

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Goodbye Summer!

As summer ends, vacations come to a close, and kids to go back to school, we are thankful for a great summer! Our young adults have been meeting, and our new 35+ adult fellowship group is getting off the ground, which will bring us some wonderful opportunities for fellowship. Our VBS was a great success, thanks to Deanna Gage and all of the volunteers! Our kids were able to attend Jr. High Conference, FaithX, and Shepherd's Spring camp, where fun was had by all! We also welcome back Pastor Mandy upon her return on August 7th.

This month, we still have some great opportunities for service and fun! On Saturday August 5th, we will resume our hiking group to Bloom's Park, see page 11. On August 6th at 12:00pm. our young adults will meet for lunch at Zandra's. and our retirees' luncheon will take place on August 17th at 1:00pm, see page 3. On August 18th we will be holding our Annual Conference wrap-up worship, followed by a carry-in lunch.

Our creation care will sponsor another weeding and ground clean-up on August 19th from 8:00am—10:00am (see page 9), and then at 4:00pm our adult group will meet at Lazy Dog in Chantilly, see page 12.

Also this month, we are kicking off our Hygiene Kit purchases for District Conference at MCOB in October. See the flyer on page 10, and you can either scan the QR Code to see the wish list on Amazon, or click the link on the flyer. MCOB has committed to buying items for 20 hygiene kits, to be assembled during the conference.

Also, we will be resuming choir practice on September 6th at 7:30pm, see page 4 for more information on joining our choir.

We give thanks for all of our newly trained acolytes, ushers, sound engineers, and livestream operators who will be leaders during worship. Welcome to all!



Annual Conference



Jr. High Conference

From the Pastor's Study



Pastor Mandy
returns to the
office August
7th!

Worship Themes

August 6: Community of Care

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Preacher: Pastor Nancy Fitzgerald

Worship Leader: Mary Jane Pumphrey

August 13: AC Wrap Up

Ephesians 5:1-2

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: Briana Bass & Rob Dommer

August 20: Bluegrass Sunday

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

August 27:

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

July Stewardship by the Numbers

Average Weekly Attendance: **58.75**

YouTube Views: **39.8**

Average Weekly Giving: **\$7878.80**



SAVE THE DATE!
FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 21st



News and Events

Sunday August 18th we will be holding an Annual Conference wrap-up with our delegates, Rob Dommer and Briana Bass. Following worship, our Fellowship & Hospitality Team will be holding a carry-in lunch. Contact the office with any questions.

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUNG ADULTS



Young Adult Lunch
12:00pm - August 6th!
Zandra's Taqueria
9114 Center Street Manassas, Virginia 20110

HOUSE OF MERCY

making God's love visible to those in need

House of Mercy Workday!

August 10th from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Please arrive at the House of Mercy thrift store at 1:00pm.

8170 Flannery Court Manassas, VA 20109



Retirees' Luncheon

Great American Buffet!

Join us, Thursday August 17th at 1:00pm

No RSVP needed!

8365 Sudley Rd, Manassas, VA 20109



Music Notes by Susan Dommer

Music Notes – August 2023

Did you know that making music is good for your health?

Singing in a choir such as our Chancel Choir is so much more than just singing. There are many studies as to the science of singing but these are the arguably most important ones: You will find a community in choir; As you sing, your heart rates synch and your body releases healthy endorphins; You are participating in a shared opportunity to serve in worship. Below are some common questions about our Adult Choir Opportunity.

Do I have to read music to sing in the choir? Absolutely not. You may be reading music already if you are following the notes and going higher, lower or staying the same as you sing. But if you learn best by ear, we typically work on 3 pieces a week – there is time to learn your part! (Let Susan know if you would like to explore more about reading music to enhance your experience!)

Do I have to be at every rehearsal and every church service? Choir can fit into your family schedule – maybe you can commit to every other rehearsal and sing on the Sundays you attend church. We'd love to have you every week too!

Do I have to hire a babysitter to stay with your kids? We have a babysitter at rehearsals to support our parents!

Do I have to sing year around to sing in the Christmas Cantata? You are welcome for the season and are invited to sing the anthems for Advent and Christmas Eve too!

Are you ready to join?

Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM. We'd love to prepare your folder!



JANET LANGHART COHEN'S

ANNIE & EMMETT

A ONE-ACT PLAY



**SATURDAY
AUGUST 12, 2023,
7:00PM**

CONGREGATION NER SHALOM
14010 SPRIGGS ROAD
(BETWEEN HOADLY AND MINNEVILLE)
WOODBIDGE

**COFFEE AND DISCUSSION
AFTER THE PLAY**

GREATER MANASSAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

READY, SET

Sing!



**WE'RE LOOKING
FOR NEW SINGERS!!**

**FALL
SEASON
STARTS
SEPTEMBER 7,
2023!**

GRADES K-8
with unchanged voices

**LOW TUITION!
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**



Rehearsals
Each Thursday from 6:15pm-7:30pm
Tiny Tots (K-1) 6:30pm-7:15pm
starting September 7, 2023
at Manassas Baptist Church

Open Rehearsals
September 7, 14, 21 & 28!
Join your friends and make new friends
at our open rehearsals!

GMCC
EMAIL [GMCCSINGS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:gmccsings@gmail.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SCHEDULE A VOICE CHECK.
VISIT [HTTPS://MANASSASCHORALE.ORG/GMCC](https://manassaschorale.org/gmcc) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jubilee Farm by Tina Fisher

On Monday, June 19, we had an opportunity to visit the New Community Project Jubilee Carbon Farm in the small town Mount Clinton, about 5 miles west of Harrisonburg, VA. We were welcomed by Tom Benevento, the site director for this agroforestry project. He showed us around and educated us about the 30+ acre demonstration farm of larger-scale food production in a carbon-sequestering, eco-friendly way using annual-perennial regenerative cropping techniques. Tom said, “It all comes down to how we treat the soil, what kinds of plants, trees and small livestock are raised, and the creation of a riparian buffer along the stream running through the property.”

Carbon farming is a family of agricultural practices aimed at sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide while also meeting other land-use goals. Tom and his coordinating team developed a site plan for the farm that will feature a variety of carbon farming methods: silvopasture (integration of trees and grazing livestock), a riparian buffer zone, annual-perennial regenerative cropping, and multifunctional hedgerows.

He starts the tour by showing us an example of syntropic agriculture. Intense pruning helps promote a positive energy balance in the (eco)system. In addition to garlic, kale, cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower, there are special trees planted throughout each row to help create biomass, which will fertilize the soil naturally and create an environment which increases the soil health. Pruning the branches off and layering them all around the ground imitates a forest when the leaves and branches fall on the ground around the trees. A variety of trees that bring nutrients up from deep down—river locust, jujube, and Siberian peashrub—are planted among the crops to enrich the soil. When they flower, it brings in the pollinators. The goal is to provide diversity with the perennials. Once the beds are created and trees planted, the hard work is done.

Tom and his team showed us their first-time efforts with alley cropping. This planting technique involves alternating rows of trees and crops with the crops planted in the “alley” of the trees. Jubilee Carbon Farm planted 16 beds as an experiment with elderberry, persimmon, and Italian alder (high quality furniture lumber for harvest). Each tree is there for a specific reason. For example, elderberry produces a high-oxidant fruit, and the leaves are full of nutrients which will nourish the soil with potassium, phosphorus, and nitrogen.

As we continued our tour of the property, we came to an interesting installation that Tom and his team are creating—a carbon willow toilet. They have planted a circular wall of willows planted about a foot apart, which eventually will create a wall for privacy around a large hole in the ground. Willows can remediate a lot of toxins in the soil. Tom explained to us that willow trees also produce fungal relationships in the soil (mycelium) that allow trees to communicate with each other. For example, one poplar can let another poplar 100 yards away know that deer are eating it, so it sends a signal, and the other tree will make their leaves more bitter, so the deer won't eat those leaves. Isn't nature fascinating?



Jubilee Farm—page 2

We crossed over Muddy Creek into a flood plain at the base of a steep slope. Tom explained their use of silvopasture to re-enliven the soil on that steep slope that was over-grazed and eroded. They have built six swales every 35 feet all the way to the top. A swale captures a little of the rainwater where it is stored in the capillary structure of the soil. An ecosystem requires water, biomass, necromass (all the dead debris), and diversity. With this foundation you can feed (weave) the web of life. In front of the swale, there are honey locust, poplar, river locust, huckleberry, and mulberry trees. All edible for sheep. They eat them and the trees regrow. Above the swale on the mound, fruit trees, willow, pear, Asian pear, persimmon, chestnut, and black locust are planted which provide high quality timber, nuts, and fruit. In between will be the grasses for the sheep to graze. The sheep are kept within a portable solar electric fence. They will be in one spot for 3 days where they will eat the grass evenly and some of the trees within their reach. It adds more diversity to their diet, and poplar and willow add a tannin that gets rid of bacteria and parasites, which is the worst problem for sheep. The sheep are moved after 3 days, like a mob graze. It imitates the way other animals in nature stay together and want to be safe from predators. The fence size and duration of grazing allow the sheep to graze evenly to 40%, not leaving thistles shooting out, which stimulates the root structures to grow more. That makes it releases exudates in the soil, which is liquid carbon, which is mineralized by the fungi and the bacteria in the soil. The carbon is then stored in the soil for 500,000 years.

Silvopasture has a unique dynamic of carbon sequestration because you're growing trees that capture carbon but are also storing it deep down in the soil because of the way the animals stimulate the grasses. When you think about solutions for climate change, agroforestry—and silvopasture in particular—is one of the best things we can do, perhaps as good as or better than solar panels and electric cars. In addition to the climate benefits, there is more shade, and you have more fodder and grasses for the animals to eat. You also get other products like high-quality firewood, timber for construction, and fruits and nuts harvested from the land, not just animal products. And the total harvest is much higher.

In addition to their innovative carbon sequestering techniques, the farm is working with 20 different non-profits helping families that are food insecure. In partnership with two other farms, Jubilee is growing sweet potatoes, green beans, and greens to help feed 237 families. This kind of agriculture does a lot of restoration for the land. Once they are in full swing, agroforestry systems like this have more diverse fruit production and more diverse insect and butterfly populations. Tom is also collaborating with researchers from James Madison University to design a riparian restoration plan with an emphasis on carbon sequestration.

The Jubilee Carbon Farm welcomes visitors, interns, and groups from congregations, schools, and colleges, and they engage in activism around issues related to justice for the earth and its people. Tom has invited us to come back and spend some more time on the farm, maybe even camp out for a night or two under the stars. There is always work to be done and many fascinating things to learn about ourselves and God's Creation



VBS



This year we used Cokesbury's **Food Truck Party VBS**, which invites children of all ages to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! Using Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread", children are invited to pray as Jesus teaches. These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God - and our daily needs are met by God.

Through stories in both the Old and New Testaments, this VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides, loves, and cares for us while inviting them to join God in providing, loving, and caring for others. The goal of Food Truck Party is to help children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs - and also to serve as the hands of God in ensuring that the needs of others are met.

Thanks to Deanna Gage, our VBS Director, and all of the volunteers that helped make this week possible.

Creation Care

Our Creation Care group will once again be weeding and removal of invasive species on

Saturday August 19th from 8:00am-10:00am.

We look forward to seeing you!



Shepherd's Spring by Mary Jane Pumphrey

The beginning of August means our 2023 Summer Camps at Shepherd's Spring have come to an end.

This year Manassas Church of the Brethren was represented at camp by thirteen returning campers, ages 8 to 14, attending the Classic Camps and six

new campers attending the Family and Gran Camp.

Also, Meredyth Rankin served for the third summer as a camp counselor and Nancy Schaeffer volunteered one Sunday as the check-in nurse to help that process run smoothly and quicker.

The Family and Gran Camp is a great way to introduce our children to camping at Shepherd's Spring. If you have young children (five and up) that have never attended camp, you might want to consider Family and Gran Camp for Summer 2024.

Once again, we would like to thank our Christian Education Committee for supporting our camping program by providing Camp Scholarships in the amount of \$2,395.00.

We hope your plans for Summer 2024 will include a camp experience at Shepherd's Spring.

District Conference Hygiene Kits

You and your church can help assemble Church World Service

Scan



Hygiene Kits



by donating kit supplies to be packed at

District Conference

The Program and Arrangements Team is encouraging churches to have a collection drive and send collected items to District conference with their delegates. They have created an Amazon wish list of items needed for the kits –

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/35WOQRKPOHLD9?ref=wl_ys_list_3&filter=unpurchased&sort=default&viewType=list

Click



Please do not pre-assemble kits. There will be a kit assembly workshop, during conference, Saturday, October 7. Send your collected items with your church delegates. Each kit requires the following supplies:

- One gallon-sized Ziplock bag
- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

NOTE: Amazon Wishlist items will be sent directly to us.

Hiking—August 5th!

It's time for hiking!

AUGUST 5TH
8:30 AM



BLOOMS PARK

WE WILL MEET IN THE
PARKING LOT OF
BLOOMS PARK. DOGS
AND CHILDREN ARE
WELCOME.

WE WILL PLAN TO HIKE
THE YELLOW LOOP,
WHICH IS 3.4 MILES
LONG WITH SOME STEEP
HILLS AND BEAUTIFUL
SCENERY.



Click Here: [Manassas Parks and Recreation
\(manassasparkcommunitycenter.com\)](http://manassasparkcommunitycenter.com)



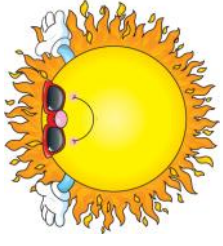
ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP 35+

Lazy Dog Restaurant
14333 Newbrook Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

August 19, 2023

4:00pm





August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	2	3	4	5 8:30am Hike at Blooms Park
6 9:30am Breakfast Jam 10:30am Worship 12:00pm YA Lunch @ Zandra's	7 Pastor Mandy Returns!	8 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	9	10 1:00pm House of Mercy workday	11	12
13 9:30am Breakfast Jam 10:30am Worship	14 6:15pm Executive Committee Mtg 7:30pm Church Board Mtg	15 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	16	17 1:00pm Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American Buffet	18	19 8:00am Creation Care Weeding 4:00pm—Adult 35+ meet at Lazy Dog
20 9:30am Breakfast Jam Blue Grass Sunday 10:30am Worship	21	22 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am Breakfast Jam 10:30am Worship	28	29 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	30	31		

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



August Birthdays

3-LAUREL LARISON
3-SUSAN DOMMER
4-JIM FRIES
4-SAMANTHA KLINE-
NELSON
4-ALENE MULLINS
5-LELAND FLORA
5-MIKE HARNER
7-JORDAN RIGNEY
9-ABIGAIL CRAIGHEAD
13-STEPHANIE POLZIN
14—AMELIA BAUGHMAN
16-JEFF RIGNEY
17-TODD PHILLIPS
18-EMIL LIPSCOMB
19—PAUL VAUGHN
20-BEVERLY VOGEL
21-SUSAN WEIMER
22-DANA CASSELL
22-JULIE FRITTER
22-WAYNE STEVENS
26-KIM CARTER
28-MALACHI MARTIN
29-CHRISTOPHER AKERS
29-ERIC ANDERSON
30-PATTY BAISDEN



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4—PAUL AND KATE MERSIOVSKY
11-JAMIE AND PATTY BAISDEN
12-JARED AND KRISTA KIMBLE
14-TRAVIS AND AMANDA
BAUGHMAN
18-BILL AND CHRISTIE KROUSE
24-JIM AND DIANE FRIES