DECEMBER 2025

Pastor: Tim Harvey

Minister of Nurture and Music:
Carol Elmore

E-mail:

churchoffice@oakgrovecob.org

Website:

www.oakgrovecob.org

Phone:

(540) 774-3217

JANUARY

DECEMBER 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

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.

December Sermon Schedule

November 30 First Sunday of Advent—Hope

Sermon: People look east (Hymnal supplement, # 1036)

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

Sermon: *Creators of the stars of night* (# 177)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

Choral Cantata: Appalachian Winter

Homily: Fling wide the door, unbar the gate (# 186)

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55

December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

Sermon: 'Twas in the moon of wintertime (# 190)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelighting and Communion

Sermon: Angels we have heard on high (# 197)

Luke 2:15, 20

December 28 J.D. Glick, guest preacher

Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Jake Keating, recovering from foot surgery
- ...Lowell Foutz, recovering from car accident
- ...Bill Fowler, recovering at home
- ...Dawn Thomas, recovering after surgery
- ...Tanya Pizzullo, recovering from surgery
- ...Bill Hall, recovering from surgery
- ...Nelson Hylton, recovering from surgery

Zach and Sage Harvey are ecstatic to report that Finley Oliver Harvey arrived on November 10, 2025 at 5:50 a.m. He is 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 22 inches long.



Congratulations!

Carol Elmore heard back from David Radcliff of New Community Project regarding our collection from Bible School 2025, "Waves of Wonder"!

Pictured right: The new toilet constructed with our donation.



MONTHLY OUTREACH November

- -Three individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- -Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- -Sleep in Heavenly Peace built 60 beds!
- -Backpack is delivering 15 bags weekly!

Happy Birthday

- 2- Joyce Bolender
- 4- Phyllis Petcher
- 6- Gladis Lehman
- 7- Vincent Pizzullo
- 9- Missy Lankford
- 15- Milton Hartman
- 15- John Phillips
- 16- Ben Foutz
- 18- Nelson Hylton
- 18- Carol Elmore
- 18- Mike Tyler
- 19- Matt Musselman
- 21- John King, Jr.
- 21- John King, III
- 22- Gloria Harmon
- 23- Dea Underwood
- 26- Becky Fowler
- 29- Sara Blaha
- 29- Jennie Garrett
- 30- Sharon Hanger

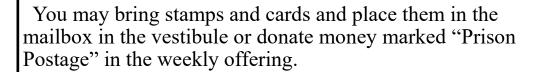
Happy Anniversary

- 1- Bill and Bennie Pugh
- 9- Bill and Julie Hall
- 18- John and Sarah King
- 19- Tim and Lynette Harvey
- 28- Harvey and Amanda Leddy
- 30- Mike and Carol Elmore



Prison Postage Outreach

We are collecting postage stamps and greeting cards for the inmates of the Roanoke City Jail.





Mitten Tree

Our Mitten Tree is an annual Advent offering to the Rescue Mission. Please bring mittens, scarves, hats and socks and place them under the tree in the vestibule. Help keep those less fortunate warm this Winter.



After-Church Fellowship Volunteers

Our after-church fellowship time is one of the best parts of Sunday mornings — a chance to meet new people, catch up with our church family, and enjoy some snacks together. Kathie Robinson and Janet Hartman faithfully host this fellowship time each week, with help from a few others. We'd love to welcome some more volunteers to join the rotation and share in this ministry.



Volunteering for after-church fellowship involves fixing drinks (water and coffee), preparing snacks, and cleaning up afterward.

If you are interested, there's a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We'll also have a short walk-through with Kathie and Janet on Sunday, January 11th at 12:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to become more familiar with the church kitchen and see how everything works.

For more information, contact Ellen Phillips or Rhonda Marcum.

Project
WARM is
heating back
up!

Project WARM



If you would like to help with this great community service, please contact

Marc Wilson.

Supporting the Virlina District

The Oak Grove congregation has a long history of supporting the mission and ministry of the Virlina District. Whether it's helping out or attending and event at *Camp Bethel*, attending a special event like *Pilgrimage*, attending a Zoom Bible study led by the *Race Advocacy Team* (to name just a few!) our ministry impact is expanded through programs supported by the 90 congregations in our district.

As of this newsletter, the following Oak Grove members share their time and talents with the Virlina District in these ways. Thank you for supporting the work of the Virlina District!

Greg Broyles

District Board vice-chair Pilgrimage Committee

Randall Eakin

Outdoor Ministry Commission Race Advocacy Team

Carol Elmore

District Conference Moderator-Elect Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee

Shelly Haas

Coordinator of Financial Services

Tim Harvey

Christian Growth Institute Instructor Peace Affairs Committee

Ellen Phillips

Race Advocacy Team

Kathie Robinson

Treasurer

Ronald Robinson

Outdoor Ministry Commission

Marc Wilson

Project WARM Coordinator

Mary Wilson

District Conference Program and Arrangements Committee

Scott Yingling

Outdoor Ministry Commission Pilgrimage Committee

Jodi Zabo

District Board



A J'of Thanks

From Joe Blaha



Dear Church Family,

What happened last Sunday was a gift from God. That morning, when I walked into the sanctuary, I had no inkling of what was to come. I just assumed that, aside from a piece of music I had written for Julee, Sam, and Stephen, there would be nothing unusual about the service. Even the bulletin I was given did not give away what you all had planted.

Very close to 11:00, the church filled up, but I didn't pay any attention. I was getting ready to sing with the choir. It was then that I felt a celebration was taking place, but it took me a little while to catch on to what was happening.

All of the use in this world should have such a moment to experience the sense of love and recognition that was given to me that morning. I shall carry it with me for the rest of my life.

Love and Pecco to all.

P.S. Both Sora and I thank & you for the very generous check. Visara added that is

Camp Bethel News

Christmas Together Banquet
December 4, 2025
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Your \$50 donation for a wonderful dinner and program helps with











Pastor's Column

Advent hymns might not be our first choice when we think about hymns for worship in December. There are certainly a few we enjoy, and we can be patient with the others for a while. But we'd rather not wait too long to get to our beloved Christmas hymns.



But let's not move too quickly! How often is it that the best experiences of our lives were possible because someone (often a beloved family member like our Grandmother) did a lot of work ahead of time so that everything was perfectly prepared. Getting ready in the right way, even when the anticipation is overwhelming, makes the experience of the event even better. It's certainly better than jumping to the end too quickly.

Advent begins in honest longing and active trust that what we see is not all there is. Hope abounds. Peace is possible. Joy shows up in surprising places. Love surrounds us. The promise of Advent—and the hymns that help us prepare—reminds us that investment, sacrifice, and risk are necessary as we anticipate that the One whose coming we celebrate will one day come again.

Our Advent worship services and sermons take their inspiration from the hymns listed on page one under the sermon schedule. Listen to them online, look them up in the hymnal, consider the words, and come prepared to worship our Savior!

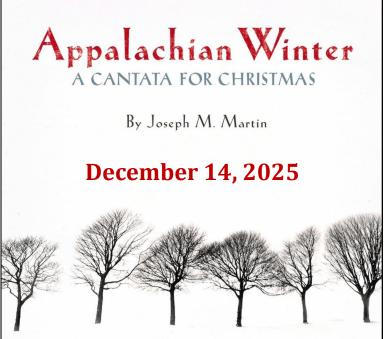
Men's Bible Study Schedule

December 3 *My One Thing*, Matthew 19:16-20 **December 10** Dinner and devotions



Paster Tim









Oak Grove
Handbell Choir
at Fairington
Village

December 17, 2025 11:00 a.m.

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 14, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Meet at the church to carpool.







December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:30 p.m.– Backpack	6 p.mPeace & Justice	3 10 a.m.— Handbells 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.mChoir	4 2 p.mGames 5:30 p.m Commission Mee 6:30 p.m Camp Bethel Banquet		6
Second Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship 12:30 p.m Council Meeting	8	9	10 a.m.— Handbells 5:30 p.m. Men's Dinner and Devotions 7 p.mChoir	2 p.mGames	12	13
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Cantata 5 p.m.– Caroling	12:30 p.m.– Backpack	16	17 11 a.m Handbells at Fairington 6 p.mMen's Bible Study 7 p.m Choir	18 2 p.mGames	19	20
Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship	22	23	7 p.m Christmas Eve Service	Merry Christmas! Church Office	26 re Closed	27
9:45 a.m Sunday School 11:00 a.m Worship	29	30	31	Wish a Mes Christ and a H New Y	you rry mas lappy ear!	