

Manassas Church of the Brethren
April 2022
Peacefully. Simply. Together.



We're Blooming!

Like Spring, we are blooming with possibilities as we continue to get back to all of our activities that we've been missing. We have a some great service projects, as well as some fellowship opportunities you won't want to miss!

On Saturday, April 2, join our Hiking group at 8 am at Stone Bridge Loop Trail. Look for more details on page 9.

On Sunday, April 3, the deacons are hosting a coffee connections for fellowship at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Center. Immediately following worship on April 3rd, the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will host an Ice Cream Social.

On Saturday, April 9, we will join with our Northern Virginia Church of the Brethren neighbors at 11 am at the Midland Church of the Brethren to support our Growing Hope Project.

On April 10th we will hold our Palm Sunday Service followed by a cookout and an outdoor Easter Egg hunt.

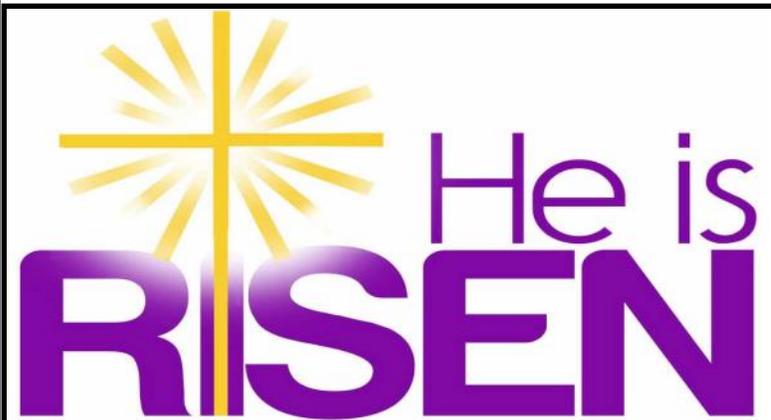
We will celebrate Love Feast with a simple meal outdoors at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday, April 14th. Before our Love Feast, we will be volunteering at House of Mercy from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

On April 17th we will celebrate Easter Sunday with a traditional service. Youth are hosting a Donut Breakfast at 9:30 am. Don't forget to order your Easter Flowers by Sunday April 3rd! Order form on page 3.

Saturday April 23rd we will host a Work and Walk Day. The Property Ministry Team is hosting a workday from 9am- 12noon. Lunch will be provided from 12noon—1pm. Then the Mission, Service and Outreach Ministry Team will host a special CROP Walk to support Ukraine from 1pm-3pm.

On Saturday, April 30, we will have a FREE Yard sale for the community.

Come and be a part of all the opportunities that we have this month!



March Stewardship by the Numbers

Average Giving: \$7219.00

Average Weekly Worship attendance: 62

Average Weekly Worship online views: 52

Pastor's Page

On March 25-26, about 30 women gathered at Brethren Woods for a Women's Retreat. Seven of us were there from Manassas Church of the Brethren. I was able to be the guest speaker for the retreat. It's been on my calendar since March 2020, and I'm so grateful we were finally able to meet and gather for a weekend with the theme of "Treasured" based on Deuteronomy 14:2 "Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be God's treasured possession." Through four sessions together, we used the analogy of coal being turned into diamonds to better understand how the Holy Spirit is transforming us. Sometimes life is like a lump of coal—hard, rough, and messy, and yet through time, pressure and heat, something beautiful is made. Diamonds are classified with 4 categories: cut, color, carat, and clarity. As people who have been created by God, we know that God has carefully crafted each with unique gifts and talents just as a jeweler carefully cuts a diamond. Diamonds do not have any color on their own, but reflect the light around them, just as we reflect the light of Jesus to this world. Diamonds are measured in carats, which is the weight of the diamond. Each of us carry some weight of influence. There are people in our lives, who have influenced us and encouraged us in our faith and there are people in our lives that we influence and encourage. Lastly, diamonds are known for their clarity, the number of imperfections or flaws. As we grow in our faith, we see the world with more clarity. Our eyes are open to the injustices and hurts of this world and we are called to serve. At the end of the retreat, we each took our "lump of coal" which represented the hurts and heartaches and burdens that we carry, and we left them at Brethren Woods ready to come home as the precious diamonds that we have been created to be.



-Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

April 3—Deacon Sunday

Luke 13:18-21

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship. Leader: Deacons

April 10—Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Stewardship Ministry Team

April 17—Easter Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27, 2:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Steve H.

April 24—Property Team Sunday

John 20:19-31

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Property Ministry Team

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER FLOWER SALE



6" pots - \$16 each
Daffodils
Tulips
Hyacinths



Peace Lilies \$17.50
Azaleas - \$28

The Worship and Music Ministry invites you to help decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful Easter Flowers on Easter Sunday, April 17th. These flowers are given to the church by members of the congregation in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. If you would like to order Easter Flowers, please fill out the form below and place it along with your payment in a green pew envelope or bring it to the church office no later than **Sunday April 3rd!** Flowers may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Morning Worship.

----- Cut here -----

Easter Flower Order Form

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Please circle one: *In Memory of* or *In Honor of*

<i>Peace Lily</i>	\$ 17.50 each	Quantity _____	Total \$ _____
<i>Daffodil</i>	\$ 16.00 each	Quantity _____	Total \$ _____
<i>Tulip</i>	\$ 16.00 each	Quantity _____	Total \$ _____
<i>Hyacinth</i>	\$ 16.00 each	Quantity _____	Total \$ _____
<i>Azalea</i>	\$ 28.00 each	Quantity _____	Total \$ _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, April 3, 2022 Please make checks payable to Manassas Church of the Brethren / Subject "Easter Flowers". For any questions, please call the church office at 703 368 4783.



Join us on Sunday,
April 3 for
Fellowship!

Coffee Connections
at 9:30 am

Ice Cream Social at
12 noon

In the Fellowship
Center



House of Mercy Workdays!

We had a successful day volunteering at the House of Mercy Food Pantry in March.
Thanks to all who came out!

We will be holding another trip on
**April 14th from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Please arrive at the House of Mercy Thrift Store
at 1:00pm—8170 Flannery Court Manassas, VA 20109**

News and Notes

Acolyte Training



Acolyte Training will take place on April 24th immediately following church service for all interested rising 3rd graders and beyond. Please join Mrs. Cox in the front of the sanctuary. Any current acolytes may attend to refresh your training and help others. If you are not able to attend, but are interested, email Mrs. Cox at coxts@pwcs.edu for an individual training.

You can sign-up to be an Acolyte here: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Acolytes \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Manassas Church of the Brethren: Acolytes (signupgenius.com))

Event Hosts Needed!



Event hosts are needed for outside groups using our church building. The main goal for the Event Host is to make the guests feel welcome upon their arrival, to make sure they have access to the rooms, and necessary supplies for clean-up. This position will also ensure the security of the facilities while the guests are here. This position will be under the direction of the Community Engagement and Facilities Coordinator, for guidance and support. The compensation for the position is \$15 per hour. Please contact Tina Fisher if you are interested.



Work and Walk Day on April 23, 2022

Work and Walk Day!

Saturday, April 23



The Property Ministry Team is hosting a Work Day from 9 am -12 noon with several indoor and outdoor projects. Come to Work!



The MSO Ministry Team is hosting a CROP Walk to support Ukraine from 1 pm -3 pm. Come to Walk!

The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will provide lunch from 12 noon - 1 pm

9am-12pm– The Property Team is hosting a Work Day with projects indoors and outdoors. See the list of projects and sign up to join us! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A45A5AD29ABF94-cleanup>

Come Work with us!

12pm-1pm – The Fellowship & Hospitality Team is providing a Lunch... Come Eat with us!

1pm-3pm – The Mission, Service and Outreach Team is hosting a special CROP Walk for Ukraine

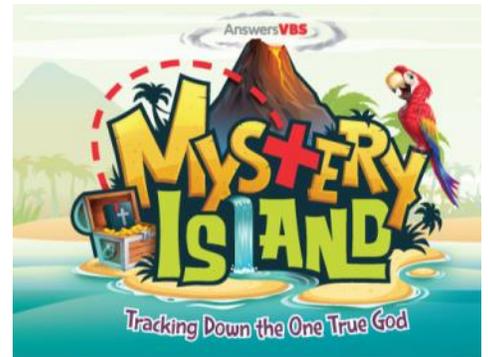
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/manassas-church-of-the-brethren-2>
Come Walk with us!

EVENTS

VBS Theme—Mystery Island—Director Needed

Is there only one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God? Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, prepare to be thrilled from the top of your sun-drenched head to the tip of your sandy toes as we explore an intriguing tropical paradise while tracking down the one true God.

Kids will gain a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator God and the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ through our age-appropriate curriculum! They'll discover who God is and God's attributes as they look to the only source of truth, God's Word.



Mark your calendars for July 18-22!

VBS Director Needed! Please contact Rose Cox or the office if you can help!

Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt & Cookout Sunday April 10th 12:00pm



After the Worship Service on Palm Sunday, April 10, there will be a Cook-Out with hamburgers, hot dogs, deviled eggs, and baked beans with an Easter Egg Hunt for kids of all ages! All are welcome!

Sunday School Themes

9 am via Zoom (Grades K-5), 11am In-Person (Grades Pre-K thru 3)

April 3, 2022 The Last Supper

Read chapter 31 in *All Together: God's Story for You & Me* or Luke 22:1–23. What do you do to remember Jesus? Name someone you know who serves others instead of expecting to be served.

April 10, 2022 Jesus' Arrest and Death

Read chapter 32 in *All Together: God's Story for You & Me* or Luke 22:39–23:56. If you read directly from the Bible, read a bit of the story each day. Name all the feelings the various people may have experienced.

April 17, 2022 Jesus Is Risen!

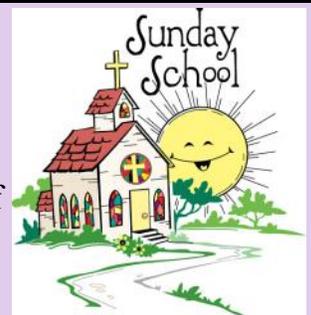
Read chapter 33 in *All Together: God's Story for You & Me* or Luke 24:1–12. The women brought spices to the tomb. Smell various spices in your cabinet.

Pray. Continue prayers of joy and sorrow. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.

April 24, 2022 Walking with Jesus

Read chapter 34 in *All Together: God's Story for You & Me* or Luke 24:13–35. When did the two men finally recognize Jesus? Who helps you see and believe that God loves you?

Pray. Continue prayers of joy and sorrow. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.



Ministry Team Reports

Communications



We are working on increasing the reliability of our network in the church building in two ways. We recently replaced our firewall with a current generation device. This is to reduce the outages reported across the entire building. We are also working on pinpointing our Wi-Fi issues which have been causing poor performance during hybrid meetings and bible study. We are slowly installing permanent hardware for the Fellowship Hall and Room 207 for hybrid meeting space.

Our first item has been checked off (installing the projector into the ceiling). Suggestions for Permanent webcams or microphones are welcome as we've yet to make a final decision on our options.

Our website has been contracted to be rebuilt. It is currently under construction, but should be completed within the next month or two.

Deacons

Deacons continue our ongoing support work within the congregation. On April 3, we will be hosting a time of coffee and connection before worship, beginning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Center. We will also be helping to lead worship on April 3, and will welcome Alexandra D., counselor with the Center for Pastoral Counseling, to offer a ministry moment during the service.



Christian Education

Our children and youth continue to meet virtually on Sunday mornings and evenings. This spring they are using the SHINE curriculum and learning about Christian discipleship. Our adult Bible study continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm via Zoom and In-person in the Fellowship Hall, currently discussing the Lenten Devotional and Scriptures for Sunday's worship services. Junior high youth are getting excited for camp and FaithX, while our senior high youth are preparing for senior high Sunday in May and National Youth Conference in July.

42st Annual Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction is coming May 7

Auction Books are now available!

For more info:

<http://www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction/>



A poster for the 41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction. The poster features a central circular graphic divided into six segments, each representing a different category of items for sale: Handmade Quilts & Comforters, Baked Goods & Food, Handicrafts, Gifts & Artwork, Plants & much more, and a central segment with a red star and the text 'DISASTER RESPONSE AUCTION'. The text on the poster includes: '41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction', 'www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction', 'May 7, 2022', 'Carroll County Agricultural Center - Shipley Arena Westminster, Maryland', and 'Sponsored by the Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District'.

The City Nature Challenge

By Tina F.

For all you nature lovers, it's that time of year again for the annual City Nature Challenge. Washington D.C. has been participating in this event since 2017: <https://citynaturechallenge.org>. This year, it is held on April 29-May 2. Participants use the iNaturalist app on a smart phone or a computer to document their findings, get crowd sourced confirmation, and then upload the data to a web site.

There is nature all around us! Knowing what species are in our neighborhoods and where they are helps us study and protect them. By participating in the City Nature Challenge, you learn more about local nature and make your city a better place for everyone!

Create your own iNaturalist account

Visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)

Download the app from the [AppStore](#) or [Google Play](#)

- Sign In
- Start sharing your observations
- Get feedback from actual scientists, experts, and other naturalists

Here are a few photos from the Greater Manassas area to show what you might see while you explore:

Greater Periwinkle:



Magnolia Tree



Common Swallowtail Butterfly



Creation Care



Bluebird Boxes Installed Around Church Property

The Creation Care group has installed four nest boxes for bluebirds and other species around the church property. We have six additional nest boxes that we can offer to church members. All the nest boxes were built and donated by Bart C.



Hiking Group Returns!

The first hike of the season will be on April 2, 2022 at Stone Bridge Loop Trail. We are hoping to see bluebells in bloom, along with other Springtime species. We will meet at 8am at the parking lot and begin our hike from there. All are welcome including children and dogs! Here is the link for more details about the trail:

<https://npplan.com/parks-by-state/virginia-national-parks/manassas-national-battlefield-park-park-at-a-glance/manassas-national-battlefield-park-hiking-trails/manassas-national-battlefield-park-stone-bridge-loop-trail/>





Sharing Jesus begins in our Neighborhood



FIELD OF BOAZ

Our partnership with Growing Hope Globally is taking shape. It is designed to be an ongoing collaborative effort between the seven Northern Virginia Church of the Brethren congregations, enabling us to meet real, physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters around the world as well as in our own communities. We are looking forward to hosting a 'Spring Planting Celebration' on April 9, 2022 at Midland. The growing project will be called 'Field of Boaz' referencing the biblical narrative found in Ruth 2.

Here's how the project works the seven Northern Virginia Brethren congregations, will raise money to fund the farming of the land. That money is then given to the farmer (Jimmy Messick, Midland) to facilitate the planting and harvesting. When harvest comes, the farmer sells the crop and gives the proceeds to a 'Growing Hope Globally' international growing project. We have estimated that the farming of the land will cost \$300 per acre and we have allocated ten acres of the land behind the pavilion at Midland Church of the Brethren to the project. That means we are trying to raise \$3,000. We are asking each congregation to raise as much as possible toward this cause with a goal of each congregation raising as much as \$3,000.

This year, we have chosen to sponsor a project in the Nebaj Quetzaltenango region of Guatemala. This project funds greenhouses for Guatemalan farmers, allowing them to grow a variety of vegetables that cannot otherwise be cultivated reasonably in the region. This project provides improved nutrition and food security for the farmer and his/her family. It can also provide an additional source of income for the farmer, as well as providing healthier options for their neighbors and community.

Please note 'Field of Boaz' or 'Growing Hope Globally' on check memo line or on the envelope containing your gift.

www.growinghopeglobally.org

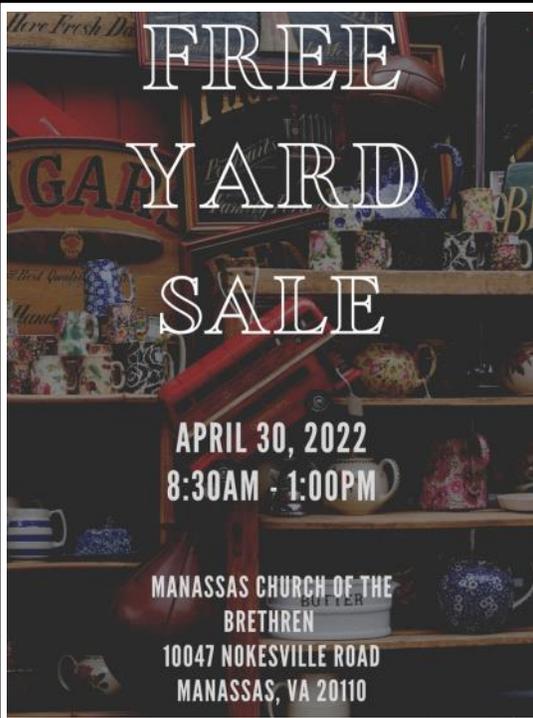


www.growinghopeglobally.org



April 9, 2022 @ 11:00am

Midland Church of the Brethren
10434 Old Carolina Rd., Midland, VA 22728



Free Yard Sale April 30th!

Bring your treasures to the church on Friday April 29th. The Yard Sale is on Saturday at 8:30am. If you can volunteer on Friday and/or Saturday, please contact Kim B.

Look for more details to come!

Love Feast Thursday, April 14 6:30 pm



The deacons will be hosting our traditional Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 pm. As weather permits, the Love Feast will be held outside on the back parking lot.

There will be a simple meal to eat (roast beef sandwiches, veggies and hummus). Communion will be served and there will be Feetwashing. Come and participate at your comfort level as we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples based on John 13.

Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 17@ 9:30 am

Our youth will be hosting an Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am on Easter morning, Sunday April 17. As we ease our way back after this pandemic, the youth will be hosting a simple Donut Breakfast on Easter morning. The youth will also guide us through a simple worship service with a retelling of the Easter Story, hymn and prayer before we eat together. All are welcome!

