

THE VISITOR

JUNE 2026

Pastor:
Tim Harvey

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

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Published by:

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

2138 McVitty Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Come Worship with us on Sundays!
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.
Worship-11:00 a.m.

June Scripture and Sermons

June 7 Pastor Tim on vacation; Roger Stultz preaching.

June 14 Pastor Tim on vacation: Greg Broyles preaching.

June 21 *Non-retaliation* Matthew 5:38-42

June 28 Pastor Tim at Annual Conference: Marilyn Lerch preaching.

**DEADLINE FOR
JULY
JUNE 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.



Church News

Prayer concerns since the last Visitor:

- ...Eleanor Brogan, blood clot surgery
- ...Beth Shearer, hip replacement surgery
- ...Dave Jones, hip replacement surgery
- ...Ralph Petcher, voice box surgery this Summer
- ...Bill Fowler, recovering from infection

Children's Story

Please let the church office know if you would be interested in doing Children's Story this Summer! We have a lot of Sundays to fill and would love more volunteers!



Join us on Sunday, June 7, 2026, during our after-church fellowship to celebrate the birth of Julie and William Carroll's baby and the marriage of Tyler Chumbly and Katie Reep. This will give our church family the chance to congratulate the parents and happy couple as they all begin a new journey in life.

There will be refreshments, games, baskets for gift cards, cash, gifts.

May 2026 Outreach

- Two individuals assisted through our Good Samaritan Fund.
- Food for three families through our Food Pantry.
- Backpack is delivering 18 bags weekly.
- SHP Bed Builds produced 40 beds.

Happy Birthday

- 1- Laura Phillips
- 4- Alesea Wimmer
- 6- Judy Baker
- 7- Kris Tilley-Lubbs
- 7- Harvey Leddy
- 8- Becky Widdowson
- 8- Graeme Robinson
- 10- Spencer Knox
- 13- Don Pizzullo
- 13- Cash Woodard
- 14- Julie Hall
- 15- Jill Mooney
- 16- Terrie Brogan
- 16- Taylor Martin
- 17- Jonathan Wilson
- 17- Carole Ferguson
- 20- Ben Harmon
- 20- Brian Harmon
- 23- Devin Musselman
- 25- Gary Gregory
- 25- Gerald Gregory
- 26- Mike Elmore

Happy Anniversary

- 2- Dominique & Rebecca Duncan
- 4- Marshall & Terrie Brogan
- 7- Michael & Paula Geake
- 9- Mark & Gloria Harmon
- 13- Fred & Becky Widdowson
- 24- Fred & Sara Porter

We would like to thank the congregation for the generous contribution of \$1075.00 to Brethren Disaster Ministries on our behalf.

We were honored and humbled that you would remember us in this way. It was an overwhelming surprise.



Council Meeting Discussion on May 17, 2026

by Tim Harvey

Earlier this year, several Oak Grove members participated in the *Cultivating Generous Congregations* workshop sponsored by Everence, the financial planning arm of Mennonite Church USA. During the eight-week workshop, leaders encouraged each participating congregation to develop a “wish list” of mission and ministry projects that needed funding. They posed the question: “If someone came by the pastor’s office and said, “I would like to make a large gift to the church, but I don’t want the money to simply sit in a bank account. How would you use my gift?””

Their point was straightforward: many donors want to support meaningful mission and ministry. They may not need to specify exactly how their gift is used, but they do want confidence that it will be put to good use. If a congregation cannot clearly answer that question, it may miss the opportunity to receive such a gift.

At our Spring Council Meeting, we spent some time sharing how we would spend a hypothetical \$300,000 gift. Here are our responses:

1. Sponsor immigrant family
2. Pipe organ
3. Sponsor recital series—professional music groups having concerts at Oak Grove
4. Offer an after-school program
5. A/V improvements, including things like
 - a. a video monitor on the back wall of sanctuary;
 - b. a video monitor in the nurseries;
 - c. more microphones;
 - d. ability to livestream to Fellowship Hall (as a potential overflow room)
 - e. Sound system that can broadcast throughout entire building
6. An A/V conference room—set up with wall-mounted monitor, speakers, and microphones to facilitate Zoom meetings, Sunday School classes, etc.
7. More handicapped accessible bathrooms
8. Reconfigured driveway/side entrance including
 - a. Covered side entrance and handicapped accessible entrance
 - b. Two-way traffic available for driveway
9. Remodel chancel area
 - a. Make handicapped accessible
 - b. Choir facing congregation and no steps at altar area
10. New stoves for kitchen
11. More outreach

We appreciate the time and thought people invested in this conversation. The Leadership Team can continue dreaming about this list.

My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren Book Study Group:

Meeting Dates, Times, Location:

June 2, 9, 16, 23 from 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6893830544>

General Information:

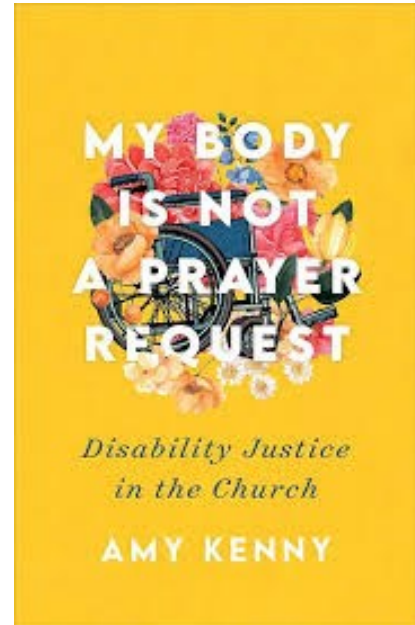
Moderator Contact Information:

Katie Smith Caudill

Email: katherinesmith508@gmail.com

Phone: 540. 267. 4580

Description



Welcome to our book study of Amy Kenny's book, *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*. In this study, we'll talk about how disability, faith, and church life all connect. We'll look at how people with disabilities show up in the Bible, what their experiences in church are like today, and how we can help make our communities places where everyone feels at home.

We'll pay attention to the small things-- comments, habits, or assumptions—that might impact someone with a disability in our daily interactions-- without us even realizing how those thoughts or actions might be interpreted. We'll also take a fresh look at familiar Bible stories and notice the strength, action, and personality of people with disabilities in those stories.

As we go, we'll brainstorm simple, real changes that can help churches become more welcoming and accessible. This group is meant to be relaxed, honest, and full of good conversation as we learn and grow together.

Expectations and goals

1. **Spot and challenge microaggressions** that can harm people with disabilities in church settings, building sharper awareness and stronger advocacy skills.
2. **Re-examine Bible stories involving disability through an action oriented lens**, recognizing the agency, leadership, and movement often overlooked in traditional interpretations.
3. **Envision and articulate meaningful cultural and structural shifts** that can make church communities more inclusive, accessible, and genuinely welcoming to people with disabilities.

Required materials

Kenny, Amy. *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church*. Brazos Press, 2022. ISBN 13: 978-1587435454
Book is available through Amazon in a Variety of formats, including Audible (should you wish to listen to the book). [My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church: Amy Kenny: 9781587435454: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Course schedule

Week	Topic	Group In Person	Reading
Week 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3		Read to page 54 (paperback numbering)
Week 2	Chapters 4, 5, and 6		Read from page 56- 107 (paperback numbering)
Week 3	Chapters 7 and 8		Read 108-146 (paperback numbering)
Week 4	9 and 10		Read 147-192 (paperback numbering)

We want to THANK YOU!

*Our church community really came out for our youth regarding the **Youth Service Auction**. You donated such interesting, valuable services and items, then came to share dinner and fun throughout the actual auction evening. You are a blessing to our youth and we thank you!*

At this writing, a total of \$3,619.00! That was from donations for dinner, auction items, and donations from folks not even at the "party". They just wanted to share their love with the teens in our congregation.

There will be 4 people going to the Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference in July and 7 going to serve in Hershey, PA through FaithX (workcamp) in June. So this money will be put to good use.

-Youth and Carol Elmore

thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

June

Happenings...



SHP Bed Build
June 6, 2026
8:30 a.m.

5 Madison Ave NE
Roanoke, VA 24016

Click [here](#) to register.

June 2026 Highlights

- 2-Book Study with Katie Smith Caudill at 7:15 p.m.
- 6-SHP Bed Build at 8:30 a.m. on Madison Ave.
- 7-Baby and Bridal Showers at 12:30 p.m.
- 9-Book Study with Katie Smith Caudill at 7:15 p.m.
- 14-Leadership Team meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- 16-Book Study with Katie Smith Caudill at 7:15 p.m.
- 17-Munch Bunch at 11:00 a.m. at Alejandro's.
- 17-Outdoor Concert in The Grove at 6:00 p.m.
- 23- Book Study with Katie Smith Caudill at 7:15 p.m.

Munch Bunch

Alejandro's
(Intersection of
Williamson and
Peters Creek)

June 17, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Contact Jan
Grisso to RSVP.



Annual Conference 2026
 Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 2
 Fort Wayne, Indiana
 Grand Wayne Convention Center

Theme Statement

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost amidst tongues of fire and miracles of speaking and hearing, the people were amazed and perplexed. Peter explained to them that the words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled: 17 *“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”* (Acts 2:17-18 NRSVUE)

Scholar Walter Brueggemann in his classic work *The Prophetic Imagination* argued that the role of a prophet is to imagine new possibilities. Perhaps one reason the church remains mired in the same old patterns is that we have lost our ability to envision anything better. Paradoxically, Brueggemann suggested that a prophet’s visions and dreams for a hopeful future often reappropriate themes and symbols from the past that are rooted in God’s call and faithfulness—a newness that is so old, he wrote, that it has been forgotten. When I was a young man leaving for a year abroad, a mentor encouraged me to “remember who you are.”

Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we’ve come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking. The second verse of the hymn “What is this place” (HWB 1) suggests that “dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.” What’s old can be new again. “What a commission it is,” wrote Brueggemann, “to express a future that none think imaginable!”

Imagine! —Don Fitzkee, Moderator

Non-Delegates are also able to participate in conference virtually. Thanks to generous contributions from the Living Stream CoB and the Pacific Northwest District **we are able to offer the virtual option at no charge for 2026.** Worship will still be streamed free of charge; however, **those who want to participate virtually in other aspects of Annual Conference must still register** even though there is no charge.

Virtual attendees are invited to make a donation to the ministry of Annual Conference as an expression of appreciation.

Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 28, 6:45 p.m. Eastern Time-Don Fitzkee speaking
 Monday, June 29, 6:45 p.m. Eastern Time-Beth Jarrett speaking
 Tuesday, June 30, 6:45 p.m. Eastern Time-James Washington speaking
 Wednesday, July 1, 6:45 p.m. Eastern Time-Becky Zapata speaking
 Thursday, July 2, 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time-Caleb Kragt speaking



Witness to the Host City

Alive Community Outreach is a faith-based organization with a mission to cultivate a community of nonviolence through relationships and education. We support families impacted by homicide and partner with schools to train high school students as peacemakers, building a culture of peace through violence prevention, restorative intervention, and survivor support. Rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence, we maintain that violence is ultimately a symptom of deeper issues that must be addressed in order to bring about lasting change. For more information, go to: <https://alivefw.org>.

Watch a [video about founder Rev. Angelo Mante's inspiration to start ALIVE](#). Angelo will also be our Keynote Speaker during our Tuesday Imagine! A Morning of Sparking, Stirring and Serving.

There is so much more information on the Church of the Brethren website for Annual Conference. We encourage you to check it out! Click [here](#) for more detailed schedules, bulletins, information on speakers and more!

Please keep our attendees in your prayers. Pastor Tim, Carol and Mike Elmore will be representing Oak Grove this year.

June 2026

NEWSLINE DIGEST

BDM rebuilding focuses on Hurricane Helene

The Brethren Disaster Ministries Rebuilding Program has a new focus on recovery from Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. This April, the program began serving survivors in Ashe, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties.

Previously, the program had helped Helene survivors through a two-week project in Spruce Pine, N.C., in May 2025, and a project in Johnson County, Tenn., from September to November 2025.

In Ashe County, a two-week

project was carried out working with the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

In Henderson and Transylvania Counties, an eight-week rebuilding project began April 12. Volunteers are working in partnership with Henderson County and Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity, and the Transylvania County Habitat chapter.

Additional Hurricane Helene recovery sites in North Carolina may include a 10-week site in Yancey County beginning June 7.



A new home being built by Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers in Henderson County, N.C., for a Hurricane Helene survivor.

Standing Committee acts on transition from Eder to Everence

Standing Committee approved two documents related to Eder Financial's transition of services to Everence Association Inc. in a Zoom meeting on April 13. The meeting of the Standing Committee of district delegates to Annual Conference was led by moderator Don Fitzkee.

Eder is an Annual Conference agency which, along with predecessor organizations, has been in existence for 83 years as a Church of the Brethren organization. Everence is a financial services nonprofit that is a ministry partner to the Mennonite Church USA.

The decision endorses Everence as the Church of the Brethren's preferred provider for services being transferred by Eder to Everence, primarily employee retirement and organiza-

tional investing. Standing Committee approved an interim Memo of Understanding (MOU) for a Resource Partnership between the Church of the Brethren and Everence and a "Certificate of Secretary" as legal foundation. The documents outline how Everence proposes to serve the Church of the Brethren, its members, and institutions pending approval of a final agreement with Annual Conference in 2027.

With the interim MOU, the Church of the Brethren authorizes transfer of the Eder Retirement Plan, its assets, and existing participants to the Mennonite Retirement Trust; shifts institutional investment management to Everence; and grants Everence access to gatherings of the Church of the Brethren at the denominational and district levels. Everence will not have agency status with Annual Conference but will be a "resource partnership."

Eder cited changing demographics, financial realities, and challenges from the COVID pandemic as reasons for the transition. The pool of full-time, benefits-eligible pastors in the Church of the Brethren is significantly reduced, said a release. "Approximately 70 percent of Church of the Brethren congregations are served by part-time pastors who are unable to access full benefit packages. As a result, only about 200 congregations currently have employees actively contributing to the Eder Retirement Plan.... At the same time, the organization's staffing, product offerings, and service expectations have expanded, creating financial pressures that are no longer sustainable."

Most Eder employees are expected to be let go by the end of 2026. They are receiving severance packages and professional help with job placement.



Everence leaders presented information about their organization during the special meeting of Standing Committee.

Grants

Emergency Disaster Fund:

■ **\$95,000 supports the Nigeria Crisis Response through 2026.** After 12 years, 2026 will be the last year of an annually planned program. Going forward, grant requests from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) will be considered case-by-case.

The 2026 plan focuses on resettlement in Nigeria of families from a refugee camp in Cameroon, including repair or rebuilding of 30 homes, assistance to 800 households, and scholarships for 60 children. An additional \$10,000 was added to the planned grant for newly displaced families affected by Boko Haram violence following the US missile strikes against terrorist groups in December 2025.

■ **\$25,000 supports aid by the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD)** for families displaced by the war between Israel and Hezbollah. LSESD's relief arm, Middle East Revive and Thrive, developed the plan for at least 10,000 families needing assistance.

Global Food Initiative:

■ **\$20,000 supports a goat and chicken farming project of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda.** The project trains people in livelihood development and

supports improved nutrition for vulnerable communities including those related to Radiant Star Orphanage and Junior School.

■ **\$6,990 supports an agricultural training component at the Great Lakes Bible School.** The school is a ministry of the Rwanda church. Students will receive practical training in sustainable and low-resource farming practices.

■ **\$4,576 supports Farming God's Way in the Church of the Brethren in Burundi.** Trainings are for a holistic model that combines faith and creation care with regenerative agricultural practices.

Brethren Faith in Action:

■ **\$5,000 to Iglesia el Buen Pastor,** Blacksburg, Va., supports families facing immigration issues.

■ **\$5,000 to Monte de Hermon,** Bassett, Va., supports families facing job loss and a reduction of hours.

■ **\$5,000 to Mountain View Fellowship Church of the Brethren,** McGaheysville, Va., helps fund a commercial-grade sign with message board.

■ **\$5,000 to Onekama (Mich.) Church of the Brethren** supports ECHO His Love programs for those experiencing homelessness.

■ **\$5,000 to Troy (Ohio) Church of the Brethren** supports a Laundry Outreach project.

FAITH COMMUNITIES SAY NO TO HISTORIC
\$1,500,000,000,000
PENTAGON BUDGET



The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

signed an interfaith letter opposing the proposal for a \$1.5 trillion budget for the Pentagon. "Our traditions are united by a shared moral conviction," the letter said, in part. "This proposed budget would represent a staggering 50 percent increase over the already enormous \$1 trillion dollar FY 2026 Pentagon budget—at a moment when millions of Americans are losing access to health care, food assistance, and other vital support."

■ **\$5,000 to Union Grove Church of the Brethren,** Muncie, Ind., supports a paper pantry.

■ **\$4,800 to Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren,** Harrisburg, Pa., supports a monthly drive-through breakfast ministry.

■ **\$3,900 to Potsdam (Ohio) Church of the Brethren** funds community outreach events in 2026.

■ **\$2,500 to Camp Emmaus,** Mount Morris, Ill., supports renovation of volleyball and basketball courts and a campfire-picnic area.

Personnel

Huma Rana on March 27 resigned as director of Financial Operations for Eder Financial, to accept an offer with the Salvation Army. She began with Eder in July 2015.

Eder Financial on April 2 concluded the work of three staff: **Russ Chrusciel**, director of Retirement Benefits, an employee since 2022; **Beth Martin**, Marketing director, an

employee since 2022; and **Felicia Kaplan**, Content Marketing manager, an employee since 2024.

Michelle Martinez began April 27 as assistant treasurer and manager of accounting for the Church of the Brethren at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She holds an accounting degree and a master of business administration.

Risa E. Dickson has been named president of the University of La Verne, Calif., after being interim president since 2024. The ULV board affirmed her leadership following input from the university community prioritizing experienced leadership, continuity, and stability, among other priorities.

Tim Courtright has resigned as executive director

of Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., effective Sept. 5.

Andrew Hamilton, Southeastern District executive, will represent the Church of the Brethren on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace. He follows Nathan Hosler, director of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, who served on the CMEP board for 14 years.



Post this page

You are welcome to photocopy these news pages. For more Newsline stories, go to www.brethren.org/news

Camp Bethel News




**June 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner**

Lend your voice and show your support to the Summer Camp Staff at the Ark Dining Hall. With your help the newly trained Summer Staff will be commissioned for their Summer of ministry and mission to over 1,000 children and youth!

RSVP to campbetheloffice@gmail.com.

Camp Bethel 2026 Summer Camps

	Younger Elementary ages 5-8	Older Elementary ages 8-12	Middle School Resident ages 12-15	Middle School Adventure ages 12-15	High School Resident & Adv. ages 15-18
Week 1 June 7-12	Mini Camp 1A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 1B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 1 Elem Resident + Tube 1 Elem 3-Day 1 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 1 MS Resident + Tube 1	MS Adv WWRaft Tube 1 MS Adv Tube 1	HS Adv WWRaft Tube 1
Week 2 June 14-19	Knee-High Day Camp 2	Elem Resident 2 Elem Resident + Tube 2 Elem Adventure 2 Elem Day Camp 2	MS Resident 2 MS Resident + Bike 2 MS Resident + Eques 2	MS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 2 River Adv Program 2	HS Resident 2 HS Res + Bike or Tube 2 HS Res Advanced Eques 2 Adv Canoe Cave Climb 2 River Adv Program 2
Week 3 June 21-26	Knee-High Day Camp 3	Elem Resident 3 Elem Resident + Eques 3 Elem Resident + Tube 3 Elem Day Camp 3	MS Resident 3 MS Resident + Tube 3	MS Adv Canoe Climb 3 MS Adv Paddlesports 3 Intro to Backpacking 3	HS Adv Canoe Climb 3 HS Adv Paddlesports 3 Intro to Backpacking 3
Week 4 June 28- July 3	Mini Camp 4A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 4B (Wed-Fri)	Elem Resident 4 Elem Resident + Eques 4 Elem 3-Day 4 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 4 MS Res Climbing Combo MS Resident + Eques 4	MS Adv Cave Climb Tube 4	Mtns-Beach-Bay Trip 4 HS Res Climbing Combo
Week 5 July 5-10	Knee-High Day Camp 5	Elem Resident 5 Elem Resident + Eques 5 Camp Too Sweet	MS Resident 5 MS Resident + Eques 5 Camp Too Sweet	MS Adv Cave Climb 5	HS Adv Cave Climb 5 Camp Too Sweet
Week 6 July 12-17	Mini Camp 6A (Sun-Tue)	Elem Resident 6 Elem Resident + Tube 6 Elem Adventure 6	MS Resident 6 MS Resident + Tube 6	MS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6	HS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6
Week 7 July 19-24				MS Moonrise Adv 7 MS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 MS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 7	HS Moonrise Adv 7 HS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 HS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 7 Backpacking Trip 7

Activities

- Group Games
- Swimming Pool
- Nature Fun
- Archery
- Biking
- Home in the Woods
- Campfires
- Bible Study
- Ropes Course & Zipline
- Farm Animals
- Creek Play
- Hiking
- Songs & Music
- Arts & Crafts
- Skit Night
- Nightly Worship

Resident camps: accommodations in air conditioned cabins.

Adventure camps: accommodations in our primitive, open-air platform shelters.



CampBethelVirginia.org/Camps

Pastor's Column for June 2026

Roanoke Justice Ministries held its first *Rethinking Justice Workshop* on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church. Connie Bierly, Ellen Philips, and Pastor Tim attended from Oak Grove.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Roanoke Justice Ministries seeks to unite Christians from across the Roanoke Valley around shared concerns within our community, encouraging thoughtful engagement with local leaders and advocating for policies that promote greater justice, dignity, and flourishing for all people. The strength of such work is in numbers—there is power in the unity of our collective voice. This work begins not with slogans or assumptions, but with listening—carefully attending to the experiences, burdens, and hopes of our neighbors, discerning together which concerns most urgently call for faithful public witness.

In many respects, this effort grows naturally out of ministries we already cherish. We provide food for those who are hungry, offer assistance to neighbors facing financial hardship, and build beds for children in need. These acts of compassion remain essential expressions of our Christian discipleship. Yet they also invite deeper questions: what would it mean for our city to address some of the underlying conditions that give rise to hunger, housing insecurity, and instability? What might be possible if public resources were directed toward the common good in ways that strengthened the well-being of the most vulnerable among us?

Beginning something new is rarely easy, particularly when it calls us beyond familiar routines or assumptions. I arrived at Our Lady of Nazareth uncertain of what to expect, planning to spend a few quiet moments reading in the parking lot before the event began. Instead, I was greeted by a rapidly filling parking lot and a steady stream of people making their way into the fellowship hall for supper. Before long, it became clear that attendance had exceeded the hall's capacity, and organizers quickly adapted by moving the presentations into the sanctuary. Event planners report that more than 250 people were in attendance! It was a remarkable and hopeful sight—a tangible reminder that many people across our community are ready for faithful, constructive engagement with the challenges of our common life.

Leaving that evening, I found myself reflecting on something I have sensed for several years now: many people, regardless of political affiliation or background, recognize that our world is marked by deep brokenness and inequity. Christians may differ on particular policies or approaches, yet we remain united by the conviction that every person bears the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, fairness, and compassion.

Each week in worship we pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Such prayer is never merely passive; it also forms us for participation in God's reconciling work in the world. By listening deeply to one another, building relationships across congregations, and laboring together for the good of our neighbors, we bear witness—however imperfectly—to the justice and mercy at the heart of the Gospel.

May God grant us wisdom, humility, and courage for the work ahead.

Pastor Tim

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>2 6 p.m.-Peace & Justice on Zoom 7:15 p.m.-Book Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group 1 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.-Commissions Meeting 6:30 p.m.-Christian Education</p>	<p>5 5:30 p.m.-Summer Camp Commissioning</p>	<p>6 8:30 a.m.-SHP Bed Build on Madison Ave.</p>
<p>7 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30 p.m.-Baby & Bridal Showers</p>	<p>8 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>9 7:15 p.m.-Book Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 10 a.m.-Women's Faith Study Group 1 p.m.-Games</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School 11:00 a.m.-Worship 12:30 a.m.-Leadership Team</p>	<p>15 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>16 7:15 p.m.-Book Study</p>	<p>17 11 a.m.-Munch Bunch 1:30 p.m.-Handbells at Harmony IL 6 p.m.-Outdoor Concert</p>	<p>18 1 p.m.-Games 5:30 p.m.-Finance Meeting</p>	<p>19 <i>Looking ahead...</i></p>	 <p>YOU'RE INVITED TO #KidsConnect VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 1-2, 2026</p>
<p>21 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School 11:00 a.m.-Worship</p>	<p>22 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>23 7:15 p.m.-Book Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 1 p.m.-Games</p>		
<p>28 9:45 a.m.-Sunday School 11:00 a.m.-Worship</p>	<p>29 9 a.m.-Crafts</p>	<p>30 <i>Pastor Tim is on vacation June 6-20, 2026 and at Annual Conference June 24-July 3. Carol will be Annual Conference June 27-July 2, 2026.</i></p>	<p><i>Take Note...</i></p>			 <p>Happy FATHER'S Day</p>