

# THE VISITOR

MARCH 2026

**Pastor:**  
Tim Harvey

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

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

**Website:**  
www.oakgrovecob.org

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

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**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren**

2138 McVitty Road, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018

## COME Worship WITH US

**DEADLINE FOR  
APRIL  
MARCH 15**

### March Sermon Schedule:

March 1: *Merciful* Matthew 5:7  
Second Sunday of Lent, Paul Munday, guest preacher

March 8: *Meek* Matthew 5:5  
Third Sunday of Lent

March 15: *Pure in Heart* Matthew 5:8  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22: *Peacemakers* Matthew 5:9  
Fifth Sunday of Lent



### Holy Week Schedule:

March 29: *Behold your King!* Psalm 118:1-2, Matthew 21:1-11  
Palm Sunday

April 2: *Behold our King??* Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; John 13:1-17  
Maundy Thursday

April 3: *...behold our king...* John 18:1 – 19:42  
Good Friday

April 5: **BEHOLD OUR KING!!!** John 20:1-18

### 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.

# Church News

## *Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:*

...Jake Keating, recovering from surgery

...Betty Wills, recovering from surgery

*Sympathy and prayers to Rebecca Eggleston. Her mother, Alma Yearout died December 29, 2025.*

*Sympathy and prayers to the family of Iris Dacal-Teijeiro who died on February 19, 2026.*

*Please keep Elan and Zaya in your prayers. Their father, Brian died from cancer February 23, 2026. Jonna and Mark Detweiler are their grandparents. Their daughter, Catherine, is the children's mother.*

## Happy Birthday

- 2- Olivia Hawkins
- 5- Emily Bender
- 9- Elaine Thompson
- 10- Tanya Pizzullo
- 15- Bill Broyles
- 17- Steve Shumate
- 20- Todd Marcum
- 23- Josh Eakin
- 23- Judy Bohon
- 23- Logan Pullen

## Happy Anniversary

- 5- Bill & Carolyn Broyles



**Set your clocks ahead on March 8, 2026!**

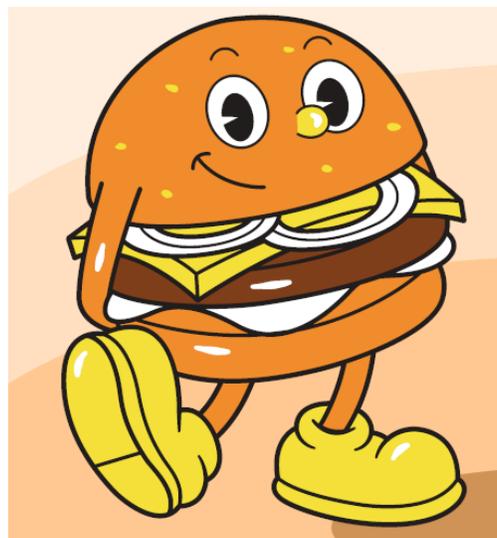


**Munch Bunch  
March 18, 2026  
11:00 a.m.**

Join the Munch Bunch this month at Sakura on Apperson Dr. Please let Jan Grisso know if you are coming so she can reserve enough seats. New members are encouraged to join for a great time of fellowship and fun!

### February 2026 Outreach

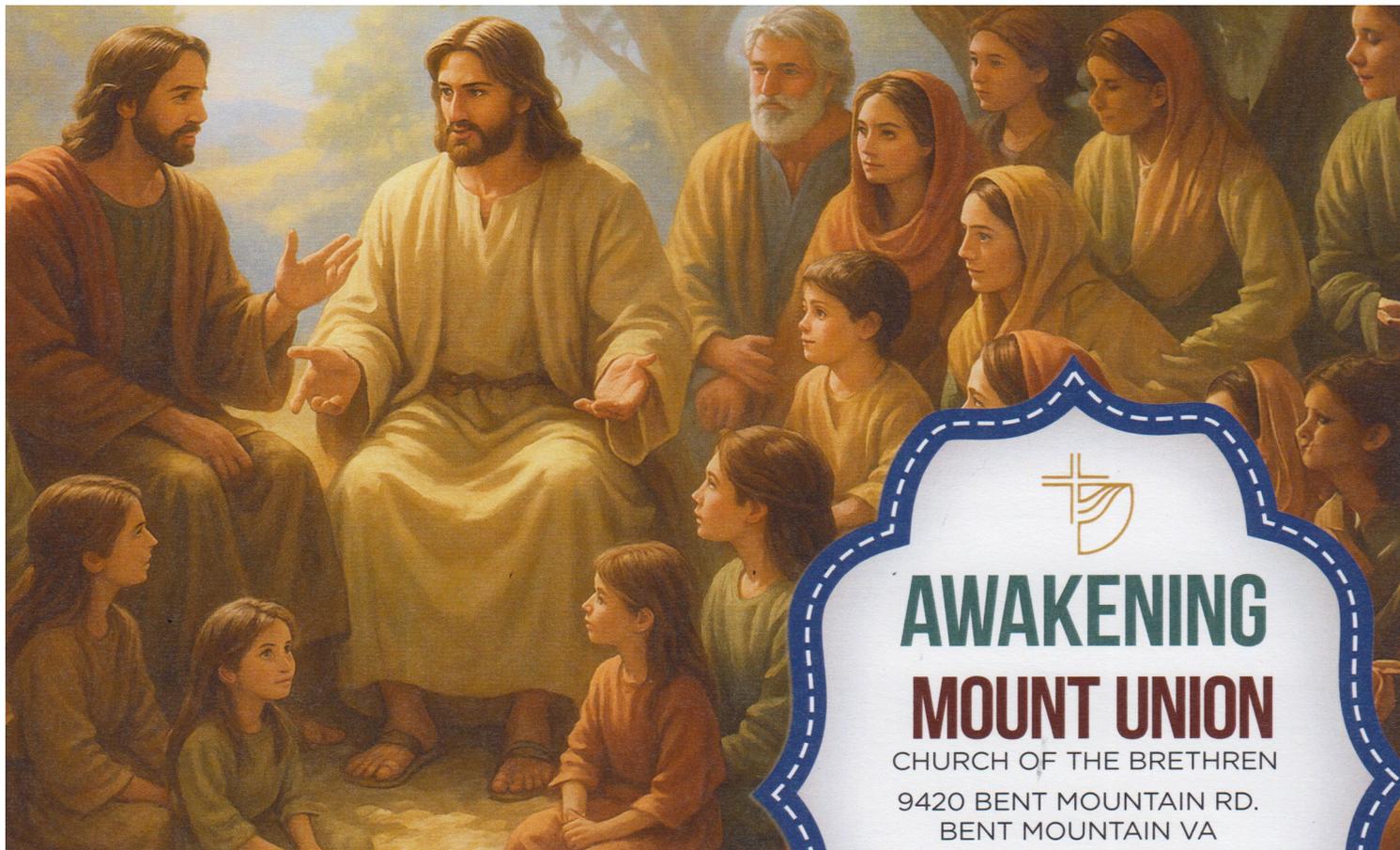
- Two individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for two families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack is delivering 18 bags weekly!
- Project WARM splitting and delivering wood!



### Guess Who's Coming to Lunch March 15, 2026

We are going to have Guess Who's Coming to Lunch on March 15 for all those who would like to participate. We will give a \$10 lunch voucher for anyone attending, and people will be assigned to different groups.

Sign up in the fellowship hall. Contact [Todd Marcum](#) for information.



  
**AWAKENING**  
**MOUNT UNION**  
 CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
 9420 BENT MOUNTAIN RD.  
 BENT MOUNTAIN VA  
**MARCH 22-25**  
**6:45 HYMNS**  
**7:00 WORSHIP**

**TELL ME AGAIN THE STORIES OF JESUS:  
KINGDOM- BUILDING THROUGH PARABLES**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

THE SOWER AND THE SEEDS:  
CULTIVATING A HEART FOR GOD'S WORD

- **MATTHEW 13: 3-9, 10-17, 18-23**

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE YEAST:  
SMALL STORIES-BIG IMPACT

- **MATTHEW 13: 31-33**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**

THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE FINE PEARLS:  
THE KINGDOM'S WORTH

- **MATTHEW: 13: 44-46**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

THE WEDDING BANQUET:  
YOU'RE INVITED

- **MATTHEW 22:1-14**

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

**MONDAY: PARABLES OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE YEASTS - COPPER HILL COB**

**TUESDAY: THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE FINE PEARLS - OAK GROVE SOUTH COB**

**WEDNESDAY: THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET - TRINITY COB**



**DAVA HENSLEY**  
2025 Annual Conference  
Moderator

# Oak Grove Church of the Brethren's March Happenings

## March 2026 Highlights

- 1-Deacons Meeting after church
- 7-Sow the Seed Banquet at Camp Bethel at 6:30 p.m.
- 8-Leadership Team after church
- 15-Guess Who's Coming to Lunch after church
- 18-Munch Bunch at Sakura at 11:00 a.m.
- 20-22-Pilgrimage at Camp Bethel
- 21-Memorial Service for Gladis Lehman at 1:00 p.m.
- 22- All-Church Sunday School on Disability Awareness



**Guess Who's Coming  
to Lunch is March 15!**

## **THE PRAYERS OF JESUS**

### Men's Bible Study Schedule

- March 4** Jesus as intercessor (Part 1)  
John 17:1-19
- March 11** Jesus as intercessor (Part 2)  
John 17:20-26
- March 18** Dinner and devotions
- March 26** Virgina District Awakening  
Service

**Munch Bunch  
March 18, 2026  
11:00 a.m.  
Sakura**

**Please let Jan  
Grisso know if you  
are attending! All  
are welcome!**



# Camp Bethel News

*Sow the Seed  
Scholarship Banquet*



**Spring Volunteer Workday  
at Camp Bethel  
April 4, 2026  
7:30 a.m.**



**Dolores  
Hydock**



**Bil  
Lepp**



**Josh  
Goforth**



**Kim  
Weitkamp**



**Donald  
Davis**



**Antonio  
Rocha**

**Celebrating 25 Years!**  
**Sounds of the Mountains  
Storytelling Festival**



April 17-18, 2026 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA



[www.SoundsOfTheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsOfTheMountains.org)

## Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage XXVII will be held March 20-22, 2026, at Camp Bethel. It is a weekend retreat for adults of all ages who want to spend some intimate time with our Heavenly Father. Filled with speakers, small groups, worship, reflection, and fun, Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper relationship with God.

If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com) or go to [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com).

## BACKPACK MINISTRY

OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE STUDENTS IN NEED AT OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD DURING THE WEEKENDS AND SCHOOL BREAKS.

We have been delivering food bags to students at Oak Grove Elementary School since 2012. This past school year, we delivered an average of 23 food bags each week. We also aim to include a gently used book (at the student's grade level) in their food bag every other week. We estimate that each student in the program last year received a total of 16 books.

This program is funded by donations from our church members, Oak Grove community organizations, and local residents.



### WHAT'S IN THE FOOD BAGS?

- Chef Boyardee pasta cans
- mac and cheese
- soup
- raisins
- ramen noodles
- milk (shelf-stable)
- oatmeal packets
- Goldfish \ Cheez-its (individual servings)
- granola \ cereal bars
- fruit cups
- applesauce pouches
- peanut butter crackers
- pudding cups

\*DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, BACKPACK MINISTRY MEETS EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT 12:30 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

# *Pastor's Column*

In the days following our recent snowstorm, I was able to escape Roanoke to attend the DART Clergy Conference in Orlando, FL. DART (**D**irect **A**ction and **R**esearch **T**raining) is an association of 28 local faith-based community organizing groups working for justice in their communities. Through relationship building, listening, and research, these groups identify places of injustice in their communities, research solutions, and then present these to local government to budgeting and implementing.

The power in community organizing is in the people. At the conference in Orlando, I met pastors from cities similar in size to Roanoke whose organizing groups have mobilized over 2,000 Christians to work for justice in their communities. Do we have the faith and imagination to believe such a group could exist in Roanoke?

DART organizations are inherently *political*, in that they seek solutions that require the involvement of local government, but they are not *partisan*. These community organizing groups are also deeply faith based. Their work is inspired by Biblical understandings of justice and seeks to be obedient to Jesus.

Work like this is new for many congregations, and yet the concerns are something we engage with regularly. For instance, mercy ministry is a common emphasis in congregations that finds expression through food pantries, diaper drives, rent assistance, bed builds, backpack meals at local elementary schools, disaster relief, and more. Local churches are an effective, and often sought-after, source for mercy and crisis ministry response.

But what about the larger, more systemic problems that exist in our communities—issues like lack of affordable housing or persistent gun violence? Some problems can't be solved through local congregational outreach alone and require the involvement of local government. What would it mean for Roanoke if there were an association of churches that could turn out hundreds—or even 1,000 or 1,500 committed members—to a public forum with local leaders to encourage them to prioritize solutions to persistent problems that keep people trapped in cycles of poverty or violence?

**Roanoke Justice Ministries** is that group. I meet every other month with clergy from churches like Williams Memorial Baptist, Hill Street Baptist, Raleigh Court Presbyterian, Our Lady of Nazareth, Refreshing Church, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal, Christ Lutheran, Unitarian Universalist Church, Cloverdale Church of the Brethren and more to help bring this group into existence. We are small, just now taking our first steps. We've had to back up and reimagine some things along the way. But I believe we are moving in the right direction.

If you're interested in learning more, please add the *Rethinking Justice Workshop* to your calendar. This event will be held on Thursday, May 7 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church. What good might be accomplished for God's kingdom if we can get several hundred members from across Roanoke to come learn more this night? Can you help?

*Pastor Tim*

## Finance Commission

*by Carolyn Morris*

The Finance Commission met on Thursday, February 19 to organize for the new year and create our to-do list of tasks. We began the year with a new chair (Carolyn Morris) and Financial Secretary (Ron Mooney). They joined commission members Becky Fowler (vice-chair), Julie Hall (secretary), Shelly Haas (Treasurer), and appointed members Emily Nelson and Fred Widdowson.

We thank Sam Phillips, Sara Blaha, and Kathie Robinson for their service on Finance over the past several years. Their terms ended December 31, 2025.

Our congregation ended 2025 with a deficit of \$7,663.78. This deficit will be covered by our savings account. Other funds of interest to our congregation ended the year with these balances:

- *Acorn Fund*: **\$ 30,516.80**. This fund is designated by the Church Board to supplement the annual church budget by funding program and/or salaries at the Board's discretion, in consultation with the Finance Commission.
- *Good Samaritan Fund*: **\$ 12,682.08**. This is our local benevolence fund, divided roughly 50/50 between Oak Grove members and residents of the Roanoke Valley. When people are short on a utility bill, rent, food, or some other need, they can request financial assistance from this fund. For Oak Grove members, this request normally comes through one of the pastors or a deacon. For those outside the congregation, the City of Roanoke's "Central Intake" screens the needs and makes a financial request of us.
- *Emanuel Sowder Memorial Fund*: **\$ 44,551.28**. Emanuel Sowder was an Oak Grove member with a passion for Sunday School and Children's ministries. His family makes a regular donation to Oak Grove, requesting it be used for Children's ministries. In recent years we've used the funds to pay for Bible School expenses, playground equipment/upgrades, and children's curriculum.

Several from our Commission and the Leadership Team are participating in *Cultivating Generous Congregations*, a six-week webinar led by Everence Financial (the finance arm of Mennonite Church USA). We are learning some new strategies for understanding our own "theology of giving" and how we can more effectively talk about stewardship and financial sharing.

**2026 Giving Report (through Sunday, February 22)**

Amount needed to meet the budget: \$ 56,008

Offerings received: \$ 61,775.22

Surplus: \$ 5,767.22

## **Disabilities Awareness Seminar** **Sunday, March 22 • All-Church Sunday School**

What does the term “accessibility” mean to you? How “accessible” is our building and our worship service? Questions like these raise many more important questions for us to consider, such as:

- How do we address the problem that most of our parking spots are far away from our Sanctuary?
- Can everyone hear those who speak from the microphone?
- What does it mean to have a “moment of silent reflection” in worship if sitting quietly is difficult or impossible?
- How do disabled persons interpret Jesus’ healing texts in the Gospels?



To assist our thinking about questions like these, Katie Smith Caudill will lead an All-Church Sunday School session on Disabilities Awareness during the March 22, 2026 Sunday School hour. Katie grew up at Central Church of the Brethren and currently works in the Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Prevention Education at Virginia Tech. She is the Access Advisor for the Virginia District and has consulted with the Anabaptist Disabilities Network.

Katie comes to this topic through her own experience as a disabled person (cerebral palsy) and her professional experience in higher education, assisting students to have full access to campus and campus life. Her presentation on March 22 will cover several topics, including:

- Her own experiences as a disabled person.
- How can we continue to make our congregational life physically and spiritually accessible to all persons?
- What are the implied social norms of congregational life that we might not have considered (i.e. How do we relate to people who have difficulty being quiet during meditation times?)
- Group conversation, sharing our own experiences;

To learn a bit more about Katie and her work, follow the link to this article which appeared in the Anabaptist Disabilities Network newsletter:

<https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/god-made-me/>.



# Holy Week

SERVICES AND EVENTS



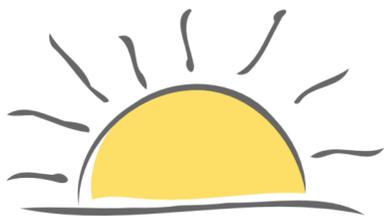
**Palm Sunday**  
**Handbells Playing**  
**March 29, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m.**



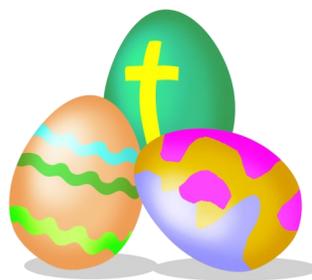
**Maundy Thursday**  
**Love Feast**  
**April 2, 2026**  
**6:00 p.m.**



**Good Friday**  
**Services**  
**April 3, 2026**  
**12:00 & 6:00 p.m.**



**Easter Sunrise**  
**Service**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**7:00 a.m.**



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**9:45 a.m.**



**Easter Worship**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m.**

## Easter Egg Hunt on April 5, 2026 at 9:45 a.m.

DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT...This year, parents and caregivers do NOT need to bring filled eggs! The YOUTH will provide the filled eggs for the hunt.

We just need YOU to BRING YOUR CHILDREN! We will have a meaningful Easter activity and story right at 9:45 a.m., and then the hunt! Then we will serve treats! Grab a friend and come!

Questions, see Carol Elmore.



### Mark Your Calendars Now....



**SERVICE AUCTION**  
**Youth Fundraiser**  
**April 25, 2026**  
**5:00 p.m. Dinner**  
**(donations accepted)**  
**6:00 p.m. Auction**

#### *What can YOU donate to be auctioned off?*

Ideas: raking leaves once, homemade cake, dinner for four in your home, babysitting services once, 2 crocheted dish cloths, bake a dozen cookies once each month for a year, decorate for one party, photo shoot for couple or family, ride to or from the airport, 2 hours of housecleaning, etc.

*The youth will be in the Fellowship Hall the Sunday prior to take your service donations!*

*Contact Carol Elmore for more information!*

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship 12:30 p.m. Deacon meeting 1p.m.- Backpack	2 8:30 a.m.- Northern Area Ministers breakfast 9 a.m.-Crafts	3 6 p.m.-Peace & Justice	4 10 a.m.- Handbells 6 p.m.-Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.-Choir	5 9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.- Commissions Meeting 6:30 p.m.- Christian Education	6 7 6:30 p.m.- <b>Sow            the Seed            Banquet at            Camp Bethel</b>	
9:45 a.m.- Sunday School <b>Camp Bethel            Sunday</b> 11:00 a.m.- Worship <b>12:30 p.m.-            Leadership            Team</b>	9 9 a.m.- Crafts	10	11 10 a.m.- Handbells 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.-Choir	12 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	13	14
15 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship <b>Guess Who's            Coming to            Lunch?</b>	16 9 a.m.-Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	17	18 10 a.m.- Handbells 11 a.m.- Munch Bunch 5 p.m. Men's Bible Dinner and Devotions 7 p.m.-Choir	19 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games 5 p.m.- Finance Meeting	20 <b>Pilgrimage at Camp Bethel            March 20-22</b>	21 1 p.m.-Memorial for Gladis Lehman
22 9:45 a.m.- <b>All-            Church Sunday            School:            Disability            Awareness</b> 11:00 a.m.- Worship	23 9 a.m.- Crafts  <b>Awakening March 22-25 at            Mount Union CoB</b>	24	25 10 a.m.- Handbells 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.m.-Choir	26 9:30 a.m.- Women's Faith Study Group 2 p.m.-Games	27	28
29 9:45 a.m.- Sunday School 11:00 a.m.- Worship	30 9 a.m.-Crafts 12:30 p.m.- Backpack	31				

