

THE VISITOR

APRIL 2026

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

**Minister of Nurture
and Music:**
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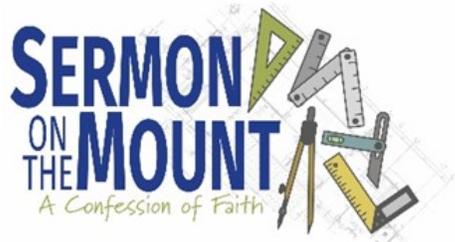
Holy Week 2026 Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: Behold your king!
Maundy Thursday (6 pm): Behold our king?
Good Friday (noon & 6 pm): ...behold our king...
Easter Sunday (7 am & 11 am): BEHOLD YOUR KING!!!

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY
APRIL 15**

April Sermons and Scripture

- March 29** Palm Sunday: *Behold your King!*
Psalm 118:1-2, Matthew 21:1-1
- April 2** Maundy Thursday: *Behold our King??*
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; John 13:1-17
- April 3** Good Friday: *...behold our king...*
John 18:1 – 19:42
- April 5** Easter Sunrise: *While it was still dark*
John 20:1
- April 5** Easter Sunday, 11:00 a.m. **BEHOLD YOUR KING!!!**
John 20:1-18
- April 12** *Salt and Light*
Matthew 5:13-16
- April 19** *Law and Prophets*
Matthew 5:17-20
- April 26** *Anger and Murder*
Matthew 5:21-26



**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:

- ...Mel Purcell, recovering from surgery
- ...Bonnye Thompson, recovering from heart attack
- ...Lois Sowder, recovering from broken hip
- ...Dawn Thomas, recovering from surgery
- ...Betty Wills, recovering from surgery
- ...Carol Leddy, recovering from dental surgery

If you are looking for someone to do household chores like cleaning or even for transportation to appointments, please contact Tina Angle at (540) 488-2755.



by Mike Tyler

We are looking for volunteers for our April 26 - May 2, 2026 trip. We have not received final word on where we are going, but there is a huge possibility that Eastern Tennessee will be the place from Hurricane Helene.

We are needing volunteers with no rebuilding experience, and those that have experience. We are in need of someone that is willing to stay back at the compound and help with food preparation and general housing duties.

This will be the fourth year that Oak Grove has teamed up with our Brothers and Sisters from Hollins Road CoB. We have a great time together, and it's not all work!

March 2026 Outreach

- Three 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!

Happy Birthday

- 4- Sharon Flora
- 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
- 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

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Church Picnic will look a little different this year. We are going to join Vacation Bible School at Camp Bethel on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

We will have potluck lunch at 12:00 p.m. and pool time from 1:00- 3:00 p.m.

PLEASE put this on your calendar and stay tuned for more information.



Understanding Latino Immigration: A Conversation for Our Community

The Peace & Justice group invites you to join us for a special presentation by Kris Tilley-Lubbs on Sunday, April 19, 2026, following worship. She will present an overview of Latino immigration to the US. There will be a brief history of Latino immigration, explanation of various terms and visas, causes and effects of immigration, and official facts and figures about immigrants in the US/Virginia/Roanoke. She will also discuss who the Spanish-speaking immigrants are in the Roanoke Valley, what services they use and provide, and how the fear of ICE is currently infusing the community.

Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP. If you plan to attend, please let [Ellen Phillips](#) know so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you will join us as we learn and reflect together.

FOOD DONATION IDEAS:

Items that can be easy to open, pop top lids, single-serve portions, soft food.

- Cheese and cracker snack packs
- Saltine/Ritz crackers
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Fruit cups
- Individual portioned cups of applesauce or pudding
- Pre-packaged dried fruits (raisins, apricots, etc.)
- Soft granola bars
- Individual oatmeal packs
- Single-serve juice boxes or pouches
- Shelf-stable milk or soy milk boxes
- Canned meats (spam, chicken, ham, vienna sausage, etc.)
- Canned or jarred pasta (spaghetti or ravioli)
- Small cans of vegetables
- Dinty Moore Compleats Meals
- Single-serve mac and cheese
- Single-serve rice/mashed potatoes
- Tuna packs
- Dry and canned beans
- Small jars pasta sauce
- Pasta

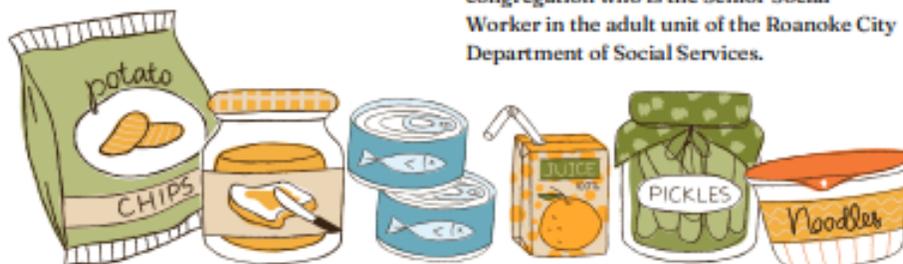
FOOD DRIVE

FOR

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

STARTING APRIL 5TH

Oak Grove is collecting food donations to support Adult Protective Services in Roanoke. This organization works with older adults and vulnerable adults who may be experiencing neglect, abuse, or difficult living situations. We learned about this need from Landon Elmore, a member of our congregation who is the Senior Social Worker in the adult unit of the Roanoke City Department of Social Services.



PLEASE PLACE DONATED FOOD ITEMS IN THE BIN MARKED
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Do the Lord's Bidding!

SERVICE AUCTION

BENEFITING OAK GROVE COB YOUTH

Spaghetti Dinner (veggie sauce and meatballs), salad, and bread followed by the Auction

Bid on unique items like

- **Food**
- **Yard work**
- **Cleaning**
- **Lessons**
- **Experiences**



*Oak Grove Church
of the Brethren*

**SATURDAY
APRIL
25
FELLOWSHIP
HALL
3 PM**

**WANT TO
DONATE?
CONTACT CAROL
ELMORE OR
FILL OUT A FORM
AND PUT IT IN
THE BOX IN THE
VESTIBULE.**

Volunteer Spotlight

Beth Shearer ●●●●●●●●●●

Saint, Ace, Axl, Beatrice, Poppy Knox, Gus, Greta, Rumour, Sally, Joie, and Salem...

To most, that collection of names wouldn't mean much at all. But for Beth Shearer, they are woven into the fabric of her life. They are all little hearts and souls who she has brought into her home during her more than 16 years as a Puppy Sitter for Saint Francis. Beth has poured so much love into each dog in her care - trusting that every goodbye was the start of something greater.

"With every dog you think - it can't be better than this - and then it is," Beth says.

It all started after Beth and her husband Dennis moved to the area from New Jersey. Just by chance, they ran into one of our volunteers with a Saint Francis Service Dog-in-training and were intrigued. Dennis made a visit to Saint Francis, and the rest is history.

"Puppy sitting was a perfect fit for us. We both believed in the mission wholeheartedly and knew we wanted to help," says Beth.

They quickly became regular Puppy Sitters - even adopting one of our Career Change dogs, Axl, who became their treasured pet for many, many years. What began as a simple willingness to help and a great way to get their puppy fix, had grown into something much deeper.

Beth says, "We never really had a passion for anything. I mean, we had hobbies and things we enjoyed doing, but I wouldn't say they were passions until this. It was almost like a revelation for me. I was talking to someone about Saint Francis, and it hit me - this is my passion."

Their connection to Saint Francis became even more meaningful to Beth when Dennis was diagnosed with cancer. During his illness, the Saint Francis dogs in their care were small and steady sources of light.

"That is the power of these dogs," says Beth.

When Dennis lost his battle in early 2024, Beth knew she would carry on the work they had come to love together. Just this past fall, several of the dogs they had opened their home and hearts to graduated alongside their new teammates. For Beth, those moments make it all worthwhile.

"I just can't say enough about what Saint Francis does for the people they serve. It has made me so aware and made me realize I can do something to help someone else. It is a little part that I play in this role, but I do feel that it is important," Beth says. **"But really, I am benefitting from it too. It is nice to feel like I am a part of something. I feel so welcomed by the Saint Francis family. And it is a family. It truly is."**



Beth and Joie



Dennis and Gus



Beth with Joie and her partner Charlotte at Graduation 2025



April Happenings



April 2026 Highlights

- 2-Love Feast at 6:00 p.m.
- 3-Good Friday Services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- 4-Spring Workday at Camp Bethel at 7:30 a.m.
- 5-Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.
- 5-Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m.
- 12-Leadership Team meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- 15-Munch Bunch meeting at 11:00 a.m. at 611
- 17-18-Sounds of Mountains at Camp Bethel
- 25-Dinner at 5:00 p.m.; Service Auction at 6:00 p.m.



Celebrating 25 Years!
**Sounds of the Mountains
 Storytelling Festival**
 April 17-18, 2026 at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA
www.SoundsoftheMountains.org

Easter Sunrise Service

Join us in
The Grove at
7:00 a.m. on
April 5, 2026.

We will be joined by
Windsor Hills UMC

Easter Egg Hunt

April 5, 2026 at 9:45 a.m.

We will have a meaningful
Easter activity and story right at
9:45 a.m., followed by the egg
hunt! Then we will serve treats!

Grab a friend and come!



Camp Bethel News



Spring Workday
April 4, 2026

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

Celebrating 25 years with NEW festival events!

Usual festival schedule:
Friday, April 17, 2026, Doors open 6:00pm
9:15pm Campfire with Storytellers
Saturday, April 18, 2026, Doors open 9:00am

PLUS!

- Thurs. House Concert at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren
- Fri. Early Bird Show
- Sat. Breakfast with the Tellers
- Sat. Family Friendly 2nd Stage
- Silent Auction
- Food Trucks
- Campfire with Tellers
- And more!

Visit our website: www.soundsofthemountains.org
or call Camp Bethel office: 540.992.2940
for festival details



More tellers, more stages, more time, more stories!

Scan for tickets, schedule,
sponsorships, and more



2026 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Click [here](#) for more information!

Pastor's Column

Several persons from the Leadership Team and the Finance Commission (Connie Bierly, Ron Mooney, Carolyn Morris, Lisa Newell, Mike Tyler, and Pastor Tim) recently completed a six-week Stewardship Webinar entitled *Cultivating Generous Congregations*. Leaders from Everence Financial (the finance arm of the Mennonite Church) taught us a lot about Stewardship, including the importance of things like:

- connecting our stewardship and budgeting to the mission of our congregation,
- creating a means for people to remember the church in their wills,
- understanding how people of different age groups are motivated to give,
- broadening our Scriptural understanding of sharing time, talent, and treasure, and much more!

One topic came up several times; it's a question I'd love to hear our whole congregation answer: "If someone wanted to make a large (or special) gift to the congregation, *with the expectation that it be used for something* (i.e. not just deposited in the bank to draw interest) what would we use it for?" The webinar leaders asked this question hoping that congregations would develop a list of special projects or "hopes and dreams" they would someday like to accomplish.

I'm passing that question on to you. If you were the pastor and someone came to you and said, "I'd like to donate \$50,000 (or \$500,000) to the church" or "I'd like to leave a gift to the church in my will; what will you use it for?" how would you answer? Please share your thoughts with me at pastortim@oakgrovecob.org.

WOMEN OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

Men's Bible Study Schedule

- April 8** *Eve*
Genesis 1-4; Luke 2:6-14; Revelation 12
- April 15** *Tamar*
Genesis 38; Matthew 1:1-6; John 8:1-11
- April 22** *The daughters of Zelophehad*
Numbers 27:1-11, 36:1-12; Matthew 15:21-28
- April 29** Dinner and devotions

Pastor Tim

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Munch Bunch April 15, 2026 11:00 a.m. 611 Steakhouse</p>  <p>Contact Jan Grisso to RSVP.</p> </div>			<p>1 10 a.m.- Handbells</p> <p>7 p.m.-Choir</p>	<p>2 8 a.m.-SHP Bed Build with Moore's Electrical (Mohawk Ave.)</p> <p>2 p.m.-Games</p> <p>6 p.m.- Love Feast</p>	<p>3 12 p.m.-Good Friday Service</p> <p>6 p.m.-Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4 7:30 a.m.-Spring Workday at Camp Bethel</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday 7 a.m.-Sunrise Service</p> <p>9:45 a.m.-Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-Worship</p>	<p>6 12:30 p.m.-Backpack</p>	<p>7 6 p.m.-Peace & Justice</p>	<p>8 10 a.m.-Handbells</p> <p>6 p.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7 p.m.-Choir</p>	<p>9 2 p.m.-Games</p> <p>5:30 p.m.-Commissions Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m.- Christian Education</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8 a.m.- SHP Bed Build at Delta Dental (Mohawk Ave.)</p>
<p>12 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-Worship</p> <p>12:30 p.m.-Leadership Team</p>	<p>13 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10 a.m.-Handbells</p> <p>11 a.m.-Munch Bunch at 611</p> <p>6 p.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7 p.m.-Choir</p>	<p>16 9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group</p> <p>2 p.m.-Games</p> <p>5 p.m.-Finance Meeting</p>	<p>17 <i>Sounds of the Mountains at Camp Bethel</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-Worship</p> <p>12:30 p.m.-Peace & Justice with Kris Tilley-Lubbs</p>	<p>20 9 a.m.-Crafts</p> <p>12:30 p.m.-Backpack</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10 a.m.-Handbells</p> <p>6 p.m. Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7 p.m.-Choir</p>	<p>23 9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group</p> <p>2 p.m.-Games</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 5 p.m.-Dinner</p> <p>6 p.m.-Youth Service Auction</p>
<p>26 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-Worship</p> <p><i>Brethren Disaster Ministries Trip April 26-May 2, 2026</i></p>	<p>27 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10 a.m.-Handbells</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - Men's Dinner & Devotions</p>	<p>30 9:30 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group</p> <p>2 p.m.-Games</p>		