

Manassas Church of the Brethren

April 2024

Peacefully. Simply. Together.



April has Arrived!

Spring is here, and the Manassas Church of the Brethren is thrilled to welcome you to join us for a season filled with wonderful opportunities to connect! Our calendar is packed with events and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Check out Pages 3 & 4 for details on our monthly events. From the Cards & Games Club on April 4th to Hiking on April 6th, there's something for everyone. Join us for the Young Adult Lunch on April 7th, House of Mercy Workday on April 11th, and Softball on April 14th. Don't miss the Retirees' Luncheon on April 18th, Adult Fellowship Lunch on April 21st, and the Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch on April 25th.

Our Sr. High Youth recently attended Roundtable, and you can read all about it in the article by Grace Saunders on page 5. Learn about Earth Month in the report by Tina Fisher on page 6, and discover more about blankets in worship in the article by Terrie Cox on page 11. Save the date for the Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner on page 6.

Don't miss out on the Virginia Women and Family Support Center's 2nd Annual Breaking Cycles Women's Conference on page 9. Learn about NVFS' Healthy Families program and the prevention of Child Abuse on page 12. VOICE is offering Core Training in the coming months - details on page 13.

Exciting news! Our new Adult Sunday School, taught by David Smith, will explore the book "Extraordinary Hospitality (for Ordinary People): Seven Ways to Welcome Like Jesus" by Carolyn Lacey. Get involved in the community by volunteering at Shepherd's Spring for a clean-up day on April 20th, and support our disaster bucket ministry with MSO - more information on page 10. Save the date for our Benefit Concert on April 28th at 3:00pm, supporting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, details on page 8.

Wishing you all a wonderful April filled with joy and connection!



March Stewardship by the Numbers

Average Weekly Giving: \$12,102.80

Average Weekly Worship attendance: 89

Average Weekly Worship online views: 26

Pastor's Page

On April 8th, we will have the opportunity to experience a solar eclipse. Some of us are making plans to travel somewhere to see it in its totality. Others are hoping to catch a glimpse of what they can right here at home. It is a beautiful wonder of creation, where the sun, the moon and the earth align in such a way that a shadow is cast as the moon comes directly between the sun and the earth. From the NASA website: The path of totality goes from Texas to Maine and crosses the path of the August 2017 eclipse near Carbondale, Illinois. Calculations show that it will take about a thousand years for every geographic location in the lower 48 states to be able to view a total solar eclipse.

There are a lot of theories circling about biblical interpretations of the solar eclipse and signs from God that come from this phenomenon. Some wonder if it is a sign of the end times or possibly a signal that Jesus is getting ready to return.

As my family prepares to travel to see the total solar eclipse, my heart keeps returning to the psalmist who tells us in Psalm 19: "The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. ... There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world."

However, you have the opportunity to view this amazing event on April 8, I pray that you come with open hearts and minds to experience the awe and wonder of God's amazing creation!



Image from 2017 solar eclipse with family

Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

April 7—A Wandering Heart: Here's My Heart

John 21:1-19

Preacher: David Smith

Worship Leader: Jan H.

April 14—Mental Health Worship Service

Psalm 88

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Mary Jane P.

April 21—New Life is Breaking Forth: Earth Day and Native American Sunday

Luke 24:13-35

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Makayla G.

April 28—You Shall Be My Witnesses

Acts 1:1-14

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

Monthly Events



Workday at House of Mercy

Join us for a workday at House of Mercy on April 11th 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Please meet at the food pantry entrance at 1:00pm and contact the office with any questions.



Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday April 18th
1:00pm at Great American Buffet on
Sudley Road. Please join us! All are
welcome!



Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch

Thursday April 25th
12:00pm

Cracker Barrel

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUNG ADULTS



Young Adult Lunch
12:30pm - April 7th
Cafe Rio

[7803 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20109](https://www.caferio.com/)

It's time for hiking

APRIL 6TH
8:30AM

Stone Bridge Loop
Manassas National
Battlefield Park
6511 Sudley Road
Manassas, VA 20109



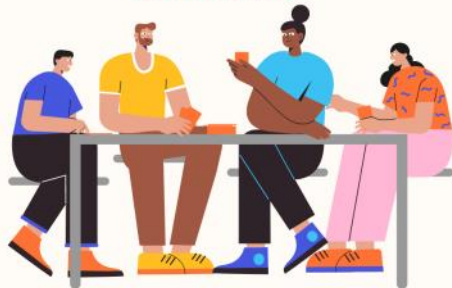
Softball

The Spring/Summer church softball season is starting April 12th!

If you are interested in joining the softball team, please contact Sean North at ssnorth@gmail.com, so that he can add you to the roster.

Our Cards & Games Club is Back!
First Thursday of every month!

APRIL 4TH, 2024
1PM-4PM



**MANASSAS CHURCH OF
THE BRETHREN**

ALL ARE
INVITED TO
JOIN!

**CARDS &
GAMES!**

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

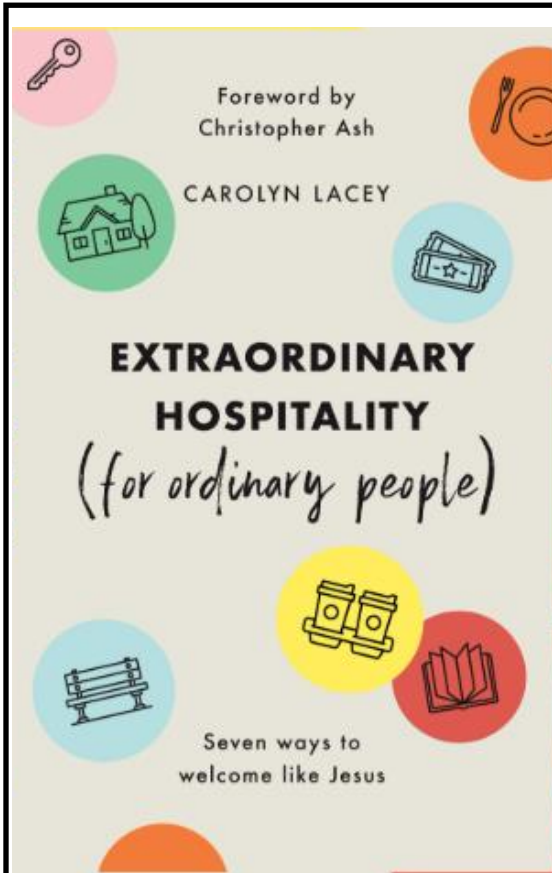
Lunch @ Mission BBQ

April 21, 2024

12:30pm

13944 Promenade Commons St,
Gainesville, VA 20155

April Sunday School



"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."
– Jesus (Matthew 25:35)

In Biblical times, hospitality was one of the most important guiding principles of life, and it was central to Jesus' life and teaching. But contrary to popular belief, hospitality is so much more than coffee and donuts or dinner parties – it's about making room.

Join us in April and May as we discuss *Extraordinary Hospitality (for Ordinary People): Seven Ways to Welcome Like Jesus*, by Carolyn Lacey. The book explores seven aspects of Jesus' hospitality: generosity, compassion, humility, persistence, awareness, inclusiveness, and sacrifice. What I like most about the book is that it is very practical and grounded, so that even an introvert like myself can find ways to be more welcoming. Key to Lacey's vision is that hospitality is something you can integrate into your everyday life, and is not (necessarily) something that will make you spend hours cleaning your house in order to do. All are welcome to our Sunday morning discussions, and we'll be sure to make room for you!

Roundtable Wrap-Up by Grace S.



This year's Round Table centered around Luke 10:25-29. The sermon series, presented by Chelsea Skillen and Tyler Goss, asked the question "Who is my neighbor?". Through interactive sermons that consisted of movement activities, skits, crafts, and games we learned that everyone is our neighbor.

This concept was reiterated throughout the workshops and small groups that were held during the weekend. One of the workshops I chose focused on how to love your enemy. I learned how to utilize my faith to strengthen my love for those I would not traditionally identify with. In my second workgroup we listened to music, made

collages, and asked difficult questions about Christ.

Every member of the group had the opportunity to submit and answer questions with an intent to practice being a part of a supportive community. There were other fun activities that were running throughout the week, such as a variety show and a t-shirt tie dye station. We ended our time together with vespers. It was a silent and intentional time to reflect on our weekend and how God calls us to continue our passionate faith past Church.

Creation Care Corner

Last Fall, we planted 2 redbud trees in the front of the property by the Alpha-Bet Preschool sign. We are happy to report that they survived the winter and are doing well. Several weeks ago, we found some volunteer redbud trees growing quite successfully in the flower bed beside the steps leading up to the narthex and sanctuary. Sonny Cox graciously helped us to dig them out for strategic replanting around the property. Last week, Louis and Christa Harrell planted them along the tree line behind the garden space. We hope to eventually see the beautiful purple blooms on the redbud trees lining the edge of the garden.

Last year, you may recall that we spent several months on Saturday mornings removing the invasive Japanese Honeysuckle that covered the entire fence behind the field. We are planning on planting native species all along the fence. We will be looking for some budding (and seasoned) gardeners to help with that effort in the coming months.

And finally, we are purchasing additional native plants and flowers for the pollinator garden. We hope to receive a plant grant from Earth Sangha by the end of April for more native plants, shrubs, and trees to beautify our property.

Stay tuned for more green updates from BUGS 2.0.

By Tina Fisher



Mid-Atlantic District  *Church of the Brethren*

Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner
Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 6 p.m.
At Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821 Green Valley Road (Rt. 75) Monrovia, MD

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and auction of specialty food items co-hosted by
Union Bridge Church of the Brethren
Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

Tickets are \$35 per person
Contact Jeff McKee before April 1, 2024 at
443-547-5958 or jamckee26@msn.com

Menu: Fruit Cup, Meat Loaf, Fried Shrimp, Vegetarian Pasta Casserole, Candied Carrots, Scalloped Potatoes, Oven Roasted Vegetables, Homemade Breads, Rolls & Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or abhuck1@gmail.com to provide specialty foods (cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) to auction at the dinner

JOIN US FOR A

CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Benefitting



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

April 28, 2024 | 3:00 PM

Manassas Church
of the Brethren

10047 Nokesville Road
Manassas, VA 20110

2ND ANNUAL

BREAKING CYCLES

Womens Conference



MANASSAS, VIRGINIA
APRIL 20th 2024



Join us at this immersive and transformative conference where we explore the power of rest, the beauty of healing, and the strength found in breaking cycles.

More
INFORMATION



vawfsc.org



Virginia Women and
Family Support Center

At Virginia Women & Family Support Center, we are dedicated to empowering pregnant women and their families in crisis through long-term housing and holistic support. Our goal is to empower vulnerable women to regain their independence, to live with dignity, and to thrive with hope. We believe in the power of community, together, we can help women live hope-filled lives for a brighter future.

MSO is planning another CWS Disaster Cleanup Bucket Drive!

We will be asking for monetary donations so that MSO can purchase the exact items needed to assemble the buckets according to the attached list.

We will have pictures of each item and estimated cost as well as the cost of donating an entire bucket which is about \$75 so people can choose different levels of giving.

We will collect donations during the month of April and then assemble them in May.



CLEANUP BUCKET LIST

Hurricanes, floods and other disasters are happening more frequently. When our neighbors around the world experience these unforeseen circumstances, you can make the road to recovery easier with CWS Cleanup Buckets. These buckets are full of essential home recovery supplies that are needed after a disaster strikes.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64 oz or two 25 oz bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34 oz bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40 oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45-gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- One 6-9 oz bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes. Please send all monetary donations to: CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at cwskits.org/shipping.



VALUE: \$75 PROCESSING FEE: \$3 per bucket

Blankets of Comfort and Blessing By Terrie S. Cox



If you've been in the sanctuary during the in-between times (the time between when the boiler has been turned off and the weather isn't warm consistently), you've probably noticed that sometimes the sanctuary can be cool. I recently thought I dressed warm enough for the day but found myself chilly in the sanctuary during worship. I thought I should retrieve my coat to wear, but I remembered the blankets available to use for comfort when one finds oneself chilled due to the temperature in the sanctuary. I made my way to the end of the last pew and picked up a clean blanket to

cover my back and shoulders during worship. This blanket was just what I needed as it brought me the comfort and warmth I needed to be able to concentrate on worship. This act of caring is such a simple blessing provided by the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team that truly emulates that we are a *community of care*. Thank you to the Team for this service and especially to the person who washes the blankets.



Shepherd's Spring

Volunteer Service Day
Saturday April 20
8am - Noon

16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
301-223-8193 www.shepherdsspring.org

Join us with your family, friends, church group or on your own as we tackle multiple projects in preparing the camp and the Global Village for a busy season. Your help is genuinely needed and sincerely appreciated.





Supporting Our Community Partners in Child Abuse Prevention

As we welcome Spring and celebrate all the growth and blossoms around us you may notice blue pinwheels in gardens across the nation. These blue pinwheels are the national symbol of Child Abuse Prevention and serve as a visual reminder that we want all children to grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed. Throughout the month of April [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) and [Healthy Families Greater Prince William Area](#) (HFPW) are building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention. Communities must build positive futures together in partnership.

HFPW provides free and voluntary home visiting services to over 250 families annually throughout Prince William County, The City of Manassas, and City of Manassas Park. HFPW is a program of [Northern Virginia Family Service](#) (NVFS) located within the SERVE Campus on Dean Drive. The four primary goals of the Healthy Families program are to:

- Promote positive parenting
- Improve child health and development
- Promote school readiness
- Prevent child abuse and neglect

Mandi Fisher, the Senior Program Manager for Healthy Families Greater Prince William Area, says, "Often the families we work with did not have the best relationships with their own parents and as they become parents themselves, they want to do things differently but don't know how. Healthy Families helps parents reflect on their own childhood and shares strategies and information to help them be the best parent they can be."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Building healthy communities takes work. We all have a responsibility to ensure children have positive experiences, and help families have the resources they need, when they need them. Here is how you can help:

Volunteer at the annual picnic for participant families in the late afternoon of Wednesday, June 5th (rain date June 6th) at **Signal Hill Park**.

Donate supplies for families: baby blankets, diapers, wipes, and board books.

Contribute to Healthy Families directly to cover costs of operations by visiting [Healthy Families Direct Assistance - Northern Virginia Family Service \(nvfs.org\)](#)

If you would like to learn more about Child Abuse Prevention Month and be more informed about the ways you can identify and prevent child abuse, please visit:

[Child Abuse Prevention Resources \(familiesforwardva.org\)](#)

If you would like more information about Healthy Families please contact Mandi Fisher, Senior Program Manager at mfisher@nvfs.org.