

A Brief History of the Brethren:

The Church of the Brethren traces its roots back over 300 years to 1708. Eighteenth-century Europe was a time of strong governmental control of the church and low tolerance for religious diversity. Nevertheless, there were religious dissenters who lived their faith in spite of the threat of persecution. Some of these dissenters found refuge in the town of Schwarzenau, Germany. Among them was Alexander Mack, a miller who had been influenced by both Pietism and Anabaptism.

In August 1708 five men and three women gathered at the Eder River in Schwarzenau for baptism, an illegal act since all had been baptized as infants. They understood this baptism as an outward symbol of their new faith and as a commitment to living that faith in community. An anonymous member of the group first baptized Mack. He, in turn, baptized the other seven. This new group simply called themselves "brethren."

Though the early Brethren shared many beliefs with other Protestants, a number of issues separated them from the state churches. Relying on the New Testament as their guide, these men and women believed that Jesus had intended for his followers a different kind of life—one based on peaceful action, plain and compassionate living, and a shared search for truth. They also shared their faith enthusiastically with others, sending evangelists to other parts of Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Due to growing persecution and economic hardship, Brethren began emigrating to North America in 1719 under the leadership of Peter Becker. Most Brethren left Europe by 1740, including Mack, who brought a group over in 1729. The first congregation in the New World was organized at Germantown, Pa., in 1723. Soon after its formation, the Germantown congregation sent missionaries to rural areas around Philadelphia. These missionaries preached, baptized, and started new congregations.

Their zeal, honesty, and hard work drew many new members into the Brethren faith community through the 1700s. New congregations were formed in New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. With the promise of inexpensive land, they moved into Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri after the Revolutionary War. By the mid-1800s Brethren had settled in Kansas and Iowa and eventually the West Coast.

During the 20th century, focus areas of Church of the Brethren included educating its young people by developing Sunday schools, camping, and youth programs; strengthening its emphasis on service, missions, and peacemaking; increasing its ecumenical involvement; and developing a new denominational structure.

The Brethren began mission partnerships in India, China, Nigeria, Ecuador, Sudan, South Korea, and—more recently—in Brazil and the Dominican Republic. Mission staff and Brethren Volunteer Service workers are assigned throughout the US and more than a dozen countries around the world.

WELCOME to
TEST DRIVE SUNDAY



at
HANOVER CHURCH of the BRETHREN

We are SO GLAD you joined us this morning! We hope you feel included, loved and blessed! And we hope we will see you again!

Hanover Church of the Brethren

September 15, 2024

Address: 601 Wilson Avenue

Phone: 717-632-2267

E-mail: HanoverCOB@gmail.com

Web: www.hanovercob.org

Sunday School: 9AM

Pastor: Mark Bowyer

Phone: 540-758-1144

E-mail: mbowyer1@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Tue - Fri

9AM - 1 PM

Engage, Embrace, Empower with the love of God

Video Introduction

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship "Welcome"

*Opening Song Praise medley *on screen, guitar*

*Centering Prayer

God, We ask for your help in being a light in every place you've given us to walk. Give us care and wisdom as we live and work with one another. Help us to look to another's needs before our own, and to always be ready to serve those around us by the power of your love within us. Even in every dark and broken place, for the times we feel like we're barely making it through, give us your joy Lord, your grace, and the powerful presence of your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

*Hymn of Worship Blue Hymnal 8
"Brethren We Have Met to Worship"

*Old Testament Lesson Psalm 23 Pew Bible 787

Offering Meditation

Lord, you have been so good to us! You have given us more than we need and have promised to take care of us. Please accept these gifts and offerings as a way we can say we love you back, and use them to Your glory and our neighbors' good! Amen!

Prayer of Blessing

Children's Story

Sing "Jesus Loves The Little Children" (Red Hymnal 421) as the kids come forward.

Children's Church

every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Sharing of Joys and Prayer Concerns

Hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Blue Hymnal 46

Morning Prayer

Special Music "He Put A New Song In My Heart" Choir

Scripture 1 Peter 1:22-23 Pew Bible 1728

Message "The Inner Circle" Pastor Mark

*Hymn of Response "Amazing Grace" Blue Hymnal 143

*Benediction

*Sending in Praise Closing chorus *on screen*

**Please stand if you are able*

VISITORS

Welcome to our service today!

We encourage first time visitors to fill out a pink card located in the pew rack and take it to the Welcome Center after worship.

Restrooms are available at the back of the sanctuary (handicapped accessible with baby changing station), outside the fellowship hall at top of ramp and on our lower level (down the stairs near the entrance, then to your right).

The Calm Room in the back of the sanctuary is available for families to use if you need a quiet, private space for children. Hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher.

Announcements

October Newsletter Article Deadline: Today, Sep 15.

Over 60's: Wed, Sep 18 at 12 pm. The committee will provide the meal. Come and bring a friend!

Bible Study Cancellation: No Bible Study, Wednesday, Sep 18.

Women's Fellowship Meeting: Thursday, Sept 19 at 6 pm.

District Conference: Sep 20 and 21.

Movie Night will be starting again. The first one is scheduled for Sunday evening, September 22 from 6-8. It will take place in the fellowship hall and popcorn will be supplied. Everyone is encouraged to bring snacks. We will be watching The Chosen.

Fall Council Reports: Due to the church office by Sunday, Sep 29.

Bread of Life: Thursday, Oct 3 at 6 pm at Panera Bread.

Love Feast: Sunday, Oct 6 at 7 pm.

Yard Sale: Saturday, Oct 12. See Amy to help.

Trunk or Treat: Tuesday, Oct 22 from 6 - 8 pm.

Blood Drive: Thursday, Oct 24 from 1 - 6 pm.

Brethren Disaster Relief Auction: September 27 and 28.

Annual Meeting of The members of The Brethren Home Foundation: Saturday, September 21 from 9:40-9:55 at Newville Church of the Brethren.

Annual Corporation Meeting of the members of Children's Aid Society, Inc: Saturday, September 21 at 10:25 at Newville Church of the Brethren.

Card Shower: Evelyn Dickensheets will be 98 on Oct 3. The family is having a card shower for her. Her address is: Spirit Trust Lutheran, 2100 Utz Terrace, Room 422, Hanover, PA 17331.

Assisting Us Today

<u>Pastor</u>	Mark Bowyer
<u>Music Director/Pianist</u>	Roxie Schloyer
<u>Organist</u>	Bev Wolf
<u>Worship Leader</u>	Darren Dickensheets
<u>Deacons of the Month/Welcomers</u>	Andy & Natalie Bowman
<u>Head Usher</u>	Roger Bollinger
<u>Bulletin Board</u>	Evelyn Cline & Lily

Please Uplift in Prayer

Hanover Hall
Esther Brown - Room 117A

Country Meadows
Bonnie Berwager - Apt 311

Homebound: Miriam Mills, Dale Sullivan, June Dennis

Others: Mary Ann Amspacher Dissinger, Will Wireman,
Leiland, Edna Markle, Nigeria

Spring Creek Rehab
Sonja Bankert

Utz Terrace
Evelyn Dickensheets

Activities This Week

<u>Sunday, Sep 15</u>	SS - 9:00 am/Worship - 10:30 am Test Drive Sunday Newsletter Article Deadline
<u>Monday, Sep 16</u>	Line Dance - 6 pm AlAnon - 7 pm AA - 8 pm
<u>Tuesday, Sep 17</u>	Over 60's - 12 pm
<u>Wednesday, Sep 18</u>	Line Dancing - 2 pm Choir - 7 pm WF Meeting - 6 pm
<u>Thursday, Sep 19</u>	Newsletter Assembly - 9 am
<u>Friday, Sep 20</u>	District Conference District Conference
<u>Saturday, Sep 21</u>	

Upcoming Activities

<u>Sunday, Sep 22</u>	SS - 9:00 am/Worship - 10:30 am Movie Night - 6 pm
<u>Monday, Sep 23</u>	Line Dance - 6 pm AlAnon - 7 pm PAL@HACC AA - 8 pm
<u>Tuesday, Sep 24</u>	Line Dancing - 2 pm
<u>Wednesday, Sep 25</u>	Bible Study - 6 pm Choir - 7 pm

Stewardship Last Week

Attendance: Sunday School - 33 Worship - 65
Giving: General Fund - \$2921 Building Rental - \$105