

#### **Myerstown Church of the Brethren**

Scriptural Message

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Phil. 4:12-13

"'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jer. 29:11-13

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matt. 6:33-35

Address:

51 West Stoever Ave.

PO Box 61

Myerstown, PA 17067

Office Phone:

717-866-5517

Web Page:

myerstowncob.org

Church Email:

myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

January 2025

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

#### Greetings from Pastor Chris

With 2024 ending and 2025 beginning, many of us will be starting our New Year's resolutions. We also might be looking to better ourselves mentally, physically, and spiritually. One thing we all might be thinking is what does God have in store for us in 2025. In Jeremiah 29:11-14 the Lord said "for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord." A lot of times in the beginning of a new year, we wonder what our purpose is, and/or do we have a purpose. Yes, we all have a purpose in life, in verse 11, God states I know the plans I have for you. Are we calling on Him, and trusting in Him. Are we seeking God this year? We need to be getting into His word, and seeking Him for His guidance for our lives, and the life of His church. This year I challenge every one of us to read the Bible in one year.

You will see in the newsletter this month there is, "read your Bible in a year guide". Every month there will be a guide for that particular month. All of our lives get very busy with things to do. This reading is set up to help us designate a time each day to be able to get into His word. Here are five ways to effectively read your Bible.

- 1. Pray before you start reading each day.
- 2. Use a study Bible.
- Read a whole chapter at a time.
- 4. Get on a plan.
- 5. Use a Bible app or listen to it audibly.

My prayer for us here at Myerstown COB that we will grow spiritually and closer to God, that He may show us His will and guide us through this upcoming year. Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

#### **Attendance & Offering**

Attendance average for November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Sunday School – 26 Worship Service – 94 Online Views - 35

#### **Home Care**

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: Faye Brubaker, Gloria Keppley, Lois Hassinger, Dixie Gasper, Eleanor Brubaker, Ken Gross, Doris Lausch, Lois Sheetz, and Mark Landis, Sr.

#### **Gift Cards**

The gift card order is always processed *the first Sunday of the month*. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. How many cards do you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself. You can buy your groceries or gas for your vehicles.

**MCoB email list -** join by sending your name and email address to info@myerstowncob.org

#### 2025 Directory

If you have any changes or additions for the upcoming 2025 directory, please notify Toni in the church office or anyone on the Missions and Fellowship Commission.

#### Candle Lighting/Memorial Service

We will be having our annual Candle Lighting Service on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, for loved ones that passed away during the year 2024. Please notify Toni in the church office at 717-866-5517 if you desire to light a candle during this service. A family member(s) is encouraged to light the candle.



#### **Bread and Cup Communion**

Bread and Cup Communion is on Sunday, January 14th during the morning service.

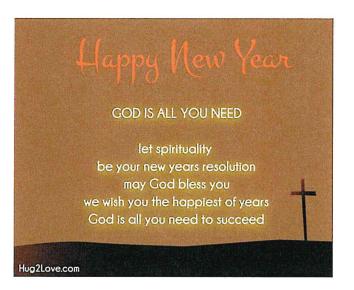


### January Wedding Anniversaries

1st David & Janet Dubble
 15th Elmer & Barbara Weidman

#### **Envelopes**

Offering envelopes are in your mailboxes. You do not need to be a church member to use envelopes. If you would like some please see Mim Ackerman or Toni in the office.



Seats of the Commissions that will be open for 2026 and could be filled by you or any member of your congregation as well as other positions are as follows:

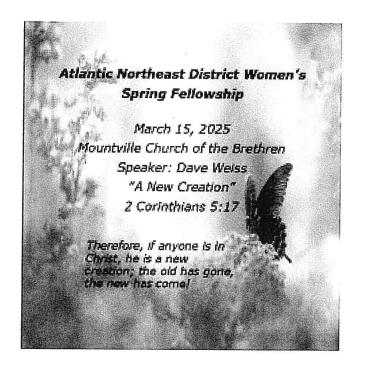
Moderator Elect (Either Section)
Annual Conference Standing Committee
(ANE West)

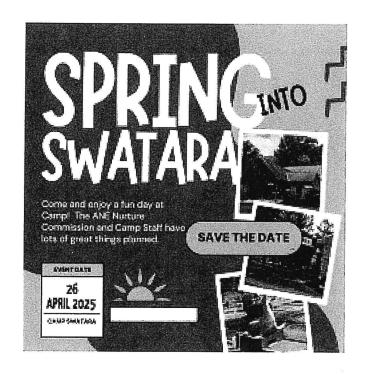
Ministry Commission (Either Section)
Gifts Discernment Team (ANE West)
Program & Arrangements Committee (ANE East)

Please help us identify dedicated people who would like to join us at our ANE DISTRICT tables of ministry and service to a wider church community.

Please complete the ANE 2026 District Leadership Recommendation/Application form and return it to the Gifts Discernment Team.

## SAVE THE DATE







## January 2025

## Visit <u>SeekingScripture.com</u> for Bible Study Notes

Date	Verses	Date	Verses 🛞
01/01/25	Genesis 1-3	01/17/25	Genesis 48-50
01/02/25	Genesis 4-7	01/18/25	Exodus 1-3
01/03/25	Genesis 8-11	01/19/25	Exodus 4-6
01/04/25	Genesis 12-15	01/20/25	Exodus 7-9
01/05/25	Genesis 16-18	01/21/25	Exodus 10-12
01/06/25	Genesis 19-21	01/22/25	Exodus 13-15
01/07/25	Genesis 22-24	01/23/25	Exodus 16-18
01/08/25	Genesis 25-26	01/24/25	Exodus 19-21
01/09/25	Genesis 27-29	01/25/25	Exodus 22-24
01/10/25	Genesis 30-31	01/26/25	Exodus 25-27
01/11/25	Genesis 32-34	01/27/25	Exodus 28-29
01/12/25	Genesis 35-37	01/28/25	Exodus 30-32
01/13/25	Genesis 38-40	01/29/25	Exodus 33-35
01/14/25	Genesis 41-42	01/30/25	Exodus 36-38
01/15/25	Genesis 43-45	01/31/25	Exodus 39-40
01/16/25	Genesis 46-47		

## Verse of the Month

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting** 

Date: December 17, 2024

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:40 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary - Mark Landis, Jr.

**Prayer by: Janet Dubble** 

**Present were: Pastor Chris Dubble** 

Secretary's Report of November 26, 2024

Approved as presented by aye vote

Treasurer's Report of November 30, 2024

Approved as presented by ave vote

#### **Commission Reports & Members Present**

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Grace Ziegler, Pastor Chris Earl Liskey, David Dubble, Linda Zimmerman

Dave opened our meeting with prayer.

Worship Leaders are in place for December.

December 22 - Kim Horn

December 29 - Bob Noll

We are looking for volunteers for January.

A Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 8:00 am to be held here in the fellowship hall.

We have been asked to host a music program here at our church on Sunday March 9th in the afternoon. It would be presented by Fairhaven Church and members of the Reach School as well. The request came from the Reach School principal, Zac Weaver

We will be creating a new position as requested by the district, as a district representative. It will be under our commission and Joyce Wagner has agreed to fill this position.

We agreed to Toni's request to have vacation from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

Richland Express is scheduled for March 30, 2025 at 3:00 pm to present their choral program. On January 12, 2025, the district will present a program of Brethren Global Missions here at our church. It will be presented by Chris Eliott, a retired pastor from the Southern PA District at 3:00 pm.

Approval to create a new district representative position; and also to have Joyce Wagner fill this position was given by a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> and ave vote.

# <u>Missions & Fellowship Commission:</u> Chairperson – Janet Dubble, Tammy Landis Sharon Seldomridge, Kim Horn

Janet opened with prayer.

The Missions and Fellowship Commission provided snacks for all Board members in appreciation of all of their hard work throughout the year for the benefit of our church.

Operation Christmas Child Final Operation Christmas Child Update: Total Actual Boxes Packed by Congregation - 27 Total Actual Boxes Packed by Children - 15 Total Virtual Boxes - 39 Women's Fellowship Matching Challenge - 39 Mission of the Month Collection - 26 Total Boxes - 146

The shoeboxes will be followed and we will report the countries to which they are sent as we learn them.

Collection items for Sharing Cupboard for January 2025: Cereal and Cookies

The "Mission of the Month" for January will be OnFire Youth Ministries. If anyone has suggestions for ministries that can be added as Missions of the Month for 2025, please let someone on the Missions and Fellowship Commission know.

The MCoB float in the holiday parade was a great success. Eighteen people rode on the float, ranging in age from 5 to 84! Everyone had fun throwing candy out to the spectators.

A draft of the 2025 Church Directory was reviewed and changes were made where needed.

We discussed increasing the use of social media to share activities in which our church is involved.

#### <u>Christian Education Commission:</u> - Brenda Lentz, Walter Sattazahn, Cindy Sattazahn

There were 19 kids at Kids Club.

Next youth meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be going roller skating from 1:30 to 4.

February 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next Kids Club.

We discussed Vacation Bible School.

We also discussed District Retreats.

#### <u>Trustee and Property Commission:</u> – Chairperson – George Nagle Bill Kline, Mark Landis, Jr., Dale Houtz

We needed a new heat pump for the new school classroom. We received it on Monday. Property guys, Whitey, Bill and Dale installed it on Monday evening.

The unit for the foyer area at the gym is on order and should be replaced end of week or next week.

We are meeting on Wednesday about phone and surveillance systems.

<u>Finance and Stewardship Commission:</u> – Chairperson – Bob Noll Jay Lentz, Tim Fetzer

Commission Chairman for 2025 – Bob Noll We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

#### Pastor's Report

Things I have done since our last meeting

- Prayed and planned weekly worship services
- Been preaching through the book of Hebrews.
- Lead weakly Bible study. (Essentials of faith. What is a Christian?)
- Met with a group of brethren pastors.
- Meet monthly with a pastor mentor.
- Monthly newsletter article.
- Attended Deacons meeting.
- Called and visited several people from the congregation, and community.
- Visited with lady's aid.
- Attend Wednesday morning chapel with Reach Christian school. Also meet with teachers from school and principal.
- Performed Thanksgiving Eve service.
- 2 anointings
- Met with families and performed funerals.

Thank you for all the prayers and help throughout this past month it has been greatly appreciated. It has been exciting to see how God has been working here in our congregation.

#### **Unfinished Business**

Tim Fetzer will continue working on the phone system upgrade, along with the security surveillance system.

#### **New Business**

Approval to move July Board meeting from July  $15^{th}$  to July22nd was given by a motion,  $2^{nd}$  and aye vote.

#### **Interests & Concerns**

Thank you to Missions & Fellowship Commission for the snacks and drinks this evening.

#### <u>Adjournment</u>

At 8:40 pm with prayer by Pastor Chris.

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4 Undecorate Church 9:00 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am	Praise Team 6:00 pm	Bible Study 10:00 am	Ladies Aide 9:00 am	Sharing Cupboard	Sharing Cupboard	
Worship Service 10:00 am Candle Lighting Service	•	Music Mtg. 7:00 pm	Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	10-1	3-6	
12 Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	13 Praise Team 6:00 pm	14 Bible Study 10:00 am	Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Praise Team	Bible Study 10:00 am	Ladies Aide 9:00 am	Sharing Cupboard	Sharing Cupboard	Men's Breakfast
Sunday School 9:00 am	6:00 pm	Executive Mtg 6:30 pm	Bell Choir 6:15 pm	10-1	3-6	8:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am		Commission Mtg 7:00 pm Board Mtg 7:30 pm	Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Prayer Group 8:30 am	Praise Team	Bible Study 10:00 am	Ladies Aide 9:00 am	Spiritual Nurture		

Bell Choir 6:15 pm

Senior Choir 7:30 pm

Mtg. 7:00 pm

Sunday School 9:00 am

Pew Communion

Worship Service 10:00 am

6:00 pm

January 2025							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	
5	6	7 Gail Reppert	8	9	10 Cindy Liskey	<b>11</b> Wilbur Wagner	
12 Mim Ackerman	13 Mark Landis, Sr.	14	15 Kimberly Wenger	16	17 Robert Herr	18	
19 Dezirae Dohner	20	21	22	23 Scott Wagner	<b>24</b> Faye Gray	25	
26	27 Lamar Fahnestock	<b>28</b> Mark Reppert	<b>29</b> Barb Heffner John Mauser	30	<b>31</b> Clark Heisey		

## Standing Committee adopts covenants for 3 agencies

he Standing Committee of district delegates to Annual Conference met via Zoom on Sept. 30 to act on covenants with the three agencies of Annual Conference— Bethany Theological Seminary, Eder Financial, and On Earth Peace. Also acted on was a recommendation to Annual Conference to renew their agency status.

The president or an executive of each agency was present: Jeff Carter, president of Bethany Seminary; Nevin Dulabaum, president of Eder Financial; and Matt Guynn, co-executive director

of On Earth Peace.

Each agency covenant is specific to that agency but there are commonalities and consistency between the three. Each agency's board has had a chance to review and approve their respective covenant as part of a process that dates back to a decision by the 2022 Conference that directed to Standing Committee the work of preparing the covenants.

The meeting reviewed each covenant. Concerns and requests for clarification mostly had to do with the relationship of agency board appointments

to the denomination's nominations process and Annual Conference ballot, and the make-up of agency boards with regard to required numbers of Church of the Brethren members. Guynn also fielded questions from one Standing Committee member asking if On Earth Peace affirms the 1983 paper "Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective."

Standing Committee approved the three covenants and voted to recommend to Annual Conference that the agency status of all three be renewed. These actions will be presented to the 2025 Annual Conference.

## CWS board announces covenant membership

hurch World Service (CWS) has announced that 14 leading US churches and faith-based organizationsincluding the Church of the Brethren-have renewed their commitment to joint work and mission by becoming "Covenant Members." The announcement followed a meeting of the CWS board. These Covenant Members represent more than nine million people across the US and Canada.

Covenant membership

represents a new way for organizations that have been historical members of CWS to engage with each other and with CWS. As Covenant Members, they will work together with CWS to find practical ways to engage in transforming communities through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. They also will participate in gatherings throughout the year to reflect and organize around key issues affecting shared work and priorities.



CDS responds to hurricanes. Children's Disaster Services began responding to Hurricane Milton in Florida after posting three teams of volunteers to Asheville, N.C., following Hurricane Helene. Two CDS teams began working in Red Cross shelters in Tampa and Clearwater on Oct. 27. As of early November, they had served more than 300 children. Here, CDS volunteer Kathie Shaffer works at a shelter in Tampa.

### Personnel -

John Fillmore began Oct. 12 as quarter-time district executive for Idaho/Western Montana District. He has pastored Nampa (Idaho) Church of the Brethren since 2011 and has been a "circuit rider" for the Part-time Pastor: Full-time Church program since 2019.

He holds a master of divinity from Bethany Seminary and a doctor of ministry

**Shannon McNeil Smith** began Oct. 7 as executive administrative assistant in the General Secretary's Office at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She had been a Mission

Advancement advocate for the denomination for more than five years, working at relationship-building with donors to support Church of the Brethren programs and ministries. The work entailed much travel, attendance at many district conferences, making per-

sonal visits with donors, and interpreting the work of the church. Previously, she was manager of human resources and constituent affairs in the Office of the Governor in Chicago, Ill. She is a member of Neighborhood Church of the Brethren in Montgomery, Ill.

was leading love feast at a nearby congregation and was invited to wait for his return. Instead, Sayler walked from one end of the library to the other and back again, without looking at any documents, returned home without meeting Cassell, and reported he had been through Cassell's library and discovered nothing that contradicted the double mode.

Eventually, however, the single mode won the day and remains the practice of most Church of the Brethren congregations.

This story is a reminder, first of all, that we Brethren are funny without realizing it. Also, we can avoid alternate histories by remaining committed as a group to faithful study together, as a diverse body that is committed in our diversity to the uncomfortable task of remaining faithful to the Living Word, Jesus, and the Written Word, scripture.

We do this together. Let me rephrase this: it takes all of us together to accomplish this task.

Let me quote from Alexander Mack Jr., who, in my opinion, qualifies as the true founder of our movement, or at the least the preserver of the movement in Colonial America. In discussing love feast controversies with regard to the order of feetwashing and the Agape Meal, Mack Jr. wrote that "since Christ has not said, that his disciples should be known by washing feet, or by the breaking of bread, but he said, 'By

this shall all men know, that ye are my disciples, if ye have love to one another," even so, "O how should Satan mock us justly, if we were to quarrel with each other about the time, when the feet ought to be washed; and love were destroyed, and even feet-washing and breaking of bread were altogether neglected. If our peace were thus disturbed, it would please Satan right well, and the doctrine of Jesus would be scoffed at by other men."

Whether we call it chesed, agape, amour, liebe, or love, it's essential. As scripture puts it, "Now faith, hope, and love remain-these three things-and the greatest of these is love."

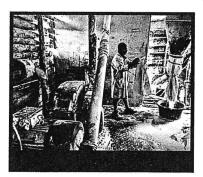
Frank Ramirez is a retired Church of the Brethren pastor living in Nappanee, Ind.



## GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.... Be doers of the word." ~ James 1:17, 22a NRSVue

Together with our siblings around the world, we are doers of the word and generous givers of God's blessings.







Washington, D.C.

Thank you for generously partnering in the ministry of the Global Food Initiative! Learn more at www.brethren.org/gfi.

Global Food Initiative - Church of the Brethren

1-847-429-4332

jhosler@brethren.org

#### Created: 12/2/2024 8:22:20 AM

## Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #		
Check#	Order Date		

%	QTY	Total
6%		\$
13%		\$
10%		\$
1.6%		\$
1.6%		\$
1.6%		\$
8%		\$
7%		\$
10%		\$
8%		\$
8%		\$
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	Product	%	QTY	Total
	Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%	0	\$
	Carter's \$25.00	10%	5	\$
	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%	5	\$
	Chewy \$25.00	5%		\$
	Children's Place \$25.00	12%	,	\$
	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	10%		\$
	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	9%		\$
	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	9%		\$
	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	7%		\$
100	Dairy Queen \$10.00	6.5%		\$
	Dairy Queen \$25.00	6.5%		\$
	Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$
	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$
	Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Ī	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
	Dunham's Sports 325.00	8%		\$
[	Dunkin' \$10.00	3.5%		\$
[	Ounkin' \$25.00	3.5%		\$
E	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$
E	at'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$
100	amous Footwear 25.00	8%		\$
F	irehouse Subs \$25.00	6%		\$
G	SameStop \$25.00	5%		\$
G	Sap \$25.00	14%		\$
0	Siant Food \$100.00	3.5%		\$
G	iant Food \$25.00	3.5%		\$
G	iant Food \$50.00	3.5%		\$
F	lardee's \$10.00	5%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
HomeGoods \$25.00	6%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
JCPenney \$100.00	7%		\$
JCPenney \$25.00	7%		\$
Kohl's \$25.00	7%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Lands' End \$100.00	14%		\$
Lands' End \$25.00	14%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Marshalls \$25.00	6%		\$
McDonald's \$10.00	3%		\$
McDonald's \$25.00	3%		\$
Moe's Southwest Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Nike \$25.00	11%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	6%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Sheetz \$25.00	3%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: Myerstown

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Total Due All Columns:

\$

## Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #		
Check #	Order Date		

Product	%	QTY	Total
Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$
Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$
Staples \$100.00	5%		\$
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Starbucks \$10,00	4.5%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	6%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Target \$10.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
ULTA \$25.00	7%		\$
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Vera Bradley \$50.00	7%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$100.00	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$25.00	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$