

# The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

December 2023

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

In early November we had a wonderful showing at love feast. In our time together we ate a meal, shared the bread and the cup, and washed one another's feet in acts of service. As we worshipped together, I shared in my meditation that I *need* someone to wash my feet because it shows me the way of Jesus; I need you to help me in my Christian walk.

I also *need* to wash your feet. Jesus, through his example and commandment, teaches us to serve one another as humble servants. In Jesus' day, it was unheard of for a rabbi of Jesus' stature to bend down and wash his disciples' feet. Through this act, Jesus taught that we are all brothers and sisters and we are all to serve each other.

All of that can be summed up with four words: We need each other. Through the thick and the thin, the good times and the bad, our primary task is always to serve one another. I left that night with a song in my heart; one that remains with me even today:

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together with love.*

*There is only one God; there is only one King.*

*There is only one body, that is why we sing.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together with love.*

In Grace and Peace,

Pastor Greg

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## **Children Recreate Nativity and Sing**

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Please join us December 10th during worship as we sing Christmas hymn favorites as well as hear from the children as they recreate the nativity and sing. Help us to usher in the Christmas season on the second Sunday of Advent, Peace Sunday. We are grateful to Traci Hanser for planning this beautiful service. Thank you Traci!



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## **Christmas Eve Morning Service and Evening Candlelight Service**

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Please join us on Sunday morning, Christmas Eve, December 24, as we gather for Sunday School at 9:30 am followed by our worship service at 10:30 am. Then, we hope you will join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm that evening at our church. Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas.





A big thank you to Glenn Lantz for refurbishing the gates at the memorial garden. It was a lot of hard work as he sandblasted, repainted and installed them. They were in bad need of being refinished and they look great. Thank you again Glenn for your hard work and devotion to completing this job.

Marion Leatherman  
Trustee Chair

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If birthday cards are blessings, I have been blessed in abundance. Sending a BIG thank you to all who sent birthday wishes and prayers. You helped make this a birthday to remember.

With love and joy,

We praise the Lord for continuing to carry us through each day. And, we continue to thank God for family, friends, and our church families as you continue to support us on this journey. We are grateful for your encouragement through cards, thoughtful messages and prayers. We thank God for each one of you and hold you close in our hearts.

With love and deep appreciation,  
Kathie & Mike Tucker

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Heartfelt thanks to the Ministry Commission and the entire congregation for the Pastor Appreciation letter of thanks, card, and GCOB Plate. I am grateful for all of you and your ministry!

Pastor Greg

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The Music and Worship Commission wishes to thank all who have ordered poinsettias for our Christmas season. These beautiful flowers will grace our church sanctuary on Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24.

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## Search Committee

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The search committee is working diligently to find the next pastor for our congregation. Thus far we have interviewed two candidates. Our first candidate recently informed us that he accepted a call from another church. Our second candidate chose to withdraw his application from consideration. We ask for patience and prayers as we work through this process. We are accepting of the fact that we have a limited pool of applicants, but we trust God will place the right pastor in our congregation to unite us as one.

Patty Hurwitz, Katie Rudman, Holly Thomasson, Marion Leatherman, Ryan Harshman, Brock Skeen, and Scott Grossnickle (chair).

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## Congregational Business Meeting

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At the recent congregational business meeting, the congregation heard each committee's current reports and financial reports. The members also approved the officers for 2024, called deacons and appointments. Church leaders for 2024 will be presented in the January Dunker. The proposed constitutional changes and a 2024 budget of \$244,001 was approved. Don't hesitate to contact the church office if you want a copy of the new constitution and budget. Thank you to Grossnickle Church for your continued support and prayers. Our next congregational business meeting will be November 7, 2024.

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## The 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

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The Mid-Atlantic District Conference for 2023 was held at Manassas Church of the Brethren on October 6th and 7th. The conference was attended by Doris Grossnickle (a member of the Planning team) and Tom and Pam Jouannet (Delegates for the Saturday business). It was so wonderful seeing and re-connecting with our sisters and brothers in the district in the most welcoming Manassas Church.

The business sessions consisted of the usual selection of new officers and leadership team members and the various reports from Church of the Brethren commissions and district camps. In addition, some by-law changes were approved including creation of an Executive Team to assist the District Leadership Team.

The workshops were very engaging this year. Pam attended the one run by Doris which consisted of assembling Health Kits from district churches to be donated to Church World Service (including the ones donated by Grossnickle Church this past summer). It was good exercise walking around the tables to fill up zip-lock bags. Tom attended a discussion of the various ways small churches can fill their pulpits with shared ministers and lay-ministry people. We assembled almost 800 health kits to donate to Church World Service.

At the end of the business session, a copy of the query brought by Arlington Church of the Brethren was passed out to the attendees of the conference. The query is addressed to the denomination as a whole. The query is requesting changes in the 1983 human sexuality paper. There is outdated language which they are asking to update. There will be multiple chances for listening sessions where people will be able to ask questions and share meaningful conversations. If you are interested in viewing the query and/or would like to participate in the listening session, there are also paper copies for you to pick up at the church. Please contact Angie and she will get you a paper copy.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you at the District Conference this year!

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 other who are interested in the ministry of this district to participate in at least one session. The dates are: Jan. 20, 2024..Westminster Church of the Brethren 10:00 am until 11:30 am; January 20, 2024. Eastern Shore, Maryland location TBA 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm; February 3, 2024. Brownsville Church of the Brethren 10:00 am until 11:30 am; February 20, 2024. On-line via Zoom 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. Look for more information from the district as the dates get closer. You are encouraged to be involved in the conversations that prepare us for next year's district conference.



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## Christmas Giving Tree

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This year as in previous years we will be working to bring Christmas joy to the less fortunate in the Middletown Valley area.

Our 2023 **Christmas Giving Tree** is displayed on the table in the narthex. We have adopted a family of 3 children. We are working with Middletown Valley People Helping People. There are numbered tags on the tree. When you take a tag please write your name and tag number on the sheet of paper under the tree.

You also have the option of providing a monetary donation. Please make your check payable to Grossnickle Church of the Brethren and note Giving Tree. Please use the wooden box by the tree for cash, checks and gift cards or give them directly to Tina Spade. All gift cards and donations are due **by December 3rd**.

Thank you,  
Tina Spade, Giving Tree Coordinator

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## 2023 Reverse Advent

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Please join us this Christmas season in collecting items for **Reverse Advent** to benefit the Frederick County Religious Coalition. In 1981, a group of 50 Religious congregations, civic groups, and local agencies came together to address the challenges of homelessness and poverty in Frederick County. The Coalition's initial mission was to serve as a safety net for those in need of emergency shelter. The mission evolved to include programs that support people as they move beyond crisis and regain control of their lives. By 1998, services included energy and prescription assistance and financial support with security deposits. They support men, women, and children today.

Donations needed:

- \*Razors
- \*Deodorant
- \*Toothbrushes & travel size toothpaste
- \*Bottled water
- \*Single serve snacks (granola bars, chips, pretzels, etc)
- \*Other non-perishable food

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**Please have all donations in by December 17.** There will be a collection box in the Narthex, and feel free to bring items to the Advent Social on December 17 in the Parish Hall from 9:30-10:30. If you have any questions, please contact Abby Grossnickle at 240-818-7572.

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## Kids Club and Junior High God Squad

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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.



Sunday, November 12, 2023, the church presented bibles to 2nd graders. Ryker Riggs was presented with a new bible.

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## Hearts and Hands

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Hearts and Hands met on Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 9 am-11 am. We made 70 loaves of pumpkin bread for Meals on Wheels and for the Deacons to distribute. 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.



Making the Pumpkin Bread



Making the Wreaths



70 Loaves of Pumpkin Bread



One of Many Finished Wreaths



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## Outreach Committee

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**ROCK MINISTRY...** The 2024 year is fast approaching! The Rock Ministry is a wonderful, easy job. Great to have the kiddos help (a family affair). The messages gets changed at the beginning of the month. This is a great way to put a message of Christ's Love out for our neighbors to see.

Outreach is going to have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to Angie's office or call Pam Jouannet (301-293-3629). Questions, please call.

The Sock Collection concluded and all socks were bagged for pickup. We collected a whopping 351 pairs of socks for the needy of Frederick County. Thank you all for taking up this project!

Socks Collected



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## Meals On Wheels

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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.



December's meat will be turkey. If you have an extra turkey that doesn't have a home we would gladly accept it.

Future dates of upcoming meals will be: December 16, 2023, January 6, 2024, February 19, 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.

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Music & Worship Decorate for Christmas 9:30 am
3 My 2¢ for Hunger Offering  Advent Week 1	4	5 Hearts & Hands 9:00 – 11:00 Parish Hall	6	7	8	9
10 Children's Christmas Program During Worship  Advent Week 2	11	12	13	14	15 Meals on Wheels Prep	16 Meals on Wheels  Christmas Country Church Tour 1:00 to 5:00 pm
17 Advent Social in place of Sunday School 9:30-10:15  Advent Week 3	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm  Advent Week 4	25 <b>Christmas</b> 	26	27 Newsletter Crew 9:00 am	28	29	30
31	<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>					



**Deacons for the Month of December: Sheila and Dale Delauter**

**DECEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS**

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader
3	Pastor Greg	Carl Jouannet
10	Children's Christmas Program	Children's Christmas Program
17	Pastor Greg	Glenn Lantz
24	Pastor Greg	Ethan Grossnickle
31	Pastor Greg	Marion Leatherman

Date	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
3	Dale and Sheila Delauter	The Barnet Family	Katie Rudman
10	Lisa and Tom Westwood	The Hanser Family	Sharon Leatherman
17	Sharon Phillips	Lori Forcino and Rhonda Dunmive	Kristie Delauter
24	Debbie Bruchey	Dale and Sheila Delauter	Abby Grossnickle
31	Denise and Rick Boyer	Patrick Mahoney	Doris Grossnickle

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.



*Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year*

## 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 **January 2024 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than December 19, 2023.

Thank you!



# December

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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