

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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(540) 774-3217

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY
APRIL 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

APRIL 2024

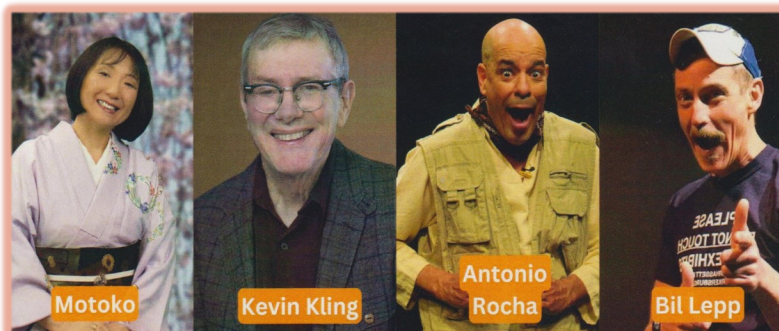
Published by:
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018



Join us on Sundays
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

April sermons and worship services

- April 7** *The people we meet in the neighborhood*
Luke 24:13-35
- April 14** Children's/Camp Bethel Sunday
- April 21** *Doubting Thomas?* John 20:24-29
- April 28** *The Guard's report* Matthew 28:11-15



Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival

April 12-13, 2024 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA
www.SoundsoftheMountains.org

Church News


Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...**Dick Gottshall**, recovering from a stroke
- ...**Millard Flora and Lori Michelangelo**, recovering from Covid
- ...**Marge Montgomery**, recovering from surgery
- ...**Dennis Shearer**, recovering from surgery

“Kind Hearts are the gardens, kind thoughts are the roots, kind words the flowers, kind deeds the fruits.”

These words which were written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow certainly describe the Oak Grove church family and friends!

Thank you so much for your prayers, thoughts, words and deeds during my two months of illness.



*Fondly,
Jane Grisso*

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY

May 4, 2024
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Cloverdale Church of the Brethren

\$20.00 for lunch and workshops.

Free Annual Conference Delegate briefing.

Worship with District Conference Moderator, Stacy Goff, and learn about the 2024 theme “Who Knows?”

Meet 2024 Annual Conference Moderator, Madalyn Metzger.

RSVP to Mary St. John at
(540) 362-1816.

Happy Birthday

- 4– Sharon Flora
- 4– Madelyn Ballew
- 5– Joe Blaha
- 7– Jonathan Eakin
- 10– Andrea Foutz
- 11– Sherrie White
- 12– Hannah Bolender
- 13– Dave Jones
- 14– Marge Montgomery
- 15– Wilma Twigg
- 16– Jim Montgomery
- 16– Matt King
- 19– Suzy Sauerwald
- 19– Marc Wilson
- 19– Bernard Morgenstern
- 21– Maggie Young
- 26– Susan Simmons
- 27– Robin Craighead
- 27– Susan Lindsey

Happy Anniversary

- 3– Leland & Sharon Flora
- 4- Marc & Mary Wilson
- 11- Norm & Julie Ann Pullen
- 28- Todd & Rhonda Marcum



Thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Yard Sale. The Youth made over \$6,000.00!

March Outreach

- Six individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Split and delivered wood with Project WARM.
- Backpack Ministry is now distributing 23 backpacks weekly!
- Helped build 40 beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Project **WARM**

We had only three requests for our last week of deliveries and they were made March 22, 2024! With the expectation of rain for Saturday, Dean Mannon, Bill Hall and Doug Hilton made them Friday so the rest of us could stay home.

There is still plenty of "housekeeping" to do though, so I will be working the next few Saturdays (weather permitting) to get things cleaned up and ready for next year. There is still wood to cut and split so you are certainly welcome to join me if you like! Should the weather take a turn to the cold side again, the Salvation Army knows to call on me so I can, in turn, call on you...

We have been doing Project WARM since 1996 and over these 28 years, we have seen a lot of changes. Back then, the weather was certainly colder and the season longer. It was not uncommon to have 15 to 20 deliveries a week. This season rarely saw more than 6 requests and our total deliveries were only 90 - down from a high of about 350! I think the shorter and milder seasons account for a lot of the decline. Requests will rise and fall with the cost of gas, oil and electricity. Even though the requests are fewer, those that still need it REALLY need it! You should take pride in knowing what a real and valuable service you have provided over the years to families in need. Firewood to heat a home has become a very expensive commodity but through your efforts, we were able to keep 12 families supplied with firewood at no cost. That should keep YOU warm!

WARMly,
 Marc Wilson
ProjectWARMroanoke@gmail.com



A few pictures from years past below:



Church of the Brethren 2024 Annual Conference Ballot



The Nominating Committee and Standing Committee present the following ballot for the 2024 Annual Conference elections in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Complete biographical information is available on the Annual Conference website: www.brethren.org/ac2024/business and will be printed in the Conference booklet.

For Moderator-Elect

Don Fitzkee – Lancaster Church of the Brethren, Atlantic Northeast District
Gene Hollenberg – Union Center Church of the Brethren, Northern Indiana District

For Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee

Addie Hostetler Lucatorto – Good Samaritan Church of the Brethren, Western Pennsylvania District
Laura Sellers – Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Southern Ohio, Kentucky District

For Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board – Area 4

Pearl Miller – Warrensburg Church of the Brethren, Missouri Arkansas District
Colby Patton – Wichita First Church of the Brethren, Western Plains District

For Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board – Area 5

Robert Aguirre – Glendale Church of the Brethren, Pacific Southwest District
Erik Brummett – Live Oak Church of the Brethren, Pacific Southwest District

For Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees - Colleges

Desired skill set: awareness of the dramatic changes taking place in higher education, especially seminary education; awareness of the issues of division in the denomination and changes in the larger church; persons of color who can help the seminary have conversations about diversity; persons with corporate or executive leadership experience

David McFadden – Manchester Church of the Brethren, South Central Indiana District
Jamie White – Stone Church of the Brethren, Middle Pennsylvania District

On Earth Peace Board

Desired skill set: develop and walk with leaders/communities who work for justice and peace; participate in "values-based consensus" decision-making process

Jennie L Wearing – Central Church of the Brethren, Virginia District
Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm – Northview Church of the Brethren, South Central Indiana District

Camp Bethel News

**Camp Bethel
Spring Work Day
April 6, 2024
7:30 a.m.
Click [here](#) for more
information.**



**Sounds of the Mountains
Storytelling Festival**
April 12-13, 2024 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA
www.SoundsoftheMountains.org



**April 18, 2024
Game Night and Potluck in the Ark**

Join us for our second Bethel Bistro event at Camp Bethel! Game night will be Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Ark Dining Hall. A potluck dinner will be served, and a variety of board games will be set out to enjoy! Please bring a dish to share and a friend or few!

**Click [here](#) for more info
and to register!**

**Click [here](#) for more
Summer Camp information!**



**2024
SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**

Pastor's Column

Navigating Grief and Guilt: a special Sunday School offering

Our congregation has experienced some traumatic losses over the last six months. Patricia Ronk's unexpected death weighs heavily on many of us. The circumstances surrounding Emma Jean Woodard's sudden illness and unexpected death compounded that sorrow. The loss of these two dear sisters in Christ came on top of the other losses and challenges of life that are the frequent subject of our prayer lists and pastoral prayers: the deaths that came more expectedly; serious, long-term illnesses; challenges with the health care system; and the pressures and stresses that are part and parcel of grief and loss.

We have been through a lot. We have cared for one another exceptionally well. But it has been a heavy season of congregational life.

I've noticed this in recent pastoral visits and conversations. Many of you have shed tears, expressed frustration with "the way things happened," and otherwise grieved these losses. This is normal and to be expected, and I cherish the trust you place in me in sharing your grief.

In this, however, I've noticed a certain amount of guilt mixed in with our grief. This, too, might be expected; but it concerns me enough that I shared this broad concern with the Deacons and asked what we might do about it.

To help us with this, the Deacons are sponsoring the two-week Sunday School class, *Navigating Grief and Guilt*. Session one will be **Sunday, April 28**; Sue Ranson will speak to us on the broad topic of working through grief and guilt in a faith-filled, healthy way. On **Sunday, May 5** we will hear from several of our own members as they share their experiences with grief, loss, and the challenges of caring for those in the last stages of life.

I hope you will put these dates on your calendar and join the entire congregation for these sessions. If you have thoughts on what might be helpful to hear, please pass those along to the church office; there is still plenty of time to shape the content of these sessions.

Pastor Tim

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 12:30 p.m.– Backpack	2 5:30 p.m.– Handbells 6 p.m.– Peace & Justice	3 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	4 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.– Min. & Worship 5:30 p.m.– Evan. & Mem. 5:30 p.m.-Mission & Serv. 6:30 p.m.– Christian Ed.	5	6 7:30 a.m.– Spring Work Day at Camp Bethel
7 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30–Deacons	8 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts <i>Pastor Tim on vacation from April 8 – 14, 2024.</i>	9 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	10 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	11 9 a.m.– Women at West Salem Diner 2 p.m.-Games	12 <i>Sounds of the Mountain at Camp Bethel Friday doors open at 5:30 p.m. Saturday doors open at 8:30 a.m.</i>	13
14 <i>Children’s/ Camp Bethel Sunday</i> 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30 p.m.– Ex. Comm.	15 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts 12:30 p.m.– Backpack	16 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	17 9 a.m.– ESL 11 a.m.– Munch Bunch 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	18 2 p.m.– Games 6:30 p.m.– Bistro Night at Camp Bethel	19	20
21 9:45 a.m.-SS 11:00 a.m.-Worship	22 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.– Crafts	23 5:30 p.m.– Handbells	24 9 a.m.– ESL 6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study 7 p.m.– Choir	25 9:30 a.m.– Women’s Bible Study 2 p.m.-Games	26	27 8 a.m.- SHP Bed Build
28 9:45 a.m.- Navigating Grief and Guilt 11:00 a.m.- Worship	29 9 a.m.– ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.– Backpack	30 5:30 p.m.– Handbells		<i>Looking Ahead...</i> OAK GROVE BIBLE SCHOOL  AUGUST 17 & 18 AUGUST 24 & 25 SAVE THE DATE!		
						