

## 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 2024 NEWSLETTER

The months of May and June celebrate two important days. Mother's Day and Father's Day. This year, in honor of those days, we will donate \$500 to the *"Sleep in Heavenly Peace"* organization in Kelloggsville, Michigan. This opportunity is made possible through our Annual Conference July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup> *"Witness to the Host City"*. Robin McMahon, our Delegate, will take the check to the conference and present it to the organization.

*"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" (CHP)* believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. That's where SHP comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!** ®  
For more information: [www.shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-kelloggsville](http://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-kelloggsville)



If you would like to make an additional donation to this cause, please write your check to the Hatfield CoB, noted *"Sleep"* and your additional donation will be added. The last Sunday to contribute your donation will be **Sunday, June 23, 2024**. Thank you!

*We wish a Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all the "mothers" and "fathers" reading this. If you are a mother or father by birth, adoption, foster care, or the neighbor person down the street who took a child under their wing. . . **THANK YOU!** Wishing you the best day ever!*

**Bring your whole family to church on May 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate.**

## OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS . . . 2024

### Thank you to all our Food Cupboard volunteers!



One comment I hear so often from our families is, *“We love to come to your food cupboard! Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. Other pantries just don’t seem to be interested in us, but yours seems to like to talk to us. Thank you, so much.”*

Those comments are a testimony to our volunteers. Our families recognize that we care who they are and that they matter. A great example of what an early Brethren businessman put outside of his printing press *“For the glory of God and our neighbors good”*.

Keep up the good work showing how God’s love is our guiding light!

- - - Pastor Clay

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



Our last Sunday School gathering will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. When we resume in the Fall, we will be taking a break from ***Wired Word*** to explore what it is that Brethren believe. More information will follow in the July/August newsletter. Mark your calendars for September 8<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of this interesting study.

- - - Pastor Lynne

### A POEM ABOUT MOM AND DAD

Thank you, Mom. Thank you, Dad. Three small words. So much to add. For all your love and your support, a million words would be too short. The words, “I love you” seem too few to express the love I have for you.



## Reminders, Notes, Tips

- Please make sure on Fridays to take your child's papers and belongings. Bags are to be cleaned out over the weekend.
- Closed-toed shoes are required.



## Important Dates

### Friendship House

27<sup>th</sup>- Closed

### North Penn

1<sup>st</sup>- Early Dismissal

27<sup>th</sup>- Closed

## New Happenings

- Woo Hoo!!! We passed our state inspection with no violations!
- Ms. Usha is moving back to the Young Cub Room with Mr. Andrew. Ms. Priya will be in the Busy Bunny room with Ms. Nour.
- May 6th-May 10th is Teacher Appreciation week! I am so grateful for all the teachers and all the hard work they put in to help your children learn and grow!
- Please bring in sunscreen with the completed sunscreen form.
- Muffins with Mom will be Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a casual event and you may come anytime between 7AM-9AM, whenever works with your schedule. There will be a light breakfast and activity to do with your child.
- We are planning on having Pre-k graduation on Friday, June 14th from 4:30PM-5PM. More information to follow in the upcoming weeks.
- Please make sure to turn in your green form for your plans for summer and next year.
- Summer camp fee will be added to your account. This will go toward special guests and projects for the summer.
  - Teddy Bears & Busy Bunnies \$30, Little Lambs \$35, Young Cub & Pandas \$55

### Weekly Themes:

29<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>- Insects

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>- Mother's Day

13<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>- Community Helpers

20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>- Life Cycles

27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>- Feelings

## GOD'S UNEXPECTED GIFTS

excerpts from the Messenger April 2024 Reflections, by Robyn Reals  
close friend of Susan Berg, Annette Hanks' sister

Sometimes God takes us by surprise with unexpected zaps of love. Sometimes when we pray for them, sometimes before we even know to ask. The moments can come in small glimpses:

My beautiful grandmother, failing but cozy on her flowered sheets, reportedly saw three people at the end of her in-home hospital bed. A feisty lady, she shooed the unknown visitors away saying she "wasn't ready," and they left. When told perhaps one might have been my grandfather – who passed – she said, "Of course not, I know your grandfather when I see him!" A nice visit, but I guess she wasn't ready. She passed quietly a short while later. God's gift of independence.

Or there was the time my father sat beside my mother on her last days in the hospice facility. On a visit, I noticed that in her direct view hung a bland, brown landscape scene. At least it was something to look at, I thought. One day Dad reported my mom perking up and staring at this nondescript view with a sparkle in her eye. Her head bobbed up and down, and she said, "Yes, yes!" and seemed quite pleased. Dad looked at her, then around the antiseptically decorated room. He saw nothing different, and asked Mom about it. She pointed to the picture and said, with enthusiasm, "Yes, that's beautiful, colorful, I think I could do that!" Dad asked, "What?" Mom pointed to the landscape and told him she could go there: "It looked pretty nice." And so, she did. God's gift of a beautiful future.

And then there was my childhood-long closest friend. She and I spent all our momentous life phases together, from middle school headaches and heartthrobs to college and Brethren Volunteer Service, marriages and moves, to the joys of grandparenting. We had laughed our way through many antique stores over the decades, shared scores of decadent donuts, and completed each other's sentences and bad jokes. Then one day, she was given three to six months to live.

My husband and I visited once a month up to her last few days. Shortly before we arrived, her sister wrote to prepare me emotionally. My friend had slipped into a quiet, sometimes confused, or agitated state. The message was that I might not be noticed, recognized, or heard, but was encouraged and welcome to come.

I had not seen this message before we walked in her door.

My friend had changed dramatically and looked very tired. But we were, as always, so delighted to see each other we dove immediately into non-stop chatting. I privately took sad note of her dramatic decline and immobility. We spent a few hours reminiscing, laughing, and just being quiet with each other. We said what we knew would be our last goodbyes. My friend asked me to lean over her hospital bed railing for a long cheek-to-cheek hug. She said I must shout "Hallelujah!" when Jesus came for her. I promised I would, but honestly did not believe that would be my first outburst.

I approached her blissfully unaware of the caveats, and for nearly three hours we enjoyed a visit that, unbeknownst to me, had been heaven-gifted. I returned home to find her sister had written again. My friend had immediately slipped back to her nonverbal quiet state until the end. She shared some smiles, but no further chats. Family was summoned a day or two after, and Jesus came for her while she was surrounded by love.

I will forever remember the cold January morning I received God's astounding blessing of that window of time. My friend's last moments of lucidity and our opportunities for goodbyes were gifts that humbled me. She traveled this phase of life without me. I will bring the donuts when it is my time. God's gift of time.

--Robyn Reals is deacon chair and clerk at  
Arlington (Va.) Church of the Brethren.

## FOCUS ON FOLKS!



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

08 – Becky Rayno  
12 – Dan Sibley  
19 – Barb Kinsey  
20 – Maureen Sibley  
26 – Andrew Hanks  
31 – Makenna Hanks

### MAY ANNIVERSARY

21 – Rev. Brandon & Katrina Hanks

✚ **MESSENGER**, the magazine of the Church of the Brethren. It is time to renew or begin a new subscription for the “*Messenger*”. Order forms are in your church mailbox, check payable to Hatfield COB and note “Messenger”. The cost for a first time subscriber is \$7.25, and renewal is \$14.50. Thank you.

**Renewal due: Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

**Spirit Care Seminar:** Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ Peter Becker Community. Free if RSVP by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Flyer on the bulletin board.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Conference Briefing:** June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Zoom meeting only. Video at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/business>

**Older Adult Spring Luncheon:** Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> Noon at Yoder’s Restaurant, New Holland. \$23/person. Registration May 4<sup>th</sup>. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

### STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION MAY 2024

#### Sunday Ministry Team

Carl & Connie Holbert

#### Greeters

Don Hanks, Rob Hanks, Dan Sibley

#### Worship Leaders

05 – C. Holbert  
12 – Robin McMahon  
19 – Annette Hanks  
26 – C. Holbert

#### Accompanist

05 – Annamarie Dieterle  
12 – David Himmer  
19 – Annamarie Dieterle  
26 – Annamarie Dieterle

#### Message

05 – Pastor Clay Moyer  
12 – Pastor Lynne Allebach  
19 – Pastor Clay Moyer  
26 – HYMN SING

#### Steward Counters

Connie Holbert – Treasurer

#### APRIL Stats 2024

Monthly Offering: **\$5,397.00**

Monthly offering needed for  
2024 Budget: **\$ 5,080.00**



**GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER**



**FAITHFUL COMMUNITY**

**What Is Happening?**

**MAY 2024**



**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**ECR Prayer Time**

6:30pm.

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**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**ECR Worship Team**

Noon – 2:00pm.

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**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Wired Word Bible Study**

w/fellowship time

9:00am.

**Morning Worship**

Pastor Clay Moyer

10:00am.

**ECR Worship**

11:30am.

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**Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Food Cupboard**

10:30am – 1:30pm.

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**Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**ECR Prayer time**

6:30pm.

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**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Work Day**

8:00am - Noon

**ECR Worship Team**

Noon – 2:30pm.

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**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Wired Word Bible Study**

w/fellowship time

9:00am.

**Morning Worship**

**Mother's Day**

Pastor Lynne Allebach

10:00am.

**ECR Worship**

11:30am.

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**Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Worshipful Work**

7:00pm.

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**Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**ECR Prayer Time**

6:30pm.

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**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Food Cupboard**

8:30am – 11:00am.

**ECR Worship Team**

Noon – 2:00pm.

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**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Wired Word Bible Study**

w/Fellowship Time

9:00am.

**Morning Worship**

**Pentecost Sunday**

Pastor Clay Moyer

10:00am.

**ECR Worship**

11:30am.

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**Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Food Cupboard**

10:30am – 1:30pm.

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**Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**ECR Prayer Time**

6:30pm.

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**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**ECR Worship Team**

Noon – 2:00pm.

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**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

**NO Bible Study**

**Morning Worship**

HYMN SING

10:00am.

**ECR Worship**

11:30am.

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**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Memorial Day**

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**Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**ERC Prayer Time**

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**Work Day**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am - Noon

We will focus on attic cleaning . . . donating old books, tossing OLD!!!! papers, etc.

All are welcome.