



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 7 ☘ September 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Mark

“Where would our church be if everyone there were exactly as committed as I am?”

If we were a business, or a secular nonprofit, or perhaps military, a penetrating question like this might be appropriate. After all, isn't a chain only as strong as its weakest link? Suppose everyone gave financially the same portion that I give. Or only attended as often as I do. Or volunteered only as often as I do. You get the idea. For some, we might expect the church to be flourishing, while others of us might fear the church would be anemic at best with my level of commitment!

Aren't you glad that's not how it works! I sure am! The Kingdom of God rests not on the strength of its members, but on that of its Savior and King! Our service is in response to what the King has given us!

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

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Church Mission Statement

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

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Pastor	Secretary
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Office Hours	Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday	Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Please Take Note



Fall Council Meeting Sunday, October 25

Reports are due to the church office by September 20.



The Over 60's Group will reconvene in October due to the Church Yard Sale being scheduled for the same week as our September gathering. Stay tuned for details on our next meeting in the October Newsletter.

Stewardship Report July 2026

Average Attendance	Sunday School 30	Worship 71
Budget Goal (\$4,202 per week)		\$ 218,492
Need to-date (31 weeks)		\$ 130,262
Budget Giving to Date (85%)		\$ 111,330
Designated Giving to Date		\$ 26,570
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE		\$ 137,900
Budget Giving for July		\$ 10,700
Designated Giving for July		\$ 3,183
Bereavement		\$ 500
Building Rental		\$ 486
Children's Aid		\$ 60
Habitat		\$ 185
Heifer		\$ 1,222
Lawn Mowing		\$ 10
Memorial Gifts		\$ 700
Wood Trim		\$ 20



CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN

Choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00. If you are interested in joining the choir this year, please get in touch with Roxie Schloyer.



BREAD OF LIFE

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3,
6:00 PM**

PANERA BREAD

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

Fall Blood Drive

Thursday, October 1 from 1 to 6 PM



Hanover Church is hosting Central PA Blood Bank in collecting blood. Call 1-800-771-0059 to make your appointment.

In Our Church

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY
Love Feast - Sunday, October 4

TRUNK OR TREAT

Tuesday, October 27
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Please consider
decorating a trunk



Come Out and Join the Fun!



Women's Fellowship will have a meeting on September 17 at 7 pm to discuss plans for the Christmas Craft Show. The show will be on Saturday, November 14 from 8 to 2. As usual, there will be lots of baked goods, soups, breakfast sandwiches, lunch items, and plenty of fun. If you can help, please let our officers know. Vendors are already booking their tables. We are also looking for families to host a share-a-meal. Thanks to everyone for supporting our group.

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).

CAR SHOW



SEPTEMBER 12
FROM 9-12



FREE COFFEE
AND DONUTS



RAIN DATE:
SEP 26

NO ENTRANCE FEE





From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued

Paul is simply saying, you cannot do everything, so quit trying! Do what He has given you to do, no more and no less. When we're all doing what we are *gifted* with (given by *grace*), the church will run smoothly enough!

Now don't get me wrong, our giving and attendance and hard work matter greatly to the institution of the local church, but we must never confuse our efforts with His sustaining grace! Consider the following:

Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Truth is, if we focus too much on what we're doing right, we can find ourselves working *against* His plan! He offers to save us in our helplessness, but we find ourselves said, "No thanks, Lord, I got this!" When that is you or me, we need to repent! That doesn't mean "try harder," it means admit you can't do it- that you are weak, but *He* is strong!

Most evangelical Christians would agree that *salvation*, the gift of God's forgiveness and eternal life, is by grace *alone*, but then they (we?) often set about trying to fix themselves so that they can "act saved." Believe the scriptures, if salvation is by grace alone, then so is *sanctification* (our getting better). How could it be otherwise?

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you [make you holy] through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Let's not get our rolls confused. *He* is the Savior! Sure, we want to cooperate with what He is doing in us; we want to make the good choices, etc. But when we fail, He does not throw in the towel, so neither should we. When we intentionally choose the wrong path, He still knows the way back, and will chase us down until we are spent and too tired to run any further. Then he'll lead us home. Carry us if He has too.

So, while the pastor in me sometimes wants to crack the whip and say, "Get to church more often, give more, do MORE!" I just need to look in the mirror to remember that's not where the real strength comes from... So get a milkshake, and do what you can, not what you can't!

Now, If I haven't explained this very well (or even if I have), please do your own reading on the matter! A brief *Bibliography* (get it?:) on strength and weakness can be found in the following scriptures I commend to your reading: Isaiah 40:27-31, Isaiah 53:4-6, Galatians 3:13-14, Philippians 2:6-8, Colossians 2:13-14, Titus 3:4-7, and a vivid example in 2 Cor 12:7-10.

And please, share your insights on this with me! I'll always make time for coffee or lunch or just a chat at home or at the office! Discipleship is best done together!

Pastor Mark





9/2 Archie Oller	9/18 Brian Landi
Jessica Yingling	Pat Molison
9/3 Randy Dickensheets	Sharon Wetzel
David McMaster	9/20 Hayley Franco
9/4 Gloria Yinger	9/21 Randy Fuhrman
9/5 Jane Bean	Ed Maxwell
Roger Bollinger	Carol Snyder
Amanda Morris	9/22 Dean Gladfelter
9/7 Paige Godfrey	9/23 Tim Bunty
9/10 Genevieve Duttera	9/24 Muriel Myers
Adam Franco	Kara Rusinko
Sarah Reynolds	9/25 Lauren Barlow
9/13 Melissa Duckworth	Jason Sullivan
9/14 Adam Livingston	9/26 Kenneth Duckworth
9/15 Andrew Luckenbaugh	Arwen Estright
Kaitlyn Duttera	9/28 Patrick Stambaugh
9/16 Evan Swartz	9/29 Oliver McDonald
9/17 Matthew Jacobs	Lisa Konopinski
	9/30 Earle Black
	Adam Godfrey

9/1 Paul & Cindy Bollinger	(37)
9/4 Shawn & Jessica Frymyer	(16)
Bob & Lori Meminger	(23)
9/14 Joe & Sandy Hurtack	(46)
9/18 Buddie & Rebecca Sowers	(22)
9/20 Jeff & Lena Gavazzi	(23)



Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you for your donation in the amount of \$200, towards the District Meat Canning project.

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

With Gratitude,
Traci Rabenstein
District Executive Minister



*Evelyn
Dickensheets
July 31, 2026*

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.

Gene Blemings, Dave Smith, Delores Beard, Family of Don Miller, Family of Evelyn Dickensheets, Pat & Paul Knaub

Hanover Hall
Esther Brown, Rm 117A
Spring Creek Rehab
Sonja Bankert

Brethren Home
Mary Ann Dissinger, BR Rm 210
Dolores Beard, PC Rm 4931



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11 am Bible Study 6 pm Deacons 8 pm AA	2	3 9 am Crafts 6 pm Bread of Life	4	5
6 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	7 	8 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	9 7 pm Choir	10 9 am Crafts	11	12 9 am – 12 pm 
13 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	14 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm Board 7 pm AlAnon	15 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	16 7 pm Choir	17 9 am Crafts 7 pm WF	18 YARD SALE 	19 YARD SALE  District Conference
20 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Article Deadline Council Reports Due to Office	21 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	22 8 pm AA	23 7 pm Choir	24 9 am Crafts	25 9 am Newsletter Assembly	26 9 – 12 Car Show Rain Date
27 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	28 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	29 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	30 7 pm Choir			