



## Manassas Church of the Brethren

April 2026

*Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

### HE IS RISEN!

Spring has arrived, and the Manassas Church of the Brethren warmly invites you to join us for a season full of meaningful connection and fellowship. Our calendar is filled with opportunities for everyone—be sure to check pages 3 and 4 for a full list of this month's events. Highlights include our House of Mercy Workday, Cards and Games Club, Retirees' Luncheon, Lovina Conner Circle Lunch, Forgetful Friends Chorus, softball, Spring Clean-Up Day, and Reading Group. You'll also find details about our upcoming benefit concert on page 4.

On page 5, you can learn more about our Maundy Thursday Love Feast and Easter worship services, as well as our first Adventure Club hike of the year.

Page 6 includes information about the Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction and Dinner. Following Easter Breakfast, we will also plant pinwheels in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

You'll find Summer Camp information on page 7 and Sunday School details on page 8. Be sure to review the full monthly calendar on page 9 to stay up to date on all that's happening.

We look forward to seeing you this month!



#### March Stewardship by the Numbers

**Average Weekly Giving: \$7,320.00**

**Average Worship attendance: 88**

**Average Worship online views: 38**

# Pastor's Page

After we come off the high of Easter Sunday, with all the Easter celebrations and our traditional Easter breakfast, the Sunday after Easter is sometimes considered to be a low Sunday. Attendance drops off and people take a break from all the festivities of Lent and Easter. To change this up a bit, we're going to try something new, call it a Holy Experiment if you will, as we offer Holy Humor Sunday on April 12th for morning worship.

Here's what the *Joyful Noiseletter* says about Holy Humor Sunday:

Holy Humor Sunday is a resurrection of an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity, as celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter," with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang and danced.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party." [Holy Humor Sunday - The Joyful Noiseletter](#)



So join us on Holy Humor Sunday, April 12th, as we continue to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection and make Jesus the LIFE of the Party!

~Pastor Mandy

## Worship Themes

**April 5**—Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-10

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Rev. Mark Pickens

**April 12**— Holy Humor Sunday

1 Peter 1:3-9

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

**April 19**—

Luke 24:13-35

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Luke Croushorn

**April 26**—

Acts 2:42-47

Preacher: Rev. Mark Pickens

Worship Leader: TBD

If you are interested in serving as a Worship Leader, we'd love to have you! Contact Pastor Mandy

# Events



## Workday at House of Mercy

Join us for a workday at House of Mercy on April 9th 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 16th  
1:00pm at Great American Buffet on  
Sudley Road. Please join us!  
All are welcome!



The Spring/Summer church softball season starts soon!

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



## Forgetful Friends Chorus

1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Manassas Church of the Brethren  
Sanctuary

10047 Nokesville Road  
Manassas, VA 20110

If you or your loved one has dementia, please join our Forgetful Friends Chorus! Former caregivers are also welcome. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association with support from Manassas Church of the Brethren and the Heritage Hunt Women's Club. Please email with any questions.

Email: [forgetfulfriendschorus@gmail.com](mailto:forgetfulfriendschorus@gmail.com)



## Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch

Thursday April 23rd

11:30am

Cracker Barrel

10801 Battleview Pkwy, Manassas, VA 20109



## MORE EVENTS



APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>  
1:00PM-4:00PM

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

**MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

**CARDS & GAMES!**

WITH CONTRACT BRIDGE!

The poster features a yellow background with illustrations of people playing cards and dice. Text includes the dates and time, a red circle with 'ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN!', the church name, and the event title 'CARDS & GAMES!' with 'WITH CONTRACT BRIDGE!' below it.

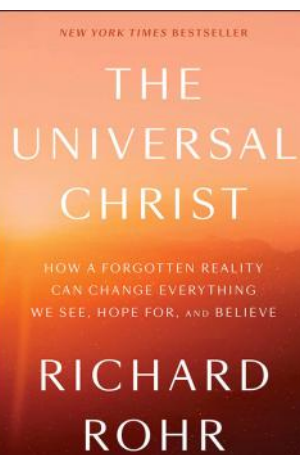


SPRING  
CLEANING DAY!

Join us for our spring workday to beautify our grounds and building!

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am - 12:00pm

The poster has a light green background with leaf illustrations. It features the event title 'SPRING CLEANING DAY!', a description of the event, and the date and time.



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE  
UNIVERSAL  
CHRIST

HOW A FORGOTTEN REALITY  
CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.  
WE SEE, HOPE FOR, AND BELIEVE

RICHARD  
ROHR

The book cover is orange and white with the title 'THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST' and author 'RICHARD ROHR'. It also includes a quote about the book's impact.

**MCOB Reading Group April 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm!** Reading Group will meet next on April 6th at 7pm. We will be discussing Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*, which you should be reading already as it is our current Sunday school book. You are reading it, right? We chose this book to show our support to the Christian Education team, and to provide an opportunity for those in our group who are unable to attend Sunday school (several are teachers) the opportunity to discuss this important book.

# CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Benefitting

**CASA BruMar  
Foundation**

[casabrumarfoundation.org](http://casabrumarfoundation.org)

April 19, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Manassas Church of the Brethren



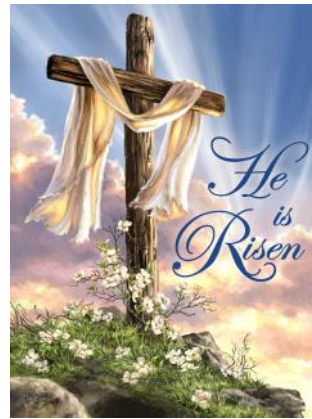
Family-Friendly | Freewill Donations

# EASTER



## Maundy Thursday Love Feast Thursday, April 2nd 7:00 pm

This sacred service held in our Fellowship Center is provided by the deacons includes a simple meal, communion, and feetwashing as we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. All are welcome to join us and participate at your comfort level.



## EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5th

Join us for our traditional Easter Breakfast at 9:00am served by our youth, followed by Easter Sunday Worship at 11:00am.

# Adventure Group

An illustration of three hikers on a trail. One hiker is in the foreground, another is in the middle ground, and a third is in the background. They are all wearing backpacks and using trekking poles. The background shows green mountains and a blue sky with clouds. The text "ADVENTURE GROUP" is written in blue, bold letters at the top. Below the illustration, the text "APRIL 4TH - 8:30AM", "BLOOMS PARK", "9701 MANASSAS DR.", and "MANASSAS PARK, VA" is written in blue, bold letters.

**ADVENTURE GROUP**

**APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> - 8:30AM**

**BLOOMS PARK**

**9701 MANASSAS DR.**

**MANASSAS PARK, VA**

Hiking: The park is on the former General's Ridge Golf Course, featuring about 5 miles of trails through wooded and open areas. It has elevation changes with paved and unpaved sections, and some steep grades and obstacles like roots. Parking is free. FYI, there may be some detours on the Yellow Trail. You will use a combination of the new Blue Trail detour and the new Pink Trail to bypass potential ongoing work by Dominion Energy.

# Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention



## 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.

Last year we planted 500 pinwheels in honor of child abuse prevention, this year we will again plant 500 pinwheels on Easter Sunday to visually represent our commitment to the prevention of child abuse with a noticeable statement.

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 \(familiesforwardva.org\)](http://familiesforwardva.org)

## Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response



*Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren*

**Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner**  
Saturday, April 11, 2026 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 and Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

**Tickets are \$35 per person**  
Contact Jeff McKee before April 4, 2026 at 443-547-5958 or [jeffmckee26@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmckee26@gmail.com)

**Menu:** Sara's Egg and Lettuce Salad, Ham Loaf, Fried Shrimp, Vegetarian Pasta Casserole, Candied Carrots, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Pineapple Bread Casserole, Rolls & Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or [abhock1@gmail.com](mailto:abhock1@gmail.com) to provide specialty foods (cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) to auction at the Dinner

45th Annual  
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response

# Auction

[www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction](http://www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction)



**May 2, 2026**

**Carroll County Agricultural Center - Shipley Arena**  
Westminster, Maryland

Sponsored by the Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District

# Summer Camp



**Summer Camp Options!** As many of you may know, Shepherd's Spring is offering an alternative to their traditional summer camp. This summer, they are offering camp retreats, and you can find out more information here: <https://www.shepherdsspring.org/camp-info> -

these should be great retreats for our youth, families, and older adults. Also note, there's a women's retreat coming in 2027!

Also, if you are looking for a more traditional summer camp option, here's what other Church of the Brethren camps are offering:

- Camp Mardela: <https://www.campmardela.org/camp-programs>
- Brethren Woods: <https://brethrenwoods.org/summercamp/>
- Camp Swatara: <https://www.campswatara.org/resident>
- Camp Bethel: <https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/camps.html>
- Camp Eder: <https://www.campeder.org/summer-camp>

As always, we have scholarships available to support our campers. Please contact our Camp Advocate, Mary Jame Pumphrey ([mjcp57@msn.com](mailto:mjcp57@msn.com)), for more information

## CAMP MARDELA 2026

AGE RANGES - WINTER: CURRENT GRADE	WINTER RETREATS	STANDARD CAMP FEE	EARLY BIRD (BEFORE JAN. 1)*
FEB. 6-8	Jr. High Retreat - 6th-8th Grade	\$110	\$95
FEB. 21	Mini Day Retreat - 2nd-3rd Grade	\$40	\$35
MAR. 6-8	Twix Retreat - 4th-5th Grade	\$110	\$95

AGE RANGES - SUMMER: GRADE COMPLETED JUNE 2026	SUMMER CAMPS	STANDARD CAMP FEE	EARLY BIRD (BEFORE MAY 1)*	
JUN. 28-JUL. 3	Jr. High Camp - 7th-9th Grade	\$400	\$340	
JUL. 5-7	Mini Camp - 1st-2nd Grade	Overnight	\$250	\$215
		Day Only	\$125	\$107.50
JUL. 10-11	Me & You Camp - K-1st + 1 Adult	\$200	\$170	
JUL. 12-16	Twix Camp - 3rd-4th Grade	\$350	\$300	
JUL. 19-24	The Wild - 5th-7th Grade	\$400	\$340	
JUL. 26-31	Creative Arts - 4th-6th Grade		\$400	\$340
		Youth Trip Camp - 8th-12th Grade	\$500	\$425
JUL. 27-31	Day Camp - 2nd-4th Grade	\$250	\$215	

MINIMUM REGISTRATION: DAY CAMPS/RETREATS - 8 CAMPERS | OVERNIGHT CAMPS - 10 CAMPERS  
CAMP REGISTRATION CLOSURES 14 DAYS BEFORE START OF CAMP.

Register online at [www.campmardela.org/camp-programs](http://www.campmardela.org/camp-programs)

## Camp 2026 Theme: IN THE WILDERNESS

June 12-14  
Youth Camp Get-Away  
Completed Grades 6-12

Family & Grand Camp, under 5  
years free!  
July 31-Aug. 2

Older Adult Get-Away, ages  
50+  
Sept. 14-18

Shepherd's Spring  
[camp@shepherdsspring.org](mailto:camp@shepherdsspring.org)  
[www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org)

# Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class will have a series covering the Bible Studies from National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) 2025.



Pastor Emeritus Chris Bowman originally led this series at NOAC, and he will be joining us to teach the first session on Sunday, April 19th. Karen Croushorn will be working with him to help facilitate. The series will also include DVDs from NOAC when Pastor Chris first taught this series. The Final Session will end Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join this Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.

## Youth and Kids

Senior High Youth will help serve Breakfast on Easter Morning, April 5th. Christian Saunders will speak on April 12th, David Hersch will speak on April 19th, and on April 26th, the Sr. High will prepare for Sr. High Sunday.

Our Jr. High and kids will continue with the SHINE curriculum.

	Date	Session Title	Text	Faith Link
<b>Lent and Easter</b> ( <i>stories from John</i> )				
1	Mar. 1	Wedding at Cana	John 2:1–11	Jesus shows the power of God.
2	Mar. 8	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman	John 4:4–42	Jesus offers living water.
3	Mar. 15	Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11:1–44	Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
4	Mar. 22	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet	John 13:1–15	Jesus shows us how to serve.
5	Mar. 29	Jesus' Arrest and Death	John 18:1–19:42	Jesus is wrongly accused, mistreated, and killed.
6	Apr. 5 EASTER	Jesus Appears to Mary	John 20:1–18	Jesus is alive!
7	Apr. 12	Walking with Jesus	Luke 24:13–35	Jesus meets us in familiar places and times.
8	Apr. 19	Breakfast on the Beach	John 21:1–14	The risen Christ cares for physical needs.
<b>On Earth, as It Is in Heaven</b>				
9	Apr. 26	Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done	Acts 1:1–26	We can carry on the work of Jesus. <i>JY: We can be witnesses.</i>

## MSO Birthday Cake Kits

# Birthday Cake Kits

MSO IS SEEKING DONATIONS FOR BIRTHDAY CAKE KITS  
FOR KIDS IN NEED.

BRNG YOUR DONATIONS BY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>.



Cake Mix



Frosting



12 pack Soda  
\*Any Flavor, No Diet



Sprinkles



Birthday Card



9 x 13 disposable  
cake pan with lid

Contact Mary Geisler at 703-282-8562 with any questions or to make a  
financial donation.

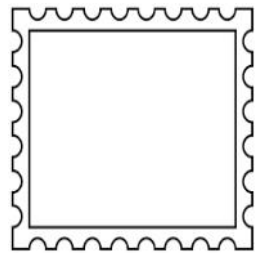
# April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 9:00am—Easter Breakfast 9:45am—Plant Pinwheels 11:00am—Worship	<b>6</b> 7:00pm—Reading Group	<b>7</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	<b>1</b> 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>2</b> 1:00pm—Cards & Games Club 7:00pm—Love Feast	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30am—Hike @ Blooms Park
<b>12</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship	<b>13</b> 6:15pm—Executive Committee Mtg 7:30pm—Church Board Meeting	<b>14</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	<b>8</b> 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>9</b> 1:00pm—House of Mercy Workday	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>19</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 3:00pm—Benefit Concert	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	<b>15</b> 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>16</b> 1:00pm—Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>26</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	<b>22</b> 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>23</b> 11:30am Lovina Conner Circle @ Cracker Barrel 1:00pm—Cards & Games Club	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am—Spring Clean -up Day

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD  
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1-NANCY S        | 19-NICOLAS K   |
| 3-NANCY G        | 19-JACK A      |
| 4-NATHAN S       | 20-SARAH W     |
| 4-SHARON F.      | 23-MARTHA A    |
| 6-SARA B         | 23-ALEX E      |
| 6-MELVIN C       | 23-MATTHEW R   |
| 7-VIRGINIA M     | 24-CHRISTA H   |
| 7-MAKAYLA G      | 25-KATELYN K   |
| 8-DONNA H        | 27-GRACE S     |
| 8-BEN W          | 28-MATTHEW W   |
| 9-CRAIG P        | 29-MARY JANE P |
| 9-KRISTINA S     | 30-RHONDA W    |
| 11-DAVID Z       |                |
| 12-MELINDA C     |                |
| 13-AME STEVENS W |                |
| 14-LAVONNE H     |                |
| 15-JANET R       |                |
| 17-JOHN G        |                |
| 18-CONNIE Y      |                |
| 18-CHRISTY L     |                |
| 19-JEFF C        |                |
| 19-LOUIS H       |                |



- |                        |
|------------------------|
| 3- LELAND AND SHARON F |
| 7-ROB AND SUSAN D      |
| 10-DAVID AND JOYCE K   |
| 10-DAVID AND GAY Z     |
| 15-LARRY AND TONI M    |
| 15-JENNIFER AND JOHN F |
| 15-CRAIG AND VANESSA G |
| 16-GILMER AND ANITA A  |
| 16-ERIC AND MEGAN A    |
| 17-TONY AND MARY G     |
| 26-RICK AND MARTHA A   |
| 26-DAVID AND LAUREL L  |

Let us celebrate with you! Share your birthday and anniversary with the church office