

Manassas Church of the Brethren

February 2024

Ways to Connect!

Welcome to the Manassas Church of the Brethren in February! We are thrilled to have all of you join us for the various activities and events we have planned for this month.

To kick off the month, we are hosting a Family Game Night and Hot Cocoa Bar on Saturday, February 3rd from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening with your loved ones. For more details, please refer to page 8.

On Sunday, February 4th, Join us at 9:00am for a Doughnut Breakfast sponsored by our Sr. High Youth, and an opportunity to have a Q&A session with our Pavilion Committee. During our worship service, we will also be having a baby dedication for Maeve Wright. Following the service, our Young Adults will gather at Hector's of Nokesville (details on page 5).

We are excited to announce the formation of a new women's ensemble group for our spring benefit concert. Our first meeting took place on Monday, January 29th. If you missed it, don't worry! You can still join us for rehearsal on February 5th at 7:00pm. More information can be found on page 8.

On Thursday, February 8th, we have two great opportunities for fellowship. Our Cards and Games club is making a comeback, meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00pm to 4:00pm (see pg. 6). Additionally, we will be having our monthly service day at House of Mercy during the same time frame (see pg. 4).

Mark your calendars for February 10th, as the Youth will be hosting our Annual Valentine's Dinner at 6:00pm. Make sure to register by February 5th to secure your spot! For additional details, please refer to page 3.

As part of our support for East End Mobile Park, we will be collecting blankets and other items until February 11th. Please bring your donations to the church narthex. More information can be found on page 4.

On February 14th, we are hosting a lovely brunch for the ladies of the Lovina Connor Circle at Ashton Family Restaurant at 9:30am (see pg. 6). It is also Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. We have several ways for you to connect during this season, including Lenten devotionals available from Brethren Press and Sanctified Art. We will also be sponsoring House of Mercy with our Lenten Cross, and prayer stations will be set up throughout the sanctuary throughout Holy Week. All the details can be found on page 9.

Don't miss our Retirees' Luncheon on February 15th, taking place at 1:00pm at Great American Buffet (see pg. 5). On February 18th, our worship service will include Communion, followed by Adult Fellowship at Hector's of Nokesville (pg. 5).

January 2024 Weekly Worship Attendance

In-Person: 69

Online Views: 40

**January Average
Weekly Offering: \$3827.00**

Pastor's Page

On the last Saturday in January, our 2024 Church Board met for their annual retreat. The theme this year as “The Stories We Tell” with a focus on Mark 4 and Jesus’ parables. Jesus taught through stories, and we learn more about who Jesus is and was through the stories of his ministry. We learn more about each other and ourselves through the stories we share. Stories help connect us and give us the opportunity to share our past. This year, we will be working to share the stories of our ministry here at the Manassas Church of the Brethren. We will be using the Narrative Lectionary for our worship services, sharing the biblical stories that help share our faith.

As part of our Church Board Retreat, we spent time with our ministry teams. Within the ministry teams, I invited members to share their stories with each other by talking through the following:

- 1) What is your earliest memory of church?
- 2) How did you start coming to Manassas Church of the Brethren? How long have you been attending?
- 3) Share a story of a time when you felt closest to God
- 4) Share a personal story about your childhood, and/or your current family that is meaningful to you. (Holiday tradition, vacation, a dear friendship, a funny story)
- 5) Share a story about your current occupation or hobby that brings joy

In between the pews and in the aisles before and after the Sunday morning worship service, I invite you to share your stories with each other. Take advantage of the many fellowship opportunities, and while you are together, share your stories.



~ Pastor Mandy

February Worship Themes

February 4—Jairus' Daughter Healed

Mark 5:21-43

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: Rob D.

February 11—Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-8

Speaker: David S.

Worship Leader: TBD

February 18—Lent 1: Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me—Communion Sunday

Luke 5:1-11

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

February 25—Lent 2 Wandering Heart: Rescue Me from Danger

Matthew 14:22-33

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

Valentine's Day Dinner

Childcare Available!

Valentine's Dinner



Saturday February 10th

6:00pm

Menu: Turkey breast, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad, rolls, choice of broccoli cheddar or minestrone soup, variety of desserts.

\$30.00 Per Person

Please RSVP by February 5th!



Scan the QR Code to RSVP

Click Here to RSVP <https://forms.gle/dhehzL41wvNR28kz8>

Youth will be asked to set-up the Fellowship Center and serve the meal.

Outreach

Share the Love



East End Mobile Park is collecting new blankets, Pajamas, and other items for their Annual "Share the Love" Event for kids!

Every child deserves to feel the love and warmth of a new blanket and Pajamas.

Donations Needed - Please bring by Febraury 11th

Boys Pajamas - All Sizes

Blankets (Can be found at Wal-Mart for \$5.00)

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Body Wash

Valentine's Day Candy

Girls Pajamas NOT needed!



Workday at House of Mercy

Join us for a workday at House of Mercy on February 8th 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Please meet at the food pantry entrance at 1:00pm and contact Tina F. with any questions. Thank you for giving back!

Events

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUNG ADULTS



Young Adult Lunch
12:30pm - February 4th
Hector's of Nokesville
12846 Fitzwater Dr, Nokesville, VA 20181



ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Lunch @ Hector's of Nokesville!

February 18, 2024

12:30pm

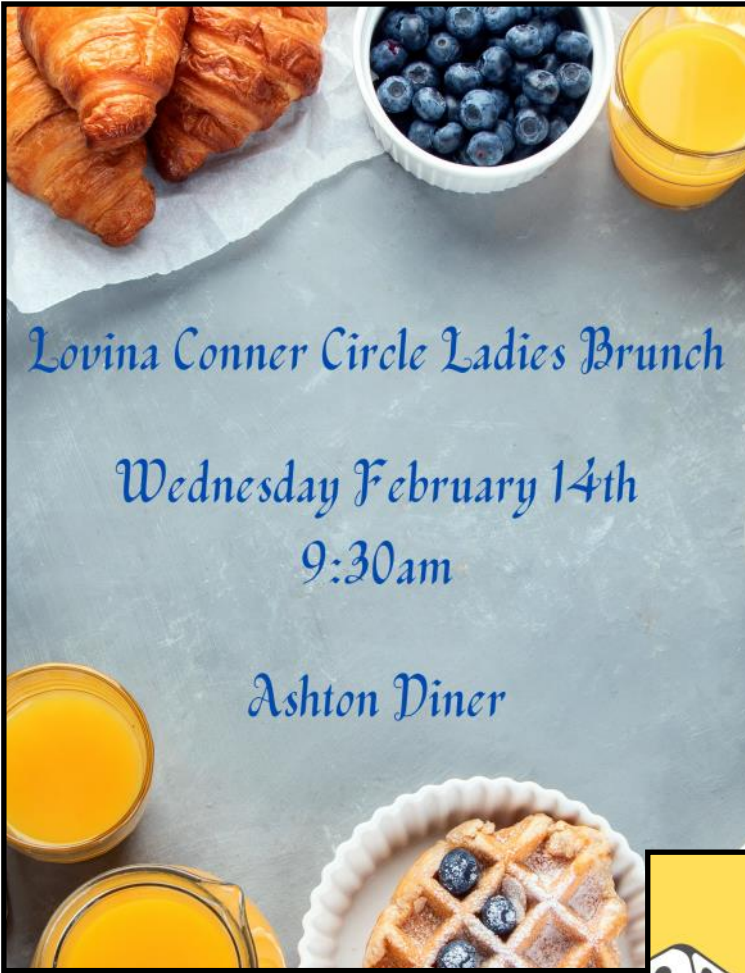
12846 Fitzwater Dr, Nokesville, VA 20181



Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday February 15th
1:00pm at Great American Buffet
on
Sudley Road.

Please join us! All are welcome!



Our Cards & Games Club is Back!

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024
1PM-4PM



MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CARDS & GAMES!

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN!



Mid-Atlantic District Query

Engaging the Query

The Mid-Atlantic District received a query from the Arlington congregation that was distributed at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference and will be included in the business for the 2024 District Conference. A "query" is a congregation's way of asking a question to the broader denomination. Should the 2024 District Conference pass the query, it would be received by Standing Committee as a the query possible item of business for the 2025 Annual Conference. Standing Committee reviews and recommends action for all such received business prior to Annual Conference

THE QUERY repeats Standing Committee's assertion that LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination even in Brethren contexts, including "violence, bullying, and a general sense of dismissal." It wonders if changes to denominational statements would help minimize risks of future harm.

AS A DISTRICT, we are seeking to engage and understand the query prior to discerning and voting on it at District Conference in October of 2024. Regional and online engagement sessions will be held to provide information, answer questions, and share in meaningful dialogue.

Our District Conference Delegates Mary Jane P., Rob D., Devon H., and Pastor Mandy will be attending a Query session on February 3rd from 10:00am—11:30am. If you want to be part of the conversation there is a Zoom session on February 20th from 7:00pm—8:30pm. Please contact the district office at AAMAD@brethren.org.

At these sessions, we will not be deciding whether to advance the Query to Annual Conference; that vote will take place at the 2024 Mid-Atlantic District Conference. Rather, we hope to find a better understanding of the Query and the motivations behind it. Participants are invited to engage the query, turning away an "us-versus-them" model. We hope all participants can share, listen, seek to understand, and learn from the convictions of others.



New Flower Cart!



Gilmer A. has built a lovely new flower cart. This cart will help relocate flowers, including Christmas poinsettias, Easter flowers, or flowers we receive for funeral/memorial services. This cart is not designed to withstand heavy loads such as books and canned good.

We do have other carts for moving heavy items. If you need a cart, please contact the church office.

Thank you, Gilmer, for all your hard work!

Let's
Laugh &
Play with
Friends

MANASSAS CHURCH OF
THE BRETHREN

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 3

6:00PM - 8:30PM

WE WILL BE HAVING A HOT
COCOA BAR AT THIS FAMILY
EVENT!

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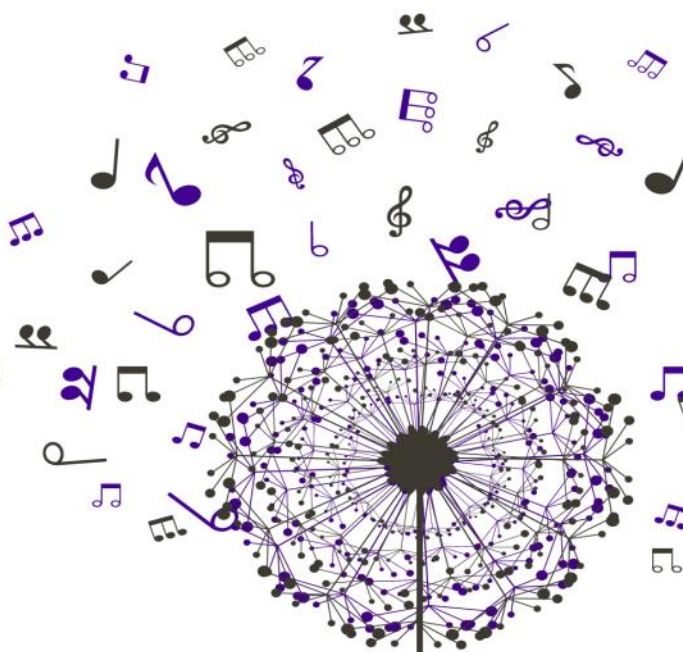
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NEW Three-Four Part Women's Ensemble

REGULAR REHEARSALS
1ST, 3RD & 5TH MONDAYS
7:00-8:30PM AT
MANASSAS CHURCH
OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS, VA 20110

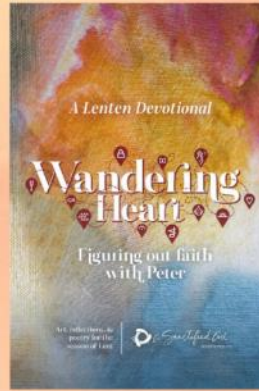
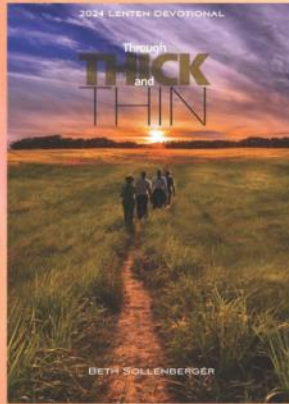


Come Sing with Us!
Initial Meeting & Rehearsal
Monday, January 29th



MCOB Lenten Connections

Lenten Devotionals are available for pick up in the narthex. Every family is invited to take a copy and read it throughout this Lenten Season. This year we have two devotionals, one from Brethren Press and one from Sanctified Art



Virginia Interfaith Power & Light has released a Creation Care Calendar for Lent inviting you to spend a time each day, being mindful of ways that we can care for creation in our community. Creation Care is one of the four focuses of community needs for our congregation. Please pick up a calendar in the narthex.



Lenten Cross of Mercy: similar to Untrim-A-Tree, you are invited to take a tag or more that are hanging on the cross. Each tag is an invitation into a time of prayer, ways to give of our time and talents through volunteer work, and an opportunity to provide necessary items for those in need. Items for donation can be left at the foot of the cross, and Tina Fisher (Community Engagement Coordinator) will deliver them throughout Lent.



Lenten Prayer Stations will be in the sanctuary throughout Holy Week. Pray through the stations at your own comfort level.

Christian Education

Christian Education News—Briana B.



The senior high youth will be hosting doughnut breakfast on February 4 at 9am. And on Saturday, February 10 our combined junior and senior high youth will be holding their annual Valentines Dinner fundraiser (see pg.3).

It's fundraisers like this that help send our youth to FaithX this summer. We have three senior high youth going to North Fort Myers, Florida and six junior high youth going to Palmyra, PA.

Eight youth went to Lancaster, PA for a weekend retreat in January. Thank you to Rob Dommer and Nancy Schaeffer for attending as advisors and thank you to all the youth families for their flexibility with the snow that weekend!

Speaking of retreats, our senior high youth have the opportunity to attend Roundtable the weekend of February 23-25. <https://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc/roundtable> Please register by February 6.

Our senior high youth have a new room at the church! They now meet for Sunday School downstairs in room 103 and are in the process of redecorating the space. Their Sunday School curriculum has also changed. After further review the Christian Education Team determined the "One Story" curriculum does not align with our Brethren beliefs and values. We will instead be using "Connecting Faith and Justice" from the United Methodist Church, until Lent begins, at which time the curriculum will be themed to our weekly worship services.

We want to thank Megan Anderson for agreeing to be our one-year appointee again this year. And we want to thank Melvin C. for facilitating our adult Sunday School class as they dive into *Unsettling Truths*.



School-aged Children's Classroom Little Free Libraries Starting— Terrie C.

At the recent Church Board Retreat, the Christian Education Team realized we have a great opportunity to help minister to our children by creating Little Free Libraries in the Sr. High, Jr. High, and one combined elementary Sunday School classroom. Our children are avid readers, and we would like to support them by making more books available to them in addition to our church library. We are asking anyone who has appropriate school-age books needing to be rehomed to donate them to our Little Free Libraries. A marked box will be placed in the Narthex to accept donations beginning Feb. 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Briana Bass, Christian Education Team Chair, or Terrie C., Interim Christian Education Chair.

Activities & Fellowship

A Community of Care, Where Relationships Matter Susan Dommer

Here at the Manassas Church of the Brethren, we are a community of care, where relationships matter, and our Christian discipleship counts. One of the ways that we nurture our relationships is through fellowship opportunities.

Have you noticed an uptick in social activity notifications at the beginning of worship or in the weekly E-News? Experiences beyond worship are a way to feel more connected with the members around you!

You may be connected through worship and have found a Sunday School Class for you and your children! Coming out of the isolation of the COVID pandemic, we are finding that there is a deep longing for shared experiences and opportunities to make a connection with other members of the church community.

Below is a list of regular activities and fellowship groups where you can connect and build community. Please join us!

- **Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in person and on Zoom!
- **Chancel Choir** meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Childcare is provided.
- **Lunch Bunch** meets every Tuesday at 12 noon at the Arby's on Liberia Ave.
- **Youth Doughnut Breakfast** is every 1st Sunday at 9 am in the Fellowship Center. Grab coffee and a doughnut or bagel, and support our youth ministry!
- **Young Adults (18 – 35+)** meet on the 1st Sunday for Lunch at 12:30 pm. Location changes from month to month, look for more information!
- **Adults (All Adults)** meet on the 3rd Sunday for Lunch at 12:30 pm. Location changes from month to month, look for more information!
- **Lovina Conner Circle (Ladies' Group)** meets on the 2nd Wednesday. Look for more information!
- **Retirees' Luncheon** meets on the 3rd Thursday at 1 pm at the Great American Buffet, 8365 Sudley Rd, Manassas, VA 20109
- **House of Mercy Volunteering** meets on the 2nd Thursday from 1-4 pm at House of Mercy, Flannery Ct, Manassas, VA 20109
- **Cards and Games Group** meets once a month. This month it's Thursday, February 8th from 1-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Family Nights** meets once a month. This month it's February 3rd for all ages to play Games & Hot Chocolate Bar. Bring a game to share!
- **Hiking Group** meets April through October on the 1st Saturday of the month. Look for more details this Spring!
- **Softball Team** plays in the Spring and Fall season with the Nokesville Church of the Brethren.

“Bless'd be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above” – *Bless 'd Be the Tie That Binds* Hymn #421

A NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HOMEBOUND PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY GET FOOD - Tina Fisher

House of Mercy is launching a new and improved Mobile Pantry Program. The Mobile Pantry Program provides fresh food, personalized options, and the opportunity to make personal connections with the people that will be served through this unique program. This program will specifically serve the homebound. These individuals are very likely isolated and suffering from lack of human connection. Your role in bringing them food deliveries will be about sustaining the body as well as the spirit.

Deliveries will be made during normal Food Pantry hours of operation; Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. The volunteers will be required to use their own vehicles and GPS devices to make deliveries. House of Mercy is purchasing a refrigerated vehicle that will eventually be available for volunteer use. There will be 2 shifts-morning from 9:30am-1pm and afternoon from 1pm-4:30pm.

This role will require lifting, bending, walking, and assisting with unloading of groceries. In addition, it requires someone who is a good listener, empathetic, kind and patient.

If you are interested, please email John McClay directly at jmccalay@houseofmercyva.org. Be sure to provide your availability and preference of the 2 available shifts.



Did you know?

We have a mobile food pantry serving 90+ seniors a month in partnership with Prince William Food Rescue

 HOUSE OF MERCY

February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6:00pm Family Game Night
4 9:00am—Donut Bkft 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship 12:30—YA Lunch	5 7:00pm—Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	6 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	7 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	8 1:00pm House of Mercy Work-day 1:00pm Cards & Games Club	9 6:00pm Valentine's Dinner	10
11 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship	12 6:15pm Executive Committee Mtg 7:30pm Church Board Mtg	13 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	14 9:30pm—Lovina Conner B'fast 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	15 1:00pm—Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American	16	17
18 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship w/ communion 12:30pm—Adult Fellowship at Hector's of Nokesville	19 7:00pm—Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	20 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	21 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	22	23 Roundtable begins	24
25 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship	26	27 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	28	29		

**MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2-ANGELA H.
2-OLIVIA M.
3-MICHAEL B.
4-DEVON H.
6-SAM P.
7-CLINTON B.
7-LINDA T.
8-SYDNEY B.
7-BROOKE F.
8-BRENDA B.
9- PAUL M.
9-JENNIFER H.
10-SYLVIA B.
10-LILLIAN G.
11-AMELIA M.
11-KRIS S.
11-DAVID H.
12-GENE .F.
12-CHRISTIAN S.
13-STEVE V.

16-BONNIE C.
16-OLIVER A.
16-SABRINA P.
16-JEAN J.
16-JOYCE K.
17-DALE B.
17-BENJAMIN P.
18-CAMERON W.
20-KAREN V.
21-NANCY O.
21-CENA R.
23-PAUL K.
24-LISA N.
26-RYAN P.
27-LINDSAY K.
28-LINDA H.



7-STEVE AND BEV V.
14-GARY AND KIRSTEN J.

**We want to celebrate with you!
Please let the church
office know your birthday and/or anniversary**