

The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

March 2021

transition [tran-zish-uhn]

noun

1. movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another; change: *the transition from adolescence to adulthood.*

What a year of transitions! Yes, we have all been transitioning, in so many ways, and we still are!

- February (2020) - GCOB learned pastors of 20+ years would be retiring
- February 3 - US declares a public health emergency
- March 12 – Maryland public schools close for two weeks
- March 13 – US Declares COVID-19 a National Emergency
- March 23 – Gov. Hogan announces closure of nonessential business
- March 26 – Maryland public schools closed for four more weeks
- August 24 - Frederick Country Public Schools begin virtual classes
- October 29 - Search team meets for first time, to begin work
- November 1 – First indoor worship; 2 services - Sanctuary/Parish Hall
- January 3 (2021) – Virtual worship "Warm Winter Worship," recording @home

Ok, that is enough to give you an idea, but it's still going. Lots of transitions. There has been lots of movement. So many changes, back and forth. From one stage to another. And, we are still in the midst. Somedays it can feel a wee bit overwhelming!

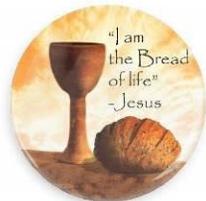
***“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9***

Joshua knew a lot about transitions - from slave to freed; from being led to become leader; from being mentored by Moses to stepping into Moses' leadership role. There were people to lead, care for, provide for. There were rivers to cross, mountains to climb, deserts to meander through. So much! But God walked with him and encouraged him to be ***strong and courageous***, to not give into the fear, or stay in the space of being overwhelmed, but instead to recognize he had all he needed as he leaned into God's direction, guidance and care.

We too can navigate the transitions in our lives. We have what we need, as tough as it gets in the midst. God is with you - with us - wherever we go. And, we have an opportunity to make our transition journey in a way that honors God and allows him to provide for us all that we need. Thus, may we pray for one another, pray for our community, pray for our family of faith that we might have the strength and courage to walk our journey to the fullest with Abba right there with us every step on the way.

Joy for the Journey
Pastor Sandi

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



As we move into Lent we will continue to enjoy worship together from our homes. Pastor Sandi will preach fireside, or somewhere from her home. Worship leaders will be inviting us to worship and gathering us in prayer from their homes.

During our Lenten worship series Pastor Sandi will lead us in focusing on how God became flesh and lived among us through Jesus. We will do so by reflecting on what Jesus is credited to saying about himself in his 'I AM' statements. Join us during Lent as we seek to draw closer to Jesus.

If you would like an audio CD of our weekly service, please contact Kathie in the church office.

Becoming Flesh...I AM

February 21 – Week 1	<i>I AM...the Bread of Life</i>	John 6:35-40
February 28 – Week 2	<i>I AM...the Light of the World</i>	John 8:12-20
March 7 – Week 3	<i>I AM...the Door</i>	John 10:1-10
March 14 – Week 4	<i>I AM...the Good Shepherd</i>	John 10:11-18
March 21 – Week 5	<i>I AM...the Vine</i>	John 15:1-5
March 28 (Palm Sunday) – Week 6	<i>I AM...the Way, the Truth, the Life</i>	John 14:6
April 4 (Easter Sunday)	<i>I AM...the Resurrection & Life</i>	John 11:25-26

SERMON-BASED SMALL GROUP

Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 pm

As we enter into Lent, Pastor Sandi is beginning an online small group experience for anyone who might be interested. Our gatherings will center upon a discussion about the text and teachings from the previous Sunday's message.

Our SBSG will be an opportunity to gather together through Zoom for discussions and conversations that may lead to spiritual growth and deepen the fellowship for all who choose to participate.

Not only will we spend time reviewing, discussing and going deeper into the teachings of last Sunday's message, we will have an opportunity to share personal reflection and application. An opportunity to ask questions and offer personal insights.

Each week as the worship service is shared there will also be a SBSG notes offering either additional scriptures, questions to ponder or prompts that might prod hearts and minds. A little preparation if you choose.

Our hope is that this small group experience might become a space where we can share life together with Jesus and One Another.

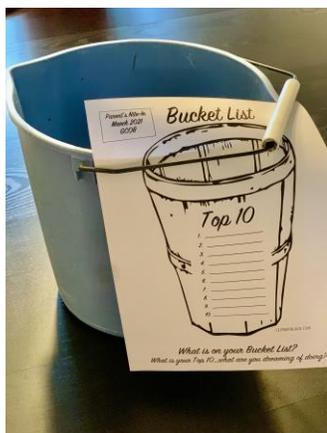
ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEANUP PLANNED FOR MARCH 13TH



Helpers are needed for our next cleanup day that is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th – time is flexible. This is a great way to get out and enjoy Mother Nature! And to help keep our slice of paradise clean!

Since we still are following COVID restrictions, we will not be doing any communal driving. We are looking for couples who can work a section together, or family members who would be considered a "quarantine-pod." Please call Pam J at 301-293-3629 for information and to volunteer. Thank you so much for your continued support.

PARENTS' NITE-IN



In the midst of the pandemic parents are finding it challenging to find time for themselves. Making that space has been, and is, hard in this season. It is still very important to build a strong family that can flourish in the midst of a pandemic, especially when we find ourselves on top of each other more than ever before. A healthy marriage is the foundation of a strong and faithful family. The Christian Education Commission will be offering monthly ideas that have the opportunity of enriching your relationship together.

Some “events” will be simple ideas for how to be intentional in focusing on one another. For other “events” we might offer a little ‘gift’ that we hope will enhance your time together. When the ‘gifts’ are offered, you will be able to pick them up in the church breezeway and have it available for when you chose to experience your *Parents’ Nite-In* during the month.

March’s Nite-In... This month we are inviting and encouraging Parent’s to plan an evening when they can have a few hours alone together. In this space we are encouraging them to talk about their Bucket List...and actually spend time making Bucket Lists together. A sheet has been designed with step-by-step instructions. Another sheet has been created to be your Bucket List Worksheets for this evening. Copies can be found, beginning March 2nd, in the breezeway at church. It can also be emailed to you. If you are interested in an email version, please let Pastor Sandi know, pastorsandi.gcob@gmail.com.

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance Committee would like to take the opportunity to update everyone on the status of our PPP COVID-19 loan taken out last year and the loan forgiveness application process. As we indicated in our prior update, the Church qualified for application of a COVID-19 PPP loan last year in the amount of \$32,200. We have now submitted our request for actual loan forgiveness application and we are happy to report it was accepted and approved by the SBA. This means we have no requirement to repay the loan and we have properly used these funds to continue keeping all of our Church staff employed fully.

There is now a second round of COVID-19 PPP loans being offered with the most recent Tax Stimulus law passed that does have a few more requirements attached with it. We have done the calculations and the Church does qualify, so we have submitted an application for loan funding of \$32,258 under the second round of PPP. We will follow all original guidelines with the hope this amount will also qualify for loan forgiveness. We will update you accordingly.

A huge thank you goes out to Trina Delauter and Ryan Harshman for making this all happen and providing such a big financial shot of support when so desperately needed.

2021 CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2021 Church Directory has been completed. Copies of the updated Directory will be located in the breezeway area for pick up during March. Please stop by at your convenience and take a copy for your household. Assistance distributing Directories to church family who may be unable to get to the church would be greatly appreciated. Please ask someone in our church family if you can pick up a copy for them.

Special thanks and appreciation to Cathie Clemson, Pam Jouannet, Sharon Leatherman, Diane Moser, and Fred Rudman for reviewing drafts of the Directory. Additional thanks to Sharon for all her time and hard work assembling the Directories.

A LOOK AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK & EASTER . . .



EGGS-A-LENT DEVOTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A very special way to walk with children through the story of Holy Week and Jesus' resurrection. The *Eggs-A-Lent* set includes an egg carton with eggs that have each been 'stuffed' with an item to help children to connect with the story of Jesus' last week, and a set of devotions.

Make plans to walk this path with your children or grandchildren this year. You will want to make sure you have your set of *Eggs-A-Lent* prior to March 24th. March 24 is the day to begin the daily devotions, they take you all the way to Easter morning. This activity will be available in the breezeway, beginning March 9th, to pick up at your convenience.

Sponsored by the Christian Education Commission.

THE LENTEN JOURNEY: A PRAYER EXPERIENCE...DEVOTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

The Lenten Journey: *Prayer Experience* is a time of reflection, penitence and preparation as we meditate on the life of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection.

This year you are invited to participate in some special devotions that will invite you to walk the path that Jesus walked his last week and reflect on the moments He shared in His last hours.

Though this year we will not experience the physicality of this walk, the different devotions and the bodily actions can seed faith as much as express it.

Keep this question on your mind and heart as you take this Lenten journey to the cross:

When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday, how will I be different?

One devotion will be sent out daily from March 25th through April 1st.

A SPECIAL LOVE FEAST SERVICE

A special Maundy Thursday Love Feast Service will be held April 1st at 7:00 pm. We will gather on Zoom for this special evening. A unique Love Feast is being planned where families can participate in self-examination, foot washing, Bread and Cup, and more from within the safety and tenderness of their homes during the Service. Make plans to join us for this unique experience of worship, fellowship and sharing in our sacred ordinances. A Zoom link will be sent to all who currently receive weekly worship recordings by email.

TENEBRAE GOOD FRIDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

This Good Friday, April 2, join us in a virtual service of prayer and readings. This service is contemplative in nature and will allow us to end in the place the disciples found themselves that first Friday evening after Jesus' death on the cross...in the darkness of the night. Still, silent, broken, confused...waiting.

This service will be emailed out on Friday, April 2. It is suggested that you watch in the evening...that it might set you in the mood to reflect and end your day in anticipation of the silence of Saturday.

MEAT CANNING NEWS



The 2021 Meat Canning Project schedule will be 6 days, April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at Christian Aid Ministries in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Grossnickle Church has signed on to provide volunteers on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14. We will leave from the parish hall parking lot at 6:45 each morning to arrive for the 9:00-2:30 shift. If you would like to help with the 2021 Meat Canning Project, please contact Marion Leatherman at 301-293-4266.

Please continue to lift this project in prayer so it will be successful in ministering to those who are in need. Due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19, the Meat Canning Task Team has discussed several alternate plans in case enough volunteers can't be found. On behalf of the Meat Canning Task Team, thank you for your partnership to feed people, both near and far, who are hungry. Let us, together, continue to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

PREPARATIONS FOR GRADUATE SUNDAY

Each year in May we recognize students in our church family who will be graduating from high school, college, or a trade school in the spring.

Please provide names of 2021 graduates and related information (i.e. high school, trade school, college and degree) to the Church Office now so preparations can be made for recognition of our graduates. Thank you.



AUDIO RECORDINGS OF WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

With the change from in-person to virtual services at the beginning of 2021, an audio CD of our weekly worship services is once again available to those in our congregation who do not have online access to the videos of the service each week. Audio CDs may be picked up at church or mailed out to those who request it. Please contact the church office if you are interested in receiving an audio CD each week. In addition, if you would like a CD and do not have a working CD player that is available in your home, please contact the Deacon Chair, Cathie Clemson.



SCENES FROM FEBRUARY SERVICES



“Souper Bowl of Caring” skit (Sunday, February 7) - Funds collected were shared between Salem UMC’s Food Pantry and Middletown Valley People Helping People.



Virtual Ash Wednesday Service (Wednesday, February 17) - Ashes are lightly rubbed on the forehead in the form of a cross. The ashes are symbolic of repentance.

NOTES OF THANKS



THANK YOU FROM DENNY & RUBY WEBB... *We want to thank our church family for all their prayers over these very difficult past four months. We also want to thank those who brought us meals. All of this is and was much appreciated. Ruby is doing much better now, and we thank God for that. We are looking forward to getting back to attending church again. Thank all of you very much.*

THANK YOU FROM MAE WILSON... *I wish to thank everyone for the lovely cards and well wishes for my birthday. God Bless everyone for your kindness.*

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF ERNEST LEATHERMAN... *We would like to thank everyone for their concern, prayers, calls, texts, and cards during the death of our father. We would also like to thank Marion Leatherman for his help with the service. The church meant so much to Dad. May his legacy live on. With great appreciation.*

THANK YOU FROM JOYCE DARNER... *To the Grossnickle Church Congregation, Thank you for including me in your prayers and for the cards I received. What a blessing they all were! God bless!*

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of the James Gang who helped put together the fabulous Blue New Year service. We had a lot of help pulling this Service together!! A great BIG THANK YOU to Ethan Grossnickle and Carl Jouannet for filming and composing the Service. Thank you also to Glen Lantz for donating the luminaries. Please know that the James Gang is walking with you and praying for you. May God bless us all.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY... We offer heartfelt sympathy to the family & friends of the following individuals on their recent death.

William Scoby – January 21, 2021 – brother-in-law of Dave Meinders

Earnest Eugene Leatherman – February 7, 2021

Richard "Dick" Hanser – February 8, 2021 – father of Bob Hanser



OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Allison Hurwitz & Jake Sidley on the birth of **William Jacob Sidley** on February 1, 2021. He weighed 7 lb. 9 oz. and was 21 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Patty & Jeff Hurwitz.

CONGRATULATIONS! **The Lewis family**, Mike and Brandy and their sons, Matthew and Luke of Whispering Acres Farm have been awarded the Catocin Soil Conservation District Cooperator of the Year for 2020. They raise beef cattle and practice rotational grazing on their 30 acre farm. Congratulations to the Lewis family on receiving this award!

CARD SHOWER...Brenda Thomasson is planning a Card Shower for her mom, **Anna Mae Rosenberry**, who will be 88 years young on Sunday, March 14. You are invited to shower her with birthday wishes by sending cards to: Anna Mae Rosenberry, 12553 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773.

MARCH 2021

Deacons of the Month: Patty & Jeff Hurwitz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 28 Easter flower orders due	1	2	3 7p Sermon-Based Small Group (Zoom)	4	5	6
7 "My 2¢ for Hunger" Offering	8	9 7p Board meeting (Zoom)	10 7p Sermon-Based Small Group (Zoom)	11 7p James Gang meeting	12	13 Adopt-a-Road
14	15 March Newsletter deadline	16 7p Music & Worship meeting (Zoom)	17 7p Sermon-Based Small Group (Zoom)	18 7p Outreach meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24 7p Sermon-Based Small Group (Zoom)	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31 7p Sermon-Based Small Group (Zoom)	Apr 1 7p Maundy Thursday Love Feast (Zoom)	Apr 2 7p Good Friday Tenebrae Worship (virtual)	Apr 3

Notes

MARCH WORSHIP

A recording of the **virtual service** will be made available by email and on Facebook each week on Sunday morning.

GENERAL IN-OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Sandi - Tuesdays from 9am-4pm • Secretary Kathie - Tuesdays from 8am-4pm

MODIFIED IN-OFFICE SCHEDULES: Secretary Kathie will be working from home Wednesdays and Thursdays, while Pastor Sandi will work from home Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. Arrangements may be made on an as needed basis to meet at or access the church buildings. Phone messages will be monitored between 8am-4pm on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Holy Week Activities

- March 28... Palm Sunday Worship (virtual)..... *A service of celebration and anticipation*
- April 1 Maundy Thursday Love Feast (Zoom) *A service of remembrance and humility*
- April 2 Good Friday Tenebrae Worship (virtual) *A service of prayer and reading, contemplative, ending in darkness*
- April 4 Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am..... *A service of celebration of life and hope*
- April 4 Easter Worship, 10:30 am..... *A service of celebration of resurrected life*

PRAYING IN THE “IN-BETWEEN” TIME... MARCH 2021

Praying in the “In-Between” Time...a Transformational Transition
 March 2021 Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pray for the exploration and discovery of our identity...knowing who is GCOB?	As we move forward into the future... may we yield to God's leadership and direction	Pray for yourself during this transition-how can you best invest your gifts in the body	Pray for the love of Jesus to fill the Body as we seek to share life together in a pandemic	Pray for the gathering of the Search Team as they seek God's Direction	Pray for the body as we seek to create opportunities for spiritual growth and nurture	
Pray we honor and glorify God in our worship always	Pray for the Board as they seek to discern direction and movement for life with GCOB	Pray for the body as we move through Lent... reflecting on what we might need to release	Pray for GCOB commissions as they seek to ignite fellowship and growth in the pandemic	Pray that we open ourselves to the Future that God has for this body of Christ	Pray that we can live into Hope in the midst of uncertainty...from the pandemic and transition	
Pray for the Body of Christ as we gather to worship 'alone together'; asking God for a spirit of unity even now	Pray for one another on this journey so that we might walk closer together in this season	Pray for the body as we move through reflecting and exploring what the Mission of GCOB is, or could be.	Continue to pray for wisdom and discernment in this season of transition for all our leaders	Pray for the those who have entered the search process, for their wisdom & discernment	Praying for the body as we seek to minister to the community around us...loving our neighbors	
Pray that any experiment in worship will continue to honor and glorify God	Pray for continued vulnerability & openness in the family of faith on this journey	Pray for One Another as we move closer to a next step of transition	Pray for any pastoral candidate's family, for their uncertainty in a possible transition	Pray for the Search Team; as they discern how to interview candidates to best know them	Continue to pray for the search team as they prepare to interact with candidates	
Pray for our body as we celebrate who Jesus is in our Journey... celebrating him today Palm Sunday	Ask God to reveal anything yet to be disclosed that the body needs to own on who we are	Reflect on how you are investing in the body during this season...is there anything else you can do?				

BECAUSE OUR BELOVED MAD DISASTER AUCTION HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER,
BECAUSE DISASTERS DON'T STOP,
BECAUSE WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO CARE,
BECAUSE WE WANT TO FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF JESUS.....
WE ARE HAVING ANOTHER STEPS FOR DISASTER DEVOTIONAL WALK IN THE MONTH OF MAY



DISASTER RELIEF WALK-A-THON! MAY 2021

THE MID-ATLANTIC DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE IS RAISING MONEY THROUGH A WALK-A-THON TO BENEFIT EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

- "STEPS FOR DISASTER RELIEF" IS A REFLECTIVE WALK-A-THON DONE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.
- WALK FOR A TOTAL OF ONE HOUR, ALL AT ONCE OR MULTIPLE TIMES TO ADD UP TO ONE HOUR.
- RECRUIT FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO WALK WITH YOU AND/OR SPONSOR YOU.
- INTENTIONALLY WALK IN A DISASTER SURVIVOR'S SHOES, IMAGINING THEIR FLIGHT, PRAYING FOR THEM AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO IN SOME WAY HAVE, ARE AND WILL CONTINUE PROVIDING RELIEF.
- EIGHT CONGREGATIONS RAISED \$12,942.25 FOR "STEPS FOR DISASTER RELIEF" IN 2020!

GET SPONSORS USING THIS FORM AND INDEPENDENTLY WALK FOR A TOTAL OF 1 HOUR AT YOUR OWN PACE SOME PLACE SAFE. GOAL: \$200 - \$2,000 PER CONGREGATION. MONEY COLLECTED SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR CONGREGATION'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO TOTAL, THEN SEND ONE CHECK TO THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICE NOTING EDF "STEPS FOR DISASTER RELIEF." PAYMENT QUESTIONS, CONTACT JO ANN LANDON 443-960-3052.

PARTICIPANT'S NAME:

CONGREGATION (IF AFFILIATED):

PERSONAL GOAL: -----

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED: -----

SPONSOR'S NAME	DONATION \$
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NEW FOR 2021 (OPEN AND ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS) ARE:

PROJECT 1 IN BAYBORO, NC
REBUILDING HOMES
DAMAGED BY HURRICANE
FLORENCE

PROJECT 2 IN DAYTON, OH
REBUILDING HOMES
DAMAGED BY THE 2019
MEMORIAL DAY TORNADOES

Sandi Evans Rogers, Interim Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship services are pre-recorded and made available
Sunday mornings by email & Facebook.

PASTOR'S IN-OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

OFFICE SECRETARY'S HOURS

In-office: Tuesdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Virtual office: Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Church Secretary – Kathie Tucker

Church Office Phone – 301-293-9516

Website – <http://www.gcob.org>

Email: office@gcob.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 **April 2021 issue of
*The Dunker*** no later than Monday, March 15. Thank
you!

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
US POSTAGE
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March 2021
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THE DUNKER
Grossnickle Church of the Brethren
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