

**Pastor:**  
Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture  
and Music:**  
Carol Elmore

**E-mail:**  
churchoffice@oakgrovecob.org

**Website:**  
www.oakgrovecob.org

**Phone:**  
(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEPTEMBER  
AUGUST 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

AUGUST 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.**

**August 6-** Annual Conference report during Sunday School hour.

**August 6-** Finding God in the Music, Track 05: *Gone Before*. 2 Timothy 3:1-7

**August 13-** *That still, small voice*, 1 Kings 19:1-15a (J.D. Glick, guest preacher)

**August 20-** *Changemakers and Troublemakers: Nicodemus*. John 3:1-17

**August 27-** *Changemakers and Troublemakers, A New World*. Isaiah 65:17-25



***God's Grace***  
by Barbara Mann

God loves the followers of His Son and watches over every one..

Christ died to save each human heart and lives again and won't depart.

Each one who worships God will be kept safe through all eternity.

# Church News

**Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:**  
...*Carol Hambleton*, cervical spine surgery  
...*Dayna Cook*, kidney stones  
...*Susan Simmons*, recovering from eye surgery  
...*Sara Thomas King*, bitten by a Copperhead  
...*Katie Tyler Meyer*, appendectomy recovery  
...*Dennis Shearer*, pneumonia

## May 2023 Financials

Offerings YTD	116,298
Expenses YTD	123,738
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(7,440)

## June 2023 Financials

Offerings YTD	145,120
Expenses YTD	145,481
Offerings to Expenses (Short)	(361)

### Coordinator Needed for Cobbler Booth

Camp Bethel says if they have enough churches to participate, they plan to hold the Heritage Day Festival on site this year - October 7, 2023.



Traditionally, Oak Grove participates by selling individual servings of cobbler with ice cream and whole cobblers. Missions & Service is actively seeking a volunteer (or two) to help coordinate the cobbler booth. Responsibilities include recruiting volunteers to helping with moving the cobblers and equipment to and from camp, setting up, serving cobblers, and cleaning up.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to be the Coordinator, please contact [Pam Conner](#) or [Ellen Phillips](#).

# Happy Birthday

- 1– Jake Keating
- 3– Carolyn Broyles
- 3– Jessica Ballew
- 3– Elizabeth Brancotti
- 4– Ellen Phillips
- 5– Leland Flora
- 8– Paul Shumate
- 10– Tanya Pizzullo
- 14– Jim Shaver
- 14– Dennis Shearer
- 15– Rena’ Brown
- 15– Lucas Musselman
- 17– Nikki Wilson
- 18– Phillip KIng
- 21– Tima Hambleton-Thrasher
- 22– Carol Jones
- 25– Randall Eakin
- 30– Beth Shearer
- 30– Vada Henshaw
- 31– Martha Gregory
- 31– Landon Elmore
- 31– Lynette Harvey

# Happy Anniversary

- 7– Keith & Kirsten Robinson
- 7– Ben & Andrea Foutz
- 11– Mike & Sharon Hanger
- 11– Joe & Sara Blaha
- 13– Sam & Ellen Phillips
- 18– Bill & Judy Baker
- 20– Michael & Danielle Craighead
- 21– Jamie & Deanna Knox
- 24– Doug & Robin Craighead

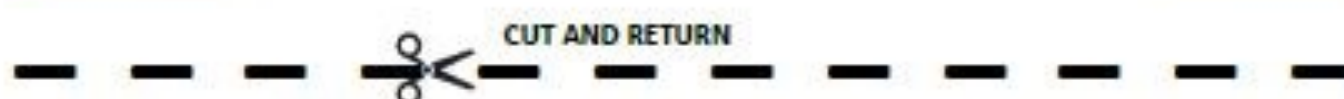
Thank you so much for the reception after Dad's funeral. It was very nice and greatly appreciated.

He loved the church and all who attended.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us....

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered

*Reba & Stephanie*  
(Family of Bill Whitlow)



### *Registration Form*

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Just Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

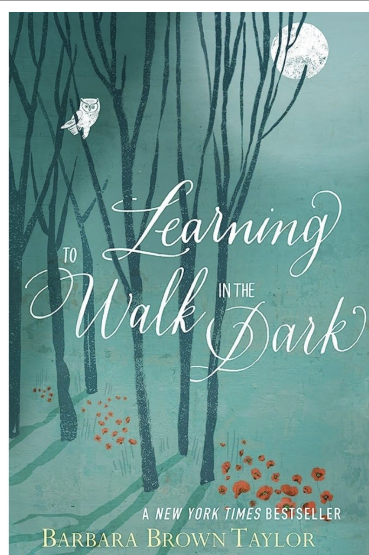
Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember that we will have classes for all ages, adults too!*

Plans to Attend: Check each that applies.

August 19 ☐ August 20 ☐ August 26 ☐ August 27 ☐





The Women's Bible Study group is beginning a NEW Book Study Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 9:30 at the church.

Grab a friend and come! If you'd like a copy of the book, please let [Carol](#) know. The books will be \$14.25 each.

Barbara Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark."



### QUILT SALE Saturday, September 23 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

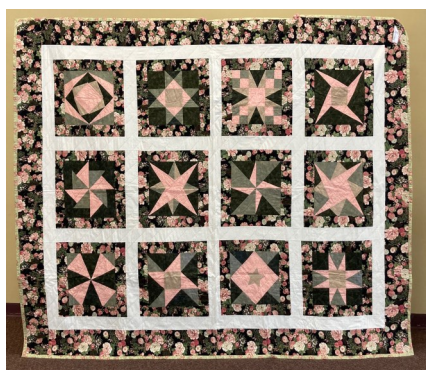


The quilts are made by Lois Sowder, a long time member of the church. She has been making quilts for 20 years. Watching the church ladies quilt encouraged her to give it a try. She took a class at a local fabric store and that's all it took - she fell in love with the joy of quilting.

Lois has made over 100 quilts and has donated them to the bazaar and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. She has a loyal and enthusiastic following, and her quilts are snapped up quickly whenever they are available. She loves using her God given talent to bring joy to others.

Lois' quilts are machine pieced and quilted. She uses 100% cotton fabrics and batting. She loves color, and she likes the backs of her quilts to be as pretty and interesting as the fronts. Her quilts are machine washable in cold water, using the gentle cycle.

Twenty quilts of various sizes will be available for sale. Come enjoy the beauty of Lois Sowder's quilts and find one that will bring joy to your house. Proceeds will go to Oak Grove church.





# BUNKS ACROSS AMERICA BUILD



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE®

## September 9th

8:30 am – 12:30 am

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is an organization committed to building, assembling, and delivering bunk beds to children and families in need. Bunks Across America is an annual event where local chapters across the nation participate in the largest bed building event in a single day.

Oak Grove will again be participating in "Bunks Across America" by sponsoring a Bed Build with Cave Spring UMC, Laurel Branch CoB (Floyd, Va), and other local churches on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This year the build will be held in the parking lot at **Cave Spring UMC** (4505 Hazel Dr in Roanoke) and the rain location will be at 1409 Colorado Street in Salem.

Many Oak Grovers serve on the core leadership team for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and since Oak Grove is helping sponsor this build, we need lots of volunteers to help. Anyone 12 and older is eligible to help build beds. Dave Jones says, "No experience necessary!" We do need all volunteers to sign up on the SHP website before participating · [www.bit.ly/shpevent](http://www.bit.ly/shpevent)



### International Day of Prayer for Peace

The Peace Affairs Committee will be sponsoring two events around International Day of Prayer for Peace. On Sunday, September 7, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., the Peace Affairs Committee will host Josh Brockway, Director of Spiritual Formation for the Church of the Brethren to lead the annual worship and prayers for peace service. The location will be announced at a later date.



### World Hunger Auction August 12, 2023

This year the World Hunger Auction celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year on Saturday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Antioch Church of the Brethren (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount).

During its 40 year history, the Auction has raised over \$1.5 million for local, national and international organizations like Heifer International, Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative, Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House) and other local food banks.



## National Older Adult Conference

September 4-8, 2023

Lake Junaluska, NC

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.

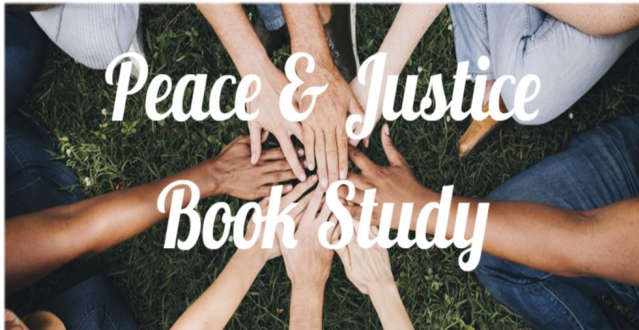
### "God is Doing A New Thing"

*There is a bus provided for those that don't want to drive. The cost is \$200. For more information, contact Eddie Edmunds at [edmunds.interimdemad@gmail.com](mailto:edmunds.interimdemad@gmail.com)*

Click [here](#) to register!

*For more info, contact [Carol](#).*





## REPARATIONS: A CHRISTIAN CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND REPAIR

by Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson.


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 Virlina 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.

ROANOKE HIDDEN HISTORIES PRESENTS

**H I D D E N** 

**I N P L A I N**

**S I T E** 

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



**ROANOKE**

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**WWW.ROANOKEHIDDENHISTORIES.ORG**

**MULTIPLE DATES**

Join our Peace & Justice group for an outing to see the documentary *Hidden in Plain Site* which highlights Black history in Roanoke. We are planning on attending the September 28, 2023 show at the Jefferson Center starting at 5:30 p.m.



# Camp Bethel News



***7th annual Camp Bethel PEP! 5K, Saturday, September 2, 2023.***

**Saturday, September 2, 2023 *(Tentative Schedule)***

**7:00-7:45am *Walk-in Registrations accepted.***

**7:00-8:00am Check-in at the Ark Lawn (parking lot side).**

**8:10am Race Meeting at the Ark Lawn (pond side).**

**8:30am STARTING LINE.**

**9:30am Awards!**

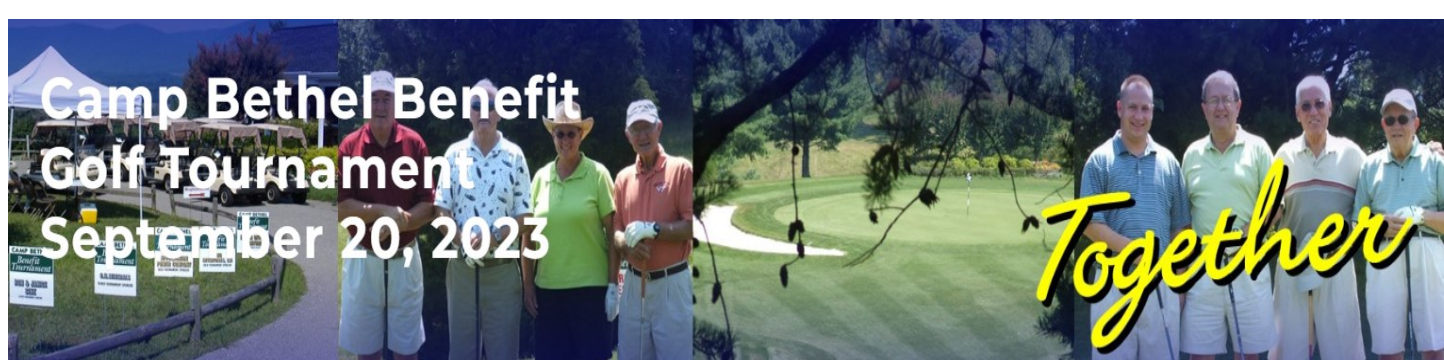
**10:00am Brunch! *(Donations accepted)***



**5K Trail Run (& Walk) at Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090**

**\$35 per participant. [Online registration](#) ends August 24 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.**

There is also a registration form on the next page.



Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 for our 2023 Golf Day at Ashley Plantation Golf Course. Tee off is 12:30 p.m. \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and a delicious boxed lunch.

Register your team or sponsor the event at [campbethelvirginia.org/golf](http://campbethelvirginia.org/golf). There is also a registration form on the next page.



## My Summer 2023 Donation to Camp Bethel

First Name	Last Name
John	Doe
Jane	Smith
Michael	Johnson
Emily	Williams
David	Brown
Sarah	Miller
James	Wilson
Alice	Moore
Robert	Taylor
Olivia	Anderson
William	Thomas
Isabella	Clark
Benjamin	White
Mia	Green
Ethan	Black
Ava	Gray
Noah	Blue
Charlotte	Gold
Liam	Silver
Amelia	Red
Lucas	Orange
Sophia	Purple
Mason	Yellow
Evelyn	Green
Logan	Blue
Harper	Pink
Sebastian	White
Penelope	Black
Carter	Gray
Chloe	Gold
Wyatt	Silver
Zoe	Red
Kyle	Orange
Lillian	Purple
Nathan	Yellow
Grace	Green
Jack	Blue
Victoria	Pink
Oscar	White
Madison	Black
Caleb	Gray
Abigail	Gold
Elijah	Silver
Skylar	Red
Isaac	Orange
Brooklyn	Purple
Samuel	Yellow
Leah	Green
Grayson	Blue
Isabella	Pink
Benjamin	White
Chloe	Black
Lucas	Gray
Amelia	Gold
Logan	Silver
Harper	Red
Sebastian	Orange
Penelope	Purple
Carter	Yellow
Chloe	Green
Wyatt	Blue
Zoe	Pink
Kyle	White
Lillian	Black
Nathan	Gray
Grace	Gold
Jack	Silver
Victoria	Red
Oscar	Orange
Madison	Purple
Caleb	Yellow
Abigail	Green
Elijah	Blue
Skylar	Pink
Isaac	White
Brooklyn	Black
Samuel	Gray
Leah	Gold
Grayson	Silver
Isabella	Red
Benjamin	Orange
Chloe	Purple
Lucas	Yellow
Amelia	Green
Logan	Blue
Harper	Pink
Sebastian	White
Penelope	Black
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Chloe	Gold
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Chloe	Green
Wyatt	Blue
Zoe	Pink
Kyle	White
Lillian	Black
Nathan	Gray
Grace	Gold
Jack	Silver
Victoria	Red

Organization or Family \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I donated \$\_\_\_\_\_ via [CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/donate).

Enclosed is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift to Camp Bethel. Use my gift as follows:

☐ Use where needed most = \$

☐ Summer Staff Adoption Fund = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use the enclosed envelope and mail to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Upon receipt, we will send you a Thank You letter with tax-deduction information.

Or donate online at [www.CampBetheVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBetheVirginia.org/donate)

Donate online at  
[CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)



## Camp Bethel *PEP!* 5K Participant & Sponsor Form, September 2

**\$35/participant** includes race, snacks, shirt & brunch. **CampBethelVirginia.org/5K.**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Runner/Walker ☐ Sponsor

Sponsoring Organization or Family

**Sponsor Level:** **Sponsor levels:** \$3,000 (Title), \$2,000 (Platinum), \$1,000 (Gold), \$500 (Silver), \$250 (Bronze).

View Sponsor Level Packages & Perks at: [CampBethel/Virginia.org/5K-Sponsor](http://CampBethel/Virginia.org/5K-Sponsor)

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Race T-Shirt Size (Adult Sizes)      Date of Birth      /      /      (For 5K Participants)      Gender      (For 5K Participants)

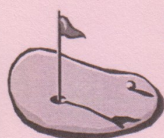
☐ Enclosed is my \$35 registration fee.    ☐ Enclosed is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ sponsor fee.    ☐ I paid/sponsored via [CampBethelVirginia.org/5K](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/5K)

☐ I will not be able to attend but I have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Camp Bethel.

Register ASAP & by August 20 at [CampBethelVirginia.org/5K](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/5K), or mail to Camp Bethel 5K, 328 Bethel Rd, Fincastle, VA 24090.

*Upon receiving your registration and/or sponsorship, we will send you a confirmation and information letter and email.*

**www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K**



## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Bethel Benefit Golf Tournament, September 20

**BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20:** Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 20 for our 2023 Golf Tournament at Ashley Golf Course. 11:00 check-in & lunch with tee off at 12:30pm. \$75 per person includes boxed lunch & drinks, green fees, cart. Registration information is at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf).

Player(s): 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

# Players x \$75.00 = \$

# Lunch only x \$15.00 = \$

Sponsorship/Gift = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail	Mailing Address
--------	-----------------

☐ I will not be able to attend but I have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Camp Bethel.

☐ I will be a Tournament Supporter by sending \_\_\_\_\_ sleeves of balls or other prizes & give-aways \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will be a Tournament Sponsor at the following level: ☐ Gold, \$1000; ☐ Silver, \$500; ☐ Hole Sponsor, \$150; ☐ Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name or Company Name as you want it to appear on our program, hole or tournament signs \_\_\_\_\_


Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Register at **CampBethelVirginia.org/golf** OR return the form below by Sept. 15 to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Rd, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Upon receiving your registration and/or sponsorship, we will send you a confirmation and information letter and email.

**www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf**






# GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

E-news of the Global Food Initiative    [www.brethren.org/gfi](http://www.brethren.org/gfi)    Summer 2023

## Global Food Initiative Anniversary



**YEARS OF GLOBAL  
FOOD INITIATIVE**

**I**n 1983, denominational leaders challenged Church of the Brethren members to respond to hunger and development needs in the Horn of Africa. The outpouring of financial support for this proposal led to the establishment of the Global Food Crisis Fund (the name was changed to the Global Food Initiative Fund in 2016). Forty years and nearly 8 million dollars later, the Global Food Initiative (GFI) continues to work with friends and partners around the globe to provide funds for agricultural production, nutrition education, and advocacy on hunger issues. Happy 40th Anniversary, GFI!


Church of  
the Brethren  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120

800 323-8039,  
ext. 332.

Jeff Boshart,  
Editor

## Venezuela: Second Chances

**G**FI allocations given to the **Asociación Iglesia de Los Hermanos Venezuela** (ASIGLEH or Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) for agricultural projects in 2017 and 2020 did not meet with success. Drought led to the poor harvest of crops in 2017, and, in 2020, two members of the communal farming project sold the harvest and kept all the proceeds for themselves, bringing great shame on the entire leadership of the young denomination. National church board members made the difficult decision to remove the offending individuals from all positions of leadership and recovered a small portion of the lost funds. The board was reorganized in 2022 and approached the GFI review panel to inquire about receiving another opportunity to submit a proposal for consideration of funding. After deliberation and prayer, and a face-to-face meeting in Colombia by GFI manager Jeff Boshart, the GFI panel members agreed. The panel allocated \$12,000 in September 2022 to support a plan calling for decentralization of the agriculture work with micro-projects spread out across the country. In the ensuing months, national board members regularly visited each project, providing visual and written updates. With great relief and rejoicing, the leadership of ASIGLEH reports that the poultry, maize, beans, carrots, and rice harvests were bountiful. Only one project, a cassava project with indigenous people in southern Venezuela, did not meet expectations due to drought. Some of the harvest will be shared with families in need and some sold to support the ministries of the national church. ASIGLEH's national board expressed thankfulness for the grace extended to them by the GFI review panel to try again.



Rafael Gonzalez



## Africa Great Lakes Workshops

**D**ry season vegetable production is uncommon in much of Africa with the exception being flood irrigation near rivers. Recent workshops sponsored by the GFI in Burundi and Uganda (a third workshop is in the planning stages for the Democratic Republic of Congo) aim to change that. Through the introduction of techniques such as drip irrigation, raised bed construction, and composting, approximately 60 farmers learned new skills. Each participant received drip irrigation hoses to take home at the completion of the two-day events. Instruction was provided by Joseph Edema who lives in Uganda and works for Healing Hands International – a Christian development organization based in Nashville, Tenn.



Expert Bakano



Victor Jumbo

## Canary Islands: Grocery Store

**L**anzarote is one of the Canary Islands, located in the Atlantic Ocean near the coast of north Africa. In 2018, the GFI awarded a \$7,445 grant to the Dad Y Se Os Dara (Give and It Will Be Given to You) ministry of the Lanzarote congregation of Iglesia Evangelica de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in Spain). The goal was to open a small community grocery store, which would provide a service to the immigrant community (predominantly from the Caribbean and Central America) on the island through the sale of culturally preferred food at affordable prices. The store was meant to complement an existing gardening project of the church. Funds were used to purchase freezers, a refrigerator, and bulk dry goods. The local congregation provided matching funds to cover rent, utilities, and local taxes. Five years later, the store and the garden are thriving, supplying healthful food, a place of connection for the immigrant community, and income to the local church to support local ministries. More of what the store, known as La Finca, has to offer can be found at [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090442977112](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090442977112).

## Nigeria: Soy-based Food Processing

**S**taff from the agriculture department of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN – the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) continue to provide training activities in soy-based food processing as part of the department's larger soybean value chain project. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the GFI review panel, the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren approved an allocation of \$25,000 from the GFI at its March meeting to provide continued support to EYN. Funds in excess of \$110,000 have been allocated to this project since 2018 (\$80,000 from the GFI, and more than \$30,000 from Brethren Disaster Ministries via the Nigeria Crisis Fund). Other activities of the Soybean Value Chain project include the following: training opportunities for 15 volunteer extension agents (VEAs), provision of farm inputs for VEA demonstration plots, and marketing.



Kelvin Usman





August 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Munch Bunch</b> <b>August 16, 2023</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Red Palace</b> <b>Tanglewood</b>		9:30 a.m.– Summer Connect  6 p.m.- Bible School Volunteer Meeting	9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.– Evan. & Membership 5:30 p.m.– Mission & Service	6:30 p.m.– Peace & Justice Book Study	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship	9 a.m.- Crafts  6 p.m.– Christian Ed  <i>August 7-13, Pastor Tim on Vacation</i>			9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study  11 a.m.-Good Samaritan  2 p.m.-Games		9:30 a.m.– Hunger Auction at Antioch CoB
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship J.D. Glick, preaching	9 a.m.- Crafts	4:30 p.m.– Youth at Casa Latina	11 a.m.– Munch Bunch Red Palace	9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games  7 p.m.– Community Peace Initiative	6:30 p.m.– Peace & Justice Book Study	<i>Bible School</i> <i>August</i> <i>19-20.</i> <hr/>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship  <hr/>	9 a.m.- Crafts			9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study  2 p.m.-Games		<i>Bible School</i> <i>August</i> <i>26-27.</i> <i>August 26 is</i> <i>at Camp</i> <i>Bethel.</i> <hr/>
27	28	29	30	31	<i>Upcoming Events:</i>  9/1– Family Weekend at Camp 9/2– Camp Bethel PEP 5K 9/4– NOAC 9/8-Peace & Justice Book Study 9/9-SHP Bed Build	
9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.– Deacons Meeting <hr/>	9 a.m.- Crafts  12:30 p.m.– Backpack		6 p.m.– Choir potluck 7 p.m.– Choir rehearsal	9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study  2 p.m.-Games		