

# The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

November 2019

## LOVE FEAST AND COMMUNION

*“... Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)*

Let us begin now to prepare for Love Feast, by opening our hearts to the Lord, by seeking forgiveness from God and others, and by inviting others to share in the wonderful blessings that come from being obedient to Jesus' commands and accepting His invitation to the Table.

Love Feast will be observed Sunday evening, November 10 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. The evening will start with a time of reflection and repentance. Then we will follow the example of Jesus by washing one another's feet. As an option, we also offer a hand-washing table. And, we share a simple meal of beef and broth and bread (with a vegetarian option available also). The service concludes with the celebration of Bread and Cup communion.

Child care will be available for the youngest of our church family, and interested children of any age are welcome to come and participate in the meal and observe the feet-washing and communion. If you need a ride to Love Feast, please call the Deacons of the Month, Kathy and Randy Gaver.

Our church practices open communion, so baptized Christians of any tradition are welcome to join us and participate fully, regardless of where you hold your church membership.



### NEW MEMBERS DINNER

Sunday, November 3

Join us after worship for our New Members Dinner on November 3. This will be a time of fellowship and an opportunity to learn more about our new members who were received into membership through creek baptism on August 25, 2019.

Please come and show your support of our new members: Brianna Blickenstaff, Grace Ellis, Natalie Flook, Mackenzie Grossnickle, Madryn Hanser, Patrick Mahoney, Lilly Rumpf, Olivia Zeigler and Keri Horine.

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## HANDS & HEARTS TOGETHER

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Join us Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and help wash the Parish Hall windows. Also we may work on some kind of baking or cooking project. Please mark your calendar so you can join with us for this time of service and fellowship.

Questions? Contact Wanda Rudman, 301-508-7530 or [wandarudman@gmail.com](mailto:wandarudman@gmail.com), or Pam Jouannet, 301-293-3629 or [pamjouannet@gmail.com](mailto:pamjouannet@gmail.com).

Meetings are scheduled October through April on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Please plan to join us!




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## KIDS KLUB KICKS-OFF IN NOVEMBER

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KIDS KLUB, for children in Grades 1 through 5, is planned to kick-off Wednesday, November 6. Lois Ann Glessner will again direct this program by presenting exciting Bible lessons designed to help the children learn about God and the life of Jesus Christ. She supplements the lessons with fun-filled activities to illustrate the stories.

The group will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Snacks are provided by parents according to a pre-arranged schedule.

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## NEW MID-WEEK PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

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We are excited to announce that Grossnickle Church of the Brethren will once again have a mid-week middle school youth program. The group will meet in the upstairs classroom area of the church bi-monthly on the following Wednesdays from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm:

**November 6 • November 20 • December 4 • December 18 •  
January 8 • January 22 • February 5 • February 19 • March 4 • March 18**

We are blessed to have Miss Sophie Cornell directing the program. Children are encouraged to attend and participate in this worthwhile ministry. Miss Cornell recently graduated from Messiah College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She is currently a 5th grade teacher at Brunswick Elementary School. She is looking forward to working with the children in our community to help them learn about God and how we can best serve him.

If you know a middle schooler who is interested in participating, please contact the church office.

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## CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

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Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held Thursday evening, November 7 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Tracy Wisner will serve as moderator.

Items of business will be to approve the slate of officers and to adopt a budget for 2020. These items will determine our priorities for ministry in the coming year. All members of the congregation have a voice in this meeting. We hope for good attendance and good discussion.

Another task of the Congregational Business Meeting is to call Deacons. Deacons serve as caregivers of our congregation and as those who prepare for communion and baptism. Please consider individuals or couples who could serve faithfully and well as deacons.

We will be calling four individuals or deacon couples. Those persons whose terms are expiring this year are: Tom & Pam Jouannet, Scott & Doris Grossnickle, Dan Hughes, and Robert Lee & Betty Grossnickle. All are eligible to be called again. We thank them all for their faithful service.

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## “YOUNG AT HEART” MEALS ON WHEELS

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The first meal of the 2019-20 season for this monthly outreach effort (deliveries only) will be delivered Saturday, November 9 around lunch time. Reminder cards were mailed the end of October. *If you do not receive a reminder card and you wish to receive the November **Thanksgiving meal** which will include **turkey with all its trimmings and pumpkin pie** or if you received a reminder card and do not want the meal, please call the church office, 301-293-9516, by Tuesday, November 5. To volunteer, speak with Kathy Gaver (kitchen help) at 301-416-8339 or Debbie Bussard (drivers) at 240-409-8061.*




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## HUNGER MEAL

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Our youth will once again serve a meal that resembles one that could be found at a soup kitchen. Please come on Sunday, November 24 after church and enjoy ham and cheese sandwiches and the best vegetable beef soup, vegetarian vegetable soup and chicken noodle soup. We have just one simple request – that you donate money you would have spent if you went out to eat.

Funds raised will be used to purchase Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for those in need in our area.

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## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCE COMMISSION

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The Finance Commission is finalizing the budget process for the upcoming 2020 calendar year and wanted to provide an update to the congregation on the current 2019 budget year to date through September. Our year-to-date giving totals \$195,045, which is an increase of approximately \$6,000 vs this time last year. However, our actual giving still trails our budgeted giving by approximately \$7,000. All church commissions continue to work hard to keep expenditures as low as possible. As a result, our expenses are slightly ahead of the budget, and our year-to-date loss through September is approximately \$5,000.

We thank all church members for their continued support, and we will continue to need your support for the rest of 2019 and into 2020 to continue to operate our programs.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Ryan Harshman, Finance Chair

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## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

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August 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of Pastors Donna and Tim ministering to the Grossnickle Church. To celebrate this milestone a special luncheon was held October 20. The parish hall overflowed with church family and delicious food for this gathering. This occasion to honor Tim and Donna's faithful ministry was a time of fellowship, singing, sharing a meal together and offering gifts of appreciation for the dedication they have offered our church family. This gathering was also a time of recalling the past 20 years through a special poem (see page 7) and a photo slideshow. Gene Hagenberger, our Mid-Atlantic District Executive, was present and presented Donna and Tim with a special certificate and recognized them for their ministry, mentoring and faithful service to our church family as well as their service on a wider scale. Gene also spoke of Tim and Donna's ministry on a more personal level and of his appreciation for their friendship.



The Ministry Commission encourages continued special acts of kindness and appreciation to Donna and Tim throughout their 20th year. This could be a simple gift, note of appreciation, meal, or any other creative thing you might dream up.

(Photos taken by Brooke Smith)



**PRAISING GOD TOGETHER... WORSHIP, MUSIC AND MORE**



Join us each Sunday . . .  
**9:30 am – Sunday School** (nursery through adult)  
**10:30 am – Worship**

**NOVEMBER 2019 WORSHIP & HELPERS**

Date	Sermon/Scripture	Message by	Worship Leader	Greeters	Acolyte
3	“Righteousness Has Come” Luke 19:1-10	Tim Ritchey Martin	Jenna Grossnickle	Ray & Ruth Hinkle	Madryn Hanser
10	TBA	Gene Hagenberger	Tim/Donna Ritchey Martin	Bill & Patsy Stine	Caroline Ahalt
17	“Giving All” Luke 21:1-4	Donna Ritchey Martin	Marion Leatherman	David Gaver & Randy Gaver	Seth Remsberg
24	“Thanksgiving” Psalm 145:1-5,7-21	Tim Ritchey Martin	Jess Remsberg	Lindsay Harne & Paul Graves	Shepherd Flook

Deacon of the Month: Kathy & Randy Gaver

**MEN’S CHOIR NEWS**



**MEN’S CHOIR**

The Men’s Choir has begun practicing for the holiday season. Practice this month will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 13.

If you have questions, or would like to add your voice, you may contact Robert Riggs, 240-818-7060.

**NURSERY SCHEDULE**  
 November 2019

- 3 – Karen Riggs
- 10 – Abby Grossnickle
- 17 – Amanda Ahalt
- 24 – Jennifer Blickenstaff



To volunteer and/or for information please contact Traci Hanser at 240-357-8160 or [traci.hanser@yahoo.com](mailto:traci.hanser@yahoo.com).



**Wednesday, November 27, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**

**Garfield United Methodist Church**

13628 Stottlemeyer Road  
 Smithsburg, Maryland 21783

*All are welcome!*

# CELEBRATION CORNER

## October 2019

Celebration Corner is a monthly column highlighting, with joy, events of the previous month. This month we celebrate by sharing photos of **October** events plus a **late-September** event.

CROP Walk • Hands & Hearts Together • Harvest Celebration



## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS *(continued from page 4)*

The poem shared here was read by Gene Gaver during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Luncheon.

### HAPPY 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PASTORS DONNA AND TIM by Gene Gaver

It could have been fall when they first heard the call from the church between the road and the hill.

Tim and Donna could not resist what seemed to insist and demanded much thought and care. After much thought and a great deal of prayer, and in a dream they both shared, felt the need to fulfill and to follow God's will and respond to the call from the meeting house between the road and the hill.

On the day that we met we will never forget the sermon, the prayer and the songs. And somehow we knew that our dream had come true and God had answered our prayers. Our church family would soon be theirs.

Donna plays a guitar, they both like to sing, and on special days special songs they will sing. They have been to some faraway places and saw some strange sights and can speak of God's power and love and might.

They were blessed with two sons who grew strong and tall, Ben took a wife and made them Grandpap and Grandma.

Adrian is their sunshine; he's the smile on their face and soon he'll be running all over the place.

Jon is a big man who wears a big smile. For his friends he'll go the next mile.

It's been twenty years since they moved from the west and oh how our church has truly been blessed. They brought us new life, we are better and bigger. They showed us new dreams, and filled us with vigor.

Our church is a beacon and shines big and bright and calls to this valley both day and night. If you would like to, please join us – we've always got room. We know God will bless you in our church we call home.

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## NOTES OF THANKS

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THANK YOU FROM SECRETARY KATHIE... Just a note to thank everyone who posted messages in response to the photo that Pastor Donna posted on Facebook of the flowers I received for my birthday. It was a joy seeing the many messages and responses. Thanks for making it an extra special day!

THANK YOU FROM PASTORS TIM & DONNA... Thank you to all who made the 20th anniversary celebration such a glorious day. Your kindness, care and love filled our hearts and we are grateful beyond words. The food, fellowship, pictures, gift cards, poem, kind words, singing, flowers and cake all came together to leave us deeply thankful for the journey of the last 20 years. Again our heartfelt thanks!

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## CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES

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*Our Christian Sympathy to...*



*Michele Riggs on the death of her grandmother, **Alma C. Oberholzer**, September 22, 2019.*

*The family of **Betty C. Adkins** on her death, September 26, 2019.*

*Nelson & Linda Buhrman on the death of Nelson's mother, **Miriam Buhrman**, October 1, 2019.*

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## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our 2019 Christmas Giving Tree will be displayed on a table in the narthex in mid-to-late November. With the help of the **Middletown Valley "People Helping People"** we will "adopt" a family in need. Because the family has not yet been assigned to us, we do not know what their specific needs are at this time. However, by the time the Giving Tree is displayed, the gift items will be listed on the tree's tags. (When you take a tag remember to sign your name on the sheet next to the corresponding tag number.)



You also have the option of providing a monetary donation. Please make your check payable to "Grossnickle COB" and note "for Giving Tree." A donations box will be in the hallway, or you may give the card or check directly to Pepper Delauter. Please watch November bulletin announcements for when cards and donations will be due to Pepper.

"People Helping People" appreciates your continued generous assistance in helping the economically challenged families of our local area enjoy a merry Christmas! If you have questions or wish more information, please contact Pepper at 301-293-1307. Thank you!



## 2019 Poinsettia Order Form



Christmas poinsettias will be displayed during December to honor Christ's birth. Red poinsettias will grace the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22. A bulletin insert on December 22 will list names of persons whom you wish to honor or memorialize.

Poinsettias will come from Rosemary's Florist (Hagerstown). The cost is \$9.25 each. Please make checks payable to "Grossnickle Church of the Brethren" and indicate "for poinsettias."

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettias in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettias in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit order forms to Vicki Linton or Jeanine Harshman by Sunday, November 24, 2019. Thank you!**  
(Orders may also be submitted by phone or email to: Vicki at 301-797-1094 or [velquilter@gmail.com](mailto:velquilter@gmail.com)  
**or** to Jeanine at 301-293-1820 or [jwharshman@winsupplyinc.com](mailto:jwharshman@winsupplyinc.com).)

## GLANCING AHEAD TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

*Mark Your Calendar Now for these Seasonal Activities!*



### SEASON OF ADVENT

This year Advent begins December 1, the first Sunday of December. Advent gives us time to focus on the meaning of Christ's birth in the midst of the world's "holiday season." Our worship service on Sunday, December 1 will feature the lighting of the first Advent candle and the scriptures and stories behind meaningful Christmas carols. Let us join in singing of our Savior's birth!



### MAKE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS NOISE!

The Music and Worship Commission invites you to an All-Church Caroling Party on Sunday, December 15. Carolers will meet at 4:00 pm to visit and sing carols to home-bound members and friends of the church. Then we will return to the Parish Hall for warm soup and Christmas cookies.

Singers (and "joyful noise" makers) of all ages are welcome. Drivers are also needed. Come share the Christmas Spirit! If you have suggestions of someone who would appreciate a visit from carolers, please contact the pastors by December 1.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Come and join us for this special annual program during worship on Sunday, December 15. Each year we look forward to having the youngest among us share the spirit of Christmas through

their program. Further information will be provided to children and their families during November.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



Come, gather with us for this special time of worship on Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm to sing the music of the season, receive the gift of a visitor, make an offering, and form a circle of light. The evening is a celebration of the birth of Christ, a celebration of hope and light.



### *a Season of Celebration* *at Shepherd's Spring*

**Host Your Family or Corporate Holiday Meals at Shepherd's Spring**

Leave the cooking and cleaning to us. Call for details.



**Saturday, December 7**

**Christmas Shopping Mart** 1pm - 5pm

Discover beautifully handcrafted products from local crafters and fair trade items from SERRV.

Contact info@shepherdsspring.org to consign crafts.



**Christmas Dinner** 5pm

Allow us to serve you a special dinner prepared by Chef Heilman.

• \$30.



**Antietam Luminaries Bus Tour & Dinner**

At twilight, view 23,110 luminaries honoring each soldier killed.

• \$30 Bus Tour • \$50 Tour and Dinner  
• \$120 Overnight Package.



**Friday, December 13**

**Christmas Tea** 12pm - 2pm

Enjoy steamy tea and savory treats. • \$25.

*RSVP's needed for most events. Please visit the website to register.*



[www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org)

16869 Taylors Landing Road • Sharpsburg, MD 21782 • (301) 223-8193

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><u>Sundays</u>                      9:30 am – Sunday School                      10:30 am – Worship</p>				1	2
<p><b>3</b>                      “My 2¢ Offering”                      BP screenings,                      after worship                      New Member                      Dinner, after                      worship</p>	4	<p><b>5</b>                      9-11a                      Hands &amp; Hearts                      Together (PH)</p>	<p><b>6</b>                      6:30-8p                      Kids Klub                      6:30-8p                      Middle School Mid-                      Week Program</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      7p                      Congregational                      Business Meeting</p>	8	<p><b>9</b>                      7a-1p                      PH reserved for                      Meals on Wheels</p>
<p><b>10</b>                      6p                      Fall Love Feast                      (PH)</p>	11	12	<p><b>13</b>                      6:30-8p                      Kids Klub                      7p                      Men’s Choir                      practice</p>	14	15	<p><b>16</b>                      9a                      Decorate                      sanctuary for                      Thanksgiving</p>
<p><b>17</b>                      11:45a-6p                      PH reserved</p>	18	<p><b>19</b>                      11:30a                      Pastors’ meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      6:30-8p                      Kids Klub                      6:30-8p                      Middle School Mid-                      Week Program</p>	21	22	23
<p><b>24</b>                      Hunger Meal,                      after worship</p>	25	26	<p><b>27</b>                      Community                      Thanksgiving                      Service                      @ Garfield UMC</p>	<p><b>28</b>                        Happy                      Thanksgiving</p>	29	30

Tim and Donna Ritchey Martin, Pastors  
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL – 9:30 am  
FAMILY WORSHIP HOUR – 10:30 am

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
8:00 to 11:30 am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tue-Wed-Thu 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Phone – 301-293-9516  
Church Secretary – Kathie Tucker

Website – <http://www.gcob.org>

Email: [office@gcob.org](mailto:office@gcob.org)  
[donnaritmart@gcob.org](mailto:donnaritmart@gcob.org)  
[timritmart@gcob.org](mailto:timritmart@gcob.org)  
[kathie.tucker@gcob.org](mailto:kathie.tucker@gcob.org)

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 **December 2019 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than Thursday, November 14. Thank you!

**THE DUNKER**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**November 2019**