THE VINE
Faith~Fellowship~Family

A Monthly Newsletter by the
Hanover Church of the Brethren
601 Wilson Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331
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SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:00 AM WORSHIP—10:30 AM
Volume 12, Issue 10 December 2026 & January 2027

From the Desk of Pastor Mark

COTTAGE MEETINGS REPORT 2026

Friends, I want to THANK EVERYONE again who hosted and attended our Cottage Meetings this year! They were very helpful indeed. The discussions were rich and informative, and the suggestions were thoughtful and useful. I have condensed the feedback we received into the following report. If your specific idea or comment is not mentioned here, please know that it was heard and considered. Feel free to reach out to me with any further ideas!

Host's Devotionals were very meaningful and helpful to set the tone of the gathering. Thank you hosts!

Ice Breakers helped us get to know one another better.

Cottage Questions

What blesses you most about being a part of Hanover CoB?
Every group said that family was the best thing about our church - the way we truly care for one another in prayer and serving. Also mentioned often were our wonderful music program and the importance of the small groups we have (like Pillow Club, Sunday school, etc.).

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Church Mission Statement

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

Pastor
Mark Bowyer
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mbowyer1@gmail.com

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

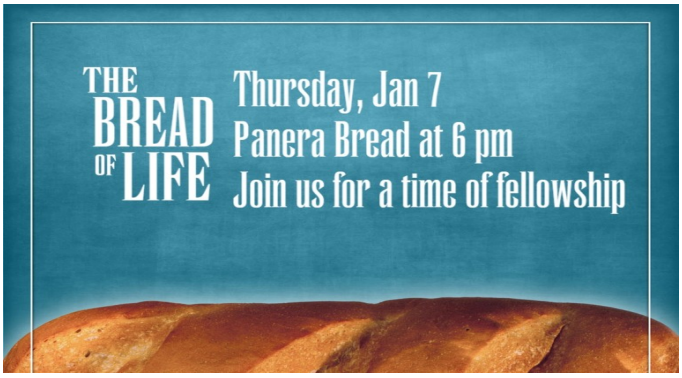
Secretary
Marylou McCormack
717-632-2267
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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Please Take Note



Please consider creating a bulletin board for 2027. The sign-up sheet is posted in the back of the sanctuary. Thanks again to all who participated in 2026.





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.



Work has begun on the 2027 Church Directory. Please check your listing and those of family members on the printed copy in the lobby. Deadline for changes is December 20.

Stewardship Report
October 2026

Average Attendance	Sunday School	Worship
	28	67

Budget Goal ($4,202 per week)	$218,492
Need to-date (44 weeks)	$184,888
Budget Giving to Date (79%)	$146,379
Designated Giving to Date	$ 38,340
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	**$184,718**
Budget Giving for October	$ 8718
Designated Giving for October	$ 1400
Building Rental	$ 565
Benevolence Fund	$ 160
Lawn Mowing	$ 10
Memorial Gifts	$ 100
Shal's Retirement	$ 545
Wood Trim	$ 20



The 2027 offering envelopes will be available to pick up in the lobby shortly. If your current number is higher than 175, you have been assigned a new number starting in 2027.

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



Sunday, December 13 Following Worship

The Fellowship and Personnel Commission encourages you to sign up for the annual Christmas Banquet to be held on **December 13.** Sign-up sheets can be found around the church.



Wednesday, December 16 12:00 pm
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Wednesday, January 20 12:00 pm

The Over 60's Group will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 12 noon. We will be entertained by Bob Long and Bev Wolf. Please come and have some Christmas fun. Please bring yourself, some friends and a dish to share.

On January 20, 2027 at 12 noon the Over 60's Group will meet. Program to be announced. Bring friends and a dish to share.



AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will again be here in the fellowship hall on Mondays and Tuesdays, from February 1 through April 13. Call 717-633-6353 to make an appointment.



JOIN US on December 24 at 6:00 PM
To Celebrate The Birth of JESUS



December 3 from 1 pm to 6 pm. Please call Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank at 1-800-771-0059 to schedule an appointment or schedule online at 717GiveBlood.org. Donating could save up to three people's lives!!

Cookie donations needed for the Truck Stop Ministry

All you bakers, get the flour and sugar ready, because we need cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry. Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen labeled 'Truck Stop Ministry'. We will be bagging cookies on Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 3 pm. (No one will need to drive after dark.) We hope to see you there!



In Our Church and Community



The Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Christmas Craft Show a success!

This includes the army of volunteers, the variety of reliable vendors, the share-a-meal hosts, the silent-auction item donors, and the generous customers. Everyone who played a part at the show was a blessing to our church.

On January 9 at 9 am, we will have our Women's Fellowship Christmas party. We will have breakfast, choose new payer-pals, elect new officers, and decide where to send our 2026 profits. We hope all of the church ladies can attend.





From the desk of Pastor Mark continued

What is something we do especially well?
Many things were said here! The foremost was how welcoming a church we are, and how genuine that welcome is. Other things included: again our music program, the blended nature of our music (that we include hymns and modern songs), the warm fellowship of Love Feast, our worship leaders, Biblical preaching, our outreach and volunteerism, and the fact that we are non-judgmental. Great cooks were also mentioned! As pastor, I said that two words come to mind when I think of our church: gracious and mature. When we have had conflict, it has been solved in grace, and when decisions are made, they are made with spiritual maturity in mind, not merely practicality.

Vision statement: "Engage, Embrace, Empower with the love of God." How do you see us carrying this out? How well are we doing?
Our outreach programs were cited as ways we engage the community. Our various small groups were highlighted as a way we embrace and empower each other.

What is something that concerns you at Hanover CoB?
The main concern expressed was that of our aging congregation and the wish that we had more young people and kids. Other concerns included the need for more folks to be willing to serve on Church Board and how a lot of work falls on certain key people.

What could the church and the pastor be doing better?
As for the church, helping folks be better informed about what our small groups do, and making the kids more visible during children's story. Other suggestions are mentioned in the next section.

As for the pastor, most comments related to being better organized! Other comments included keeping folks better informed of upcoming things, and don't go so fast in the sermon. Strengths included preaching, openness, and mingling with folks before and after the service.

What other ideas would you like to share?
We had many good suggestions, all of which are being considered even if not mentioned here. Ideas included putting some of the liturgy on the screen, holding Love Feast after church, and holding Easter service earlier to reduce the gap before Sunday school and get folks home earlier to celebrate. Highlighting new people or even regular attenders in the newsletter was suggested as well. Having Board and Congregational Wish Lists (for goal setting) was also suggested.

Joys and Concerns were shared and prayed for.

Prayer closed us out each time.

I hope you found this helpful! Please reach out with any questions or further ideas!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mark

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2 Joe Carolus
12/5 Natalie Bowman
12/6 Angie Ruth
12/7 Ed Morris
12/8 Pressley McMaster
12/9 Dawn Deal Wells
12/11 Darlene Hawbaker
12/12 Cindy Bollinger
Angela Smith
12/13 Spud Gebhart
12/14 Jo Ann Kline
12/16 Lena Gavazzi
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
Kat Winstead
12/26 Joe Hasener
12/30 Dolores Beard
12/31 Deb Robbins

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2 Susie Smith
1/5 Elaina McDonald
1/6 Cindy Goodling
1/8 Pearl Gebhart
1/11 Lesley Bowyer
1/12 Jamie Despines
1/15 Everett Estright
1/18 Barbara Myers
1/19 Rusty Waldrup
1/21 Alison Hertz
1/22 Martha Lerew
1/27 Brian Miller
1/28 Ryan Yingling
1/31 Chad Ambrosius
Jessica Frymyer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/5 Dave & Sharon McMaster (28)
Rusty & Holly Waldrup (28)
12/12 Alan & Lona Bridenbaugh (57)
12/18 Lynn & Bev Baker (50)
12/19 John & Linda Skiles (27)
12/20 Neal & Linda Yingling (29)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Hanover Hall
Esther Brown, Rm 117A

Brethren Home
Mary Ann Dissinger
BR Rm 210

Spring Creek Rehab
Sonja Bankert

Homebound: Bonnie Menchey, Donald and Barbara Myers, Richard Shriver, Shirley Sullivan



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	2 7 pm Choir	3 1-6 pm Blood Drive	4	5
6 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm Cookie Packing for Truck Stop Ministry	7 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	8 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	9 7 pm Choir	10 9 am Crafts	11	12
13 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Christmas Banquet after church 	14 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm Executive Board Meeting 7 pm AlAnon	15 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	16 12 pm Over 60's 7 pm Choir	17 9 am Crafts	18	19
20 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	21 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon PAL@HACC	22 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	23 7 pm Choir	24 6 pm Candlelight Service 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26
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	31		

JANUARY 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 	2
3 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	5 11 am Bible Study 6 pm Deacon's Meeting 8 pm AA	6 7 pm Choir	7 9 am Crafts 6 pm Bread of Life	8	9 9 am Women's Fellowship Holiday Party
10 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	11 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm AlAnon	12 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	13 7 pm Choir	14 9 am Crafts	15	16
17 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Women's Fellowship Share-a-Meal Dinner Newsletter Article Deadline	18 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	19 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	20 12 pm Over 60's 7 pm Choir	21 9 am Crafts	22 9 am Newsletter Assembly	23
24 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 31 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	25 7 am - 2 pm Tax Prep Set Up 6 pm Line Dance 7 pm AlAnon	26 11 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	27 7 pm Choir	28 9 am Crafts	29	30