

# The Dunker

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

November 2023

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

*"....do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?"*

--Jesus, Sermon on the Mount

"But, Jesus, there is so much to worry about! Maybe I can set aside my frivolous worries about whether my shirt matches my pants, or what's for dinner, but what about the real stuff in life? Things like the health of my family and friends, or the state of the world? What about the increasingly divisive culture in which we live? Can't you see just how bad things are going to get!?"

One reason Jesus didn't want us to worry is because he wants us to be our best selves. Worry drains our spirits. We can literally worry ourselves sick if we're not careful. But Jesus knows that worry is nothing more than sitting in the driveway revving the engine, wasting time and fuel, but going nowhere and with nothing to show for it but noxious fumes.

But there's another — equally important — reason Jesus warns against worry; it robs us of our energy for kingdom work. In other words, what if all of the time we spent on worry were redirected towards wondering how to fix problems, show more love, reach out to more people? What if I laid awake at night pondering how to practice peace or build a better world rather than the myriad doomsday scenarios my brain thinks up?

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its troubles. It empties today of its strength.

Sisters and Brothers, I know there's plenty to worry about these days, and that some of those worries originate right here in our congregation. Let us commit ourselves not to what might go wrong, but rather to prayer and action towards making things right.

In Grace and Peace,

Pastor Greg

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## *Love Feast*

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On November 5 at 6:00 pm in the parish hall we may reflect, surrender, celebrate and remember together what Christ has done for us, his disciples. We will share in and experience various elements of **Love Feast** together culminating in bread and cup communion. Please join us on Sunday, November 5 as we explore and experience this wonderful event. Child care is provided.

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## Large Print Hymnal

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We now have a **large print hymnal** for those needing it. It is being donated by Patty and Jeff Hurwitz in memory of Patty's mother, Hazel Diehl.

## Updates from the Annual Conference:

Kelly and I thank the congregation for allowing us to be the GCOB delegates at the annual conference. Worshiping with brethren from all over the world is always a powerful experience. For those of you who do not know what an annual conference is, the annual conference is the only way to ensure our congregation has a say in decisions that affect the whole church. The annual conference delegate body is one of the most important—if not the highest—decision-making level in the Church of the Brethren. Each congregation may play a vital part in the annual conference by sending a delegate or delegates. Below is a summary of the actions taken by the delegate body.

### **UB 1. Query – Standing with People of Color**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation to extend the term of the assignment of the Standing with People of Color committee by one additional year to 2025.

### **New Business Items**

#### **NB 1. Request for an Annual Conference Study on Calling Denominational Leadership**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation that the concerns of New Business #1 'Request for an Annual Conference Study on Calling Denominational Leadership' be accepted and elected three people to form the study committee.

The committee is encouraged to consult with current members of the Nominating Committee and others who have had experience with the nomination process. In subsequent action, Annual Conference elected Eric Bishop, Erika Clary, and Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred to serve as members of this study committee.

#### **NB 2. Recommendation regarding Nominations from the Floor of Annual Conference**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation that the proposed change in Conference Rule #12 concerning nominations from the floor be adopted. One amendment, in two parts, affecting three areas of the text of the document will be incorporated in the minutes.

The recommendation was adopted by more than a two-thirds vote as a change in polity.

#### **NB 3. 2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation that the proposed 2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education be adopted.

The guidelines were adopted by more than a two-thirds vote as a change in polity.

#### **NB 4. Restated and Amended Articles of Organization for Eder Financial**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation that the Restated and Amended Articles of Organization for Eder Financial be adopted.

The restated and amended articles were adopted by more than a two-thirds vote as a change in polity.

#### **NB 5. Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors**

Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted the Standing Committee recommendation that the proposed 5.3% cost of living adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors be adopted.

**NB 6. Resolution – With Actions and in Truth: A Lament of the Doctrine of Discovery** Action of the 2023 Annual Conference: Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation that the Resolution – With Actions and in Truth: A Lament of the Doctrine of Discovery be adopted with two amendments incorporated in the final resolution. The following text from Page 181, Lines 17-30 incorporates the amendments to the text in the 2023 Annual Conference booklet:

### **Recommendations**

That the Church of the Brethren commit to ongoing advocacy, dialogue, education, and relationship-building regarding rights of Indigenous peoples. That invitations be extended to facilitators of the Blanket Exercise from Kairos Canada to host sessions for Church of the Brethren leadership and staff and to present at relevant church events, such as Annual Conference. That attendance of Church of the Brethren leaders and staff at the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition's conference be funded. Attendees may include Dine' members from the community in Lybrook, N.M., Intercultural Ministries staff, and other denominational leaders. That the Church of the Brethren consult with Indigenous organizations and tribes to develop opportunities for congregations, districts, and the denomination to consider some form of reparation following the leadership of Native nations or organizations.

### **Updates from the Board:**

The board met recently and achieved the following three agenda items.

The first is extending the Interim Pastor's contract for September 1st through December 31st. Since we are entering the season of advent and there are more expectations placed on pastors, Pastor Greg will be working 60% of the time (his previous contract was 50%).

Second, was to ask the trustees to explore renting the Parsonage until it is needed for a full-time pastor. The trustees have found a tenant to accept a monthly lease from September through December.

Finally, the board is exploring the concept of anchor ministry. This is a model that used to be used by the Brethren and is currently being practiced with our district leadership. The idea is that there is an anchor (lead pastor) that works with various people to help fulfill the needs within the church. Maybe it's visitation or outreach.

Our next meeting will be on October 25th and we will be working on the budget to present at the November 2nd congregational business meeting.

### **Finance Commission Update: A Call to Support Our Church Community**

As we approach the end of another year and prepare for the blessings and opportunities that 2024 will bring, it is our privilege and responsibility to provide an update on our financial stewardship as a congregation. The Finance Commission has been diligently working on finalizing the budget for the upcoming 2024 calendar year, but before we dive into the future, let's take a moment to review where we stand in 2023.

#### **Year-to-Date Financial Overview (January - September 2023)**

Our church has always been a place of warmth, love, and unwavering faith, but it's no secret that maintaining our church community and facilities comes with a financial commitment. As of September 2023, here's a snapshot of our financial status:

**Year-to-Date Giving:** Our generous congregation has contributed \$151,624.39, which represents 62.14% of the 2023 giving budget. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and unwavering dedication to our church.

**Year-to-Date Expenses:** On the expense side, our spending has reached \$159,398.55, which accounts for 65.33% of the 2023 expense budget. These expenses are essential to maintaining our church's operations and outreach efforts.

#### **A Current Deficit**

As it stands, our year-to-date financials reflect a deficit of \$7,774.16. This is a challenging position, but we have faith that, as a community, we can overcome this obstacle and ensure the continued success of our church's mission.

#### **An Opportunity to Increase Income**

One piece of promising news is that our parsonage is currently being rented, which will boost our incoming money flow. This extra income will help alleviate our current financial situation. However, we want to emphasize that your support remains invaluable. We count on your dedication to our community, not only to cover our operational expenses but also to further our ministries and outreach.

#### **A Call to Action**

We humbly extend a plea to all our members to consider offering what they can to support our church. Your contributions, both financially and through active participation in our community, are essential to maintaining the good work of our church.

As we move into the final quarter of 2023, we encourage each of you to evaluate how you can contribute to our church's financial well-being. Whether through regular tithing, additional offerings, or volunteering your time and talents, your involvement will help us continue our mission to spread love, hope, and faith within our community and beyond.

Let's work together to strive for a net-zero end-of-year position. With your support and dedication, we can ensure that our church remains a beacon of light and love for all those who seek solace and spiritual growth within its walls.

In closing, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment and support. Together, we can overcome our current financial challenges and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our members and the wider community - Simply, Peacefully and TOGETHER.

May God's blessings be with you all.

Yours in faith,

Trina Delauter, Finance

Commission Chair

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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. At this time the dates aren't available when the gifts will be due. Look for details in the next few weeks bulletin for more details.

Thank you, Tina Spade, Giving Tree Coordinator

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## Hearts and Hands

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Hearts and Hands met for the first meeting of the year on Oct. 3. It was great being together and having two hours of fellowship. During this time, we made chicken soup for our Deacons to take to those in need.

We discussed our agenda for the upcoming months. Lois Johnson, lovingly, knitted 14 infant hats, 10 youth hats and 7 adult hats. These hats will be given to Nina Roland (Asbury United Methodist Church in Frederick) who will distribute them to The Crisis Pregnancy Center and other local charities. We will also donate small blankets made by our group to these same charities. Thanks so much Lois! We will also be donating large blankets that our group made last year to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This is an organization that builds twin beds for children who are sleeping on the floor. They provide linens, pillows and blankets. Blessings to this wonderful group of people who so selflessly provide to those children.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday Nov. 7 from 9 am-11 am. We will be making jewelry and another crafts for Beacon House Christmas Celebration. Beacon House holds an annual Christmas event for families of the residents. 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. We will also be making pumpkin bread for Meals on Wheels. And, of course continue our blanket making for all those in need.

Please join 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.

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## Outreach Committee

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The Outreach committee is doing a New Sock drive for October through November 19. Please place all new socks in the box under the white table to the left as you enter. We are asking for new socks, in the package, for all sizes, infants to XL adults. Warm, dry feet are so important to our friends who are in need. You can make a difference in their lives by giving one or



more pairs of new socks. They will be donated to the Scott Key Center, who is working closely with the Rescue Mission to collect and distribute them to the needy in our area. Anyone with questions may contact Suzanne Levitt at 301-401-8094. Socks should be brought to church and placed in the marked box.

One of the many things we do is the **ROCK MINISTRY**... We have had a great response this year from volunteers who have taken care of our rock ministry and have done a great job. We are requesting volunteers for 2024. Please contact Pam Jouannet (301-293-3629) if you would like to sign up for the rock ministry.

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## Meals On Wheels

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We have begun!! Our first meal was held Saturday October 14. We prepared meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, fruit and cookies for dessert. We made 33 meals for our beloved friends and church family.

Many thanks to all our drivers and folks who helped make this happen.

We have changed a couple of things regarding our meals. Instead of buying everything to prepare, we are going to be asking for donations to help offset the costs of meal preparation. For example, the October meal all of the hamburger donated. We will accept monetary donations and food donations. Many thanks in advance for all of your love and support.

Questions? Please call Pam Jouannet at 301-293-3629.



### *Some “Meals on Wheels” Helpers*





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**\*\*\*ATTENTION:** Kids Klub and Junior High God Squad is starting classes again November 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8 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.

# Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all for an awesome **Growing Project Harvest Festival**. The event was very well attended, in spite of the weather forecast. It turned out to be a beautiful day! Nearly 30 cakes were auctioned, and others were sold in a silent auction. In all, we raised \$3,152.00! Sunny Meadows provided a truck full of gorgeous mums, pumpkins and pansies, which were also sold. Happy kids made at least 8 scarecrows, and Elvin and friends provided delicious hot soup and sandwiches. Rev. Mark Swanson, interim CEO of Growing Hope Globally delivered the message, and told us that, since 2006, when we started our Growing Project, 7,767 persons have been lifted out of poverty and are now self-sufficient to grow their own food, because of the funds we have raised. Thanks to the singers, participants, sponsors, bakers, cooks, hosts, auctioneers, farmers, committee, and a host of unsung heroes, who make our dream of ending hunger a bit closer to reality.

## Making Scarecrows



## Live Music



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## Advent Choir Practice

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Thursday, Oct 19th 6 pm-7pm  
 Thursday, Nov 2nd 6 pm-7pm  
 Thursday, Nov 16th 6 pm-7pm  
 Thursday, Nov 30th 6 pm-7pm



**Deacon for the Month of November: Myralee Wiles**

### **NOVEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS**

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader
5	Pastor Greg	Brock Skeen
12	Albert Lawrence	Jenny Blickenstaff
19	Fertile Soil	Bobby Riggs; Ryker
26	Pastor Greg	Jack Cornell and Drew Leatherman

Date	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
5	Hazel Early and Irene Smith	Matthew Lewis	Kristie Delauter
12	Danny, Kelly, Lilly, Allison, Connor Rumpf	Landon Smith	Abby Grossnickle
19	Abby Grossnickle	Connor Grimm	Doris Grossnickle
26	Sam, Katie, Colton, Caroline Rudman	Shannon Mahoney	Brooke Smith

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.



# November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Bread Making 9:00 am Choir Practice 6-7 Council Mtg. 7 pm	3	4
5 My 2¢ for Hunger Offering  Fall Love Feast 6:00 pm (PH)	6	7 Hearts and Hands 9 am – 11 am (PH)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Choir Practice 6-7	17	18
19 New Sock Drive Ends  Youth Hunger Meal following Worship	20	21	22 Salem United Methodist Community Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29 Newsletter Crew 9:00 am  Deacon Mtg. 7:00 pm	30 Choir Practice 6-7		



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 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.

GENERAL IN-OFFICE HOURS  
 Secretary Angie: Tue-Wed-Thu • 9am-4pm; Fri • 9am-2pm





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 Tuckeer

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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*With Sincere Christian Sympathy*

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*We express our heartfelt and Christian sympathy to the family of Robin Langdon Ward on the passing of her father, Nelson Langdon, on October 7, 2023.*

## 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 **December 2023 issue of *The Dunker*** no later than November 15, 2023.

Thank you!



# November

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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