



# Manassas Church of the Brethren

## January 2024 Newsletter

### Welcome 2024!

Welcome all! We have a lot to look forward to this year. During our Fall Congregational Council Meeting, the slate was approved for this year. The 2024 Church Board is shown below. Please be in prayer for our new leadership in this new year!

#### Church Board:

Rhonda C., Chair (2026)  
David S., Clerk  
Luke C., Moderator (2025)  
Rob D., Treasurer, ex officio  
Joan K. Financial Secretary, ex officio  
Mandy N. Pastor, ex officio  
Ben W., Trustee Chair, ex officio  
Karen C., Deacon Chair, ex officio

#### Communications

Jared K.(2024), chair  
Opening  
Opening

#### Christian Education

Briana B.(2026), chair  
Amanda B. (2024)  
Donna H. (2025)

#### Fellowship & Hospitality

Carla B. (2026), chair  
Kelly K. (2024)  
Bonnie C. (2025)

#### Mission & Service

Kim K.(2026), chair  
Linda T.(2025)  
Chris E.(2024)

#### Property

Scott C.(2025), chair  
Marc B.(2026)  
Sonny C.(2024)

#### Stewardship

Don Kl. (2025), chair  
Christian S. (2026)  
Judy F.(2024)

#### Worship & Music

Rebecca V.(2024), chair  
Anna W.(2025)  
Alicia S.(2026)

Please see the rest of our committees on page 3.

Join us in celebrating the new year! This month we have a lot of opportunities to connect! See page 4 for a list of events! FaithX registration (Pg. 5) and Shepherd's Spring registration (Pg. 10) are opening this month. We are starting our new Sunday School activities. See page 7 for more information. Our church board retreat will be held on January 27th, see page 6. The Joe 15 Blood Drive will also take place on January 27th. We are still working closely with VOICE, see updates on page 8. Finally, please check our Instant Church Directory to ensure your information is correct, and sign-up if you haven't already done so. Instructions are on pages 11 and 12. We look forward to seeing you this month! Happy New Year!

## Pastor's Page

We started 2023 by receiving Star Words as part of our worship on Epiphany Sunday. Words to guide us through the year. Words to allow us to reflect and ponder how God might be calling us forward. As 2023 comes to a close and a new year begins, I invite us to think back to the Star Words that we drew at the beginning of the year and see how it has guided us. My word was “radiate.” Radiate means to send out rays, to shine brightly, to project or glow with joy. As I reflect back, I pray that I was able to radiate God’s love and Christ’s light into the world. I pray that I was able to glow with joy in some dark corners. During our worship service on January 7th, we will have the opportunity to hear stories from others in our congregation about how their Star Word guided them this year. If you would like to share your story, please let me know. At the end of the service, we will draw new words for 2024.

THERE ARE SEVERAL THEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS BEING MADE IN THIS TRADITION:

The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.

We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.

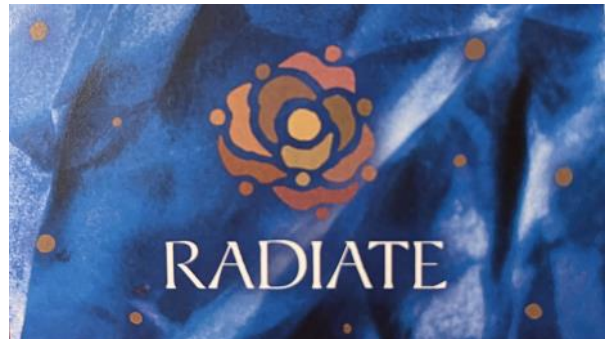
We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.

We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.

By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not us that are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

What Star Word might you draw this year? How might you draw closer to God with this new prayer practice?

~ Pastor Mandy



## Worship Themes

### **January 7—Epiphany—Star Words**

Matthew 2:1-12

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

### **January 14—The Baptism of the Lord**

Luke 3:21-22

“We Trust our Belovedness”

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

### **January 21—Parable in Mark**

Mark 4:1-34

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

### **January 28—Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac**

Mark 5:1-20

Preacher: Pastor Mandy North

To serve as a worship leader, contact Pastor Mandy or Sign-up here:  
[Manassas Church of the Brethren: Worship Leaders \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Manassas Church of the Brethren: Worship Leaders (signupgenius.com))

# Church Committees

**Trained Acolytes** – Emilia A., Jack A., Owen B. Amelia B., Joshua Cr., Ian C. Austin C., Makayla G., James L. Nicholas L., Kailea N.(alternate) Tyler N., James S., Nathan S., Kayla S.. Kirsten S., Oliver A.

**Audit Committee** - Rick A., Christian S., Chris E.

**Cemetery Committee** - Rhonda C., Linda T., Mike H. Sherrie W., John and Patricia G. and Orrin K., Jr (emeritus)

**Chancel Choir Officers** - Terrie C. (Librarian), TBD (Robe Custodian)

**Delegates to Annual Conference** (July 3, 2024 – July 7, 2024) - Briana B. and Chris E.

**Delegates to Mid-Atlantic District Conference**—Mary Jane P. Rob D. Devon H.

**Education & Enrichment Fund Committee** – Lavonne H., Bonnie C. Donna H.

**Elva Ramey Kline Memorial Fund Committee** - Martha A. and Patricia G.

**Financial Secretary** – Joan K.

**Goals and Purpose Committee** - Illana N.. Luke C., Carla B., Jaylin K. Paul K., and Kim K.

**Ushers** – Don K. Christian S., Judy F., Jim F., Mike H., Luke C. Louis H., Tim G.

**Hospitality Committee** - Rhonda C., Linda T. and Mary G.

**Kitchen Supplies Coordinators** - Terrie and Sonny C.

**Leadership Calling Team** - Linda T., Anna W. and Terrie C.

**Librarian** – Jeanette S.

**Memorial Fund Committee** - Rick A., Martha A., Rhonda C. and Linda T.

**Nursery Committee** - Luke C., Carla B., and Christy L.

**On Earth Peace Representative** - Illana N.

**Organist** - Ben W.

**Pianists** - Susan D. Linda H. Krista K., Ben W. and Travis W.

**Senior & Junior High Coordinator** – Briana B.

**Shepherd's Spring Advocate** – Mary Jane P.

**Staff Advisory Committee** – Melvin C. Lisa N., Preston L., Margaret B., and Alicia S.

**Trustee Board** – Ben W.(Chair), Bonnie C., Steve H., Don K., Rhonda C.

**Vacation Bible School Directors** – TBD



**Deacon's Meeting**

**January 14th**

**12:00pm**

**Stewardship by the Numbers  
Worship Attendance & Giving**

2023 Average Worship Attendance: **81**

2023 Average Weekly Offering: **7097.53**

December Average Worship Attendance: **96.6**

December Average Offering: **14987.19**

# EVENTS



## Youth Sponsored Donut Breakfast!

January 7th

9:00am—Fellowship Center &  
Q&A Session with the Church Board in the  
Executive Dining Room



## Retirees' Luncheon

Great American Buffet - January 18th

1:00pm



## House of Mercy Workday

January 11th

1:00pm—4:00pm



## Young Adult Lunch

January 7th

12:30pm

Foster's Grille—Bristow  
Linton Hall Road



ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

## Adult Fellowship Group

January 21st

12:30pm

Mellow Mushroom—Chantilly

14335 Newbrook Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151

# FaithX



**Join FaithX during Summer 2024 to serve, grow in faith, make friends, and experience something new!**

Hello youth families!

Can you believe 2024 is just around the corner? That means it's time to plan for FaithX!

We are looking at two FaithX options for the youth:

**Junior High- Palmyra, PA July 17-21**

**Senior High- North Fort Myers, FL July 14-20**

FaithX registration opens January 10 at 7pm. We will have a registration party at the church so we can all register together as spots for each FaithX are limited. I will provide more information regarding registration as we get closer to the 10th. We will need male and female advisors for both trips. I'm happy to be a female advisor for either group. Please let me know if you are willing to be an advisor as you will also need to register on the 10th.

We are planning to drive to Palmyra. If you volunteer to be an advisor for the junior high FaithX please also let me know if you would be willing to drive the church van.

**Below is more information about the two FaithX options:**

**Junior High-** Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association creates riding experiences for individuals of all ages who experience disabilities. We will assist with the care of the farm's animals, maintain stalls and paddocks, clean water troughs, re-stock hay stations, visit with the goats, brush the donkeys, and more! In the evenings we may visit Hershey's Chocolate World, have a pool party, or relax by a campfire. On Sunday, we will participate in worship with Palmyra Church of the Brethren.

**Senior High-** ECHO is growing hope from the ground up. Their many initiatives seek to equip small-scale farmers with self-sustainable hunger solutions and they guide the world's agricultural community by providing hands-on training. As we work alongside staff and interns to aid in construction projects and maintain ECHO's fields and gardens, we will learn about practical and innovative ways of producing food that have positively impacted millions of lives around the world.

I'm excited for FaithX and I hope you are too!

Sincerely,  
Briana

**FAITHX Registration opens January 10<sup>th</sup>!**

Please let us know if you intend to register. An older adult workcamp has registration open now! The trip is to Florida February 25<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to: [Register Now – FaithX \(brethren.org\)](https://www.brethren.org) to register for the Older Adult Camp. Registration is open NOW for this experience and will close on Feb. 1, 2024.



## Church Board Retreat & Meeting

# Church Board Retreat



**Saturday January 27th  
9:00am - 12:00pm**

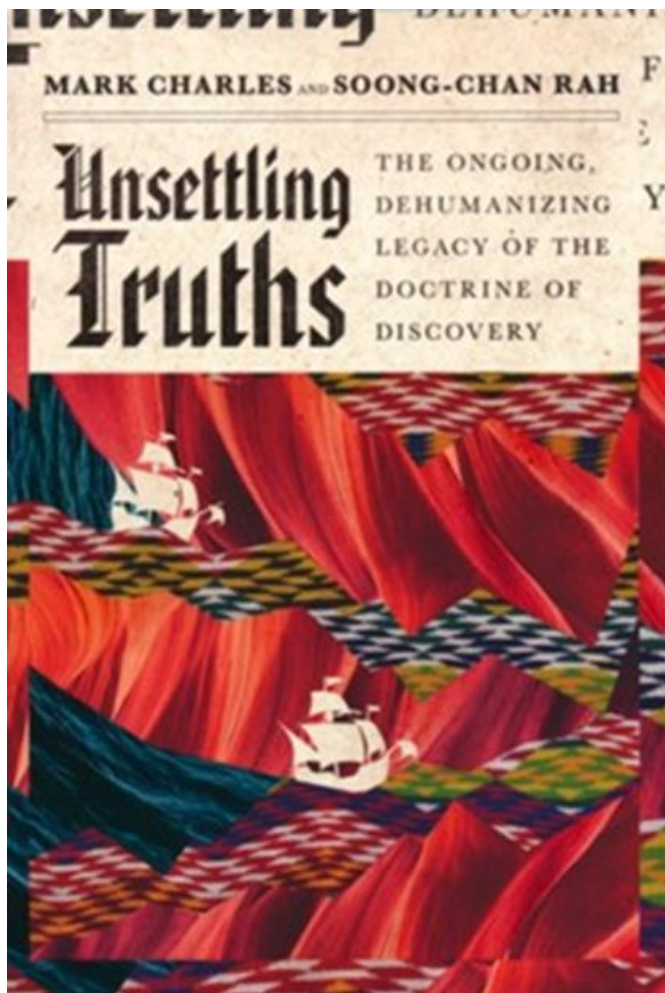
The Stories We Tell - Matthew 13:34-35

All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy:

I will open my mouth and tell stories;  
I will bring out into the open  
things hidden since the world's first day.

Our Church Board Retreat will take place on Saturday January 27th from 9:00am—12:00pm at the church. A continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 am. There will be scripture readings, intentional prayer, and community building. This year's theme is "The Stories We Tell." We will take time to share our own stories and consider the stories we tell about our faith. The retreat will center our hearts and prepare us for the new year of ministry together. The business of the Executive Committee will be on Monday January 8th at 6:15pm in room 207 or on Zoom. Due to the Board Retreat, there will not be a Church Board meeting in January.

# Sunday School



New Adult Sunday School Series for January, February and March is a book study of *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah.

Mark Charles was a keynote speaker at the 2023 National Older Adult Conference. Class requirements are: an ability to read, a willingness to listen, and an openness to speaking from the heart. Class format will be a participatory discussion. The March 24th class will be a 45-minute Zoom question and answer with Mark Charles. Facilitator will be Melvin Cheshire.

Contact Melvin if you have questions. Books will be available at church on Dec. 31 or Jan. 7. Contact Terrie Cox to arrange book pick up between those dates.

The Pre-K -2, 3-5, and Jr. High classes will continue using the Shine Curriculum. The Sr. High Youth are using the One Story Ministries series on mental health issues.

Thank you to all our Sunday School teachers and helpers who volunteer their time and talents to our children and adults to continue our Christian Education values at the Manassas Church of the Brethren.



Church of the Brethren

## 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?



Please contact Pastor Mandy at [mandy.north@manassasbrethren.org](mailto:mandy.north@manassasbrethren.org)

## VOICE Update—James Pearlstein



### **Team Gathering in January:**

Prince William County VOICE Leaders will be meeting on January 11 from 1-2:30 pm at St Paul UMC. Every institution is encouraged to have 1-2 leaders at this meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Mandy.

### **Affordable Housing Trust Fund:**

Exciting news! VOICE and our allies have been actively working towards establishing the county's first Affordable Housing Trust Fund and shaping related policies. We have recently learned that the county approved to allocate an **initial \$5 million to the Trust**

**Fund** at its BOCS meeting on 12/19. While there's still work ahead to build a truly robust fund, this marks a crucial first step and signals the Board's commitment to prioritizing the Trust Fund.

We attribute this positive development to the collective efforts of VOICE and our allies, including the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, Wellington Development, and Tenants and Workers United. Despite being heavily distracted by the major data center votes, we've kept the Affordable Housing Trust Fund on the forefront for the BOCS, election candidates, and key county staff.

The status of the larger Affordable Housing Ordinance is currently much less clear, with the Board likely to focus on it in the first quarter of 2024.

### **Crisis Receiving Center:**

As we gear up for January's General Assembly, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors has prioritized securing funding for the much-needed youth component of the CRC as their number one appropriations request from the state.

VOICE has been informed that the funding for the youth component is detailed in the county's budget request materials. The county has secured approximately half of the required total (\$5 million) for the youth wing of the CRC and is asking that the state contribute the remaining funding. Details on which PWC delegation members will carry the budget amendment will be shared as soon as available.

During the General Assembly, there will be opportunities, both in-person in Richmond and virtually, to support VOICE's priorities, including the youth component of the CRC. Dates are yet to be finalized.

### **Save the Date: Annual Meeting - March 3rd, 3-5pm:**

Formal notice will follow, but please mark your calendars for VOICE's Annual Meeting on **Sunday, March 3rd, from 3-5pm**. The event, a significant gathering, is likely to be held in Fairfax this year.



# Ways to Serve!

**Ushers**



**Sound Board**



**Acolytes**



**Children's Church**



**Nursery**



**Altar Flowers**



## Shepherd's Spring Summer Camp—Early Bird Registration



It's not too early to be thinking about summer church camp schedules. The schedule for Shepherd Spring 2024 is out and the EARLY early bird special price discount (\$40 off registration fee) ends MONDAY, Jan. 1. Register NOW if you can! Early bird special ends (\$20 off registration fee) February 1, 2024. Visit their website to see the schedule and to register: [shepherdsspring.org](http://shepherdsspring.org)

## Youth Event

We have the opportunity to attend a retreat with our friends at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. We will leave the afternoon of Friday, January 19 and return the afternoon of Sunday, January 21.

We will stop for dinner on the way there and lunch on the way back. The cost for the retreat itself should be \$10 per person.

The Lancaster church is requesting a final headcount. Please let me know if your youth will be attending **no later than December 31**.

Please also let Briana know about any food allergies so she can notify the Lancaster church as they plan meals.

## Joe 15 Blood Drive—Coming Soon!

Our Annual Joe 15 Blood Drive is coming soon! Look for more information in the weekly eNews!

# Church Directory

Instant  
Church Directory™  
Online



## ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS.

### First time signing into the Online Directory or Mobile App?

1. Go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com)
2. Click on the **Create Login** button under: First time signing in?
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click **Request Login**.
6. Check your inbox for an email from [service@instantchurchdirectory.com](mailto:service@instantchurchdirectory.com).
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com).

Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device

### Already logged into the Mobile App?

1. Go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com)
2. Enter your email address listed in the directory and your unique member password.
3. Click **Sign In**.

Need help signing in? Please see your directory Administrator.

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Want to stay connected with our church family? Contact information is shared through our Online Church Directory through the website and app called Instant Church Directory. If you want to be included in the directory, please contact the church office. To log in or connect to our directory, take a look at the instructions provided. Please check your contact information and make sure that it is up to date. You can make edits on your own or contact the church office with any changes.



# Mobile Church Directory Instructions

Instant  
Church Directory™  
Online

## Mobile App Login Instructions for Android™ Devices

### First Time Signing into Directory (Version 2.0 or newer)

1. Download the App from the App Store.

Search for "Instant Church Directory" and look for this icon:



2. Open the app and click on the **Create Login** button.
3. Enter your email address that is used in your church's directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and must contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click **Create Login**.
6. Check your inbox for an email from [service@instantchurchdirectory.com](mailto:service@instantchurchdirectory.com).
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
8. Once you confirm your email, you may open the app and click **Sign In** to log into your church's directory.

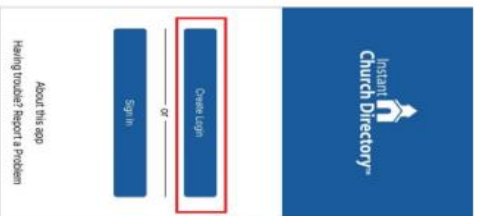
Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device, as well as the member website at [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com).

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1. Open the app and click on the **Sign In** button.
2. Enter your email address that is used in your church's directory and your personal member password.
3. Click on the **Sign In** button.

If you do not remember your personal member password, click on the **Forgot Password?** link to receive a link to your email to reset your password.

Need help signing in? Please see your directory Administrator.



Instant  
Church Directory™  
Online

## Mobile App Login Instructions for iPhone®, iPad and any iOS Device

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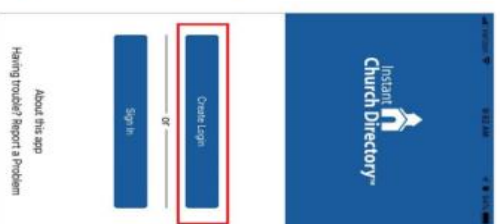
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Need help signing in? Please see your directory Administrator.





# January 2024



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends	<b>3</b> 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am—Doughnut B'fast/Q&A w/ Board 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 12:30pm—YA Lunch	<b>8</b> 6:15pm— Executive Com- mittee Mtg.	<b>9</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	<b>10</b> 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 1:00pm—House of Mercy Workday	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 12:00pm— Deacons Mtg	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends	<b>17</b> 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>18</b> 1:00pm—Retirees' Lunch @ Great American Buffet	<b>19</b> Jr & Sr High Retreat @ Lancaster COB starts	<b>20</b> Jr & Sr High Retreat continues
<b>21</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 12:30 Adult Fellowship Lunch	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	<b>24</b> 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 6:30pm—MSO Mtg	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am—Church Board Retreat 9:00am—Joe 15 Blood Drive
<b>28</b> 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am— Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	<b>31</b> 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice			

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD  
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Happy  
Birthdays*

6-Ava Cs	18-Clark C.
6-Jenn F.	18-Jan H.
7-Brad H.	18-Lowell K.
8-Nancy B.	18-Katelyn Wampler-L.
9-Lance K.	21-James F.
9-Donna L.	23-David S.
9-Shirley M.	25-Megan A.
9-Heather B.	26-Josephine K.
11-Debbie E.	27-Brian H.
11-Wayne K.	27-Margaret B.
11-Tyler B.	28-James S.
12-Patrick W.	29-Grace C.
13-Kate W.	30-Gina M.
13-Kim S.	30-Leys R.
16-Henry P.	31-Ben H.
16-Matthew W.	
17-Alexander P.	



16-Carroll & Susan W.

*Do you have a birthday or anniversary in  
January? Let us know! We'd love to celebrate  
with you*