

The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

September 2020

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR INTERIM PASTORS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GENE... Bittersweet is the word for what I'm feeling today. Bitter, in that like you, I'm going to miss Donna and Tim more than I can tell you. They've been my colleagues, committed contributors to Mid-Atlantic district leadership, friends, and like you – my pastors. Their departure leaves a void.

But sweet too, in that I can be glad for the Ritchey-Martins knowing that in God's grace a rich new chapter of their lives lies ahead, and in the meantime they can have some much needed and deserved rest. I'm glad for them in that they'll be close to Donna's mom and closer to their grandson, which are good things. Sweet too in that, although I did not wish for this transition and hoped that Tim and Donna would continue on for a while longer, I will have the opportunity over these next couple of months to connect more closely with you, my congregational family.



It will be sweet too to partner with Sandi Rogers in ministry for a couple of months. Sandi will begin as your full time interim on Sunday, October 25. Until then, I'll be focusing on preaching and worship, Sandi will be focusing on pastoral care, and both of us will be doing our best to support the church and to be available as needed.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SANDI... With great joy, I am looking forward to sharing a season with you as well. A season of transition, a season of explorations, of discovery and discernment. Sharing life in love, laughter, care, home and grace as long as our Abba has us on this path together. I have already begun reaching out and seeking to get to know the body of Christ at Grossnickle by calling and connecting with several folks. In this first part of our transition together [August-October] I will be investing my time in getting to know you, reaching out to offer and provide care for the congregation, through calls, and appropriate social distancing opportunities. If you would like to reach out, feel free to call me at 703-623-2138.



In these first few months, I will also be connecting with commissions, teams and board where invited and appropriate. I am here to listen, to get to know you, to support you, to love on you, to care for you, to discern together, and to shepherd and to heal, as we seek to navigate this season of transition together. Please let me know how I can serve you and partner with you best.

WORSHIP UPDATE



The church board has decided to follow the guidance of the Mid-Atlantic District and continue to hold worship services outdoors through the month of September. The worship start time for September will remain at 9:30 AM.

In the event that outdoor worship services are canceled due to inclement weather, the congregation can receive notification of that by Saturday afternoon through email, Facebook, website, and updates to the church's answering machine. As a reminder, if you would like your email address to be added to the church's distribution list, please contact Kathie Tucker at kathie.tucker@gcob.org or call the church office.

The board will reassess the location and start time of worship services for October by mid-September and will plan to communicate an update in the October newsletter.

CANCELED

Come One!! Come All!!

CANCELED

All Junior and Senior High Students are invited and welcome to bring their families to the 2nd annual September Bonfire

September 18th (Rain Date September 25th) at the Hurwitz Farm

More details to come and all safety and distancing precautions will be followed.

VIRTUAL ANNUAL DUNKER CHURCH SERVICE



This annual worship service, held each year in the restored Dunker Church at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD, will be held *virtually* on **Sunday, September 20, 2020**. The service commemorates the peace witness of the Brethren during the Civil War and takes place the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. Speaker will be Wendy McFadden, publisher of Brethren Press and Communications.

The annual Dunker Church service is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren. Look for more information in the September issue of *The Dunker* newsletter.

SEPTEMBER AT-A-GLANCE

- 5 – Adopt-a-Road Cleanup
- 6 – “My 2-cents” Offering
- 7 – Labor Day Holiday (observed)
- 15 – October newsletter info due
- 18 – ~~Youth Bonfire~~ - **CANCELED**
- 20-26 – Disaster Response Trip

SEPTEMBER CANCELLATIONS



- All-Church Picnic
- New Windsor Workday at Serrv
- Wolfsville-Myersville Area CROP Walk

PRAYING IN THE “IN-BETWEEN” TIME...A TRANSFORMATIONAL TRANSITION

As GCOB enters into her season of transition there is a role for everyone to play. This is a very significant role for each who are a part of the family of faith and the priesthood of all believers here at GCOB. It is the ministry of prayer. Each of our prayers will undergird, support and partner with those who will lead GCOB to navigate this season. And we know that when we join our prayers together...there is enhanced depth of Spirit, power, and presence of our Abba among us. So, each month you will receive a prayer calendar and we invite and encourage each of us to join our prayers together each day and we open ourselves to the journey Abba has laid out for GCOB as she prayerfully discerns who will lead them into God’s Kingdom dream for the future. **Praying in the “In-Between” Time calendars** will be a part of the Dunker each month, available as we gather for worship, and in the church if you would stop in. See calendar on page 11.

CONGREGATIONAL CHATS

NIGHT: Wednesday, September 16, @ 7:00 – 9:00 pm
 WEEKEND: Saturday, September 26; @ 9:30 – 11:30 am
 DAY: Tuesday, September 29, @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 SUNDAY: Sunday, October 4 @ 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
 DAY: Thursday, October 8 @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Chats will last approximately 1.5 – 2 hours.



As we enter into our season of transition together I want to invite you to join me in a conversation...a CHAT about life together at GCOB. I want to listen as you share about how you believe you and GCOB are living out the desire to be a ‘Great Commission Church’. Loving God with all your hearts, minds, souls, strength and loving your neighbors (near and far) as yourself.

While we are still living in the midst of a pandemic...we will enter into this conversation safely through Zoom. As I have pondered, I think no more 15 folks per conversation would allow us to share, listen and reflect together with real authenticity and some vulnerability about where we are. This conversation will help us discover and explore where the family of faith of GCOB is now, in preparation to discern where God might be calling her in the months and years ahead.

So please plan to join me. Simply email, pastorsandi.gcob@gmail.com; or text me, 703-623-2138 to let me know you are in and which conversation best suits your schedule. If that conversation is full I will let you know and hopefully about a date that will work as well. The day before the conversation I will send you a Zoom invitation to join me and other of your family of faith.

As we move forward, we will look for a possible opportunity for a socially distancing mask-to-mask outdoor “Chat” as well. If that is an option you might be interested in, please contact me as well and when we feel we can do that safely I will be in contact with you.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me...
 I am excited about the Journey we are on together.

Joy for the Journey,
 Pastor Sandi

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE



I wanted to provide another brief update to the congregation on our pastoral search. As you all know by now, we are very pleased to have the leadership of both Gene Hagenberger and Sandi Evans Rogers during this interim time. The church board is grateful for your patience as the extra decisions and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have caused delays in our search process for our permanent pastor position.

The board has been able to conduct several meetings through the format of Zoom video-conferencing, and during a recent meeting were able to focus on nominations for the pastoral search committee. Those members of our congregation who have been nominated by the church board are being contacted at this time. We anticipate that the pastoral search committee members will be finalized in the coming weeks. We can expect to receive updates from the committee as they continue with the search process in the coming months.

Submitted by Scott Grossnickle, Board Chair

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us for Outdoor Worship at 9:30 am on Sundays in September. Gene Hagenberger is planning to share the following messages. Video recordings of these services will be available Sunday afternoons by email and on our Facebook page.

September 6	Pray without Ceasing	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Matthew 6:9-13
September 13	Tragedy and the Will of God	Psalm 11
September 20	Your All-Star Lineup	Hebrews 11:8-16
September 27	The Value of Rummage Sales	Revelation 22:8-13

DISTRICT CONFERENCE UPDATE

District Conference 2020 has been cancelled. However, there are two agenda items normally handled by a vote of the delgate body at District Conference – affirmation of the ballot and approval of the budget. A ballot has been put together for delegate approval and will be mailed to each congregation. Also, a budget is being prepared for approval and will be included in the same mailing.

The 2021 Conference will be held **October 8 & 9, 2021** at the Frederick Church of the Brethren. The theme will still be based on 1 Corinthians 13.



SAVE THE DATE... Sunday, October 18 • 2:30 p.m.
2020 Growing Project Harvest Celebration

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Nine youth were received into membership through creek baptism on August 25, 2019. These youth were interviewed for the New Members Dinner held in November 2019. Interviews have been shared in The Dunker throughout this year. In this issue we get to know a little more about the ninth of these newest members.



BRIANNA BLICKENSTAFF. . . Brianna is the daughter of Brian and Jennifer Blickenstaff. Her paternal grandma is Barbara Blickenstaff and her maternal grandparents are Clara Mae Baker and Leroy Baker. She lives with her parents on Brandenburg Hollow Road.

Brianna enjoys hunting, fishing and playing soccer. She recently (2019) shot a black bear near her home. Her favorite food is crabs and her favorite movie is The Shack. When asked who she would like to meet, she said President Trump because he is really important.

One place Brianna would like to visit is Rio Brazil. It is beautiful and has a rainforest with a big statue of Jesus overlooking it. Her favorite church memory is going tubing with her Sunday School class. Brianna's favorite bible story is David and Goliath since a little guy defeats a big giant. Being baptized as a member of Grossnickle is important to her

because it shows that she wants to lead a Christian Life.

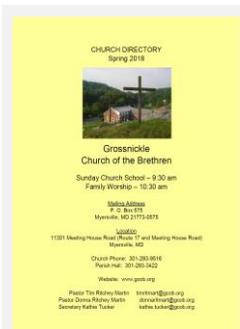
Brianna became a member of the church on August 25, 2019 when she was baptized in Middle Creek. Brianna, we welcome you into our church family and we look forward to serving Christ with you as part of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren.

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS & EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

During this time of transition, and time of sending more communications through email, we want to be sure you are receiving the electronic communications that are being shared. To be added to any or all of the following email distribution lists, please notify the church office at kathie.tucker@gcob.org or 301-293-9516. Be sure to indicate which of the distributions you wish to be added to:

- WORSHIP SERVICE VIDEO – recording of Sunday worship (sent Sundays afternoon/evening)
- WEEKEND EMAIL BLAST – includes worship information and weekend happenings (sent Saturday afternoon)
- NEWSLETTER AVAILABILITY – notification that monthly newsletter has been posted to the website (sent end of month)

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE



Preparations are underway for a 2021 Church Directory. So, please take a moment to check the 2018 Directory to be sure your information is current. If you have moved, have a new phone number, have had changes to your family status (births, deaths, children have moved out, etc.), and/or you no longer have a landline, please provide the current information to the church office no later than Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Please note that cell numbers will be listed only if there is no landline available. Your current information can be emailed to kathie.tucker@gcob.org or delivered to the church office (please print clearly). Contact the church office if you have questions.

BRETHREN SERVICE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

For many years, a dedicated group of willing servants worked one day a month at the New Windsor Service Center. They gave a wonderful offering of time and hard work, first to the clothing relief effort of the Brethren Service Center and later to Serrv. (Serrv is an international fair trade organization begun by Brethren in post-World War II Europe and continuing in the developing world today.)

The group worked first on the upper part of the campus folding and sorting donated clothing so it could be baled and shipped wherever there was need following a disaster. Later the volunteer group sorted clothing at the warehouse across the road. In later years, the group was back up at the upper campus working for Serrv. And finally, the group was back at the warehouse after the upper campus was sold, continuing to volunteer with Serrv.

There are many fond memories of some of the people the group has worked with. Richard ran the baler at the warehouse. He always greeted folks warmly and shared banter with the group throughout the day. Loretta Wolf was another employee who often greeted us and helped us to settle in by giving instruction for the day. Theresa was another employee who made sure that Robert Delauter's day was a challenge.

Another memory is of the cardboard baler on the back porch of the upper campus which Robert helped to run. There were always interesting crafts to put price tags on and then repackage. Some were a much greater challenge than others. But with good spirit the group tackled the challenges of packaging many items.



Robert and Mary Delauter served as coordinators for GCoB's volunteers for all these 20 years. They put the "word" out that volunteers were needed and then received the confirmation calls of who was coming in a particular month. Then they made the call to New Windsor, reporting the number of people in our crew for the upcoming workday. Mary and Robert also coordinated drivers and often did the driving themselves. The service center, for many years, provided a wonderful lunch in the cafeteria on campus as they hosted a variety of groups on campus. Volunteers will long remember the delicious applesauce cakes that Mary provided each month for "break time" refreshments. A hearty thank you goes to the Delauters for this faithful service across so many years.

Appreciation also goes to Glenn and Sylvia Lantz who provided transportation most months for the group. Thanks for all those miles on vehicles and for transporting us all safely to and from New Windsor.

We pray God's blessing on this dedicated offering of time and willingness across so many years. May God continue to bless the work of Serrv and the work of the Brethren Service Center as it continues to bring help and hope to those in other parts of the world.

CELEBRATION CORNER PHOTO GALLERY

Celebration Corner is a collection of photos highlighting, with joy, events of the previous month or two. This month we celebrate with photos from July/August happenings. July and August worship continued to be held outdoors. On August 1 many shared farewell wishes with Pastors Tim & Donna during a good-bye drive-by. The following morning during worship, both Donna & Tim shared final messages with the congregation. During the service, Patty Hurwitz, Ministry Chair, presented Donna & Tim with a clock as a symbol of their time at Grossnickle Church. Attendance on this special day was reported to be about the same as the average attendance was during 2019! On moving day, Gene Hagenberger came to lend a hand and assisted with loading the moving truck. And finally, the rock message offered a blessing to Tim & Donna, just as it had offered a message of welcome 21 year earlier.



CELEBRATION CORNER PHOTO GALLERY (continued)



May God's
peace
be with you

NOTE OF THANKS



THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF JIM MYERS... *We want to thank our church family for the many cards, phone calls and prayers sent to us after Jim's passing. A special thank you to Pastors Tim & Donna for your kind words and support. Jean, Patsy, TJ & Wayne*

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM JAN & STEVE DIETRICH... *Greetings from Illinois! During the stay-at-home order, our Mt. Morris has not had worship services --- mostly because our pastor has had some health issues to deal with. So Steve and I have been joining your church each Sunday morning! We so appreciate Tim's and Donna's leadership! Blessings to all at the Grossnickle Church!*

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF JANE KENDALL... *Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards and donations submitted in memory of our mother Jane Kendall. Your condolences were greatly appreciated. In Christ's Love the Kendall and Cataldo Families*

THANK YOU... *Our hearts are full from all the kind words spoken, written and looks that left the words unsaid. You touched us deeply with the drive-by goodbye, with flowers, with more cards and messages than anyone deserves and with the gift of a beautiful crystal clock. All will help us call to mind so many precious memories of our remarkable time together. What matters most is our seeing where God has been at work among us and being creative about how that work might be advanced. What matters most is our praising God for those moments by continuing on the journey of loving God and neighbor. God bless you richly in this next chapter of GCOB's life. With love and prayers, Tim and Donna*

THANK YOU FROM HAZEL EARLY... *I wish to thank those who sent me cards for my birthday. Thanks also for the kind words. It was all appreciated. Thanks again and may God bless you all.*

THANK YOU FROM SALEM UMC... *Thank you for your contribution (\$620.00) to the Salem United Methodist Church-Wolfsville for the Food Pantry. Thank you! William Burrier, Treasurer*

THANK YOU FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICES... *Dear Friends, Thank you for your recent Blanket Offering! Your support is greatly appreciated during this difficult time! Peace, Patrick Walker*

THANK YOU FROM FAHRNEY KEEDY... *On behalf of our family of residents, residents' families, associates, volunteers and Board of Directors, thank you very much for your generous support of Fahrney Keedy Senior Living community. Your generous \$575.00 church donation contribution (March) will make an impact on the lives of our family of residents as they continue to live their lives in a caring, quality environment. We value your dedication to our mission to enrich the lives of seniors, and to our vision, to be a vibrant, faith based community. Thank you again for your generous support and God bless. Sincerely, Steve P. Coetzee, President/CEO*

THANK YOU FROM BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE... *Bridgewater College celebrates our Church of the Brethren heritage. We are deeply grateful to you and your congregation for supporting the College and our students. The future for our students and the College remains strong. Our compassionate, dedicated faculty and staff continually innovate to create the best learning environment possible, meeting the needs of students and challenging them to create their best selves. When they graduate, we know that our alumni will have the tools they need to be thoughtful, ethical and principled leaders. Your congregation's investment helps makes it possible. Thank you, Cara Colbert Hopson, Director of Annual Giving*

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES

Welcome to Our New Members...

Ruby & Denny Webb were received into membership by letter of transfer on July 12, 2020.

Brandy Lewis was received into membership by reaffirmation of faith on July 12, 2020.

Steve Loiacono was received into membership by reaffirmation of faith on July 12, 2020.



Our Congratulations to...



Amanda (Grossnickle) & Jeff Farmer on their marriage, Saturday, June 20, 2020.

Rebekah (Webster) & Joshua Grossnickle on their marriage, Saturday, July 25, 2020.
Congratulations may be mailed to 1543 Lowell Court, Crofton, MD 21114.

Our Christian Sympathy to...



Jane & Maynard Grossnickle on the death of Jane's sister, **Mary Mae Lewis**, June 21, 2020.

Apple & Steve Loiacono on the death of Apple's grandmother, **Nupean Inree**, June 28, 2020.

The family of **Jane (Grossnickle) Kendall** on her death, June 30, 2020.

The family of **Naomi (Grossnickle) Dotterer** on her death, July 4, 2020.

The family of **Russell Wiles** on his death Monday, July 13, 2020.

Vicki & Charles Grossnickle on the death of their brother-in-law, **Rick Baer**, July 22, 2020.

Brenda & Ricky White on the death of Brenda's uncle, **William M. "Bill" Breichner**, August 5, 2020.

Our Warm Wishes to...

Pastors Tim & Donna on their retirement. As of August 15, their new address will be 31 Oak Drive, N. Manchester, IN 46962.

A Warm Welcome to Our Interim Pastors...

Gene Hagenberger & Sandi Evans Rogers who began serving as our interim pastoral team following Tim & Donna's retirement in August. Gene & Sandi will serve in part-time roles – Gene will focus on preaching and worship while Sandi will focus on pastoral care -- until Sandi begins the role of full-time interim pastor on Sunday, October 25, 2020.

FUNDING REQUEST FROM FAHRNEY KEEDY

Robin Covell, Chaplain for Fahrney Keedy, is asking for help funding PPE supplies needed for residents and direct care staff and for other expenses related to the COVID pandemic. If sending a check, please indicate "PPE donation" in the memo. If you have questions, you may contact Robin, 301-671-5008 or rcovell@fkhv.org, or Becky Musser, Director of Community Engagement, 301-671-5024.

**Praying in the "In-Between" Time...a Transformational Transition
September 2020 Grossnickle Church of Brethren**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pray we HONOR and GLORIFY God in our WORSHIP always.	Praying for GCOB's current PASTORAL LEADERSHIP ; Interim Pastors Gene & Sandi	Pray for WISDOM and DISCERNMENT in this season of transition and pandemic together	Pray for GENEROSITY towards and for One Another	Prayerfully RELEASE Pastor Donna and Tim to God's new calling/movement in their lives	Reflecting on 'Who We Are...' Pray for UNDERSTANDING and CLARITY .	Pray that we open ourselves to RELEASING MINISTRIES not in line with our mission.
Pray for a growing sense of UNITY among the body in this season	Praying for LAY LEADERS as they carry new responsibilities in the transition	Choose ONE PERSON who challenges you...Ask God to tender your heart	Pray for those who will be a part of the 'Congregational Chat' this evening	Pray for EACH OTHER in this season of transition...being specific where you can.	Reflecting on GCOB's MINISTRIES , and you can support their impact in this season.	Pray for GRACE to be shared among the Body of Christ @ GCOB.
Pray for each member of the Search Team by name. Pray for their Holy Indifference .	Pray for the love of Jesus to fill the Body as GCOB gathers together to share life.	Praying for EACH OTHER in this Season of Transition	Praying for our NEIGHBORS...ALL our Neighbors...how we might love on them more	Praying for our FUTURE sharing life together in our family of faith	Praying even now for those who will enter into the SEARCH PROCESS	Pray for those who will be a part of the 'Congregational Chat' this morning
Pray for the process of Discerning our MISSION	Pray through the GRIEF the Body is experiencing in this season	Pray for those who will be a part of the 'Congregational Chat' this morning	Pray for PASTORS TIM & DONNA in their transition in Indiana.			

Gene Hagenberger, Interim Pastor, Preaching & Worship
Sandi Evans Rogers, Interim Pastor, Pastoral Care

OUTDOOR WORSHIP HOUR – 9:30 am

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday (Gene) & Thursday (Sandi)
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

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

MidAtlantic@brethren.org

pastorsandi.gcob@gmail.com

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 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 **October 2020
issue of *The Dunker* no later than Tuesday,
September 15.** Thank you!

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