

# MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



## JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME JULY!!

Welcome to MCOB Summer! Worship Reminder: Worship will continue at 10:30 AM throughout the summer, with no Sunday School.

#### July Worship Highlights:

- July 6: Join us for a Hymn Sing (note: there will be no doughnut breakfast this day). There will be NO Children's Church, and NO Nursery! We encourage all ages to join us for a musical worship!
- July 13: Enjoy our doughnut breakfast at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Center, for a meet and greet with Dana Cassell, followed by worship where Dana will preach. We will be serving communion during this service.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Cards & Games Club: July 3 at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. (Note: There will be no meeting on July 24 due to VBS. The next meeting will be July 31.)
- Annual Conference: Pastor Mandy and our delegates will attend July 2–6. More on page 6.
- FaithX Workcamp: Our youth will be participating—details on page 6.
- House of Mercy Workday: Thursday, July 10 at 1:00 PM.
- Deacon's Meeting, Sunday July 13th at 11:30am
- Retirees' Luncheon: Wednesday, July 17 at 1:00 PM at the Great American Buffet.
- Adult Fellowship, Sunday July 20th, Hector's of Nokesville, 12:00pm.

#### Vacation Bible School (VBS):

- Dates: July 21–25, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM! All are welcome—invite your friends!
- Theme: Road Trip: On the Go with God
- Page 4: VBS Decorating Committee wish list.
- Page 5: Learn about our VBS Mission Project supporting Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid.

#### Other News:

- We'll be holding several listening sessions to discuss the recent offer for our property. The first meeting is July 23rd. See more on page 6.
- Our 130th Anniversary Schedule is available on page 10!
- Return of our reading group, see page 7.

#### Sabbath Rest:

- Pastor Mandy will be out of the office July 2-6 for Annual Conference, July 6-10 for FaithX, July 13-18 for Shepherd's Spring and July 26-August 2 for vacation.
- There will be no Executive Committee or Church Board meetings in July. There will also be no Adventure Club or Lovina Conner Circle Lunch.
- There will be no Children's Church on July 27th for VBS Sunday.

#### Looking Ahead:

- October 19: VOICE Affordable Housing Assembly—We're hoping for at least 10 MCOB attendees.

### **June Stewardship by the Numbers**

Average weekly attendance in-person: **94**

Average views of our online worship services: **50**

Average weekly giving: **\$8186.50**

## From the Pastors' Study

In May and June, we embarked on a Sermon Series on the 6 Principles of Kingian Nonviolence, based on the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 6 principles are:

- 1) Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people
- 2) The Beloved Community is the framework for the future
- 3) Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil
- 4) Accept suffering for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal
- 5) Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence
- 6) The universe is on the side of justice

As this series come to a close, I pray that we are able to keep these principles in mind as a framework for how we live and love in this world. May these principles guide us in what we say and do, and how we interact within our relationships and in our community. May these principles guide us on how we post and comment on social media, and may we lean into building meaningful relationships that allow us to see each other's humanity, knowing that each of us has been made in God's own image and is a beloved child of God. The work of Kingian Nonviolence doesn't end with the principles. The principles are a guideline for how we put our faith into action.

Kingian Nonviolence also offers 6 steps towards action:

- 1) **Information Gathering** - The way you determine the facts, the options for change, and the timing of pressure for raising the issue is a collective process.
- 2) **Education**- Is the process of developing articulate leaders who are knowledgeable about the issues. It is directed towards the community through all forms of media about the real issues and human consequences of an unjust situation.
- 3) **Personal Commitment** -Means looking at your internal and external involvement in the nonviolent campaign and preparing yourself for long-term as well as short-term action.
- 4) **Negotiation** - Is the art of bringing together your views and those of your opponent to arrive at a just conclusion or clarify the unresolved issues, at which point the conflict is formalized.
- 5) **Direct Action**-Occurs when negotiations have broken down or failed to produce a just response to the contested issues and conditions.
- 6) **Reconciliation**-Is the mandatory closing step of a campaign, when the opponents and proponents celebrate the victory and provide joint leadership to implement change.

May we continue this work of justice, just as we continue the work of Jesus: peacefully, simply, together.

~Pastor Mandy

## Worship Themes

### July 6: Hymn Sing

Psalm 92

Worship Leaders: Susan Dommer and our Worship & Music Ministry Team

### July 13: 130th Anniversary: Dana Cassell and Communion

Psalm 89:1-2

Preacher: Dana Cassell

Worship Leader: Pastor Mandy

### July 20:

Colossians 1:15-28

Preacher: Pastor Mandy

Worship Leader: TBD

### July 27: VBS Sunday

Joshua 1:9

Preacher: Pastor Mark

Worship Leader: Megan Anderson

## New Associate Pastor!

### Welcome Mark Pickens, Associate Pastor!

On June 22nd, the congregation voted to approve Mark Pickens as our new Associate Pastor. We welcome both Mark and Elisa to MCOB!

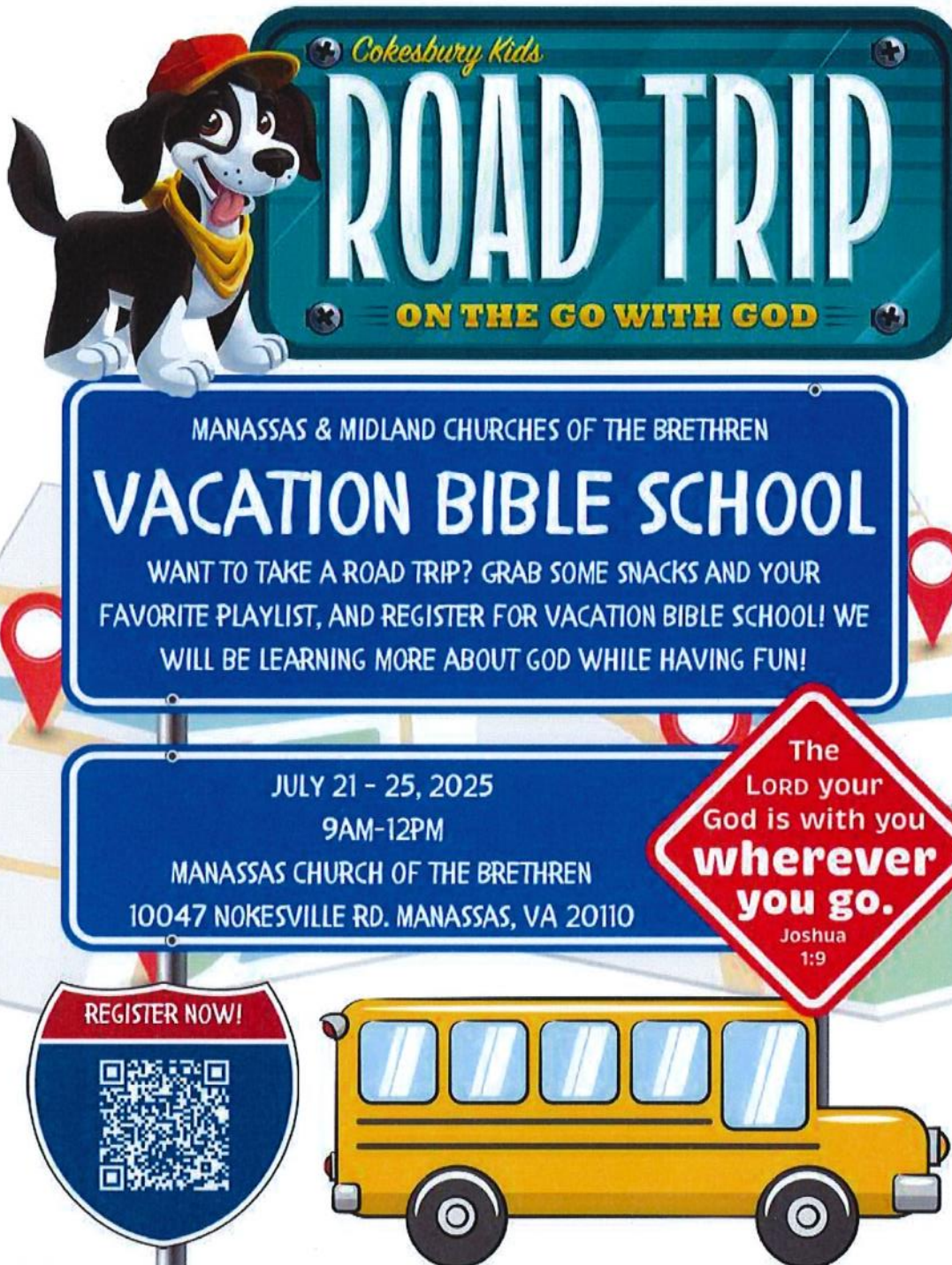
Mark is an Ordained Minister in the Church of the Brethren. Prior to coming to Manassas Church of the Brethren, Mark lived in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He served as a Field Associate with Anabaptist Disabilities Network since June 2016 and an active member and leader in the community and congregation at Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren.

Mark was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and spent the first couple years of his life in southern Ohio. He spent the following 14 years of his childhood living abroad with his parents and one brother as foreign missionaries. Mark lived in Ivory Coast, Kenya, and England. His family returned to the U.S. and settled in Grayson, Kentucky when Mark was starting high school. He went on after graduation and earned his B.A. in History and Religious Studies from Kentucky Christian University (KCU) in Grayson, KY. Prior to seminary, Mark did ministry service for a summer, and one year in Appalachian Ohio. He studied at Bethany Theological Seminary for two years in Richmond, Indiana before moving to Pennsylvania.

It was there where Mark completed his Master in Divinity (M.Div.) degree at Lancaster Theological Seminary (Lancaster, PA). He served for three years with Brethren Volunteer Service. Two years were spent at CrossKeys Village, The Brethren Home Community in New Oxford, PA and the third year with Brethren Housing Association in Harrisburg, PA. Mark and his wife, Elisa were married on October 19, 2024. They currently live in Dumfries, Virginia.



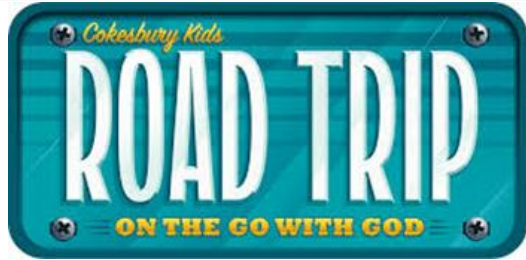
# VBS



***VBS 2025 July 21-25, 9am - 12pm INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! ALL ARE WELCOME!***

VBS is quickly approaching. We are teaming up with Midland Church of the Brethren as we embark on a Road Trip: On the go with God. Child registration is open for ages PreK-Grade 8 with childcare available for volunteers! We are in need of a few more adults and Senior High Youth to help guide children from station to station each morning. Please reach out to Megan Anderson for more information. Registration link: <https://manassas-and-midland.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

# VBS Needs



The VBS decorations team is looking for some props and supplies and person power to help bring our ROAD TRIP Vacation Bible School Week theme to life July 21-25!

## 1) Props to use for decorating:

- a. Suitcases, coolers, duffel bags, and other things that make you think ROAD TRIP.
- b. Maps to decorate walls with, including old paper maps

(may not survive the week) or laminated classroom type maps (we can get these back to you.)

- c. Road signs, traffic lights, construction cones and other things you would see traveling around.

## 2) Supplies-either purchased and donated, or monetary donation:

- a. Craft/wall hanging dots
- b. Masking tape—yellow, white and black.
- c. Mini paint rollers and trays ( for sign backgrounds)

**3) Person Power:** We are going to be creating and painting a lot of signs. If you have a creative streak or are just willing to show up and participate to help make these signs (mostly painting cardboard) we hope to have a day or two at the church (probably during the week) where we can work together to get some of this creative stuff done.

If you can help with any of these things, please be in touch with Megan Anderson, Karen Croushorn, or Vanessa Gotthardt (info in directory or get from office). We would love to have your support and participation!

# Award Ceremony

## Awards Ceremony

**Manassas Church of the Brethren is the winner of the 2025 Creative Housing Award on behalf of the Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William.**

This is for the work we've done to house three beautiful mothers and their babies. Our work with the Virginia Women and Family Support Center is a template that they hope other houses of faith will copy all over the city, county and beyond.

Tina Fisher, our Community Engagement Coordinator, will accept the award on the church's behalf.

The award will be presented at the Human Service Alliances 2025 Annual Meeting at 9am on July 9<sup>th</sup> at The Portuguese Cultural Center in Manassas, VA.

This year's meeting will feature:

- A keynote address by Jill Norcross of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance
- Recognition of outstanding community partners and service providers
- Strategic discussions shaping the future of our human services network
- Unparalleled networking with decision-makers and community leaders



# VBS Mission Project

join us as we support

## Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid

dcmigrantmutualaid.org

a group which offers  
long-term resettlement support to migrants  
- individuals who have been “on the go” -  
who have chosen to make the DC area their home

Accepted Items



Donate Online



*our goal is to pack  
five suitcases with  
clothing and  
household items  
- a full list is linked above -*

Click here for the list of Accepted Items: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hbceLu7jicE6Vp5ywjInJTeVnmlaPxEKobMoOzvYU/edit?usp=sharing>

Click her to Donate online: <https://www.dcmigrantmutualaid.org/donate>

# News & Events



This year our Jr. High Youth will be going to University Park, MD a neighbor to the nation's capital, to serve at the Capital Area Food Bank. We will help with chores in the urban garden and will pack meal boxes or sort canned goods in the warehouse. Additionally, we will volunteer with other local organizations that support those in need. On our recreation day, we will take the metro into Washington, D.C. to visit the museums and monuments!

Our Sr. High Group will be going to Winston-Salem, NC July 6-10. FaithX is again partnering with SPARK for a unique week of service learning! Guided by the mission to share Christ's love through service and advocacy, the SPARK program will engage us in relationship-building, education, storytelling, and volunteering alongside individuals who are currently or formerly unhoused. This year our group will have the week to ourselves at SPARK, however, our time together will still be full of meaningful connections with both the Winston-Salem community and each other!

We pray all of our FaithXers a wonderful time helping these valuable organizations, making friends, and working together in faith.



## Annual Conference 2025 Greensboro, NC - July 2-6

This year David Smith and Chris Eberly will represent MCOB at Annual Conference.

The theme is: Faith Working Through Love - Galatians 5:6b

## Property Proposal Update

On Sunday, June 8, the congregation approved to enter into a 6-month discernment process to discuss the \$21 million property proposal that we received from Stream Realty in March.

The Executive Committee has named a subcommittee to create the framework for this discernment period. The subcommittee is being called the Explorations Team and consists of Pastor Mandy, Rhonda Craighead, David Smith, Christian Saunders, and Don Kline.

The Explorations Team will be hosting a series of Listening Sessions, and everyone is invited to attend a listening session for the time/date that suits your schedule. Please bring questions and thoughts you have concerning the property proposal and items for consideration.

- Wednesday, July 23 @ 7:00 pm in Room 209/Zoom
- Sunday, August 17 @ 9 am in Room 209
- Wednesday, August 20 @ 7 pm in Room 209/Zoom
- Sunday, August 24 @ 11:30 am in Room 209
- Wednesday, September 10 @ 6:45 pm in Room 209/Zoom
- Sunday, September 14 @ 9:45 am in the Youth Room (This one will be specifically to hear from our Youth)

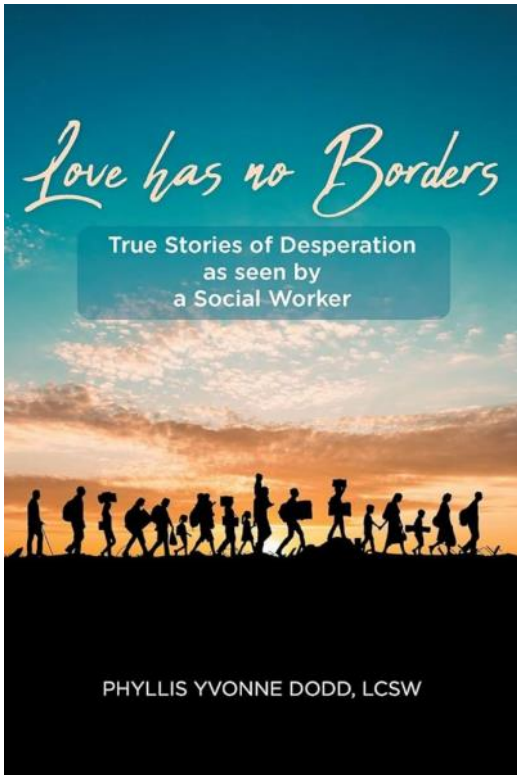
If you want to join us online for the Wednesday meetings, here's the Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 775 568 3646, Passcode: 616882

Save the Date and Mark your Calendars to attend one of these important upcoming Listening Sessions!

# Reading Group Returns!

## WE'RE GETTING THE GROUP BACK TOGETHER!



We are re-starting our church reading group, so please plan on joining us on Monday, September 29th at 7 pm for our next meeting. We hope to have this hybrid, with more information forthcoming.

We will be reading Phyllis Yvonne Dodd's "Love Has No Borders: True stories of desperation as seen by a social worker." In it, the author shares stories about asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees that she has assisted after they fled their countries to find safety in the United States. Dodd lives in Greensboro, MD, is a graduate of Juniata College, and is very active in Church of the Brethren ministries.

The book is available from Amazon in print or in Kindle formats, and you've got plenty of time to read it over the summer! We hope you will join us! Contact David Smith for more information.

Click Here to order from Amazon: <https://a.co/d/14P2ViK>

## Church Sharing

### *Thanks from our 7th Day Adventist church sharing congregation:*

I wanted to share with you a photo of our church and how we look worshipping in the beautiful temple that you, our beloved brothers and sisters of the Brethren Church, have so graciously rented to us. Our congregation is full of joy and sends a heartfelt greeting of gratitude to all the leaders and members who made this possible.

We are praying for you and remain at your service. Our congregation expresses deep appreciation for all the support you have shown, especially with the immigration protocols and your constant backing of our migrant community.

With gratitude and blessings,  
Maranatha HISPANIC SDA CHURCH



# VOICE



## VOICE ASSEMBLY Homes for All

**Half of Virginians can't afford where they live.** Our ever-growing housing shortage is driving more and more families out of the state, into hours-long commutes, and unsafe housing conditions. **This statewide problem needs a statewide response, and state leadership.**

This assembly will include Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Sikh faith leaders, nonprofit and business partners, and elected officials from across the region. **Together, we will call for bold, bipartisan action to address Virginia's growing housing shortage and rising costs—starting at the state level.**



**Sunday October 19**

**3:30 - 5:00 PM**



**Floris United Methodist Church  
13600 Frying Pan Rd, Herndon, VA**



**SCAN ME**



**VOICE**

# 130th Anniversary Weekend

## MANASSAS COB 130TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND September 20-21, 2025

### Saturday, September 20 Picnic Potluck

11am – Gather

12noon – Lunch\*

1pm – 4pm – Games & Activities:

- Lawn Games
- Moon Bounce
- CROP Walk around the Track
- BUS Cardmaking
- 130 Years Interactive Timeline
- Ice Cream Sundae Bar

### Sunday, September 21 Worship & Catered Lunch

9:45 am – Sunday School

11 am – Worship, Pastor Mandy preaching

12 noon – Catered Lunch in the Fellowship Center


**\*For the Potluck on Saturday, please bring a dish to share. Also, we are looking to borrow lawn games, such as corn hole, ladder ball, volleyball, spike ball, etc.**

**We have blocked rooms at Tru by Hilton for this weekend. Please look for a direct link to come to make a reservation.**

**130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: Mary Geisler, Carla Barb, Steve Hollinger, Rhonda Craighead, Linda Tax, and Pastor Mandy**

# July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Ar- by's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	<b>2</b> 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus <b>Annual</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00pm—Cards & Games Club <b>Conference</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed 	<b>5</b> AC
<b>6</b> NO DOUGHNUT BREAKFAST 10:30am—Worship AC/FAITHX	<b>7</b> FAITHX	<b>8</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Ar- by's FAITHX	<b>9</b> FAITHX	<b>10</b> 1:00pm—House of Mercy Workday FAITHX	<b>11</b> FAITHX	<b>12</b> FAITHX
<b>13</b> 9:00am—Doughnut Breakfast 10:30am—Worship w/ Dana Cassell Preaching 11:30pm—Deacon's Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Ar- by's 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	<b>16</b> 3:30pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	<b>17</b> 1:00pm—Retirees' Luncheon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30am—Worship	<b>21</b> VBS	<b>22</b> VBS 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Ar- by's	<b>23</b> VBS	<b>24</b> VBS	<b>25</b> VBS	<b>26</b> Pastor Mandy starts vacation and returns August 3
<b>27</b> 10:30am—Worship NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Liberia Ar- by's	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 1:00pm—Cards & Games Club		

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD  
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### **July Birthdays**

1-GRACE M  
2-ADDISON R  
2-KIRSTEN J  
3-MEREDITH K  
5-RACHAEL Z  
7-JUSTIN D  
8-ABIGAIL ALLEN C  
9-JAYLIN K  
11-KELLY K  
11-SARAH B  
12-JAMIE B  
12-ROSE C  
12-KRISTA K  
13-ROGER G  
13-SONNY C  
15-BECKY B  
15-NANCY P

18-RIANNA BARRETT-S  
21-TRAVIS W  
21-CONNIE K  
23-MARY ELLEN C  
23-NATHAN S  
24-PAUL F  
25-SALLY JANE C  
26-BROOKE F  
27-PETER B  
27-ELISE G  
29-SHELLY WEACHTER B  
29-BOB A  
30-JASON K  
30-TYLER W  
31-CHRIS K  
31-JOAN S

### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

7-KIM AND JAMES B  
10-LOWELL AND BETTY K  
12-IRVIN AND ANN H  
14-LEONARD AND MARY JANE  
P  
15-SONNY AND TERRIE C  
18-BEN AND SHERRIE W  
21-DANIEL AND REBECCA H  
22-MATTHEW AND JENNIFER  
R  
26-PRESTON AND CHRISTY L  
27-SEAN AND MANDY N  
27-PATRICK AND MARIA W

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