



A Monthly Newsletter by the

# Hanover Church of the Brethren

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:00 AM**

**WORSHIP—10:30 AM**

Volume 10, Issue 4 ☎ May 2024

*From the desk of Pastor Mark*

## Mean God or Nice God?

We brethren have a saying about our beliefs: "No creed but the New Testament." It was a reaction against the politicized churches of the day (early 1700s) when Alexander Mack and his friends began the Brethren movement by taking a fresh look at Scripture. They were unimpressed with the lives of those who professed to know God through their creeds, yet seemed to live otherwise. War and corruption seemed to dominate the agendas of the leaders of the Catholic, Lutheran and Calvinist churches. Old Testament scriptures were often used to support the various religious wars those churches were involved in. Mack and his friends saw this as contradictory to the teachings of Jesus. So, while they did not reject the Old Testament, they did *emphasize* the teachings of the New Testament.

We today still tend to prefer the teachings of Jesus to some of the more violent stories of the Old Testament. In fact if most of us are honest, we really don't understand why God seems so violent and angry in the Old Testament, and by contrast so nice and forgiving in the new. But a closer look at Scripture – and that is always a good idea – reveals that we really don't have two different gods, or even two different manifestations of God, but *one* God, revealing himself in different ways. In the Old Testament, we see God trying to convince a group of desert people known as the Hebrews that He loves them and wants to be their God and father and King and leader. They respond in pretty typical fashion, sometimes saying yes, sometimes saying no, sometimes saying yes with their lips and no with their actions, etc. (See Isaiah 29:13) Sound familiar?

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### Church Mission Statement

"Engage, Embrace, Empower with the love of God."

<b>Pastor</b> Mark Bowyer 540-758-1144 mbowyer1@gmail.com	<b>Secretary</b> Shal Dehoff 717-632-2267 hanoverCOB@gmail.com
<b>Office Hours</b> Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>Office Hours</b> Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM



# Please Take Note

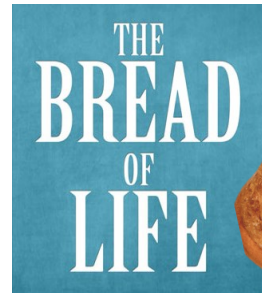


## June/July Combined Newsletter

Please remember that the June and July issues of the Newsletter are combined into one issue, which will be available at the end of May. The deadline for submissions for the June/July Newsletter is **May 19**.



## Spring Council Meeting Sunday, May 19




**Thursday, May 2  
6:00 pm  
Panera Bread**



## Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 9

Christian Ed would like to recognize our graduates on June 9. If you know of anyone who will be graduating, please give their names to Natalie DeRita by May 21.



**Blood Drive**  
**Thursday, July 26**  
**1 to 6PM**

Please call 1-800-771-0059 to make an appointment to donate.

## Stewardship Report March 2024

**Avg. Attendance:** Sunday School 30, Worship 88

Budget Goal (\$4,777) per week)	\$248,403
Needed to-date (13 weeks)	\$ 62,101
Budget Giving to Date (73%)	\$ 45,196
Designated Giving to Date	\$ 7,414
<b>Total Giving to Date</b>	<b>\$ 52,610</b>
Budget Giving for March	\$ 18,376
Designated Giving for March	\$ 2,477
Building Rental	\$ 856
Child Care Area	\$ 350
Clean Up Buckets	\$ 50
Electronic Sign	\$ 244
Flowers	\$ 342
Hygiene Kits	\$ 240
Lawn Mowing	\$ 20
Meat Canning	\$ 200
Memorial Gifts	\$ 175

## Pastor-Congregation Relations Support Team

The Ministry and Worship Commission, with the approval of the Board, decided to create a support team for the pastor and the congregation to aid in the resolution of any conflicts that may arise. The appointed team members are Bob Long, Dick Ambrosius and Angie Ruth. The Ministry and Worship Commission will oversee the team. Please contact one of the members of the team or the Ministry and Worship Commission if you feel you have not been able to resolve a conflict on your own. It is the Commission's hope that any areas of conflict can be resolved without hurt feelings. As the body of Christ, it is imperative that we work together to keep our church healthy.

—Ministry & Worship Commission

# Church Happenings

## Bible School, June 24-28

Christian Ed Commission is working on plans for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is Seekers in Sneakers. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Natalie DeRita, Shirley Marshall or Millie Baker with questions or to help.



We will not have a meeting in May. However, please plan on being at church on May 12th, to hand out flowers to the ladies before the church service for Mother's Day.



**Wednesday, May 15  
Noon to 2 PM**

We will gather on Wed, May 15 at 12 noon to be entertained by a musical group from Hanover High School. Don't forget to bring a covered dish to share!!

<b>18</b> MAY	<b>CAR SHOW</b>	<b>10 AM</b> TO <b>2 PM</b>
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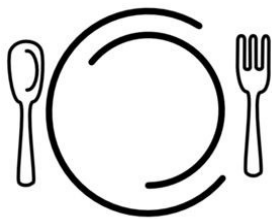
Come and Join Us for a Day of Fun!



Registration: \$5.00

601 WILSON AVENUE, HANOVER, PA 17331  
**HANOVER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
Contact: 717-479-0585 or 717-476-3064

Food & Drinks Available



**Senior Citizen  
LUNCHEON  
Sunday, June 9**

Sign Up Sheets Will Be Posted

## Women's Fellowship

Our Mother-Daughter and Other Banquet will be on May 11 at 6 p.m. The meal will be prepared by Spud Gebhart and Mike Goodling. The menu includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, jello salad, rolls, and dessert. There will be a vegetarian and a gluten free meal available, and also a children's meal. Our speaker for the evening will be Deonna Schmittell presenting "Natural Clean Living - Chemically Free Inside and Outside." We hope all of the ladies can attend. And we would love to have many men help to serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

Twenty-four of us are taking a trip to Sight & Sound on July 24 to see "Daniel." Tickets are \$83.75; make payment to Lona Bridenbaugh. Two vans will be leaving from the church parking lot that morning. Time to be announced.



**Singspiration Sunday**  
May 19, 2024

*From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued*

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For many years, God did act directly as the King of Israel, using a series of judges to administrate the kingdom. But people soon grew weary of this and looked to their neighbors-claiming they wanted to have a king just as their neighbors did. God warned them that that would not be a good system (See 1 Samuel 8). But they insisted, and so they got what they asked for – a powerful centralized government with all the corruption and fuss that goes along with it. Again, sound familiar?

And what about all that war? Mennonite author John Howard Yoder makes a point about all that Old Testament violence that's not readily apparent. You see, every time Israel faced an enemy in the Old Testament, God said that *He* would defeat the enemy for them if they trusted Him. Yes, they sometimes used military means, but always as a minority. In fact, Israel never won a battle with superior forces. God said, and meant, "I will fight for you" (See Exodus 14:13-14). When they trusted that and acted according to His will, they won. When they took matters into their own hands and try to attack with a superior force, they lost.

Towards the end of the Old Testament, when the people of Israel are finally defeated and carried away into exile, we again see that *that* was not ever God's intention, but rather the *consequence* of the disobedience and apathy of the people of Israel. God simply let them experience the consequences of their laziness and lack of focus on Him. Greedy neighbors, hungry for land and wealth, simply took advantage of the divided kingdom, weakened by internal strife brought on by their lack of unity and focus on YHWH.

So what?

So what does this have to do with us today? Well, honestly, we still struggle with this question of whether God is mean or nice. When we see other people 'getting away with murder,' we look to God to *be* a little mean. But when *we* sin, whether with our minds or mouths, our eyes, our hands or feet, we hope that, in fact, He is a little *nicer* than that. The truth is, He is a terrifying judge to those who stand unforgiven, and yet a tender Father to those who repent (who admit they need Him)! When we continually ignore Him, or simply keep Him at the margins of our lives, insisting that *we can handle it*, the consequences eventually but inevitably come. Make no mistake, we still belong to Him. We are still His sons and daughters, but when we leave Him out of our daily routine, we are, in a sense, 'on our own.'

Now, that doesn't mean that everything that happens to us is our fault- or His judgment (See John 9)! We live in a broken world that He hasn't been back to fix *yet*. But until that time, He promises that He is *with us at all times no matter what*, and that is pretty amazing!

When we realize what we (and the people of ancient Israel) *truly deserve* as sinners (See Romans 6:23), we realize God is not mean, and never has been. He is simply a very, *very* good judge- and very merciful at that! For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...

You think about that, amen!

*Pastor Mark*



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 5/1 Mike Goodling      | 5/17 Mary Kate Henry |
| Justin Henninger       | Jill Kaufman         |
| 5/5 Lily Sneeringer    | Logan Landi          |
| 5/6 Orynn Church       | Rhiannon Mahone      |
| Kim Shue               | 5/18 Richard Shriver |
| 5/8 Jess Kneller       | 5/20 Mark Bowyer     |
| Cindy Marshall         | 5/24 Jim Replogle    |
| 5/9 Bonnie Berwager    | 5/26 Sandy Hurtack   |
| Karen Klunk            | 5/29 Dick Godfrey    |
| Don Myers              | 5/31 Jerry Snyder    |
| 5/10 Dale Sullivan     |                      |
| 5/12 John Burkentine   |                      |
| 5/13 Brady Yingling    |                      |
| 5/14 Ryan Dickensheets |                      |
| 5/15 Thomas Ruth       |                      |



# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| 5/6 Ed & Connie Morris       | (46) |
| Ryan & Jessica Yingling      | (18) |
| 5/17 Kevin & Christine Mowry | (21) |
| 5/19 Bob & Carol Krouse      | (52) |
| 5/20 Abe & Laura Church      | (18) |
| 5/21 Joe & Betsy Carolus     | (6)  |
| 5/25 Jordan & Cierra Weaver  | (5)  |
| 5/29 Jim & Carol Replogle    | (70) |

*Welcome New Member*  
Dolores Beard

## *Uplift in Prayer*

Listed below are those with ongoing concerns, recuperating from surgery or procedures, recently hospitalized and/or have been shared through our prayer chain. Your thoughts and prayers are always appreciated.

Carol Replogle, Pastor Mark, Doug, Scott Sanders, Amber Hansen Shaw

**Remember our Homebound:**

Miriam Mills, Dale Sullivan, June Dennis and those living in the facilities listed below:

**Hanover Hall**  
Esther Brown - Room 117A  
**Country Meadows**  
Bonnie Berwager - Apt. 311

**Spring Creek Rehab**  
Sonja Bankert  
**Utz Terrace**  
Evelyn Dickensheets

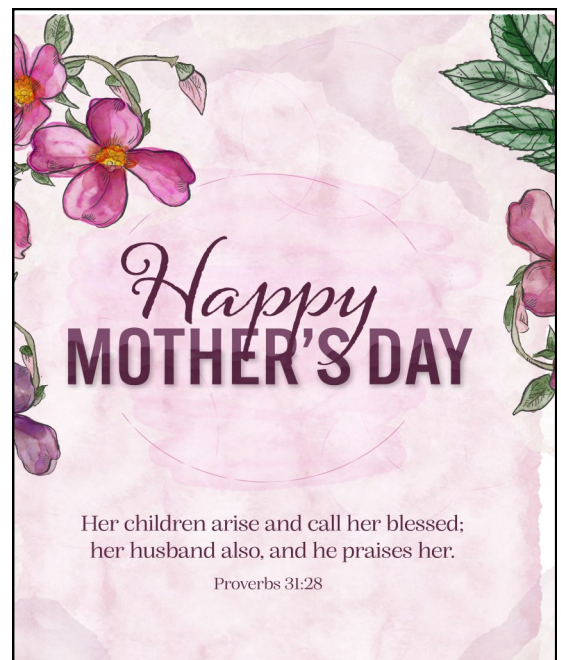
## *Thank You Notes*

I want to thank everyone for the lovely Easter and birthday cards and gifts. May God bless you for your kindness.

*Loretta Bollinger*

Thank you to the congregation for their support of our Baked Ziti fundraiser. We made almost \$400.

*The Youth & Youth Leaders*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 2 pm Line Dancing  7 pm Choir	<i>2</i>  6 pm Bread of Life	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<i>6</i>  6 pm Deacons 7 pm AlAnon	<i>7</i>  8 pm AA	<i>8</i> 2 pm Line Dancing  7 pm Choir	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>  6 pm
<i>12</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  	<i>13</i>  7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm AlAnon	<i>14</i>  8 pm AA	<i>15</i> 12 pm Over 60's  2 pm Line Dancing  7 pm Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 10 am Car Show  
<i>19</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <b>Singspiration</b>    June/July Newsletter Deadline	<i>20</i>  PAL at HACC  7 pm AlAnon	<i>21</i>  8 pm AA	<i>22</i>  2 pm Line Dancing	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9 am Newsletter Assembly	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<i>27</i>  	<i>28</i>  8 pm AA	<i>29</i>  2 pm Line Dancing	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	