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Tim Harvey

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THE VISITOR

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

APRIL 2025



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

**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.

April Sermons and Scripture

April 6 • Fifth Sunday of Lent
Children's/Camp Bethel Sunday

April 13 • Palm Sunday
That's not what a kiss—or a sword—is for, Luke 22:47-53

April 17 • Maundy Thursday
Love Feast, 6:00 p.m.
Jesus took a towel, John 13:4

April 18 • Good Friday
Worship services at 12:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
The Lord turned and looked..., Luke 22:54-62

April 20 • Easter!
Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m.
Jennifer Fletcher, Pastor, Windsor Hills UMC, preaching

Worship, 11:00 a.m.
The first preachers, Luke 24:1-12

April 27 • Second Sunday of Easter
First and Last, Revelation 1:4-8

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

...Mary Jo Burris, recovering from fall

Prayers for the family of Marianne Pittman who passed away March 15, 2025.

Congratulations to the Taylors!



Noa Emily Taylor was born February 26, 2025 at 9:30 p.m. She weighed 7 lb. 8 oz. and is 20.5 inches long. Chris, Morgan, Barnes and Noa are all doing well.



MONTHLY OUTREACH March

- Five individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two 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

- 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- Matt King
- 19- Suzy Sauerwald
- 19- Marc Wilson
- 19- Bernard Morgenstern
- 21- Maggie Young
- 23- Sara King
- 26- Susan Simmons
- 27- Robin Craighead
- 27- Susan Woodard

Happy Anniversary

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



Interested in helping rebuild homes with Brethren Disaster Ministries?

The Virgina District is looking for volunteers to join the April 27 – May 3, 2025 trip to Letcher, KY, repairing and rebuilding homes damaged in a 2022 flood.

See Mike Tyler for more information.



Oak Grove Church of the Brethren



Maundy Thursday
Love Feast
April 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.



Good Friday
April 18, 2025
Services at
12:00 p.m. &
6:00 p.m.



Easter Sunrise
Service
April 20, 2025
7:00 a.m.



Easter Egg Hunt
April 20, 2025
9:45 a.m.
Duck Donuts
10:30 a.m.



Easter Sunday Worship
and Cantata, "God So Loved"
April 20, 2025
11:00 a.m.
In person and Facebook Live

Serenity Rodkey
by *Connie Bierly*

February 16, 2025, was a grand day for our congregation with the baptism of two of our young people, Cooper Purcell and Serenity Rodkey. I felt a special blessing to assist Serenity at her baptism especially since I have had the chance to spend a little time with her over Sunday lunches. She is a delightful young lady!

As you may know, Jodi Zabo connected Serenity with our congregation several years ago. When asked why she decided to be baptized at this time, without any hesitation Serenity said because she wanted “everyone to see” her making a life-long commitment to follow Jesus. She recognizes that often actions do speak louder than words and wants people to both see and hear her commitment.

Serenity is 13 years old and is a 7th grader at Benjamin Franklin Middle School in Franklin County. She lives with her parents Barbara Rodkey and James Perez in Moneta and gets to spend some weekends here in Roanoke with Jodi, “adopted grandmother”, Serenity may not have one favorite subject in school at the present although she really loves learning about history. She enjoys sewing and would like to learn needlework. She also enjoys playing nerf guns with her Dad. Volleyball is her favorite sport activity and next year she plans to try out for her school’s team.

Please be sure to welcome Serenity to our congregation when you get a chance. We are blessed to have her as a member of our congregation and will look forward to seeing her as often as possible.



Cooper Purcell
by Randall Eakin

Cooper Purcell has been attending Oak Grove Church of the Brethren since he was a young boy, along with his brother, Charlie, and their parents, Drew and Mel. He is 14 years old and is in the 8th grade at James Madison Middle School. At school, Cooper especially likes his science and math classes.

He just finished his wrestling season, but he also enjoys playing basketball and football. He has a future goal to wrestle at the college level at Virginia Tech. He enjoys playing the guitar, stand up bass, and the drums. He also enjoys chess, so feel free to ask him to play a game of chess with you during fellowship time at church.

Cooper enjoys spending time with animals and learning about them, including the three dogs in his home. He is a valuable part of our church family, helping in our nursery during church service and helping around the church when needed. He has enjoyed attending work camps and Camp Bethel. He shared that his faith in God and strong support from his church helped to lead him to his decision to be baptized. Cooper was baptized on February 16, 2025.

Cooper said to share that he likes eating and he “accepts food of any kind”.



Get these on your calendar:

April 5-9, 2025– Christian Citizenship Seminar for high school ages in Washington DC

May 10, 2025– District End of Year Picnic at Camp Bethel. All youth are invited!!

June 8-12, 2025– Junior High FaithX in Richmond, VA

June 20-22, 2025– National Junior High Conference at Juniata College, PA

July 6-10, 2025– Senior High FaithX in Winston Salem, NC



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. Breakfast
Click [here](#) for more
information.**

**Sounds of the Mountains
Storytelling Festival**
April 25-26, 2025 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA
www.SoundsoftheMountains.org

**Friday, April 25, 2025 doors open at 6:00 p.m.
9:15 p.m. -Campfire with storytellers**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025 doors open at 9:00 a.m.
Full schedule posted at www.soundsofthemountains.org.**

**Adults \$20-\$55; Children \$10-\$32
Food and drinks for sale or bring your own.**

2025 Events: Bethel Bistro



What is Bethel Bistro?

Bethel Bistro is a series of family-friendly events held one Thursday evening each quarter from 6:30-8:00pm. Each event provides an opportunity for food, fun and fellowship! Everyone is welcome at Bethel Bistro! RSVP is encouraged but not required.



April 17, 2025	Campfire Cooking: Join us around the campfire for a three-course campfire meal! Learn the basics of campfire cooking. Then, cook your own appetizer, dinner and dessert.
August 7, 2025	Guided Hike and Trail Mix Bar: Take a hike around camp (easy to moderate skill level) and learn fun facts about nature while snacking on your trail mix.
October 16, 2025	Pumpkin Carving and Fall Fun: Bring your own pumpkin and spend time carving or painting. Snack on some fall foods and enjoy other fall activities and music.



CAMP BETHEL

ADDRESS: 328 BETHEL ROAD, FINCASTLE, VA
PHONE: 540-992-2940
WEBSITE: WWW.CAMPBETHELVIRGINIA.ORG
EMAIL: CAMPBETHEOFFICE@GMAIL.COM



AWAKENING

APRIL 6-9, 2025

BETHLEHEM

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

4250 BETHLEHEM RD
BOONES MILL VA

6:45 HYMNS
7:00 WORSHIP

hope

FROM THE PAST
FOR THE PRESENT
AND FUTURE





DR. STEVEN SCHWEITZER
Academic Dean and Professor
Bethany Theological Seminary

SUNDAY, APRIL 6:
"TOGETHER: LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY"
- **2 CHRONICLES 30**

MONDAY, APRIL 7:
"SCRIPTURE AND COMMUNITY"
- **NEHEMIAH 8**

TUESDAY, APRIL 8:
"THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY"
- **ISAIAH 61 AND LUKE 4**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9:
"LIVING AS IF: BEING AND BECOMING AS GOD'S PEOPLE"
- **ISAIAH 62 AND 60**

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY
9 AM - 11 AM EACH DAY

MONDAY: "HOPE IN CHRONICLES" -2 CHRONICLES 26 & 33 - CEDAR BLUFF COB
TUESDAY: "RESTORATION IN EZRA-NEHEMIAH" -EZRA 3; NEHEMIAH 9 & 13- CLOVERDALE COB
WEDNESDAY: "VISION IN ISAIAH" - ISAIAH 55-66 - POAGES MILL COB



“Alive in the Spirit!”

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

National Older Adult Conference September 1-5, 2025

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.

NOAC online registration will open May 1. Past participants will receive an email with the registration link on May 1. Those who need to reserve a room at the Terrace Hotel due to mobility/health issues will be able to register April 21-28. A phone number for room reservations will be provided early in April.

Registration fees are:

- Early-bird Registration: May 1-July 15- \$220
- July 16-September 1: \$250
- \$20 off for first time in person attendees
- Virtual- \$150 per household

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

Pastor's Column

This is an article about congregational giving...but it might not seem that way for a while! The Blue Ridge Marathon is a crown jewel outdoor event of the Roanoke Valley, attracting participants and their family members from across the United States. I've completed the half-marathon five times, each time pacing myself to average 9 minutes per mile for the race. That is a doable pace, and the math is easy to keep track of while I run. Each time I pass a mile marker, I look at my watch and calculate how far I am ahead of or (mostly) behind pace.

But because the course is so hilly, *I never actually run a 9-minute mile!* I'm always faster or slower than this. The course begins in front of the Patrick Henry Hotel and proceeds south on Jefferson Street, turning left on Walnut Ave. That's about as flat as Roanoke gets, and I'm faster than 9 minutes for that mile. But then the course heads up to the Mill Mountain Star, and when I arrive there I'm generally about two minutes behind my pace. Not to worry, though, because I'll make up all that time (and then some) running down Mill Mountain and then along the Greenway to River's Edge Park. But next comes Avenham Avenue, Peakwood Drive, and West Ridge Road—some of the steepest hills in Roanoke. When I finally reach the cul-du-sac at the top of West Ridge, I'm behind my pace again. On and on it goes until I cross the finish line, stop the timer on my watch, and check my race pace.

So you're probably wondering, what does this have to do with congregational giving? It's this: our monthly giving patterns are as uneven as my mile-splits in the Blue Ridge Half-Marathon, even as we meet our yearly congregational financial commitments. Just because our year-to-date giving might have us "in the red" in a given month doesn't mean we aren't on pace to meet our goal. Thinking again about the Blue Ridge Half-Marathon, after the first year I realized I can't panic when I reach mile 11 and am 90 or more seconds slower than my target pace, because the final two miles are some of the fastest of the race. In each of the five races, I've always finished a few seconds faster than 9 minutes per mile.

In general, January, October, November, and December are our biggest giving months, while June and September are some of our lowest. As you read our financial reports in the bulletin and newsletter, remember that just because we appear to be behind our giving doesn't mean we won't be on track at the end.



We are a financially faithful and generous congregation. Thank you for both your regular giving and your special gifts: those that come in the offering plate, as memorial gifts, contributions to the *Acorn Fund*, or purchases made at the Yard Sale or Bazaar. It takes all of us, each doing our part, to continue the effective ministry of our congregation.

Pastor Tim

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Pastor Tim will be out of town from April 5-10, preaching at the Lenten services at Ashland-Dickey Church of the Brethren in Ashland, OH.</div>		<div>1</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Handbells</div> <div>6 p.m.-Peace & Justice</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9 a.m.– ESL</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study Dinner & Devotions</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9:30 a.m.-Women’s Faith Study Group</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Ministry & Worship</div> <div>5:30 p.m.-Mission & Service</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Finance</div> <div>6:30 p.m.– Christian Ed</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:30 a.m.– Breakfast-Camp Bethel Workday</div> <div>8:30 a.m.- SHP Bed Build at Colorado St.</div>
<div>6</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 a.m.- Worship</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>9 a.m.– Awakening Bible Study at Cedar Bluff CoB</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9 a.m.- Awakening Bible Study at Cloverdale CoB</div> <div>Handbell Choir playing at Awakening</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9 a.m.– Awakening Bible Study at Poages Mill CoB</div> <div>Choir singing at Awakening</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group</div> <div>2 p.m.-Games</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Palm Sunday</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 a.m.- Worship</div> <div>12:30 p.m.– Executive Meeting</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>9 a.m.– Crafts</div>	<div>15</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Handbells</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9 a.m.– ESL</div> <div>11 a.m.-Munch Bunch</div> <div>2 p.m.– Phyllis Meadows Memorial</div> <div>7 p.m.– Choir</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group</div> <div>6 p.m.– Love Feast</div> <div>6:30 p.m.– Bethel Bistro</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12:00 p.m. & 6 p.m.-Good Friday Service</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8:30 a.m.-SHP Bed Build at Boxley Materials</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Easter Sunday</div> <div>7 a.m.-Easter Sunrise</div> <div>9:45 a.m.-Egg Hunt</div> <div>11:00 a.m.- Worship/ Cantata</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>9 a.m.– Crafts</div> <div>12:30 p.m.- Backpack</div>	<div>22</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Handbells</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9 a.m.– ESL</div> <div>6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study</div> <div>7 p.m.– Choir</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9:30 a.m.– Women’s Faith Study Group</div> <div>2 p.m.– Games</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Sounds of the Mountains at Camp Bethel April 25-26. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. April 25. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. on April 26.</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>9:45 a.m.- Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 a.m.- Worship</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9 a.m.-ESL</div> <div>9 a.m.– Crafts</div>	<div>29</div> <div>5:30 p.m.– Handbells</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9 a.m.– ESL</div> <div>6 p.m.– Men’s Bible Study</div> <div>7 p.m.– Choir</div>	<div><div></div><div><div>The Chronicles of Narnia Book 5</div><div>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</div><div>Sunday, April 6 9:45 a.m.</div><div></div></div></div>		