



A Monthly Newsletter by the
Hanover Church of the Brethren

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SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:00 AM

WORSHIP—10:30 AM

Volume 11 Issue 10 December 2025 & January 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Mark

“Who, Exactly, are We Waiting For?”

We call this season *advent* for its meaning of awaiting the coming of something, or some *one*. But who exactly are we waiting for? What are we *really* expecting? We can all give the 'right answer,' of course, it's Jesus! But do we really understand what that means, or could mean for us, our families, our church?

In Acts 20:7-12, we are let in on a rather wild occurrence that happened while Paul was preaching on a Sunday evening. A young man sitting in a rather high window nodded off (yes, even Paul had his 'sermon sleepers' :). Without warning, he fell to his death on the street below! You would think that would bring the church service to a halt- but not on this day. Paul rushed out and raised the boy back to life! How's that for a big finish to a snooze of a sermon?

Could that happen today? What if you were there? How would you explain it to your coworkers the next day? Would you redouble your efforts to invite them to church next Sunday...? I once met a British missionary from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship who told me he had witnessed not only many healing miracles, but people raised from the dead as well! These occurrences had happened in parts of Africa yet undeveloped by Western affluence. This left their faith unclouded by 'modern' doubts, and untainted by scientific 'certainties.' Some friends there asked him once why he took aspirin for his headaches, "Why not ask God to heal you?" It was a humbling question- and perhaps a good question for us as well.

It can be dashed uncomfortable talking about such things as how much or how little faith we actually have. Yet it is worth exploring - especially at a season where we like to insist that people say

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Church Mission Statement

“Engage, Embrace, Empower with the love of God.”

Pastor

Mark Bowyer

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Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Secretary

Shal Dehoff

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Please Take Note



Please consider creating a bulletin board for 2026. The sign-up sheet is posted in the back of the sanctuary. Thanks again to all who participated in 2025.

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation notice will be sent out by email, recorded on the church's answering machine, and published on the TV 8 website. Please see Pastor Mark with any questions.



Blood Drive

Thursday, December 18
from 1 to 6 PM

Call 1-800-771-0059 to
make your appointment.

Church Directory

UPDATE

Work has begun on the 2026 Church Directory. Please check your listing and those of family members on the printed copies in the lobby. If you are no longer the main contact for an organization, please let Shal know. Deadline for changes is Sunday, December 14.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Next year's envelopes will be available for pick-up in the lobby next Sunday, Nov 30. If you prefer not to receive envelopes, please let Shal know.

Stewardship Report October 2025

Average Attendance	Sunday School	Worship
	24	60
Budget Goal (\$4,310 per week)	\$224,139	
Need to-date (44 weeks)	\$189,640	
Budget Giving to Date (79%)	\$150,505	
Designated Giving to Date	\$ 37,130	
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	\$187,635	
Budget Giving for October	\$ 10,146	
Designated Giving for October	\$ 3,803	
Building Rental	\$ 444	
Community Aid Bin	\$ 20	
Lawn Mowing	\$ 20	
Love Feast	\$ 32	
Memorial Gifts	\$ 190	
Outreach	\$ 40	
Truck Stop	\$ 80	
Yard Sale	\$ 2,977	



Bread of Life

Thursday, Dec 4

Panera Bread at 6 pm

Join us for a time of fellowship

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

In Our Church

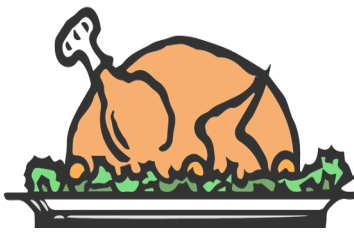
Lessons & CAROLS

Birthday Party for JESUS
Sunday, December 21



AARP Tax Prep volunteers will again be here in the fellowship hall on Mon & Tue from January 26 through April 14. Appointments must be made through the Hanover Area Council of Churches. The phone number is 717-633-6353.

Christmas Banquet



Sunday, December 14
Following Worship

We ask that you please sign the sign-up sheets to get a correct count.

Thank you, Evelyn.

Menu consists of: Turkey, Filling, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Gravy, Dessert



Cookie Donations

Needed for the
Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry

Cookies are needed. Please bring cookies to the church by Wednesday, December 3. We will be packing the cookies on Thursday, December 4 at 6:00 PM. Thank you for contributing.

-Outreach Team

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Craft Show and Soup Sale a success. The show depends on many talented volunteers. And we are grateful for all of our customers from the neighborhood. The show depends on our generous community. We are blessed.

The next gathering for Women's Fellowship will be our Christmas Party on January 10, 2026 at 9 a.m. We hope all the ladies can come for breakfast, help make plans for 2026, get a new prayer-pal, and decide how to utilize our Craft Show profits.



JOIN US at 6:00 PM
To Celebrate The Birth Of JESUS



**Wednesday,
December 17
12:00 pm**

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**Wednesday,  
January 21  
12:00 pm**

Bev Wolf and Bob Long will lead a Christmas song program on Dec 17th, 2025 at 12 noon. On Jan 21, 2026 at 12 noon Amy Despines will lead chair exercises and Phyllis Fuhrman will lead a simple line dance time. Please come and bring a covered dish and lots of friends for a fun time at both of these events!

## *In Our Church and Community*

### Youth Group Volunteering at Hanover Against Hunger



### Church Board Organizational Meeting Results

On Monday, November 10, the members of the church board met to organize for the upcoming year. Paul Bollinger was affirmed as Board Chair and Ed Morris as Vice Chair.

|                  | Fellowship & Personnel | Ministry & Worship | Outreach        | Property & Finance |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Commission Chair | Evelyn Cline           | Bob Long           |                 | Ed Morris          |
| Vice-Chair       | Amy Despines           | Millie Baker       | Susie Smith     | Andy Bowman        |
| Secretary        | Lily Sneeringer        | Connie Morris      | Cindy Bollinger | Alan Bridenbaugh   |

### Deacon Dedication

Deacon dedication will take place on Sunday, January 4. We encourage all the deacons to be present so that your assigned families can get to know you. The congregation is also a special part of this service so we are hoping to see you there.

### Church Board Installation

Church Board installation will take place on Sunday, January 11 during the worship service. The congregation is a vital part of this service as you have called and affirmed these board members. Please come and be a part of this time of blessing.

## *From the desk of Pastor Mark continued*

*Merry Christmas* rather than Happy Holidays or Season's Greetings. "They're leaving Christ out of Christmas!" we insist. Yet are we guilty of leaving Him out in practice? Do we truly believe He can heal our diseases or mend our broken relationships any more than the clerk at the department store does?

I think on the whole we should be more compassionate towards unbelievers. Jesus certainly was (Matthew 9:24-25), and we are commanded to be as well (Colossians 4:5-6). Yet He was hindered by the shaky faith of those who *ought* to have known better. Matthew tells us that the people of Jesus' hometown struggled to see Him for who He really was:

*"...he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith." -13:58*

I wonder if I hinder Him like that sometimes. I wonder how many times I have faced a difficult situation and thought, "This will never change," or "There's no way that will get better..." or "That person will never change!"

So, exactly what do we expect this Christmas? Will our broken relationships ever mend? Will peace come to our stressed out household at last? Will the money come through before the house is lost? Well, what do we believe about the One whose coming we celebrate? Can He handle our woes, heal our ills; change their hearts, pay our bills?

Thinking about the typical ho-hum Sunday service, Annie Dillard once wrote, "Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews." In other words, if we *really* knew *Who* we were dealing with, we'd have just a little more *awe*, and at least a bit more faith and lot more wonder!

The good news is that Jesus knows all this- He knows our weakness and our sometimes wimpy faith and He loves us still. That, in fact, is why He came because He knew we needed Him so much! The good news is that even though Jesus seemed hindered by the people's lack of faith, His real power is never truly diminished by our weakness. And even as we struggle with our own doubt, we can be assured that:

*"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6*

So, what are we waiting for? I am waiting upon Him to continue to change me into the one He has already perfectly redeemed through His Son. I am waiting upon Him to change this world into the New Jerusalem in which *all* will be put right. And while I am waiting, I am trusting that He will take good care of me, my family and our church family until He returns to take us home. Will you join me?

*-Pastor Mark*





12/1 Cora Trizonis  
 12/2 Joe Carolus  
 12/5 Natalie Bowman  
 12/6 Angie Ruth  
 12/7 Ed Morris  
 12/8 Pressley McMaster  
 12/10 Jon Swanson  
 12/11 Darlene Hawbaker  
 12/12 Cindy Bollinger  
 Angela Smith  
 12/13 Spud Gebhart  
 12/14 Jo Ann Kline  
 12/15 Kathy Davis  
 12/16 Lena Gavazzi  
 Cheri Sutton  
 12/17 Derek Godfrey  
 12/18 Abby Sneeringer  
 Eileen McKinley  
 12/19 Kathy Mooney  
 12/20 Russ McMaster  
 12/21 Kim Smith  
 12/24 Mary Edris  
 12/25 Ben Carlson  
 Holly Waldrup  
 Kirsten Winstead  
 12/26 Joe Hasener  
 12/30 Dolores Beard  
 12/31 Deb Robbins

1/2 Susie Smith  
 1/4 Miriam Mills  
 1/5 Elaina McDonald  
 1/6 Cindy Goodling  
 1/8 Pearl Gebhart  
 Ron Hippensteel  
 1/11 Lesley Bowyer  
 1/12 Jamie Despines  
 1/18 Barbara Myers  
 1/19 Harold Waldrup  
 1/21 Alison Hertz  
 1/28 Ryan Yingling  
 1/31 Chad Ambrosius  
 Jessica Frymyer

12/5 Dave & Sharon McMaster (27)  
 Harold & Holly Waldrup (27)  
 12/12 Alan & Lona Bridenbaugh (56)  
 12/18 Lynn & Bev Baker (49)  
 12/19 John & Linda Skiles (26)  
 12/20 Neal & Linda Yingling (28)



1/2 Jay & Melissa Godfrey (5)  
 1/5 Scott & Angie Ruth (35)

Have a Blessed Christmas



And Happy New Year

### *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.

The Replogles, Family of Randy Kearney, Eileen McKinley

**Please remember our homebound:** Miriam Mills,  
and those in the facilities listed below:

#### **Hanover Hall:**

Esther Brown - Rm 117A

#### **Spring Creek Rehab:**

Sonja Bankert

#### **Country Meadows:**

Bonnie Berwager - Apt 311

#### **Utz Terrace:**

Evelyn Dickensheets - Rm 422

### *Thank You*

Each year at Thanksgiving, the Vo family remembers Hanover COB more deeply than on any other day of the year.

Since 1979, when we received Jesus Christ as our Savior, it has now been 44 year of faith that took root and grew through the ministry of Hanover Church.

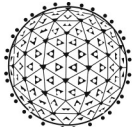
We are always grateful to the Church for it's love and compassion toward refugees. Through this ministry, we became citizens of the United States- and even more wonderfully, God received us as his children.

Thanks be to God.

Our heartfelt appreciation to the Hanover congregation and to such wonderful believers as Pat Conrad, Susan Ambrosius, Sharon Long and many others.

*The Vo Family*



| Sun                                                                                                                                                      | Mon                                                                   | Tue           | Wed                                                                                                                                                              | Thu                                                                                                           | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                                                                                                                                          | 1<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                   | 2<br>8 pm AA  | 3<br>2 pm Line Dance<br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir                                                                                                           | 4<br>9 am Crafts<br>6 pm Bread of Life<br>6 pm Cookie Packing                                                 | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                                                                                              | 8<br>PAL@HACC<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm Executive Mtg<br>7 pm AlAnon | 9<br>8 pm AA  | 10<br>2 pm Line Dance<br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir                                                                                                          | 11<br>9 am Crafts                                                                                             | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>Christmas Banquet | 15<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                  | 16<br>8 pm AA | 17<br>12 pm Over 60's<br><br>2 pm Line Dance<br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir | 18<br>9 am Crafts<br>1 pm Blood Drive                                                                         | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><i>Lessons &amp; Carols</i><br>Birthday Party for Jesus                                                  | 22<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                  | 23<br>8 pm AA | 24<br><br>6 pm Christmas Eve Service                                          | 25<br><br>MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                                                                                             | 29<br>PAL@HACC<br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm -AlAnon                     | 30<br>8 pm AA | 31<br><br>New Year's Eve                                                      | <br>December              |     |     |

| Sun                                                                                       | Mon                                                                            | Tue                                                     | Wed                                                                                                                                                                          | Thu                                                                                            | Fri                                      | Sat       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|
|          |                                                                                |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>1</i><br> | <i>2</i>                                 | <i>3</i>  |
| <i>4</i><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>Deacon Dedication                   | <i>5</i><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                 | <i>6</i><br><br>6 pm Deacons<br>8 pm AA                 | <i>7</i><br>2 pm Line Dance<br><br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir                                                                                                            | <i>8</i><br>9 am Crafts                                                                        | <i>9</i>                                 | <i>10</i> |
| <i>11</i><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>Board Installation                 | <i>12</i><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm Board Meeting<br>7 pm AlAnon          | <i>13</i><br><br>8 pm AA                                | <i>14</i><br>2 pm Line Dance<br><br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir                                                                                                           | <i>15</i><br>9 am Crafts                                                                       | <i>16</i>                                | <i>17</i> |
| <i>18</i><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>Newsletter<br>Article Deadline | <i>19</i><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon<br><br>PAL@HACC                | <i>20</i><br><br>8 pm AA                                | <i>21</i><br>12 pm Over 60's<br><br>2 pm Line Dance<br><br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir | <i>22</i><br>9 am Crafts                                                                       | <i>23</i><br>9 am Newsletter<br>Assembly | <i>24</i> |
| <i>25</i><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                       | <i>26</i><br>7 am - 2 pm<br>AARP Taxaide<br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon | <i>27</i><br>7 am - 2 pm<br>AARP Taxaide<br><br>8 pm AA | <i>28</i><br>2 pm Line Dance<br><br>6 pm Bible Study<br>7 pm Choir                                                                                                           | <i>29</i><br>9 am Crafts                                                                       | <i>30</i>                                | <i>31</i> |