."
- ✚ **AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST. . .**
- ✚ **JUSTICE** - "One day you'll have children, and I hope they turn out just like you. Then you'll see what it's like!"