



A Monthly Newsletter by the  
*Hanover Church of the Brethren*

601 Wilson Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331  
Phone: 717-632-2267 ☎ Fax: 717-632-1642  
E-Mail: HanoverCOB@gmail.com ✉ Web: www.HanoverCOB.org  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:00 AM      WORSHIP—10:30 AM**

Volume 11, Issue 6 ☎ August 2025

*From the Desk of Pastor Mark*

**"Hiding in Plain Sight"**

*When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." -Mark 2:16-17*

The old spiritual from slavery days cries out in its chorus, "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen- Nobody knows but Jesus!" Unfortunately, that is often literally true in the church today. A man has just lost his job. But ask him how he's doing at church the next day, and he'll reply, "Can't complain!" A woman is struggling in a rocky marriage. But ask her how she's doing at church, "Just fine!" A couple has a visit from the sheriff because their son was picked up for dealing drugs. But for church, they will paste on a smile and keep their painful secret just that-a painful secret. Now, I'm not meaning to be critical here of politeness, nor of people who are hurting. The problem I have is with the church when we somehow send the wrong message... The church is clearly meant to be a place of openness and honesty, a place where we can, "Find a need and meet it, find a hurt and heal it," to quote the mission statement of a church I attended during college. It is meant to be a hospital for sinners, not a museum for the saints, as the old saying goes.

So how did the church ever achieve museum status? It's a long story, but it comes from the attitude of the Pharisees- you ought to be able to "be good" in your own strength and handle your struggles *privately!* What that sounds like today is when people think the church is a bunch of nice people with a nice guy standing up front telling them to be nicer. They think that the way to attract more people is if everybody behaves and keeps their messy problems to themselves! Boom. Museum!

*~continued on page 4*



*Inside This Issue*

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Anniversaries/ Birthdays ..... | 7       |
| Church Calendar .....          | 8       |
| Pictures .....                 | 4, 5, 6 |
| Please Take Note .....         | 2       |
| Stewardship Report .....       | 2       |
| Uplift in Prayer .....         | 7       |
| Us & Our Community .....       | 3       |

**Church Mission Statement**

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

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

## Please Take Note



### Southern PA District Conference

**Sep 19 & 20, 2025**  
**Hanover Church of the Brethren**

### Our Stewardship May 2025

| Average Attendance             | Sunday School<br>26 | Worship<br>68  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Budget Goal (\$4,310 per week) | \$                  | 224,139        |
| Need to-date (22 weeks)        | \$                  | 94,820         |
| Budget Giving to Date (86%)    | \$                  | 81,871         |
| Designated Giving to Date      | \$                  | 23,063         |
| <b>TOTAL GIVING TO DATE</b>    | <b>\$</b>           | <b>104,934</b> |
| Budget Giving for May          | \$                  | 11,585         |
| Designated Giving for May      | \$                  | 4,138          |
| Bereavement                    | \$                  | 503            |
| Building Rental                | \$                  | 728            |
| Community Aid Bin              | \$                  | 20             |
| Electronic Sign                | \$                  | 2,492          |
| Lawn Mowing                    | \$                  | 10             |
| Memorial Gifts                 | \$                  | 80             |
| Movie License                  | \$                  | 300            |
| Yard Sale                      | \$                  | 5              |

### June 2025

| Average Attendance             | Sunday School<br>27 | Worship<br>71  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Budget Goal (\$4,310 per week) | \$                  | 224,139        |
| Need to-date (26 weeks)        | \$                  | 112,060        |
| Budget Giving to Date (93%)    | \$                  | 103,904        |
| Designated Giving to Date      | \$                  | 29,612         |
| <b>TOTAL GIVING TO DATE</b>    | <b>\$</b>           | <b>133,516</b> |
| Budget Giving for June         | \$                  | 22,034         |
| Designated Giving for June     | \$                  | 6,549          |
| Bereavement                    | \$                  | 328            |
| Building Rental                | \$                  | 815            |
| Camp Eder                      | \$                  | 575            |
| Disaster Relief                | \$                  | 280            |
| Habitat for Humanity           | \$                  | 180            |
| Heifer International           | \$                  | 1,000          |
| Hygiene Kits                   | \$                  | 279            |
| Lawn Mowing                    | \$                  | 30             |
| Meat Canning                   | \$                  | 280            |
| Ministry/Mission               | \$                  | 1000           |
| Reimbursement                  | \$                  | 502            |
| Truck Stop                     | \$                  | 280            |
| VBS                            | \$                  | 1,000          |

### Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 10, 2025



Children and youth, please remember to bring your backpack to church on **Aug 10** to have it blessed before starting the new school year.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**  
DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

## The Chosen



**August 3, 2025**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Join us for  
popcorn and a movie!



### BREAD OF LIFE

**THURSDAY,**  
**AUGUST 7,**  
**6:00 PM**

**PANERA BREAD**



**BEGINS SEP 3 AT 6 PM**

## Us & Our Community



Friday, September 26 from 7 - 3  
 Saturday, September 27 from 7 - 12  
 Drop-off begins August 18



**CROSS KEYS VILLAGE**  
 The Brethren Home Community



**August 9**  
**Cost: \$13**

**The Friends of Cross Keys Village  
 Annual Chicken BBQ & Car Show**

**Saturday, August 9, 2025**

10:30 am until the dinners are sold out.  
 ½ chicken, baked potato, roll, and applesauce.

If you wish to guarantee that you will secure a dinner you should consider **preordering**.  
 Please see Cindy Goodling for the form.

## Women's Fellowship

On July 17, we had our Fun Night. Attendance was 20. There was great food and games. We assembled 74 School Kits for Church World Services. Thank you to everyone who donated the school supplies.

On September 11, at 6:30 p.m. we will have a business meeting to plan for the Craft Show which is scheduled for November 15.



**You're invited!**

**TEST DRIVE SUNDAY**

**September 14, 2025**

**Come check us out! 😊**

**HANOVER CHURCH of the  
 BRETHREN**

**601 Wilson Ave. Hanover**



**Brethren Disaster  
 Relief Auction**

**Lebanon Valley  
 Expo. Center  
 September 26 & 27**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| *Quilt Auction       | *Coin Auction          |
| *Sporting Goods      | *General Merchandise   |
| *Theme Baskets       | *Children's Activities |
| *Arts & Crafts       | *Food & Drinks         |
| *Tools, Garden Items | *Saturday Breakfast    |

*There is help needed in all areas.  
 Check out the web site to volunteer.*

[www.brethrenauction.org](http://www.brethrenauction.org)



## *From the desk of Pastor Mark continued*

But, what would it be like to attend *that* church? What would the expectations be? How open could you be about your sin struggles and failures? In a church like that, when someone isn't nice (doesn't meet our expectations), he or she is judged- and shunned. Judgement usually begins with, "He/she ought to know better....!" *This makes people hide in plain sight!* And it also *keeps* the church from growing because nobody ever feels good enough to get in.

Of course, this is not the Good News of Jesus Christ, for the good news is that the church is not for the 'right sort of people,' it is for sinners who can be saved by grace...! It is a beggar telling other poor beggars where they can find Bread. Now, this is *messier* and *harder* by far than the Pharisees' way. In Jesus' church, people will be difficult. They'll share their problems at awkward moments. They'll disagree and even fight and squabble. They'll require a *lot* of care, and there will be people we don't like. Why? Because it's a place that welcomes *sinners*, and just like a hospital, there are hurt people in all stages of healing...

One reason I appreciate Hanover Church is that it is a place where I feel my family and I can be ourselves and be loved and accepted. This is a pretty good indicator of hospital status! I think we are a pretty safe place for sinners, like ourselves, to come and find healing. But our attitudes can always use a tweak, amen?

So that when man has just lost his job, his story can be told to his Sunday school class. When a woman is struggling in a rocky marriage, maybe she can let the tears come for a few friends gathered in a classroom after church. And when a couple has had a visit from the sheriff, another couple will cry and pray with them over coffee in their home. Welcome to the hospital!

Pastor Mark

## *Senior Luncheon Pics*





## Women's Fun Night





# All Church VBS





# AUGUST

## BIRTHDAYS

|      |                  |      |                  |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 8/3  | Neal Yingling    | 8/17 | Dan Hawbaker     |
|      | Martin Baggerman | 8/18 | Ed Swartz        |
| 8/4  | Ken Becker       |      | Scott Sanders    |
| 8/5  | Brock Swartz     | 8/19 | Shawn Frymyer    |
|      | Emma Gavazzi     | 8/22 | Ray Mummert      |
| 8/10 | Melissa Miller   |      | Rachel Hornbaker |
|      | Gage Ryan Weaver | 8/24 | Makenna Bowman   |
| 8/11 | Lisa Luckenbaugh |      | Ed Robbins       |
| 8/12 | Dale Ault        | 8/26 | Roxie Schloyer   |
| 8/13 | Theresa Webb     |      | Jeff Wolf        |
| 8/14 | Brenda Dell      | 8/28 | Natalie Shanley  |
| 8/15 | Logan Smith      | 8/30 | Pat Burkentine   |
|      | Maryn Fetrow     |      | Jennifer Sanders |



# AUGUST

## ANNIVERSARIES

|      |                            |      |
|------|----------------------------|------|
| 8/2  | Bruce & Deb Stambaugh      | (56) |
| 8/4  | Ben & Emily Fleming        | (9)  |
|      | Russell & Angela McMaster  | (35) |
| 8/10 | Pork & Brenda Dell         | (23) |
| 8/11 | Joe & Lisa Luckenbaugh     | (35) |
| 8/21 | Ed & Jackie Swartz         | (43) |
| 8/30 | Brett & Alison Strausbaugh | (28) |

### *Membership Update*

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Eileen McKinley | Donna Plunkert |
| May 25, 2025    | June 14, 2025  |
| Joined          | Deceased       |

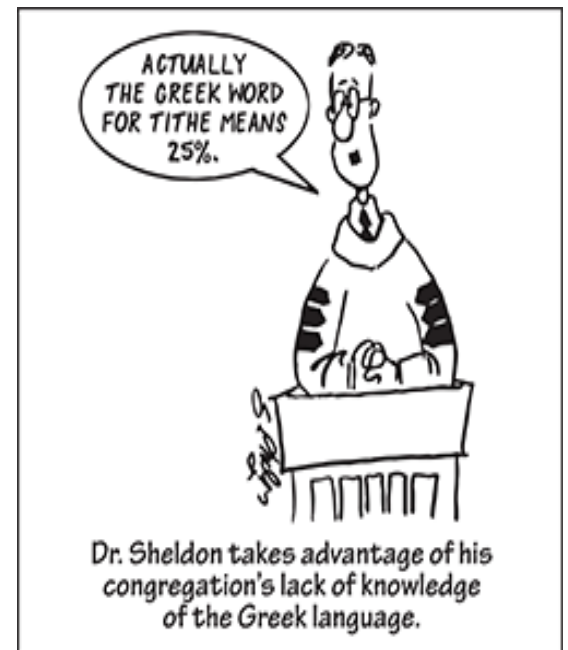
### *Uplift in Prayer*

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

Seamus Murphy, Lesley, Carol, Kelly Stefanacci, Lynn Danner, Earle & Dianne Black, Darby Kline, Amy Towel, Eileen McKinley, Pastor Mark, Donna Plunkert family, Leiland, Kim Smith, Connie Morris, Flood victims, Katie, Betty Stockslager, Dolores Beard

**Remember our Homebound:** Miriam Mills, Dale Sullivan and those living in the facilities listed below:

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Hanover Hall</b>        | <b>Spring Creek Rehab</b> |
| Esther Brown - Room 117A   | Sonja Bankert             |
| <b>Country Meadows</b>     | <b>Utz Terrace</b>        |
| Bonnie Berwager - Apt. 311 | Evelyn Dickensheets       |





| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                      | Wed                              | Thu                                   | Fri                                      | Sat       |
|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
|    |   |                          |                                  |                                       | 1  | 2         |
| <b>3</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>6 pm Movie Night   | <b>4</b><br><br>PAL @ HACC<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                | <b>5</b><br><br>8 pm AA  | <b>6</b><br><br>2 pm Line Dance  | <b>7</b><br><br>6 pm<br>Bread of Life | <b>8</b>                                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br>9 am Annual<br>Conference Report<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>Blessing of the<br>Backpacks  | <b>11</b><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm Board<br>7 pm AlAnon                               | <b>12</b><br><br>8 pm AA | <b>13</b>                        | <b>14</b>                             | <b>15</b>                                | <b>16</b> |
| Pastor Mark on Vacation  |   |                          |                                  |                                       |  |           |
| <b>17</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>Sep Newsletter<br>Article Deadline  | <b>18</b><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon   | <b>19</b><br><br>8 pm AA | <b>20</b><br><br>2 pm Line Dance | <b>21</b>                             | <b>22</b><br>9 am Newsletter<br>Assembly | <b>23</b> |
| Pastor Mark on Vacation  |   |                          |                                  |                                       |  |           |
| <b>24</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br><br><b>31</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship | <b>25</b><br><br>PAL @ HACC<br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>6 pm Deacon<br>Meeting<br>7 pm AlAnon | <b>26</b><br><br>8 pm AA | <b>27</b>                        | <b>28</b>                             | <b>29</b>                                | <b>30</b> |