



A Monthly Newsletter by the
Hanover Church of the Brethren

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

Volume 10, Issue 5 ☎ June & July 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Mark

"What About Evil?"

What about evil? What is it, and why does God allow it to exist? According to our Orthodox friends, evil is not a thing or substance that exists in its own right. It is the absence of good; the absence of God and submission to Him:

"Our Orthodox Christian theology views evil not as a primeval essence that is co-eternal and equal to God, but rather a falling away from good. Evil does not exist in and of itself, and was not created by God. Our Orthodox Church rejects the Gnostic teaching that the entirety of being is made up of two realms which have forever existed together: the kingdom of light, and the kingdom of darkness. *From "The Problem of Evil" by Abbot Tryphon of the Monastery of the All-Merciful Saviour near Seattle, WA*

So evil is not a force with which God must contend. It will never have power over Him. And from that we can take great comfort, since under His protection, it will never overpower us either!

So did God create evil? The simple answer is no- because it is not a substance or a thing. But God *does* allow evil to happen. And it happens whenever free will is lifted up against God. Whenever someone disobeys or opposes God, or refuses to submit to Him. This was Satan's great sin. He was known as Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, and was essentially the worship leader of Heaven. He became jealous of God and wanted to receive praise for himself. So God banished him from heaven, along with many rebellious angels who followed him (see Isaiah 14:12-17).

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Church Mission Statement

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

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

Recognizing Our Graduates



Brayden Long
 Son of Chris and Kathy Long
 Grandson of Bob and Sharon Long
 Graduate of Slippery Rock University with degree in Sports Management.



Ariana Markle
 Daughter of Rebecca Markle
 Granddaughter of Fred and Edna Markle
 Will graduate from West York High School and she plans to continue her education.

Quintilio Gavazzi
 Son of Jeff and Lena Gavazzi
 Grandson of Dick and Sue Ambrosius
 Graduates from St. Mary's Area High School on May 31, 2024.
 Will attend Slippery Rock University, majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice.



Samuel Long
 Son of Andrew and BJ Long
 Grandson of Bob and Sharon Long
 Graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Sports Media.



Stewardship Report April 2024

Avg. Attendance	Sunday School 29	Worship 77
Budget Goal (\$ 4,777 per week)	\$	248,403
Need to-date (17 weeks)	\$	81,209
Budget Giving to Date (70%)	\$	56,649
Designated Giving to Date	\$	11,742
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	\$	68,391
Budget Giving for April	\$	11,453
Designated Giving for April	\$	4,328
Building Rental	\$	211
Child Care Area	\$	125
Disaster Relief	\$	100
Lawn Mowing	\$	40
Meat Canning	\$	100
Memorial Gifts	\$	200
Yard Sale	\$	3,542
Youth Group	\$	10

Pastor-Congregation Relations Support Team

The Ministry and Worship Commission, with the approval of the Board, created 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.

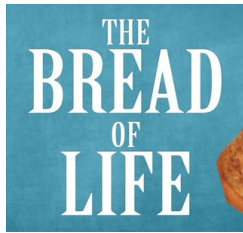
—Ministry & Worship Commission

In Our Church



Blood Drive
Thursday, July 26
1 to 6 PM

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



Thursday, June 6
6:00 pm
Panera Bread



SEEKERS in SNEAKERS
Discover Jesus!

June 24 - 28
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Volunteers Needed

22
JUNE

CAR SHOW

10 AM
TO
2 PM

Parking For Participants & Viewers

Registration: \$5.00



601 WILSON AVENUE, HANOVER, PA 17331

HANOVER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Contact: 717-479-0585 or 717-476-3064

Food & Drinks Available

Senior Citizen LUNCHEON
Sunday, June 9



Annual Conference

The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, from July 3-7, 2024 . Natalie Bowman is our delegate this year. Pastor Mark will also be in attendance.



Bread & Cup Communion
Sunday, July 14, 2024

In Our Church

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who attended the Mother-Daughter and Other Banquet. Despite the gloomy weather, you made it into a bright and joyful evening. A special thank you goes to Spud and Mike for preparing the meal. It was delicious. And thank you to all the men who served the meal and cleaned up for us.

Our Fun Night will be on July 11 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be an evening to relax and to have food and fun. The officers will provide the main course and drink. Others are asked to bring a dish to share (salad, side, or dessert).

A group of 24 are going to see Daniel at Sight & Sound on July 24. Two vans will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. Transportation is paid by Women's Fellowship. Tickets for the show cost \$83.75 per person. And since we Brethren like to eat, we will stop for lunch in Lancaster after the show.



You are invited to help
us celebrate our 70th
Wedding
Anniversary



Carol and Jim
Replogle

Celebration

HANOVER CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN FELLOWSHIP HALL

601 WILSON AVENUE
HANOVER

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
2:00 TO 4:00 PM

PLEASE: NO GIFTS



~Women's Fellowship Mother-Daughter and Other Banquet~

From the Desk of Pastor Mark continued

So evil can only happen because of free will. We can and do commit evil when we refuse to properly obey God, no matter to what degree. When we eat the cookie that will put our blood sugar over the limit, or shout in anger at the driver who just cut us off, we are committing evil. "Evil?" you say? "That is a strong word!" Yes it is. And we should consider it so. No wonder we need grace! Remember, Jesus called all of us evil: *Matthew 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

And that statement also includes grace! The only antidote to evil *is* grace! We cannot overcome it in our own strength, but rather in the strength of the Lord.

But why does God allow this? Why doesn't he simply intervene to stop the likes of Hitler and Stalin; the likes of *us*? He allows this because free will demands it, and love demands free will! I cannot love a Being that demands it of me or forces me. I can only love truly when I am truly free! And so God allows complete freedom for His people so that they might choose to know and love Him and each other genuinely. To God, true love is worth the risk!

In fact, God's greatest victories come when men and women turn from great evil to great love! When people choose to forgive their loved one's murderer, for instance, and that person in turn repents and comes to know Jesus! We sing, "The vilest offender that truly believes that moment from Jesus a pardon receives." Do we really believe that? We should, since it is true! No matter *how* vile! We are told to overcome evil *not* with in-kind evil, but with *good* (Romans 12:17-21).

I close with this example of evil being overcome by good. Corey Ten Boom tells of her painful meeting with a former Nazi guard from the concentration camp where she and her sister, Betsie had suffered and where her sister had died:

"It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. 'How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein.' He said. 'To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!' His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.

I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness.

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When he tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.

So if you have trouble with the idea that God allows evil; that He has allowed all the pain of your life, remember that He has also offered to *redeem* that pain, and to bring good from it! Let Him have the final victory in all your relationships!

In His love,
Pastor Mark



6/2	Fran Smith	7/1	Evelyn Cline	6/2	Dan & Darlene Hawbaker	(45)
	Erin Sullivan	7/4	Sandy Avery	6/6	Mike & Barbara Lawrence	(9)
6/8	Sinica Greenlee	7/5	Paul Marshall	6/11	David & Stacy Brodbeck	(46)
6/9	Darby Kline	7/7	Amy Despines	6/13	Andy & Heather McDonald	(15)
6/10	Sharon Hershey		Kris Rusinko	6/14	Dale & Linda Sullivan	(55)
	Ahriana Greenlee	7/8	Amanda Jacobs-Womer	6/15	Ed & Deb Robbins	(50)
6/11	Scott Ruth	7/11	Cindy Ault	6/16	Dick & Gerry Godfrey	(56)
	Betty Malenke		Faye Bealing	6/17	Earle & Dianne Black	(57)
6/13	AJ Church	7/12	Heather Kress-Greenlee		Bob & Darlene Laughman	(52)
	Shirley Sullivan	7/13	Bailey Sanders	6/20	Tyler & Courtney Estright	(9)
6/15	Pork Dell	7/14	Bob Bealing	6/22	Kenneth & Kitty Duckworth	(48)
	Laura Church		Scott Langston	6/22	Don & Barb Myers	(56)
6/16	Linda Sullivan	7/15	Ariana Markle	6/26	Fred & Edna Markle	(58)
	Andrew Ruth		Robert Molison	6/27	Gary & Sandy Avery	(54)
	Doug Myers	7/17	Dalton Greenlee			
	Geraldine Godfrey	7/23	Bonnie Schoffstall			
	Ben Fleming		Austin Carlson			
6/17	Darlene Laughman	7/25	Cierra Weaver			
6/19	Melissa Godfrey		Dan Smith			
6/20	Alex Despines	7/26	Esther Brown	7/13	Darren & Kristin Dickensheets	(5)
	Ryder Yingling	7/27	Connie Morris	7/27	Spud & Pearl Gebhart	(28)
6/22	Tim Hurtack		Elizabeth Stambaugh			
6/23	Katie Miller		Quin Gavazzi			
6/24	Harold Kline	7/28	Connie Oller			
6/27	Dick Ambrosius	7/30	Amy Livingston			
	Bob Krouse	7/31	Courtney Estright			
6/28	Andy Hurtack		Rebecca Markle			
6/30	Lori Meminger					



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.

Dan Smith, Mike McDonald, Winemiller family, Brenda Kneller, Gloria Baker, Jack Seifert Family, Ruth & Erma Kneller

Remember our Homebound:

Miriam Mills, Dale Sullivan, June Dennis

And those living in the facilities listed below:

Hanover Hall:

Esther Brown- Room 117A

Country Meadows:

Bonnie Berwager - Apt. 311

Spring Creek Rehab:




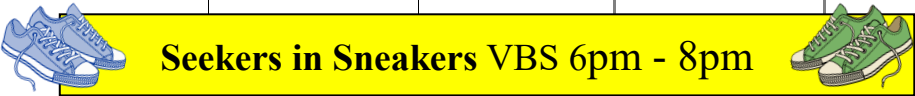
Sonja Bankert




Utz Terrace:

Evelyn Dickensheets

Happy Father's Day

A Dad is a person
who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
what you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends.
A dad can be one
of your very best friends!
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong
In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm AlAnon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8 pm AA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2 pm Line Dancing</p> <p>6 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 pm Bread of life</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Graduate Sunday</p>  <p>Senior Citizen Banquet</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm AlAnon</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8 pm AA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30 HACC Ministerium</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>7 pm AlAnon</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8 pm AA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2 pm Line Dancing</p> <p>6 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10 am Car Show</p> 
<p>23</p> <p>9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>VBS Sunday</p> 						
	<p>7 pm AlAnon</p>	<p>8 pm AA</p>				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
		8 pm - AA	Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI			
7 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 7 pm - Executive Board Meeting	9 8 pm - AA	10 2 pm Line Dancing 6 pm Bible Study	11 5 pm W. F. Fun Night	12	13
Conference						
14 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Bread & Cup 	15 7 pm - AlAnon	16 8 pm - AA	17 6 pm Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Article Deadline	22 7 pm - AlAnon	23 8 pm - AA	24 2 pm Line Dancing 6 pm Bible Study	25 1-6 pm Blood Drive 	26 9 am - Newsletter Assembly	27
28 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29 7 pm - AlAnon	30 8 pm - AA	31 6 pm Bible Study	