



Manassas Church of the Brethren

February 2026

Welcome to a New Season of Connection and Service

This month offers many opportunities to give, serve, and connect within our church community. We begin the month together in worship on Sunday, February 1st, with a doughnut breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m. For this month's worship themes and scripture readings, please see page 2.

Pages 3 and 4 highlight a variety of events designed to foster fellowship and service, including the Young Adult Lunch, Retirees' Luncheon, House of Mercy Workday, Forgetful Friends Chorus, Cards & Games Club, and the Lovina Conner Circle Lunch. Also on page 4 is our Youth Fundraiser Valentine's Dinner. Skip the restaurant wait and join us on Saturday, February 14th, at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person.

On page 5, you'll find opportunities from Camp Mardela, information about our choir's Wednesday rehearsal moving from the Sanctuary to the Choir Room, and details about the membership class taking place throughout February following worship. You'll also find our Book Club selection—plenty of time to read it before April! Page 6 provides a complete roundup of all church groups and monthly events.

Sunday School information is available on page 7, along with a recap of our Youth Winter Retreat held in January.

Page 8 outlines opportunities to serve during worship, and we encourage everyone to sign up as they are able. You'll also find January worship-by-the-numbers and information on subscribing to *The Messenger*.

On page 9, read the most current updates regarding the offer to sell our building. Page 10 includes VOICE updates on the opening of the Crisis Receiving Center in Woodbridge, as well as details about their upcoming annual meeting.

Page 11 shares information about Roundtable for our youth, while page 12 lists the schedule for Children's Disaster Services training this month. Page 13 contains our monthly calendar, and page 14 highlights birthdays and anniversaries.

All are welcome at the Manassas Church of the Brethren. We are glad you are part of our church family!

Pastor's Page

On Epiphany, we drew new Star Words for the year. This year, I drew “Values” and this year I want to focus on my values—my principles, standards, and what’s important in life. In a world that is trying to polarize us and force us to pick sides, I pray that I am able to come back to my values... more importantly, the values of my faith that ground me. Values that call me to love my neighbors, including my enemies. Values that call me to be a peacemaker and do the work of justice. Values that call me to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. Values that call me to look out for the vulnerable and marginalized. Values that call me to welcome the stranger. Values that call me to be salt and light in this world. I challenge all of us to consider our values. What matters to you? What principles guide you? What’s important in your life? How will you live out your values this year?

~ Pastor Mandy



February Worship Themes

February 1—Perfectly United

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: Melvin Cheshire

February 8—Foolishness & Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2:1-16

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

February 15—Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9, 2 Peter 1:16-21

Speaker: Pastor Mark Pickens

Worship Leader: TBD

February 22—First Sunday of Lent w/ Communion

John 2:1-11, Matthew 13:31-32

Speaker: Pastor Mandy North

Worship Leader: TBD

If you would like to serve as a worship leader, we'd love to have you!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A45A5AD29ABF94-worship#/>

EVENTS



Youth Sponsored Donut Breakfast!

February 1st

9:00am—Fellowship Center

Junior High Youth should arrive by 8:30 am



Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday February 19th

1:00pm at Great American Buffet on
Sudley Road.

Please join us! All are welcome!



Young Adult Lunch

February 1st

12:30pm— Location TBD



Workday at House of Mercy

Join us for a workday at House of Mercy on
Thursday February 12^h 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Please meet at the food pantry entrance at
1:00pm.



ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Adult Fellowship Group

NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY!!

Events



VALENTINE'S DINNER

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our Annual Youth Fundraiser
Valentine's Dinner!

Saturday February 14th
6:00pm

\$30
Person

Menu

Broccoli Cheddar or Minestrone Soup
Salad
Ham or Turkey
Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Green Beans
Dessert



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



FEBRUARY 5TH & 26TH
1:00PM-4:00PM



**MANASSAS CHURCH OF
THE BRETHREN**

ALL ARE
INVITED TO
JOIN!

CARDS & GAMES!

WITH CONTRACT BRIDGE!



Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch

Thursday February 26th
11:30am

Cracker Barrel

10801 Battleview Pkwy, Manassas, VA 20109



Events



Junior High Retreat

The Jr High Retreat is February 6th—8th.

The Twix Retreat is March 6-8 and families can find more information here: <https://www.campmardela.org/>

This is a Camp Mardela sponsored-event, and so all leadership will come from camp, and youth will need to coordinate their own transportation to and from the retreats.



Choir Practice Change of Venue

Our Chancel Choir will continue to practice on Wednesday night at 7:30pm in the **Choir Room**.

Become a Member

Are you interested in learning more about the Church of the Brethren denomination? Do you want to become a member of the Manassas Church of the Brethren?



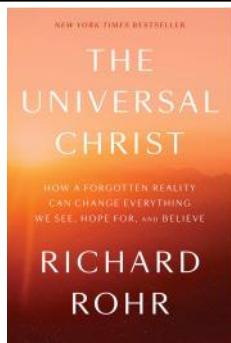
Church of the Brethren

Certificate of Membership

Pastor Mandy and Pastor Mark will be teaching a membership course beginning February 1st, immediately following worship. Lunch will be served. The course will continue on February 8th, February 15th, and February 22nd. The class is open to anyone 9 - 99!

SAVE THE DATE—READING GROUP

Reading group will meet on April 6th—6:00pm



The Universal Christ, by Richard Rohr, will be read and discussed. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them."

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!

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 6:30pm in person and on Zoom!
- **Chancel Choir** meets Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Childcare is provided.
- **Forgetful Friends Chorus** meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month.
- **Lunch Bunch** meets every Tuesday at 12 noon at the Arby's on Liberia Ave.
- **Youth Doughnut Breakfast** is every 1st Sunday at 9:00am 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 4th Thursday at 11:30am. Look for more information!
- **Retirees' Luncheon** meets on the 3rd Thursday at 1:00pm at the Great American Buffet, 8365 Sudley Rd, Manassas, VA 20109
- **House of Mercy Volunteering** meets on the 2nd Thursday from 1:00pm-4:00pm at House of Mercy, Flannery Ct, Manassas, VA 20109
- **Cards and Games Group** meets twice a month on the 1st and 4th Thursdays at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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

Sunday School

Kids and Jr. Youth

Feb. 1	Hidden Treasure	Matthew 13:44-48	God's kingdom is like a treasure.
Feb. 8	Treasure in Heaven	Matthew 19:16-30	We can question wealth and earthly possessions.
Feb. 15	In the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16	We can give generously to all.
Feb. 22	Sheep and Goats	Matthew 25:31-45	When we care for others, we care for Jesus.

Sr. High

Our Sr, High will continue on LGBTQ+ and the Bible.

Adult Class

Our Adults will continue with The Universal Christ

Winter Retreat Wrap-up—Pastor Mark Pickens

On Friday, January 9, 2026, Tom Schaeffer, Pastor Mark and his wife Elisa, took a van of seven youth (Junior High & Senior High) on a winter retreat to York, Pennsylvania. York First Church of the Brethren hosted this year's retreat and encouraged us through their leadership and district youth leadership to think of ways to encourage the growth and development of our youth ministries through in-person gatherings. Fellowship, Food, and Fun were three fruitful components to the nearly 24 hour retreat. It was great to see youth together and interact with other youth from different churches. This included beyond the region and the district. Many youth had befriended other youth from past events such as FaithX and were excited to re-connect to friends and continue to nurture and strengthen each other. Our fellowship included gathering at tables for not only conversations and discussions during group sessions, but also meal times. The host congregational members donated time and energy to cook and prepare food for our youth and adult leaders and advisors as well as staff and volunteers. We broke bread together and enjoyed a time to eat, pray, rest, play, serve during a service project on Saturday Morning, and share ideas around Brethren values such as Peace, Simplicity, and Community. Overall, the experience was encouraging for our youth as well as for the adults and we look forward to continued ongoing opportunities to support our youth through varying activities and events that encourage their own growth and development in faith and as members of the Church of the Brethren. During their Winter Retreat, our youth made a meaningful impact by packing nearly 12,000 meals, providing 400 people with daily meals for a month, and preparing over 2,500 pounds of clothing to serve 2,000 individuals.



How we Give

MESSENGER

The Manassas Church of the Brethren pays for the Messenger Magazine to be sent to our congregation. If you are able to contribute to this cost, the amount is \$14.50. Please write on the check "Messenger."
Thank you!

Ways to Serve!

Ushers



Sound Board



Acolytes



Children's Church



Nursery



Worship Leaders



Please consider the ways that you can share your time with us during Worship!

Click below if you are able to serve just one Sunday a month!

Acolytes: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Acolytes](#)

Worship Leaders: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Worship Leaders](#)

Sound Board: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Sound Board](#)

Ushers: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Ushers](#)

Children's Church: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Children's Church](#)

Nursery: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Nursery](#)

January 2026

Weekly Worship Attendance

In-Person: **95**

Online Views: **37**

January Average Weekly Offering: **\$20,869.00**

Property Proposal Update

On January 11, a specially-called Congregational Council meeting was held immediately following worship to receive an update from the Explorations Team about our Property Proposal. One questions that we repeatedly heard during the Listening Sessions that we hosted as part of our Discernment Process was: “Where would we go?” The Explorations Team has been able to meet with city leaders and learned that there is a 5-acre parcel of land next to Cannon Branch Cemetery that is owned by the city and currently for sale. The city is considering selling the 3-acres of land where the old DMV is located on Godwin Dr to build 100 affordable housing apartments. The 5 acres of land that we are exploring is located between the cemetery and the old DMV.

The Exploration Team (Pastor Mandy, Rhonda Craighead, Don Kline, David Smith, and Christian Saunders) made a MOTION directing the team to continue moving forward with exploring opportunities at the Cannon Branch property; to report monthly to the Church Board with any new findings and information; and to report to the Congregational Council during the Spring meeting with any updates.

This motion was approved by the congregation.

Please continue to pray for this process and that we will be lead by the Holy Spirit, so we can continue to be a community of care, where our relationships matter, and our Christian discipleship counts.

Terrie Cox Ministry



We are excited to announce that at the same Congregational Council meeting on January 11, the congregation voted unanimously to approve Terrie Cox for licensing into the ministry. She is currently taking classes for an MDiv at Bethany Theological Seminary and we are grateful to support Terrie as she explores her call. During the Sunday morning worship service on March 8, we will formally license Terrie, and we encourage everyone to attend this special service in support of Terrie.

Snow Helpers Needed

Snow Removal Help Needed January’s storm left several people with the inability to shovel their driveways and walkways. If you have a truck, plow, or are able-bodied and willing to help, please contact the church office. We could also use a little help shoveling around the Front Door’s of the church as well, so if you are coming to Bible Study or Choir tonight and can help – please bring a shovel. Thank you!



VOICE Updates

PW Crisis Receiving Center is Accepting Walk-In Services

We have great news! The Prince William Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) is now accepting walk-in clients. “Walk-in services make it easier for individuals and families to get help when they need it most,” said Lisa Madron, Executive Director of Prince William Community Services. “By offering immediate access to care, we can support people earlier, reduce barriers and help prevent crises from escalating.”

Between its opening on Oct. 28, 2025, and Jan. 6, 2026, the CRC served a total of 304 adults; 164 required a higher level of care in the crisis stabilization unit. Within the first month of being open, the out-of-area placement for Prince William County dropped from 43 percent to just 4 percent. The CRC’s stabilization unit includes 32 recliner chairs, 16 adult beds and 16 youth beds designed to support individuals 12 and older experiencing crisis. For more information about Prince William Community Services, visit pwcva.gov/cs.

Affordable Housing

VOICE has joined about 50 other organizations to create the Commonwealth Housing Coalition to support state reform for affordable housing. Leaders will be meeting with Virginia elected officials during their Lobby Day on Monday, February 2 in Richmond. As the General Assembly prepares to vote on a number of bills, VOICE is supporting a number of bills that support more affordable housing options for the commonwealth. Specifically, VOICE is hoping that the Yes in God’s Backyard or Faith in Housing Bill passes, which would allow faith-based owned land to build affordable housing by-right as a part of it’s mission.

VOICE Annual Meeting

Please join us on February 22 from 3:30–5:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (4444 Arlington Blvd). The Annual Meeting is a cornerstone moment for VOICE where we will: set our shared vision for the year ahead, celebrate wins from the past year, strengthen relationships across institutions, and complete essential internal business that sustains our work. There will be options for sharing rides from Manassas Church of the Brethren. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Roundtable

Roundtable 2026

Brethren/Mennonite Youth Conference

Bridgewater College

February 27th - March 1st



Roundtable is a senior high youth conference filled with worship, fun workshops, and opportunities to engage with one another (there will also be ice cream).

It is a weekend to remember.

Click Here to Register:

[Roundtable Registration | iycbc](#)

Click Here to see the Brochure:

[RT Brochure 2019](#)

Children's Disaster Services



Children's Disaster Services Volunteer Training

February 20-21, 2026

Are you looking for a meaningful way
to help children and families after
disasters?

Do you have a warm heart, patience,
team spirit, a sense of adventure and
time to give?

Friday 4:30pm to Saturday 5:30pm
First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort
410 Church St.
Beaufort, SC 29902
Coordinator: Chris Appl-Walsh (404) 989-5306

\$55 registration fee covers materials and
trainer costs. Meals and overnight stay
provided by the host organization.

Go to www.brethren.org/cds/ for registration
information

February 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 9:00am-Donut B'fast 9:45am - SS 11:00am—Worship 12:00pm YA Lunch 12:00pm— Membership class		2	3 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Arby's 3:30pm Forget- ful Friends	4 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	5 1:00pm— Cards & Games Club	6	7
8 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 12:00pm— Membership Class	9	10 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Arby's	11 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	12 1:00pm— House of Mercy Workday	13	14 6:00pm— Valentine's Dinner	
15 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 12:00pm— Membership	16	17 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Arby's 3:30pm Forget- ful Friends	18 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	19 1:00pm— Retirees' Luncheon	20	21	
22 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 3:30pm—VOICE Annual Mtg 12:00pm— Membership Class	23	24 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Arby's	25 6:45pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	26 12:00pm— Lovina Conner Circle Lunch 1:00pm— Cards & Games Club	27 Roundtable Begins	28	

**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.
7-CLINTON B.
7-LINDA TAX
7-BROOKE F.
8-SYDNEY B.
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**