

You Are with Us

In spring, God's creation breathes. Grasses turn green, rains refresh the earth, and flowers and trees bud and blossom. The sun warms the soil as farmers prepare for planting. Robins build nests, and fawns are born in the forest. We anticipate these patterns.

Last year, however, was a year of uncertainty and change. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted governments, businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and churches, to name a few. People suffered with isolation, illness, death, and recovery. Multitudes experienced income, food, and housing insecurities. A derecho windstorm swept through seven states, flattening crops, trees, and buildings. Forest fires consumed millions of acres along the West Coast, blackening the air many inhaled. Hurricanes wreaked havoc with winds and rains. Our streets heard cries of injustice and racism.

If David were with us, would he say he lived in fear? In Psalm 23, he wrote: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me" (v. 4a). No, David lived without fear because God was with him.

We live in a world of beauty and chaos, of joy and sorrow, of hope and despair, of birth and death. How can we not be afraid? At any moment, our path can become unclear and we may feel lost and uncertain. In these times, remember that God watches over us just as he watches over the fawn in the forest. Do not fear.

Shepherd God, at times we feel the darkness closing in on us. Help us to be strong, for you are our strength and our shield. Lead us on the right paths, for you are our guide. When you are with us, we are not afraid. Guide us to do your will. Amen.

—Denise Flory
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Text for today: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, *I fear no evil*; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long" (Psalm 23, NRSV).
Bible readings for today: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 (4); 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

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Hanover Church of the Brethren

April 18, 2021

601 Wilson Avenue
717-632-2267
E-mail: Hanover COB@gmail.com
Web: www.hanovercob.org
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:30 AM



Pastor - Geraldine Godfrey
Pastor's Office Hours:
Mon., Wed.—Fri. 10 AM to 1 PM
Phone: 717-428-2511
Pastor.GerryG@gmail.com

Engage, Embrace, Empower with the love of God.
—Hanover Mission Statement

Please be mindful of those who are meditating as we prepare for worship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PRAISE & WORSHIP AND PRAYER (Please stand if you are able)

“Come People of the Risen King” (words on the screen)

MEDITATION ON GIVING

The first words of the bible are all about God's generosity: God gave us gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning as we look around us and see the evidence of spring awakening, we are in awe of that gift of creation. We also have come to thank God as we offer our own gifts so that the ministry of this church might grow and be a blessing to this community and around the world. The offering plate is located in the back of the sanctuary as you leave today.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN Jeff Wolf

(Children may come forward.)

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC “Here I Am Lord” Choir

SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:1-7 Pew Bible Pg. 1111
MESSAGE “Cultivating a Holy Imagination” Pastor Gerry
*CLOSING HYMN Blue 345

“God Sent His Son”

*BENEDICTION

Leader: God has called the many to become the “one church,” a model of God's future reign.

All: As we depart, let us remember to share all that God has given us in the name of Jesus Christ, so that we may participate in all that God has planned for us. Amen!

Let us honor God's Presence with us as we listen to the postlude.

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able.*

We welcome each of you to our service today. We especially welcome any first time visitors and encourage you to fill out a pink card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate after the service.

Please make sure you have permission from individuals to share their names during joys and concerns or for placing in the bulletin. Thank you.

Handicap restrooms are available. Hearing devices & large print bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

Ministers to All..... The Congregation
Preacher Pastor Gerry Godfrey
Worship Leader..... Jim Replogle
Music Director/Pianist..... Roxie Schloyer
Organist..... Bev Wolf
Head Usher Roger Bollinger
Deacons of the Month/Welcomers Mike & Cindy Goodling
Bulletin Board Fred Markle

Announcements

WELCOME - COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Your safety is our priority. Please remember to keep a physical distance of 6 feet, wear a face mask inside the building and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. Please sit in the indicated pews staying 6 feet apart from non-family members. At this time there is no children's church. The restroom lights in the lower level restrooms will be turned on in the morning-please do not touch switch and turn them off - they will be turned off at the close of church each Sunday. Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to place your offering. After the service, socializing is encouraged in the parking lot out in the open air.

The New Life Sunday School Class will be resuming Sunday School today in the library.

The Wired Word Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Attendance Registers - We have returned the sign-in sheets to our pews and ask that one person from the pew write down all those seated in the pew with you.

Glow Group for 4th & 5th graders will meet **TODAY** following worship to 1:30 PM.

Blood Drive, Thursday, April 22, 2 to 7 PM. Please call 1-800-771-0059 to schedule your appointment to donate blood.

Ice Cream Social, Saturday, April 24, 6 PM. Please sign up to donate a freezer of ice cream; sundae toppings, or pretzels, chips, etc.

VBS in June - Volunteers are needed to hold "in-person" VBS which will be held on June 25, 26 & 27. We need to know if anyone is willing to help "in person" **TODAY**. If you are willing to help, please see Melissa Godfrey, Natalie DeRita or Mike Lawrence. Thank you.

The Upper Room for May & June is available for you to pick up a copy. They are provided by the Women's Fellowship and if you are able, please consider making a donation to help cover the cost.

Please Uplift in Prayer

Names will be listed for 2 weeks unless ongoing concern.

Homewood at Plum Creek:

Jewel Amspacher - Room D142
Nancy Mummert - Room C105
Fay Swartz - Room E342

Hanover Hall:

Esther Brown - Room 219
John Paul Fike, Sr. - Room 126A

Country Meadows:

Bonnie Berwager - Apt. 311

Spring Creek Rehab:

Sonja Bankert

Utz Terrace:

Evelyn Dickensheets - Room 422

Normandie Ridge Sr. Living:

Norma Becker - Room 122A

Shut ins: Jake Berwager, Dean Brodbeck,

Miriam Mills, Charlie Sell, Dale Sullivan

Amy Despines, Carol Repogle, Ed Swartz, Betty Stockslager, Amber Shaw, Brenda Kneller, Michael Michener, Rod Trimmer, Todd Smith, Sherry Meckley, Jean Killmore, Jensen Hinkle

Pastor Gerry is on vacation this week.

Please call the church office for pastoral needs.

Church Activities This Week

Sunday, April 18.....Sunday School - 9 AM / Worship - 10:30 AM

Glow Group - noon to 1:30 PM

Information due for May Newsletter

Monday, April 19.....AlAnon - 7 PM

Tuesday, April 20 AA - 8 PM

Wednesday, April 21 Prayer Group & Bible Study - 6 PM

Choir Rehearsal - 7 PM

Thursday, April 22 Blood Drive - 2 to 7 PM

Friday, April 23..... AA - 6 PM

Saturday, April 24..... Ice Cream Social - 6 PM

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 25 Sunday School Appreciation -9 AM

Worship with Pastor Dick - 10:30 AM

Friday, April 30..... Council Reports due

Monday, May 10 Commissions Meet - 6 PM

Church Board Meets - 7 PM

Our Faithful Stewardship - April 11, 2021

Attendance: Sunday School - 27 Worship - 71

Giving: General Fund - \$ 3,311.50 Building Rental - \$ 92

Fellowship & Personnel - Easter Breakfast - \$ 10