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and Music:**
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**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST
JULY 15**

**NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE:**

Rena' Brown
Carolyn Broyles
Nancy Hylton
Josephine Keller
Bryana Lackey
Emily Nelson

**CHURCH OFFICE
SECRETARY HOURS:**
Monday-Friday
9:00-2:00 p.m.

THE VISITOR

JULY 2023

Published by:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Join us on Sundays

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Let the Prophets Speak!
Finding God in the Music '23

June 25: *Swords, Plowshares, and Jesus*

July 2: *Deeds Remembered*

July 9: *Lose to Win*

July 16: *Who Matters?* Worship at Camp Bethel (info below)

July 23: Lupita Ortiz, licensed minister from Iglesia el Buen Pastor Fellowship (Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren, Blacksburg, VA) preaching

July 30: David Shumate preaching



**Worship is at
Camp Bethel
July 16, 2023
11:00 a.m.**



Hillside Auditorium

Potluck to follow right after service at Shelter by the Spring. Pool hours are from 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Please bring any games you would like to share.

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...*Dan Brogan*, recovering from small stroke
- ...*Jonna Detweiler's son-in-law*, prayers for healing
- ...*Greg Broyles*, Achilles tendon surgery
- ...*Phyllis Petcher*, carotid artery surgery
- ...*Carol Leddy*, shoulder surgery

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Bill Whitlow. Bill passed away on June 8, 2023.

It's A Girl!

Lillian Knight Hoyt was born on June 1, 2023. Her parents are Zach and Kate Hoyt and grandparents are Mike and Carol Elmore.



Blessings

by Barbara Mann

Each blessing is a gift we're given
that comes to us, a gift from heaven,
and we should thank our God above
For all His care and all His love,
and we should give the folks we know
a blessing where we chance to go.

and the
blessings
of the
Lord
rested upon us

Happy Birthday

- 5– Ralph Petcher
- 5– Isaac Hernandez
- 9– Bill Pugh
- 10– Mary Jo Burris
- 13– Daren Haas
- 14– Rachel Mabe
- 17– Mary Wilson
- 21– Jenny Grant
- 22– Roger Simpson
- 23– Deanna Knox
- 24– Jane Grisso
- 25– Nancy Hylton
- 25– Madison Cianelli
- 29– Keith Robinson
- 31– Joyce Harmon

Happy Anniversary

- 5– Zach & Kate Hoyt
- 6– Stephen Shumate & Suzy Sauerwald
- 10– Dennis & Beth Shearer
- 13– Garland & Rena' Brown
- 17– Ralph & Phyllis Petcher
- 27– Johnny & Elaine Thompson

Interested in joining the Handbell Choir?

If you are interested in being a group member, please contact Diane Grant at (540) 354-6653. Fall rehearsals will begin in late August and newcomers are always welcome and encouraged to talk to Diane.

Make a joyful noise!





Calling All Changemakers and Troublemakers!

Join us for **2023**
Bible School on
**August 19-20 & 27 at Oak
Grove and August 26 at
Camp Bethel**
9:30am - 12:00pm

- *Learn about Biblical Changemakers and Troublemakers!*
- *Crafts and Games!*
- *Time with Friends!*

Questions?
email Carol Elmore
elmores24153@gmail.com

Oak Grove COB participates in a Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend

by Joe Blaha

“Listen, listen, love, love.” This is the motto of the Kairos Prison Ministry. From Thursday, May 18 through Sunday, May 21, 2023, I, along with twenty-one other volunteers, listened to and loved forty-two prisoners at the Pocahontas State Correctional Center. While more than forty-two prisoners had requested to participate in an event that that would offer the opportunity to eat an unlimited amount of homemade cookies and drink coffee, the prison chaplain pared down the number of attendees to a workable number.

That first morning each one of us was temporarily assigned two “residents” during the morning “meet and greet.” My first impression of the residents was that none of them seemed to have any business being incarcerated. That afternoon we were all assigned to our “families.” Each family was named after one of the Apostles and consisted of three volunteers and six residents seated at a round table with two residents on either side of each volunteer. Our family was the family of James.

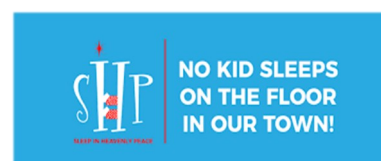


In preparation for that moment, the volunteers went through thirty-two hours of “teaming” (learning how to function together) and training at the prison where we received instruction from acceptable clothing to how to handle any disruptions. The goal of a Kairos “walk” (a term inspired by the *Walk to Emmaus*) is to give a lasting experience and stimulate techniques in the participating residents that they will communicate to others who did not attend, an enthusiasm for the love, peace, and hope that comes from following Jesus.

I recognize that the members of the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, through your prayers, donations, and cookies, standing with me throughout the teaming and the walk. Thank you.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build - September 9, 2023

Mark your calendars! Oak Grove will be sponsoring a Sleep in Heavenly Peace "Bunks Across America" Bed Build with Cave Spring UMC and other local churches on September 9, 2023. The build is going to be held at Cave Spring UMC this year. Many Oak Grovers serve on the core leadership team for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Since Oak Grove is helping sponsor this build, we need lots of volunteers to help build the beds. Stay tuned for more information in the August newsletter and weekly email updates.



If you would like to make a donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace through the church, please include "SHP" in the memo section of your check. You can also donate online through our giving app, [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com).

Camp Bethel News

Goodie Bags: Here are some items our Camp Adoptees enjoy. If you'd like to donate items for their goodie bags, leave them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall with the "Camp Bethel News" trifold. I'm sure they would appreciate anything you'd like to include.

- **Ben Riddle**
Favorite Candy: M&Ms
Favorite Snack: Doritos
Favorite Food: Bacon
- **Maggie Pizullo**
Favorite Candy: Anything Sour
Favorite Snack: Chips
Favorite Food: Anything
- **Grayson Preece**
Favorite Candy: Tootsie Pops
Favorite Snack: Cool Ranch Doritos (any salty snack)
Favorite Food: Bagels



Cards
Cards available in Fellowship Hall, if you would like send a note to our adoptees.
Mail letters to:

Name of person receiving letter (ex: Lauren Naff)
C/O Camp Bethel
328 Bethel Road
Fincastle, VA 24090

Tree Cookies Needed!

- Hardwood, cross cut 3+” diameter
- Less than 1/2 “ thick
- 1/4” hole
- Sanded

Thanks!

Three circular cross-sections of wood, known as tree cookies, are shown. They are light-colored with visible wood grain and a small hole in the center of each.

National Older Adult Conference

September 4-8, 2023
Lake Junaluska, NC

Click [here](#) to register!

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God’s call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

“God is Doing A New Thing”

“I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”
—Isaiah 43:19

There is a bus provided for those that don’t want to drive.



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 4-8, 2023

**Duke Energy
Convention Center
Cincinnati, Ohio**

*Living God's Love
Ephesians 5:1-2*

For more information, click [here](#).

Our 2023 Annual Conference Delegates are Pastor Tim Harvey and Drew Purcell.

Viviendo el amor de Dios
Viv Lanmou Bondye A
Rayuwan Kaunar Allah
Living God's Love

Ephesians 5:1-2
Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

Annual Conference worship services can be viewed online at
www.brethren.org/ac2023/webcasts.

You can view them live or later via the recording. Services start Tuesday evening, July 4, 2023 at 6:45 Eastern Time. They continue at the same time on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings as well as Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

A livestream of the worship services, as well as recordings, will also be available in Spanish.

Witness to the host city: Found House

How you can help: www.brethren.org/ac2023/activities/witness-to-the-host-city
For more information about Found House click here: www.foundhouse.org.

Pastor's Column

Let the Prophets Speak!

Theopoetics is a growing area of study in the Christian tradition that uses theology, art, literature, poetry, and music to conveying spiritual truth. Recognizing that God has spoken throughout history through a variety of means (history, law, poetry, song, and story are some of the genres found in the Bible), theopoetics uses various forms of communication to proclaim Biblical truth to the contemporary audience.

Even if the term is new, the concept is familiar. We encounter theopoetics whenever we reflect on the poetry of a hymn, consider a picture or video clip as a sermon illustration, or are moved by the artistic arrangement of the communion table, artwork, and even the Chrismons on display each Advent.



The summer sermon series, *Let the Prophets Speak! Finding God in the Music*, is designed to help our congregation consider some familiar texts and themes in a fresh way. It has two primary sources of inspiration.

The first inspiration is the icon *Christ Breaks the Rifle*, written by Kelly Latimore (kellylatimoreicons.com). Inspired by Micah 4:3

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The icon was written as a reminder of Christ's call to stand with the most vulnerable among us. A portion of the sales of the icon benefit the survivors of the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, TX.

{As an aside, take a few minutes to reflect on this icon. Does portraying Jesus breaking a semi-automatic rifle instead of a sword or plowshare evoke feelings of hope or frustration? How does this modern interpretation of Scripture impact you?}

Continued on next page...

The second source of inspiration for these sermons comes from secular music that touches our souls through lyrics that speak to themes or concerns that we typically approach in Christian worship. The songs for these sermons were chosen, in part, to represent the various generations of our membership:

- Bob Dylan, *Blowin’ in the Wind*
- Bruce Springsteen, *Born in the USA*
- Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, *Shallow*
- John Legend and Common, *Glory*
- Ross Flora, *Shoulders of Giants*

Let the Prophets Speak!
Finding God in the Music '23

01 Swords, Plowshares, and Jesus (06.25.23)
Blowin' in the Wind ▪ Micah 4:3-4; Matt 5:38-48

02 Deeds Remembered (07.02.23)
Born in the USA (Blues Version) ▪ Amos 8:4-14

03 Lose to Win (07.09.23)
Shallow ▪ Matthew 16:24-26

04 Who Matters? (07.16.23)
Glory ▪ James 2:8-9

05 Gone Before (08.06.23)
Shoulders of Giants ▪ 2 Timothy 1:3-7


Each Sunday during this series, we will hear the song, consider how the lyrics intersect with Scriptural themes, and sing a hymn written to address the same topic. A sermon talkback time will also be included.

I encourage you to listen to the each of these songs (you can find them on YouTube), read the Scripture text, and make notes on how the intersection of art, music, Scripture, and theology speak to how we follow Jesus in our current times.

Pastor Tim

GIVING OPTIONS

- Click here to [give online](#) or scan the QR code at right.
- Mail a check to 2138 McVitty Rd. SW, Roanoke, VA 24018
- Bring it when you come to worship!



Scan for online giving

Thank you for supporting our mission and ministry financially!

Peace and Justice Group

The Peace and Justice Group is offering a book study with the intent of increasing the awareness of the need, as well as exploring possibilities. This book study intends to *explore both sides* of the debate concerning reparations.

REPARATIONS: A CHRISTIAN CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND REPAIR

by Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson.

July 14, August 4, August 18, and September 8, 2023,
6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Oak Grove.
In-person with zoom option if desired.

The study will be facilitated by some members, including Pastor Tim, Ellen Phillips, and Patricia Ronk (and maybe some others.) A few copies of the book are available to borrow from the church library. Patricia Ronk also has some used copies at a reduced price.

Others from Virgina District and the community are welcome.

If you have questions, contact one of the group members. If you wish to join the study, let Pastor Tim or Ellen Phillips know by July 10, 2023.

Sylvia Shepherd offers this testimony of her learnings as a member of the Peace & Justice group:

In 2020, I embarked on a different journey that has taken me on a very different path than I traveled before. That is when I took part in a book study, THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE, by Jamar Tisby. I learned facts about the history of racism in our country that were new to me. That put me on a search for truth about many of the injustices and prejudices occurring in our culture toward other people, not only people of color but other groups as well. It sparked a desire to learn the life experiences of such individuals in order to better understand the things that have influenced their actions and feelings.

I desire to treat others as fellow human beings with kindness and compassion. I find it very distasteful to hear anyone belittle or make fun of another person. I desire to treat people as Christ demonstrated in his treatment of those who were looked down on in his day —(the tax collectors, the Samaritans, the Gentiles, the Lepers, the prostitutes, etc.). I see His judgment was against those in authority who lorded over others they considered beneath them.



July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Kids through 5th grade!</i>				1
2 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	3 9 a.m.- Crafts	4 <i>Annual Conference July 4-8.</i>	5 9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect	6 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	7	8
9 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	10 9 a.m.- Crafts	11	12 9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect	13 11 a.m.-Good Samaritan 2 p.m.-Games	14 6 p.m.– Peace & Justice Book Study	15
16 11:00 a.m.- Worship at Camp Bethel	17 9 a.m.- Crafts	18	19 9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch	20 2 p.m.-Games	21	22
23 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	24 9 a.m.- Crafts	25	26 9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect	27 2 p.m.-Games	28	29
30 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	31 9 a.m.- Crafts					