



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

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:00 AM      WORSHIP—10:30 AM**

*Volume 12, Issue 4 ☎ May 2026*

*From the desk of Pastor Mark*

In a favorite scene of mine from the fine film, Chariots of Fire, the 1924 British Olympic Committee has hauled the runner, Eric Liddell before them to question his refusal to run in an olympic event on the sabbath. They find his religious commitment fanatical, and are perplexed that he would place God above national pride. Lord Cadogan, chair of the committee says as much, "In my day it was King first, God after!" An astute member of the committee, the 5th Duke of Sutherland, retorts, "Yes, and the war to end wars bitterly proved your point!" King first, God after... Conservative first. Liberal first. Progressive first. Therein lies the problem.

While few Christians on either side would say they were putting ideology ahead of God, we all run the risk of doing so when we adopt a "side" and use it as a descriptor of the kind of Christian we are. Conservative Christian, Liberal or Progressive Christian. Even Moderate Christian.

Once, a friend of mine told me that the reason he is conservative is because of the issue of abortion. I told him that on the issue of abortion, I was with him. But, I started to say, conservatives are not right about every issue just because they are right about abortion... I stammered and felt awkward even saying this, even though I believe it firmly. It seemed to me that many people assume that since conservatives are right about abortion, they can give them the benefit of the doubt on all other issues. This is a seamless conservatism. Right on the 'big' issues means that must be right about all the others. This is where I was for many years. I thought, "It's easy. I'll just stand with whatever conservatives are supposed to stand for. After all they are against supporting open homosexuality and abortion. Aren't those the most important issues? If they have those right, they must have all the other stuff right too!"

And I'm sure we could find many examples on the left. Because the left are inclusive of this or that marginalized group that is important to me, they must be trustworthy about everything else. Likewise, because "they" are wrong about one major issue, they must be wrong about everything else!

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**Church Mission Statement**

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

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9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	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 **Sunday, May 17**.



### Spring Council Meeting

Sunday, May 17

Following Morning Service

### Movie Night

May 17, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 pm

**The Chosen, Season 2**



### Blood Drive

Thursday, July 26

1 to 6 PM

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

### Stewardship Report

March 2026

Avg. Attendance:	Sunday School	Worship
	29	76
Budget Goal (\$4,202 per week)		\$218,492
Needed to-date (13 weeks)		\$ 54,626
Budget Giving to Date (79%)		\$ 43,110
Designated Giving to Date		\$ 11,207
<b>Total Giving to Date</b>		<b>\$ 54,317</b>
Budget Giving for March		\$ 24,729
Designated Giving for March		\$ 9,376
Building Rental		\$ 1,590
Camp Eder		\$ 1,500
Children's Aid		\$ 500
Flowers		\$ 272
Good Sam		\$ 500
HACC		\$ 1,500
Lawn Mowing		\$ 20
Yard Sale		\$ 3,494

### 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



But the truth is, as sinners, we all have blind spots. John 9:41 "If you were blind," Jesus told them, "you wouldn't have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." The Jewish religious leaders thought they saw (understood) but were actually blind. Their minds were made up and they refused to accept new evidence or information that might change their minds. They quizzed the blind man (whom Jesus had healed) twice and his parents once, at first refusing to believe that the man had actually been blind. When they couldn't deny the miracle, they questioned its source: Jesus could not be from God since He healed on the Sabbath. He must be a sinner. No amount of evidence or simple logic would convince them otherwise. They were obstinate in their unbelief—blind, though they thought they saw.

So a liberal who supports abortion cannot, it is supposed, be a Christian since he actually supports murder. A conservative cannot be a Christian because she supports the deportation of asylum seekers, making her cruel and unloving. While I believe that abortion is murder and that deporting asylum seekers is cruel and unloving, I must remember that one's stance on these issues is not a determining factor for one's salvation, which is based upon grace alone through faith alone. But even saved people have blind spots! Even the Apostle Paul claimed, "Now I see through a glass darkly..." If we had no blind spots, we would be like God, omniscient.

To claim we have no blindness is as bad as claiming we have no sin, for they are related! Instead, what we often do is give in to tribalism. We seek the like-minded with us on issues we are most passionate about. Hence MAGA. Hence the Rainbow Coalition. Hence deep, passionate national division. Additionally, we are energized by tribalism. It is satisfying to belong, and so much easier that being an outlier, even on one issue! Yet if both sides have blind spots (as they must), then tribalism cannot be the answer. Each side has a piece of the truth. And it takes work to discover truth wherever it abides. The first step is to believe that the other may actually be right about something; not wrong about everything.

The inability to see the good the other side is doing is unfair as well as dangerous. Conservatives who said the country is being destroyed by the Left for instance, need to recognize what good the liberals have done. A short list would include ending slavery, supporting women's suffrage, equal rights, and far far more... One can now swim and fish in most of our rivers and the Great Lakes without concern! As a boy, I could not swim in Lake Erie without real fear of illness from pollution, and the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland burned with chemical fires on numerous occasions. Smog choked many cities, and corporations dumped toxic waste near neighborhoods, poisoning the water tables and killing many with cancers. It was liberals who fought for environmental cleanup, and conservatives who fought against it hard, defending the right of corporations to do as they pleased.

But some liberals and progressives have also supported abortion in all of its forms as well as other abominable practices such as eugenics (exterminating unwanted people in a society). Adolph Hitler read and was inspired by American authors on that awful subject. While conservatives have defended the unborn (Actually only since the 1980s. Before that they were mainly pro-choice), defended the sanctity of marriage, and championed individual responsibility, many of them currently support the arrest and deportation of people here in the US with a legal path to belonging and show no mercy for them. This despite Biblical injunction which commands loving the foreigner as oneself, treating them as native-born (Leviticus 19:33-34 and many others). Law and order must be generally followed to help ensure a peaceful society, but certainly no German Christian should have encouraged the law and order of the Gestapo! And Jesus often spoke of how mercy is superior to the law among His followers. (Matthew 18:21-35).

I find this quote from Bishop William J. Barber, II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove most helpful: "As teachers in the church, we have a responsibility to make clear that there is no such thing as a 'conservative Christian' - nor a 'liberal' or 'progressive' Christian, for that matter. To commit one's life to the way of Christ is to accept that all people are created in God's image, that life is a gift to treasure, that the dividing line between good and evil runs through each of us, and that we are called to love our enemies, not exterminate them. No one who calls themselves 'Christian' - us included - is a perfect example of Christ. But we deceive ourselves and mislead others if we pretend that a failure to follow the way of Christ can be justified by adding an adjective in front of 'Christian.'"

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## Church Events

### ALL CHURCH VBS

#### SAVE THE DATES!

JUNE 17th, 18th and 19th from 6-8:30 PM with a closing celebration at church on Sunday June 20th with a carry-in meal following.

WAVES OF GRATITUDE is the theme of this year's VBS for all ages. After a successful maiden voyage in 2025 our leadership has made the decision to embark on another voyage. Plans have already begun, with identification of a theme and beginning the search for willing leaders for various positions. There is still a place for each, and everyone's gifts and talents to contribute. So please mark the dates and spread the news and let's get ready to set sail.

*Millie Baker and Cindy Goodling, co-chairs*

### Over 60's Meeting on May 20



The Over 60's Group will meet on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 12 noon. We will be entertained by the Hanover High School Vocal Musical Department. Don't forget to put a little extra in your covered dish and invite your friends.



### Women's Fellowship

Our Girls' Night Out, a.k.a. Mother and Daughter Banquet will be on May 9 at 6 p.m. This year, the meal is free, but we encourage people to bring a donation to recognize New Hope Ministries' new program in New Oxford. This program helps to provide meals to people who are in need. Suggested items that you can donate are: peanut butter, canned chicken or tuna, canned soups, instant mashed potatoes, shampoo, conditioner, soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush, toothpaste. Our speaker will be Samiah Slusser from New Hope Ministries.

Any ladies who are interested in attending will need to sign up (no tickets are necessary). Our meal will be soup, salad, bread, and pie. The soups will be taco, vegetable, cheddar broccoli, Indian cauliflower, chicken corn. There will be vegetarian, gluten free, and lactose free choices. Children 10 and under will be served chicken nuggets, applesauce, and mac and cheese.

Come and enjoy our time together, and learn how New Hope is helping our community.

We are looking for several men to volunteer for serving the meal and cleanup.



### *From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued*

I have friends who have stopped reading Russell Moore (editor at-large of Christianity Today) altogether because of his lack of support for Donald Trump and his praise for certain Democratic policies. They say that he has drifted too far left. But Moore is a born again blood washed brother, and he still has many important things to say- even to his more conservative brethren. If one decides to write him off, that is tribalism. He is no longer one of "us," so why listen? That logic all but guarantees that a person is no longer open to learning. Only my tribe's information will be trusted! And thus unnecessary division ensues! The Apostle Paul wrote that we are to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3 That includes listening to and engaging with each other!

It takes real courage to detach from the tribe and aim to follow Jesus purely and wholeheartedly. And the cost of not doing so is too great, since it leads to ungodly disunity in the Body of Christ.





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

5/6	Ryan & Jessica Yingling	(20)
	Ed & Connie Morris	(48)
5/17	Kevin & Christine Mowry	(23)
5/19	Bob & Carol Krouse	(54)
5/20	Abe & Laura Church	(20)
5/21	Joe & Betsy Carolus	(8)
5/25	Jordan & Cierra Weaver	(7)
5/29	Jim & Carol Replogle	(72)
5/30	Jason & Lisa Konopinski	(22)

### *Card Shower*

Bonnie Berwager, a member of our church for many years, will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 9. Please send her a card to help her celebrate this milestone event. Her address is 1900 Trolley Rd, Apt 311, York, PA 17408.

### *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.

Evelyn Cline, Mary Miller Myers, Lesley Bowyer and family, Family of Miriam Mills

#### **Hanover Hall**

Esther Brown, Rm 117A

#### **Spring Creek Rehab**

Sonja Bankert

#### **Country Meadows**

Bonnie Berwager, Apt 311

#### **Brethren Home**

Mary Kate Henry, PC Rm 2918

Dolores Beard, PC Rm 4931

Mary Ann Dissinger, BR Rm 210

#### **Utz Terrace**

Evelyn Dickensheets, Rm 422

### *In Memory*



### *Thank You*

Thank you for allowing us access to your fellowship hall once again as a site for the AARP Tax program. This year we were able to file 702 federal tax returns from this site. This is a tremendous benefit for our community. Many taxpayers expressed their gratitude, especially those qualifying for Property Tax/ Rent Rebate.

I look forward to continuing this relationship in the future. Please let me know if there is anything I can change to make this effort more convenient for your staff.

*Mike Staub*

*and the Hanover AARP Tax Team*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>4</b> PAL@HACC  6 pm Line Dance 7 pm ALAnon	<b>5</b> 11 am Bible Study  6 pm Deacons 8 pm AA	<b>6</b>  7 pm Choir	<b>7</b> 9 am Crafts  6 pm Bread of Life	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>   6 pm Girls Night Out
<b>10</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>Mother's Day</b> 	<b>11</b> 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm ALAnon	<b>12</b> 11 am Bible Study  8 pm AA	<b>13</b>  7 pm Choir	<b>14</b> 9 am Crafts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Singspiration Sunday  Council Meeting June/July Newsletter Deadline <b>6 pm Movie Night</b>	<b>18</b> 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm ALAnon	<b>19</b> 11 am Bible Study  8 pm - AA	<b>20</b> 12 pm Over 60's  	<b>21</b> 9 am Crafts	<b>22</b> 9 am Newsletter Assembly	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>31</b> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>25</b> PAL@HACC  <b>Memorial Day</b> 	<b>26</b> 11 am Bible Study  8 pm - AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 am Crafts	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>