



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 6 ☞ August 2026

## *From the Desk of Pastor Mark*

*Colossians 3:11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

Baptist. Lutheran. Methodist. Anglican. Orthodox. Church of God. Church of Christ. Church of God in Christ. Brethren in Christ. River Brethren. Brethren. Church of the Brethren... Shall I go on? Were I to try and complete the list, I would need somewhere between 50 and 60 pages! That's how many Christian denominations exist in the world today. Their worship practices run the spectrum from strict, detailed liturgy to wild dancing in the aisles to merely sitting in a circle in silence for an entire service. And everything in between. Is that good news or bad? Is it awesome that there are so many different groups with such a variety of styles that claim Christ as Lord? Or is it a bewildering travesty that we cannot seem to find one way in common to worship the One who is worthy? And furthermore, who is right? Who is closest to what God really wants?? I have been asked recently by more than one person to begin explaining why we do what we do as Brethren – and more specifically why we don't do some of the things other denominations do. This article will be, I hope, the beginning of an answer.

*~Continued on page 5*



### *Inside This Issue*

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Anniversaries/ Birthdays | 7 |
| Church Calendar          | 8 |
| Our Church               | 3 |
| Please Take Note         | 2 |
| Stewardship Report       | 2 |
| VBS Pictures             | 4 |

### **Church Mission Statement**

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

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

## Please Take Note

### Stewardship Report

#### May 2026

| Average Attendance             | Sunday School | Worship          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|                                | 32            | 78               |
| Budget Goal (\$4,202 per week) |               | \$218,492        |
| Need to-date (22 weeks)        |               | \$ 92,444        |
| Budget Giving to Date (85%)    |               | \$ 78,161        |
| Designated Giving to Date      |               | \$ 19,211        |
| <b>TOTAL GIVING TO DATE</b>    |               | <b>\$ 97,372</b> |
| Budget Giving for May          |               | \$ 15,869        |
| Designated Giving for May      |               | \$ 5,679         |
| Building Rental                |               | \$ 429           |
| Building Repair Fund           |               | \$ 100           |
| Camp Eder                      |               | \$ 470           |
| Hygiene Kits                   |               | \$ 155           |
| Lawn Mowing                    |               | \$ 20            |
| Memorial Gifts                 |               | \$ 75            |
| Wood Trim                      |               | \$ 4,430         |

#### June 2026

| Average Attendance             | Sunday School | Worship          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|                                | 25            | 78               |
| Budget Goal (\$4,202 per week) |               | \$218,492        |
| Need to-date (26 weeks)        |               | \$109,252        |
| Budget Giving to Date (92%)    |               | \$ 100,630       |
| Designated Giving to Date      |               | \$ 23,387        |
| <b>TOTAL GIVING TO DATE</b>    |               | <b>\$124,017</b> |
| Budget Giving for June         |               | \$ 22,469        |
| Designated Giving for June     |               | \$ 4,176         |
| Building Rental                |               | \$ 538           |
| Children's Aid                 |               | \$ 360           |
| Lawn Mowing                    |               | \$ 30            |
| Memorial Gifts                 |               | \$ 50            |
| VBS                            |               | \$ 1,588         |
| Wood Trim                      |               | \$ 1,610         |



Receiving New Members, July 19

### Southern PA District Conference



September 18 & 19, 2026

Chambersburg, PA



### Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 23

Children and youth, please remember to bring your backpack to church on **August 23** to have it blessed for the school year.

## Women's Fellowship

We had our fun night on July 16. Eighteen ladies attended. Everyone had a good time with great food, fun games, and making a craft item. We also received many donated items for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The Pillow Club will fill the shoe boxes with those items. The boxes will be saved until November when the formal shoe box collection occurs. Thank you to everyone for your help and generous giving.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, to make plans for the Christmas Craft Show.



## National Youth Conference Trip



## Yard Sale



**Friday  
September 18**

**7:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Saturday  
September 19**

**7:00 am – 12:00 pm**

We are holding a two-day yard sale again. Please bring items from your home and have your friends bring items. All items will be an asset to this sale.

### DONATIONS

Collection will begin August 2 and continue through Wednesday, September 16. Items can be dropped off during the day or call Amy for a special drop-off time. Please place all items in the Fellowship Hall on the stage behind the curtain.

All items should be clean and in working order. We cannot sell broken or unusable items. Make sure clothing is clean and usable.

Please refrain from bringing large items until Monday, September 14.

We **DO NOT ACCEPT** electronics, sofas or exercise equipment.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday – Thursday, September 14-17 throughout the day, we will be setting up the Fellowship Hall. Anyone that can help will be much appreciated. Set-up includes sorting and hanging clothing, displaying items, and FUN.

Friday, September 18, 7:00 – 3:00 and Saturday, September 19, 7:00 – end. Help carry items to cars, organize tables, keep order during the day and talk with shoppers. All help is greatly appreciated!

### BAKED GOODS

Baked goods can be dropped off anytime Thursday, Sep 17. Please have the items bagged and priced for sale. Cakes and soups are appreciated too.

### CLEAN UP

When the sale is over, after 12pm, Sat., we will need people to take down tables and clean up.

Any help that you can give during the week will be greatly appreciated!!!

Any questions - call Amy Despines at 717-451-5071 (if there is no answer, please leave a message).



# Fun at VBS 2026



*From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued*

Though the number of groups is far higher today, this issue is nothing new. Right from the beginning of the church, people of different backgrounds started worshipping Jesus in different styles – styles that reflected their own background and upbringing. Jewish Christians worshipped according to the structure of the synagogue service, and the pagans struggled to find a new way to worship altogether since their former practices held some pretty un-Christ-like elements (including temple prostitution)! But even the Jews struggled to find one style. There were Jews from Jerusalem and Jews from Ethiopia and everywhere in between. So as Christianity spread, it's worship ran along the lines of the worship cultures that already existed. As conflicts arose and as each successive generation was raised up and took over leadership, the changes multiplied and multiplied, as they continue to do today.

Perhaps the greatest watershed event in the history of the church was the Reformation- the beginning of Protestantism as Martin Luther and his followers rebelled against the corrupt practices of the Catholic Church in the early 16th century. From its Lutheran beginnings, Protestantism has splintered into the vast majority of the many groups that exist today. While Catholicism has changed through the centuries, it still persists as essentially one church today.

While this is making a long story short, suffice it to say that we finally got to where we are today- many thousands of sects (different groups) all claiming Christ as Lord, and worshipping Him in a wild variety of styles- from loud to silent; from busy and dramatic to relaxed and informal.

So again, who is right? Who worships most accurately? Biblically? Well, the only actual instruction for worship in the Bible is the instruction for the people of Israel from their early days in the wilderness learning to worship in the tabernacle (a sort of portable temple made of tents) to the worship in the actual Temple in Jerusalem. And that style involved singing, dancing (Exodus 15:20, 2 Samuel 6:16), shouting, and loud instruments (Psalm 150)! If we were to take our cue from the Old Testament alone, then our Pentecostal and charismatic brothers and sisters are very close indeed to right worship.

But that style did not last. When the temple was destroyed in 433 BC, the exuberant worship of the temple came to an end. The Jews began worshipping in synagogues (houses of teaching and worship that arose after the temple was destroyed) instead, and because of the somber mood of the post-temple period, instrumental music was largely abandoned. Even vocal music became more subdued. After a time, the legalistic Pharisees began teaching that instrumental music and loud singing were unseemly and inappropriate for worshipping God. But there is nothing in Scripture that supports this teaching.

*~continued on page 6*



*From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued*

The early church seems to have 'started over' in terms of its worship, taking its cue from the simple instructions of Jesus when He said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Early Christians continued for a time worshiping on the Sabbath (Saturday) in the synagogues. But they also met on the first day of the week (Sunday) to commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection by holding a love feast (common meal) and celebrating communion. Gradually, as more non-Jews came into the church, Saturday worship was replaced by Sunday love feast, communion and worship. Music was probably fairly simple at first- mostly the singing of Psalms with chanting. But eventually music became more elaborate- in some cases returning to the joy and exuberance of the Temple period.

The bottom line was that Christians understood they were to worship authentically (from the heart), and observe communion regularly. The form of worship was never as important as the spirit of worship. As Jesus had told His disciples, "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Even when there was a clearly prescribed service for worship for the Jews in the Old Testament, God was still far more concerned with the heart of worship rather than its structure; with people's attitudes rather than their mere attendance:

*Amos 5:21 "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"*

Anyone can put on a good "show" of worship- God wants the real thing! So this is where we start- with the need for authentic and genuine worship, whatever it's form.

Pastor Mark





# AUGUST

## Birthdays



# AUGUST

## Anniversaries

|      |                  |      |                  |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 8/3  | Neal Yingling    | 8/17 | Dan Hawbaker     |
|      | Martin Baggerman | 8/18 | Ed Swartz        |
| 8/4  | Ken Becker       |      | Scott Sanders    |
|      | Carolyn Byers    | 8/19 | Shawn Frymyer    |
| 8/5  | Brock Swartz     | 8/22 | Ray Mummert      |
|      | Emma Gavazzi     |      | Rachel Hornbaker |
| 8/10 | Melissa Miller   | 8/23 | Linda Staub      |
|      | 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 |

|      |                            |      |
|------|----------------------------|------|
| 8/2  | Bruce & Deb Stambaugh      | (57) |
| 8/4  | Ben & Emily Fleming        | (10) |
|      | Russell & Angela McMaster  | (36) |
| 8/10 | Pork & Brenda Dell         | (24) |
| 8/11 | Joe & Lisa Luckenbaugh     | (36) |
| 8/21 | Ed & Jackie Swartz         | (44) |
| 8/23 | Barton & Karen Klunk       | (46) |
| 8/30 | Brett & Alison Strausbaugh | (29) |

## *Thank You*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you for your donation in the amount of \$245, towards the District Meat Canning project.

Your contributions to our Southern Pennsylvania District Ministries is much appreciated.

With Gratitude,

Traci Rabenstein

District Executive Minister



## WELCOME New Members

Dawn Deal Wells, Tina Hare,  
Harper Stitik, Dennis Hare



## IN Loving Memory

Mary Kate Henry  
Betty Stockslager

## *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.

Pastor Mark, Taylor, Kobie, Krew, Sue Ambrosius, Pork & Brenda Dell, Mary Kate Henry family, Richard Shriver, Carol Wolf, Mary Myers, Betty Stockslager family, Dolores Beard, Janet Ecker, Gloria, Dale & Lisa Dickensheets, April Endor, Evelyn Dickensheets

### **Hanover Hall**

Esther Brown, Rm 117A

### **Spring Creek Rehab**

Sonja Bankert

### **Utz Terrace**

Evelyn Dickensheets, Rm 422

### **Brethren Home**

Dolores Beard, PC Rm 4931

Mary Ann Dissinger, BR Rm 210

Dear Friends:

Disasters often strike without warning, but thanks to your generous contribution, we will be better prepared to provide emergency assistance when and where it is needed.

Your gift helps to provide long-term recovery assistance and assist many communities to rebuild and to mitigate future disasters

Thank you for your your gift of \$200. May God bless you for your support.

Rick Santos,

President and CEO

Church World Service



| Sun                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                                                            | Tue                                           | Wed       | Thu                                               | Fri                                                                                                                                                   | Sat       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                               |                                                                                                |                                               |           |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                       |           |
| <b>2</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                                                                             | <b>3</b><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                                 | <b>4</b><br><br>8 pm AA                       | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>9 am Crafts<br><br>6 pm Bread of Life | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                                                                             | <b>10</b><br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm Board<br>7 pm AlAnon                                  | <b>11</b><br>11 am Bible Study<br><br>8 pm AA | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br>9 am Crafts                          | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><br>Newsletter Article Deadline                                                         | <b>17</b><br>PAL @ HACC<br><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon                                  | <b>18</b><br>11 am Bible Study<br><br>8 pm AA | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>9 am Crafts                          | <b>21</b><br>9 am Newsletter Assembly<br><br><br>6 pm Game Night | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br><i>Budget Worksheets Due</i><br><br><b>30</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship | <b>24</b><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon<br><br><b>31</b><br>6 pm Line Dance<br>7 pm AlAnon | <b>25</b><br>11 am Bible Study<br><br>8 pm AA | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>9 am Crafts                          | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>29</b> |