

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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**DEADLINE FOR
APRIL
MARCH 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

MARCH 2025

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.

March Sermons and Scripture

March 2 Transfiguration Sunday
Jesus is what God has to say, Luke 9:28-36

March 5 Ash Wednesday
In the wilderness, Luke 4:1-13

March 9 First Sunday of Lent
Up a tree, Luke 19:1-10

March 16 Second Sunday of Lent
If you had only recognized..., Luke 19:41-44

March 23 Third Sunday of Lent
Jesus looked up and saw...two small coins, Luke 20:45 – 21:4

March 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent
But see, the one who betrays is with me, Luke 22:14-23



Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

...Tanya Pizzullo, cancer surgery

Please pray for the family of Gil Henshaw. Gil passed away February 6, 2025.

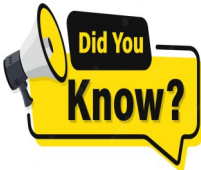
Jim Montgomery passed away February 8, 2025. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Please keep the family of Lillian van Lear in your prayers. Lillian was Amanda Leddy's mother. She passed away on February 13, 2025.



March 2nd!

Two people from Oak Grove attended FaithQuest!



Two youth and two adults attending Roundtable!

MONTHLY OUTREACH February

- Two individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for four families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack Ministry delivers 23 bags each week!
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 80 beds!
- Project WARM delivered 6 loads of wood!

Happy Birthday

- 1- Eulaela Craighead
- 2- Olivia Hawkins
- 5- Emily Bender
- 9- Elaine Thompson
- 10- Tanya Pizzullo
- 11- Pat Wright
- 15- Bill Broyles
- 17- Steve Shumate
- 18- Phoebe Hart
- 20- Todd Marcum
- 20- Fred Porter
- 23- Josh Eakin
- 23- Judy Bohon
- 29- Logan Pullen
- 24- Carol Hambleton
- 28- Lucy Pullen

Happy Anniversary

- 5- Bill & Carolyn Broyles

Moderator Grief Workshop: Grief Workshop #2

March 13, 2025

Register by clicking [here](#).

Faith working through love—the grief process: An invitation from the Annual Conference moderator, Dava Hensley.

The losses in the church community are great. The loss of community through death and departure of churches is real. The loss of being and doing church like years past is our reality. There is much grief and sadness associated with these realities and grief does not have an end time. What we can do is learn how to better move through grief and loss.

February 9, 2025 Executive Committee Newsletter Summary
by Holly Belcher

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, February 9, 2025. We discussed new business including ways to incorporate inactive members into current worship and events, a jointly sponsored bed build with Cave Spring United Methodist Church, and review of some increasing costs in the Property Committee's budget. The Committee also reviewed the proposed final 2025 budget, primarily the surplus amount.

There were also some discussions on suggested improvements to be made to the church, so that we may be able to continue our worship and spreading God's love for many generations to come.

We are planning for some upcoming events including the Missions and Service Commission working to schedule our yearly Sunday at Camp Bethel and Christian Education continuing to plan for Easter Sunday and Graduation Sunday.

We are already looking at items to review for the Spring Council meeting in May and expect to have several items for discussion.

Church Visioning Team Update
by Holly Belcher

The Church Visioning Team met Thursday, January 30, 2025. The team discussed its intentions for the team and what ways we can help the church building support many more years of ministry and fellowship to come.

We will be visiting Summerdean Church of the Brethren on February 20, 2025 in hopes of getting some new ideas. We look forward to sharing more with the congregation in the coming months.

The Roanoke Reparations Group will hold its next meeting at Oak Grove on March 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. All who are interested in attending are welcome.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Ellen Phillips or Deanna Knox.

Support the Casa Latina Community

Oak Grove's Peace & Justice group is sponsoring a Food and Diaper Drive for Casa Latina to support families in Roanoke's Hispanic community. Many families are facing food insecurity, and together, we can make a difference. Donations of the following non-perishable food items and baby supplies are greatly appreciated:

long grain rice

beans (pinto and black)

lentils

tomato sauce

tuna

canned chicken

sardines

juices (all fruit)

oil

salt

masa flour

coffee

diapers (all sizes, smaller count packages are most helpful)

baby wipes



Drop-Off Information: Donations can be dropped off in the bin marked “Casa Latina” outside the fellowship hall.

Other Ways to Give: You may also consider making a monetary contribution to Casa Latina or volunteering your time. Casa Latina works with various organizations who donate to their mission, and they depend on volunteers to assist with picking up, sorting, and distributing these donations.

For more details, contact Ellen Phillips or Kris Tilley-Lubbs.


YOUTH YARD SALE - March 21-22, 2025

We need YOU to bring your no-longer-wanted-treasures to the fellowship hall stage on or after March 9 so we can price your items, please! We will meet on MONDAY, March 10, at 5:00 p.m. to set up tables and would appreciate YOUR help. Also, needed is on-going help sorting and pricing in the two weeks before our sale.

If you can help on that Friday or Saturday with the yard sale or bake sale, please let Martha Gregory or Carol Elmore know!

Friday 8-12 p.m.;
Saturday 8-2 p.m.





**God is Doing
a New Thing**
NEW & RENEW CONFERENCE 2025

New & Renew Conference 2025
Date: May 14-16, 2025
Location: Elgin, IL
Theme: God Is Doing a New Thing – Isaiah 43:19

Register [HERE](#).

Early bird pricing: \$129/person until April 20 for both on-site and virtual.
Regular pricing: \$179/person starts Monday, April 21 for both on-site and virtual.

New & Renew is a vibrant hybrid gathering focused on church planting and church renewal that is rooted in worship and prayer that equips, nurtures, and stimulates creative, practical ministry.

New & Renew Advisory Team

Ryan Braught – Veritas Community, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Don Mitchell – Director of Church Development & Evangelism, Atlantic Northeast District
Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Cesia Salcedo – Renacer Church of the Brethren, Floyd, Virginia, and Buen Pastor Church of the Brethren, Blacksburg, Virginia
Gina Wright-Hawkins – The Way and Monte Vista Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Virginia
Gilbert Romero – Restoration Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

Discipleship & Leadership Formation staff: Randi Rowan, Stan Dueck

Camp Bethel News



**Camp Bethel
Spring Work Day
April 5, 2025
7:30 a.m.**

Click [here](#) for more information.



Camp Bethel Summer Camp

It's time to register for summer camp! Lots of fun is already in the making for our 2025 summer camp programs!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to register.

Pilgrimage at Camp Bethel March 21-23, 2025

“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,
whose heart is set on Pilgrimage.” Psalm 84:5

Do you have questions about God and what it means to be a Christian? Are you searching for a more meaningful prayer life? Do you struggle with how to live out your Christian faith in today's world? Would you simply like to spend some intimate time with God? Then join us in a weekend of study, reflection, and sharing centered on questions of faith and spirituality!

The Pilgrimage retreat is a spirit-filled experience for adults of all ages (18 - ?) who want to explore their relationship with God. **Pilgrimage is . . .** an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper spirituality and commitment. Three basic themes will be explored during the weekend:

Friday

DISCOVERING SELF

As Pilgrims, we are asked to look at our own person and to realize that we are important because we are children of God, created and loved by God!

Saturday

DISCOVERING GOD

Our activities will help us to focus on our image of who God is and how God communicates with us and all of creation. We will discover that our faith in God cannot be understood apart from our relationship with others. Our discussions and worship times will call us to see our place in our small and large communities.

Sunday

DISCOVERING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

We are invited to become part of the support system which will enable us to do God's work in this world. As we leave Pilgrimage, we are challenged to take what we have learned about ourselves, one another and our God, and put them into practice by living out a Christian lifestyle.

WHEN: March 21–23, 2025. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. The retreat ends at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

WHERE: Camp Bethel (328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA.)

WHAT TO BRING: Bedroll or sleeping bag, personal items, towel and washcloth, your Bible, pen, and a willingness to learn and share with others.

Experience Pilgrimage – words can’t describe it!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Total cost for the retreat is \$125, including registration fee. Scholarships are available. Please complete the registration form below and send it along with the \$25 registration fee made payable to Pilgrimage by March 1, 2025. Early registration is encouraged as space is limited. **The nature of this retreat requires your participation in the entire weekend. Make Pilgrimage a priority in 2025!**

To register, complete the form below or visit www.experiencepilgrimage.com.

PILGRIMAGE XXVI REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and send with \$25 non-refundable registration fee by March 1, 2025 to: Pilgrimage, c/o Karen Haynes, 3660 Fraternity Church Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27127. Make checks payable to Pilgrimage.

NAME _____ PHONE # () _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

CONGREGATION _____ AGE _____ M F

SPECIAL DIETARY/OTHER NEEDS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ RELATION _____ PHONE # () _____

HOW OR FROM WHOM DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PILGRIMAGE? _____



Please read and sign the Pilgrimage Covenant on the back of this form.

Children's Disaster Services fields large response to Los Angeles fires

by Carolyn Neher and Michael Scalzi

In January, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) sent four volunteer teams to care for children in the Los Angeles area in response to the wildfires that engulfed the city and surrounding area.

Three teams were partnered with the Red Cross for two weeks, serving in the shelters and resource assistance centers for the wildfire survivors.

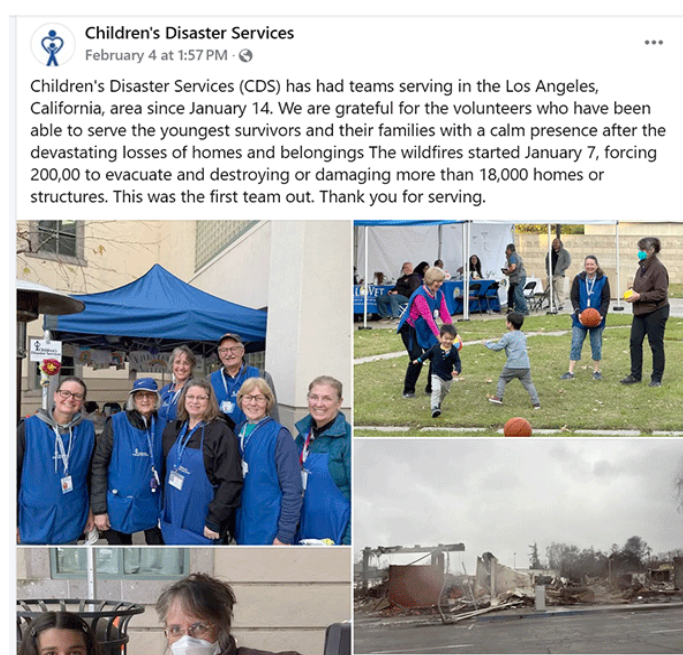
One team was made up of CDS volunteers living locally in California. California VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster) and Church World Service (CWS) asked CDS to serve for a week at a Wildfire Resource HUB in Pasadena.

As of Feb. 5, 2025 volunteers served 412 children. During the response, CDS associate director Carolyn Neher visited with each team, helping to coordinate the response. During the response, CDS volunteers gave their time supporting young children and their families recovering from the wildfires.

The last team of CDS volunteers still serving in the L.A. area are scheduled to return home on Feb. 12.

Two wildfires started on Jan. 7: the Palisades fire in the Santa Monica mountains of Los Angeles County and the Eaton fire in Altadena. The Palisades fire destroyed most of Pacific Palisades, Topanga, and Malibu cities. Over 200,000 people were forced to evacuate. The fires were driven by Santa Ana winds of hurricane strength—80 to 100 miles per hour—killing 29 people and destroying or damaging 16,000 structures. The Palisades and Eaton fires were fully contained after 24 days on Jan. 31.

Carolyn Neher is associate director of Children's Disaster Services. Michael Scalzi is program assistant for CDS. Find out more about CDS, which is part of Brethren Disaster Ministries, at www.brethren.org/cds. Give financial support by clicking [here](#).



RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES

MEET & GREET

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 | 7 PM

Location : Virlina District Resource Center & Zoom



Art by Devin Dixon-Rosario

The Church of the Brethren's Standing with People of Color committee is looking to build a network of individuals within our denomination who are committed to racial justice. Sign up as a Racial Justice Advocate and connect with other people in the Church of the Brethren who are working on these issues. Please see the back of this flyer for more information. Virlina's Racial Advocacy Team (formerly the Virlina Race Education Team) is helping spread the word by hosting a Meet & Greet for all Racial Justice Advocates and those interested in these issues on March 18th at 7 pm at the Virlina District Resource Center and on Zoom.

**BECOME A
RACIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATE**



Sign up for the Meet & Greet or get more information by emailing us at
[**VirlinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com**](mailto:VirlinaRacialAdvocacyTeam@gmail.com)

**Virlina's Racial Advocacy Team: Jennie Waering, Eric Anspaugh, Randall Eakin, Ellen Phillips,
and Mary St. John (Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness)**



Standing with
People of Color

CRUCIAL CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS

We are asking the entire Church of the Brethren to engage in conversations in various settings in the next year, using the discussion prompts below. We hope the church will share together around the family table, in Sunday School or other congregational settings, in districts, and in other Brethren agencies and venues.

Instructions:

Using the “BELOVED” model for Crucial Christian Conversations (on the back), share with each other your personal stories and experiences for each of the discussion prompts below.

Consider using a short statement prior to each person sharing their responses such as “Peace be with you” “We hold you in the Light of God,” or a gem of gratitude after each person has shared.

At various times during your sharing circle, check your feelings and emotions and check-in with others. Consider naming an emotion you are feeling while sharing your own responses or while listening to others. Use 1, 2, or 3 words to briefly describe what you understand the person speaking has shared.

Discussion Prompts:

1

Share your family’s origin story. Go back as many generations as you know and start there. Briefly share some of your family history/tree up to your current family.

2

Share a compelling memory of when you became aware of cultural, racial, or color differences.

3

Share the message Jesus has for you or us about justice and racism. What does Jesus want you to hear or see? What does Jesus call you or us to do next?

4

If you listen to Jesus’ call, what spiritual healing or personal growth might you have to do?

5

If you are a white/dominant culture Brethren, how can you support/stand with people of color (POC)? If you are a POC, what does it mean for you to stand with other people of color?

6

Imagine if things were different and there were more racial justice. What do you envision?

7

What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve that goal?



BELOVED Model for Crucial Christian Conversations

Before You Share

B Before sharing, remind yourself of the purpose of the activity and contemplate your responses. Centering oneself can be done through a brief meditation, silent prayer or a few deep breaths. Visualize a safe space for yourself and others to become a BELOVED community.

Empathize

E Empathize with others and oneself. Feel with your heart. Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Display empathy for each person as you journey together to understand your unique history, background, and experiences. Strive towards mutual trust and respect with one another while seeking justice and healing.

Listen

L Listen from your heart to one another. Some may feel vulnerable especially if sharing painful experiences or memories. Paraphrase (2 or 3 words) or summarize to show that you are listening deeply and striving to understand.

Offer Your Perspective

O Offer your perspective. Calmly share one's own perspective and feelings, experiences and understandings, memories, pain, or puzzlements. Speak only for yourself and about your own unique experience. Share the Truth as you have discerned and remembered it.

Visualize

V Our vision of a BELOVED community is learning to nurture the Realm of God here on earth. Visualize and share what you might do differently as a result of this conversation.

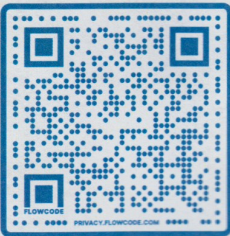
Engage

E Actively participate while being aware of relationship dynamics. Remind yourself to "Step Back" if you usually get the floor and/or find yourself sharing often or too long and "Step Up" if you usually are quiet or feel hesitant to share. Be curious. Lean into listening and wondering.

Discover and Discern

D Reflect on your own learning during this time of sharing together. Share what you learned with others while protecting another's vulnerability. Remember to maintain anonymity (unless the person states that it is okay to share their experiences with others). Discern your own pathway about where else you might engage in sharing or moving forward with these justice issues.

Pain humans experience includes not being seen, not being heard, not being trusted, not being recognized, not feeling safe and secure.
- Sister Theresa of Winnipeg



BELOVED Model developed by Barbara Daté and Christy Schaub for the 2022-2024 Church of the Brethren Standing with People of Color process

StandingWithPeopleofColor@brethren.org
www.OnEarthPeace.org/swpoc
www.brethren.org/swpoc

Pastor’s Column

What we see when we slow down



One of my favorite aspects of running is how the slower pace enables me to experience a place differently than when driving at highway speed. Simply put, I sense more while running than when driving. And if you ever come hiking with me and Lynette, you’ll notice our frequent stops as Lynette takes out her phone, opens the *Seek* app, and identifies a new plant species for her collection.

When you take the time to slow down, important and beautiful details emerge from the blurry background of life’s normal pace, coming into focus for our observation and benefit.



This is how Jesus chose to redeem the world. In his essay *Three Mile an Hour God*, Japanese theologian Kosuke Koyama notes that when Jesus left his Father’s side and walked among us, he moved at human speed—3 miles an hour. Redemption arrived at the speed of human walking, noticing people and details that were otherwise overlooked.



The Christian season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025. Our worship services throughout Lent are inspired by Luke’s Gospel, focusing on the people and things Jesus saw as he walked into Jerusalem for his final confrontation with religious and political authorities. I encourage you to make time this Lenten season to read Luke chapters 19-24, paying close attention to the many verbs that indicate sight: see, observe, recognize, etc. What did Jesus see as he walked from Zacchaeus’ house to the cross? What details of faithful Christian living do we miss when we’re too busy with somewhere to go or something to do?



Pastor Tim

March 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>hello</div> <div>spring</div> <div>  </div> </div>						
<div>2</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship Guess Who's Coming to Lunch</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5:30 p.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.-Peace & Justice</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9 a.m.- ESL 12 p.m. & 6 p.m.-Ash Wednesday Services</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Ministry & Worship 5:30 p.m.-Mission & Service 6:30 p.m.- Christian Ed</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Pastor/Spouse Retreat at Camp Bethel March 7-8. Sow the Seed Banquet at Camp Bethel March 8, 2025.</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Roundtable at Bridgewater March 1-2</div>
<div>9</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m.- Executive</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack 5 p.m.- Yard Sale Set—up in Fell. Hall</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Project WARM</div>
<div>16</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 5:30 p.m. Roanoke Reparations Group</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9 a.m.- ESL 11 a.m.-Munch Bunch at Shakers 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.- Games</div>	<div>21</div> <div>YARD SALE Friday 8-12 p.m.; Saturday 8-2 p.m. Pilgrimage March 21-23</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5:30 p.m.- Handbells</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9 a.m.- ESL 6 p.m.- Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.- Choir</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10 a.m.- 2p.m. Junior High Retreat at Hollins Road CoB</div>
<div>30</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL 9 a.m.- Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack</div>					<div> <div>  </div> </div>

Bryana will be on vacation
March 24-28.