MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

August at MCOB

Welcome to August at Manassas Church of the Brethren! We have a wonderful month ahead filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, and learning.

Join us on **Sunday, August 2**, as our Senior High Youth host a **Doughnut Breakfast** at **9:00 AM** in the Fellowship Center. Summer worship continues throughout August at **10:30 AM**.

Our regular monthly gatherings continue as well:

- **August 6:** Cards & Games
- **August 13:** House of Mercy Workday
- **August 20:** Retirees' Luncheon at Great American Buffet
- **August 27:** Lovina Conner Circle Luncheon at Cracker Barrel, followed by Cards & Games

Coffee and Conversation continues through **August 20**, meeting Thursday mornings from **9:00–11:00 AM**. Our **Forgetful Friends Chorus** will meet on **August 4** and **August 18** (the first and third Tuesdays of the month).

On **August 31st, Ryan Ahlgrim author of Spying on Jesus** will join us for book club at 7:00pm, with Zoom and in-person options. A limited amount of books are available through the church office for $10.00. Contact the office if you would like to purchase a copy.

We're also excited to host **Hoops for Housing** on **August 22**. Be sure to see **page 5** for details on this special event.

Shepherd's Spring is hosting its **first-ever Older Adult Retreat** this fall. Registration is open through **August 17**—learn more on **page 9**.

Our **Adventure Group** is taking a break for August, but we'll be back in September and ready for more exciting adventures together! If you have ideas for Adventure Group events, please contact the church office.

As we continue exploring our property proposal, two committees have been formed: the **Building Committee** and the **Finance Committee**. Read more about their work on **page 6**.

We also invite you to sign up to serve as a worship helper. Opportunities are available on **page 7**.

Don't miss Judy F.'s book review on **page 10**. You'll also find information about the **2026 Annual Conference DVDs**, now available in the church library.

Finally, be sure to check **page 8** for upcoming events and ways you can support the ministries of MCOB through your giving.

We look forward to worshiping, serving, and sharing fellowship with you throughout August!

From the Pastor's Study

I have been blessed to hear stories of experiences and moments spent at NYC. These collected autobiographical narrations and reflections supported my own preconceived mental images of what I believed NYC to be. It was the case in particular, as we arrived at Estee's Park late on Saturday, July 18, 2026. The forested area of the Rocky Mountains reminded me of scenes from films that I viewed from past times of movie going or television programs where the scenery or setting captured that of what I was now witnessing with my own eyes. The wonder and beauty of nature surrounded us the whole time we were there and the weather shifting daily from cool mountain breezes to sunshine to rainfall and storms. The first night of the conference, a number of us participated in a late night activity of star gazing. This was also wonderful because it involved walking around the compound where we were to find a group that was gazing up at the stars and the beautiful night sky as well as listening to stories and specific constellations and their locations within the galaxy and the sky at night time.

Besides the beauty of the natural world and its mountainous landscape around us with high elevation and rough rocky terrain to walk, there was also the sight of so many youth and adults, gathered on location for NYC! I have experienced the sight and encounter of small to large groups of youth with their leaders and advisors in the past. However, the magnitude of mass numbers of youth from the Church of the Brethren all over the U.S. was in itself a wonder and an experience to behold! This was in particular, while in and during worship service gatherings twice a day. We met in Russeau Auditorium for daily worship services. The theme for the week was "Light Within Us," based on Matthew 5: 14 – 16. Through the music/singing, worship leading, and preaching throughout the conference, we received memorable words of blessing and challenge on how to identify ourselves as "Light" and to live in accordance with the teachings of our Faith and allow them to form and transform our actions and lead us to making a difference in the world around us and wherever we go.

I too, experienced serving as a small group leader and also led a workshop, which I worked to design and develop while at NYC. There is the experience of sharing meals together in the Dining Hall where we gathered everyday. There is also the social and relational lives of NYC, where we met people for the first time, made friends, or met up with friends and colleagues that we have known for years. Let's not forget memories of how we traveled as well to NYC, right!? I know most people have stories of their journey to and from as well. Regardless of space and time, NYC is a wondrous and amazing experience to behold and the fact that I was able to be included in this specific one, I feel both the honor and the humility of one called to the Ministry as a Pastor in the Church of the Brethren – The working of God through Christ and the Holy Spirit has done something and continues to do something remarkable in the lives of our youth, our families, our congregations and in our world today! Let our Light, indeed Shine!

Pastor Mark

Worship Themes

August 2: Give them something to eat
(Matthew 14:13-21)
Preacher: Pastor Mark Pickens
Worship Leader: David Smith

August 9: Bluegrass Sunday
(Matthew 14:22-33)
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: Owen Williams

August 16: NYC Sunday: The Light Within Us
(Matthew 5:14-16)
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: NYC Participants

August 23: FaithX Sunday
(1 Peter 4:10)
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: FaithX Participants

August 30: Discipleship Counts
(Matthew 16:21-28)
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: TBD

July Stewardship by the Numbers

Average Weekly Attendance: **81**
YouTube Views: **31**

Average Weekly Giving: **$7,301.00**

Events

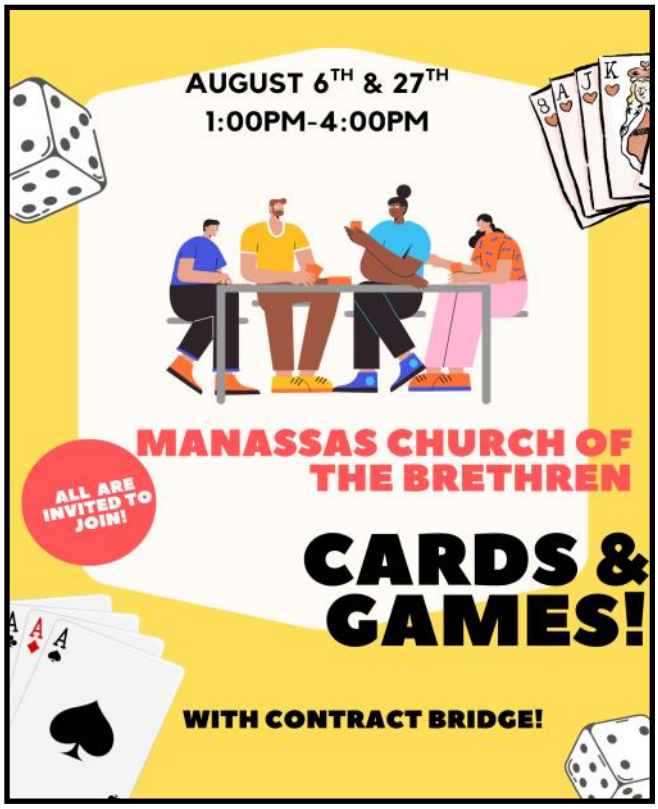
House of Mercy Workday

Thursday August 12th

1:00pm—4:00pm

Retirees' Luncheon
Thursday August 20th
1:00pm

Great American Buffet
8365 Sudley Road



Coffee & Conversation

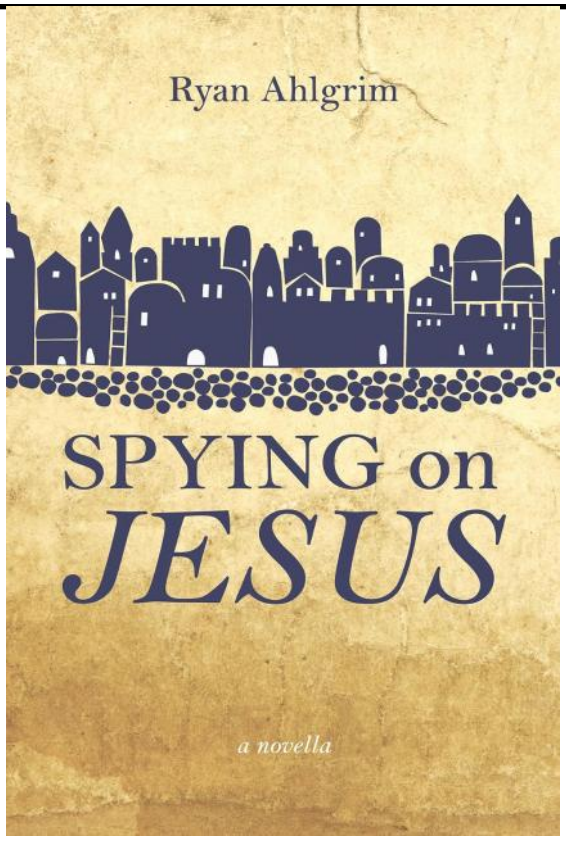
Thursdays

9:00am—11:00am

Executive Dining Room

Through August 20th!

Events



Spying on Jesus by Ryan Ahlgrim

The government of Herod Antipas has hired Caleb the scribe to spy on a rabble-rousing prophet, Jesus of Nazareth. Suspicious and critical of Jesus, Caleb infiltrates his band of followers and sends letters back to the government reporting on Jesus' shocking behavior and dangerous message. As the threat of arrest rises and Jesus heads toward a confrontation with religious and political power in Jerusalem, Caleb finds his questions deepening and his loyalties shifting. How will he resolve the most urgent crisis of his life?

On August 31, our Reading Group will welcome author Ryan Ahlgrim, a long time friend of Pastor Chris Bowman, for a discussion of his novella, *Spying on Jesus*. The group will meet at 7:00 p.m., with both in-person and Zoom participation available. Pastor Ahlgrim will present a talk on "Who is the Real Jesus?", so please join us for the presentation and discussion regardless of whether you have read the book!

Ten copies of *Spying on Jesus* are available in the office for purchase at $10 each. Otherwise copies can be purchased from online booksellers.

Adventure Group

Our Adventure Group is taking a break for August, but we'll be back in September and ready for more exciting adventures together!

Do you have an idea for a future outing? We'd love to hear it! Share your adventure ideas with the church office as we plan for another season of fun, fellowship, and exploration.

We can't wait to see you in September for more great adventures!

6ROBINS FOUNDATION

presents

HOOPS FOR HOUSING

3V3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
AUXILIARY GYM
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD,
MANASSAS, VA 20110

GAMES START AT 9:00AM

DIVISIONS: ADULT OPEN & COED

INDIVIDUAL FEE $45 (3-4 PLAYERS)
TEAM FEE: $130 (3-4 PLAYERS)

WWW.HOOPSFORHOUSING.COM

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE VIRGINIA WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Property Proposal

On Sunday, June 14, we held a specially called Congregational Council meeting. We received an update from the Explorations Team on the work that the team has been doing since January 11, the last specially called Congregational Council meeting on this subject. The Explorations Team then made a MOTION that we agree to sell the church to Stream Realty, but only if we can move to Cannon Branch. The Explorations Team shared factors to consider before making a decision, and then we had a time of discussion. Our Moderator, Melvin Cheshire, encouraged the congregation to ask questions and/or offer comments that were either for or against the motion. Following the Discussion time we took a vote. Since the decision concerns real estate, only active members ages 18+ could vote, according to our constitution and bylaws. However, we encouraged everyone to participate in the discussion, so all voices could be heard. There are guidelines within our constitution to help us define "active" participation in our membership. The Explorations Team shared these guidelines at the Congregational Council Meeting and we let everyone in attendance determine for themselves if they are an "active member" based on these guidelines. The vote was taken by paper ballot, and the results were 55 for the motion, and 21 against the motion. Therefore, we will continue to move forward in our discussions with Stream Realty and Manassas City to sell our property only if we can move to Cannon Branch.

To help us move forward, we have formed 2 new committees: Finance and Building. The Finance Committee will work with our realtor to ensure we can negotiate the best deal possible and necessary for this move. The Building Committee will work with the architect to help design the best building possible to meet our ministry needs.

Building Committee:
Don K.(Chair)
Marc B. (Vice Chair)
Rhonda C.
Maria W.
Amanda R.
Owen B.
Mary G.
David S. - Church Clerk - ex officio
Pastor Mandy North - ex officio

Finance Committee:
Louis H.- Chair
Rhonda C.
Leonard P.
Luke C.
Christian S.
David S. - Church Clerk - ex officio
Pastor Mandy North - ex officio

Weekly Worship Helpers Sign-Ups

Ways to Serve!

Ushers

Sound Board

Acolytes

Children's Church

Nursery

Worship Leaders

Save the Date!

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

Our Mission, Service, and Outreach ministry is hosting a Crop Walk to benefit Church World Service.

There are two choices this year:

- Walk the Manassas COB track
- Walk from Manassas COB to Nokesville COB on Rt. 28.

Sunday September 20th
1:00pm
(Rain date Sept. 27)

Scan the QR Code to learn more or donate!

Save the Date!

MCOB Fall Festival

Friday October 30th

6:00pm—8:00pm

Look for more information to come!

Ways to Donate to our Ministries!

Ways to Give:

- Donate online via GiveHub: Scan Here →
- Write a check and send via mail.
- Send a check through your bank.
- Put your donation in the Offering Plates

Older Adult Retreat!

Registration Due August 17th!

First Time Ever...

OLDER ADULT

Retreat

in the Mid-Atlantic District

Ages: 50+

At the Mid-Atlantic District Older Adult Retreat at Shepherd's Spring, with a theme of "Creating Peace", the retreat will explore creating peace with our neighbors, creation, and ourselves. Each day will offer a presentation along with many activities from which to choose.

- Fellowship & Worship
- Learn & Serve
- Relax & Rejuvinate

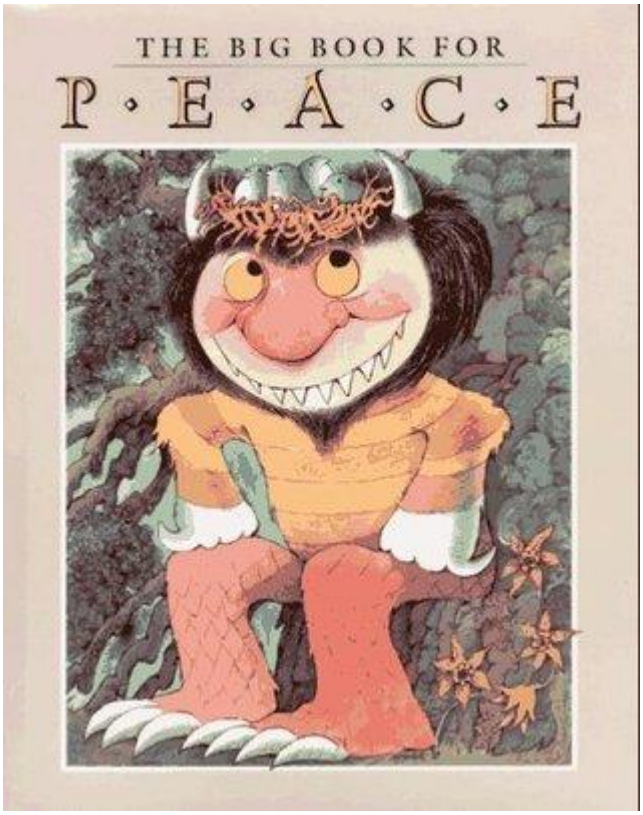
SEPTEMBER 14-18

SHEPHERD'S SPRING

16869 Taylors Landing Rd.
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Registration
https://shepherdsspring.campbrainregistration.com/

Library Corner



The Big Book For P E A C E

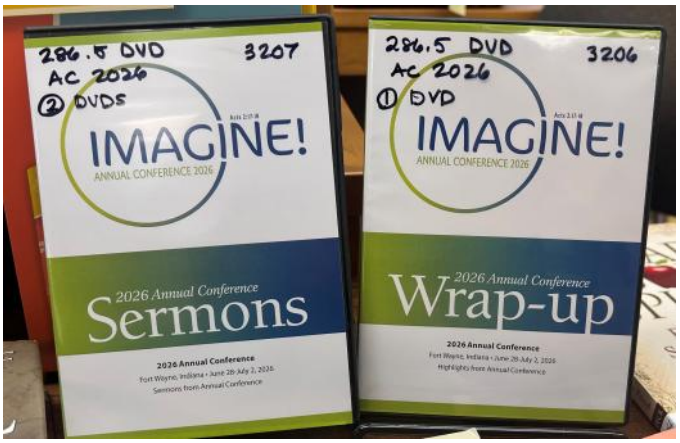
If you are familiar with authors of children's books, you will recognize the names of Lloyd Alexander, Jean Fritz, Jean Craighead George, Steven Kellogg, Lois Lowry and Katherine Paterson. These authors along with others and wonderful illustrators have contributed stories, poems, and illustrations to this book. While this is considered a book for young people, I believe the stories can be meaningful to all who read them.

"Two Brothers" is a story about two brothers whose father gave them a kingdom to share. Because the brothers had different interests, they started arguing over how to divide the kingdom.

"Midnight Clear" is a story of a boy who had nightmares. He meets an elderly bag lady sitting outside a church. She wants to sleep in the church, but the minister wanted her to go to a shelter. They have an interesting conversation and were able to help each other.

"They That Take the Sword" is set in Virginia during the Civil War. It is a true story about Seth Laughlin, a farmer who joined the Quakers as an adult. Quakers did not want to fight in the Civil War. Some fled. Some hid. Seth stayed on his farm and was arrested.

This is a book about many kinds of peace. Peace in different lands, between family members, different beliefs, and different generations. To quote the editors: "We hope the book will give you a new way to think and talk about peace. We hope you will spread the word, the big word – PEACE- to others.



Annual Conference 2026
Wrap-up & Sermons DVDs

Now Available in the Library.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am—Donut B'fast 10:30am—Worship	**3**	**4** 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**5**	**6** 1:00pm — Cards & Games Club	**7**	**8**
9 10:30am—Worship	**10** 6:15pm—Executive Committee Mtg 7:30pm –Church Board Meeting	**11** 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**12**	**13** 1:00pm — House of Mercy Workday	**14**	**15**
16 10:30am—Worship	**17**	**18** 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**19**	**20** 1:00pm — Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American Buffet	**21**	**22** 9:00am—Hoops for Housing
23/30 10:30am—Worship _____ 10:30am—Worship	**24**	**25** 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**26**	**27** 11:30pm — Lovina Conner Lunch 1:00pm — Cards & Games Club	**28**	**29**

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

August Birthdays

3-DAVID L.
3-SUSAN D.
4-JIM F.
4-SAMANTHA K.
4-ALENE M.
5-LELAND F.
5-MIKE H.
7-JORDAN R.
9-ABIGAIL C.
13-STEPHANIE P.
14-AMELIA B.
16-JEFF R.
17-TODD P.
18-EMIL L.
19-PAUL V.
20-BEVERLY V.
21-SUSAN W.
22-DANA C.
22-JULIE F.
22-WAYNE S.
26-KIM C.
27 –LAYLA H.
28-MALACHI M.
29-ERIC A.
30-PATTY B.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4-PAUL AND KATE M.
8-TOM AND NANCY S.
11-JAMIE AND PATTY B.
12-JARED AND KRISTA K.
13-SAFFAN A.AND JANET G.
14-TRAVIS AND AMANDA B.
18-BILL AND CHRISTIE K.
24-JIM AND DIANE F.