MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Summer at MCOB!

A reminder that throughout the summer, worship will begin at **10:30 a.m.**, and there will be **no Sunday School**.

July begins with **Cards & Games Club** on July 2. The church office will be closed on **Friday, July 3**, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Other regular ministries and events will continue throughout the month, including the **House of Mercy Workday**, **Retirees' Luncheon**, and a second **Cards & Games Club** gathering on July 23. Additional details can be found on page 3. Please note that the **Lovina Conner Ladies Luncheon** will not meet in July.

This month, our **Senior High Youth** will attend **National Youth Conference**, while our **Junior High Youth** will participate in **FaithX**. More information about these opportunities can be found on page 7.

The **Adventure Group** will travel to **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park** for a hike this month. See page 4 for details.

The **Deacons** will meet following worship on July 12. The on-call deacon for July is **Terrie Cox**.

Our Reading Group has selected a new book, *Spying on Jesus* by Ryan Ahlgrim. The group will discuss the book on **August 31**, and the author will join us for the conversation. Copies of the book will be available for purchase for **$10 each** beginning July 18.

As we prepare for the **Shepherd's Spring Older Adult Retreat** (September 14–18), we are collecting used greeting cards. Information can be found on page 5. Also on page 5, you will find details about our **Massanutten Resort Vacation Auction**. Be sure to submit your bid by **July 15**.

Brethren Disaster Ministries is looking for funds to help those effected by the recent earthquakes. See page 9 for more information.

Finally, be sure to check page 10 for upcoming events and opportunities to mark on your calendar. We look forward to sharing a wonderful July with you!

Deacon's Meeting
July 12th
11:30am
On-Call Deacon for July is Terrie Cox

June Stewardship by the Numbers
Weekly In-Person Attendance: **72.8**
Weekly Online views: **34**
Average weekly giving: **$6,840**

From the Pastors' Study

As I write this month's newsletter article, I am sitting in a hotel room in Fort Wayne, Indiana for Annual Conference. The theme is *Imagine!*, and the moderator, Don Fitzkee writes, "Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking."

As this new month begins, and as we continue to navigate our way forward with this property proposal before us, I pray that we will use this time to imagine: Imagine what the church will be like for the next 130 years, imagine where God is calling us forward in ministry, imagine what it is to be Jesus in the neighborhood in today's world. We have an opportunity to imagine the new thing while also deeply rooting ourselves in the faith traditions and values that have grounded us for our first 130 years.

In the second verse of the hymn *What is this place* suggests that "dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need." What pieces of our past are worth holding onto? What pieces do we need to let go? What new pieces can we pick up for this future we are moving faithfully toward? As innovative, adaptable, and fearless disciples of Christ, what can we imagine together?

~Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

July 5: **I will give you rest**
Matthew 11:28-30
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader:

July 12: Annual Conference Sunday: Imagine!
Acts 2:17-18
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader: David Smith & Mike Byrne

July 19: The Baptism of the Lord: Beloved
Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Matthew 3:13-17
Preacher: Grace Ji-Sun Kim
Worship Leader: Chris Eberly

July 26: TBD
Preacher: David Smith
Worship Leader: Pastor Mark Pickens

EVENTS

HOUSE OF MERCY
Food Pantry • Thrift Store • Donation Center

House of Mercy Workday

Thursday July 9th
1:00pm—4:00pm

Join us in service and fellowship working in the House of Mercy food pantry.

8182 Flannery Court
Manassas, VA 20109

Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday July 16th
1:00pm

Great American Buffet
8365 Sudley Road Manassas

All are welcome!

EVENT

ADVENTURE GROUP

HEMLOCK OVERLOOK REGIONAL PARK

WALK/HIKE

JULY 11TH

MEET AT CHURCH AT 8:30AM

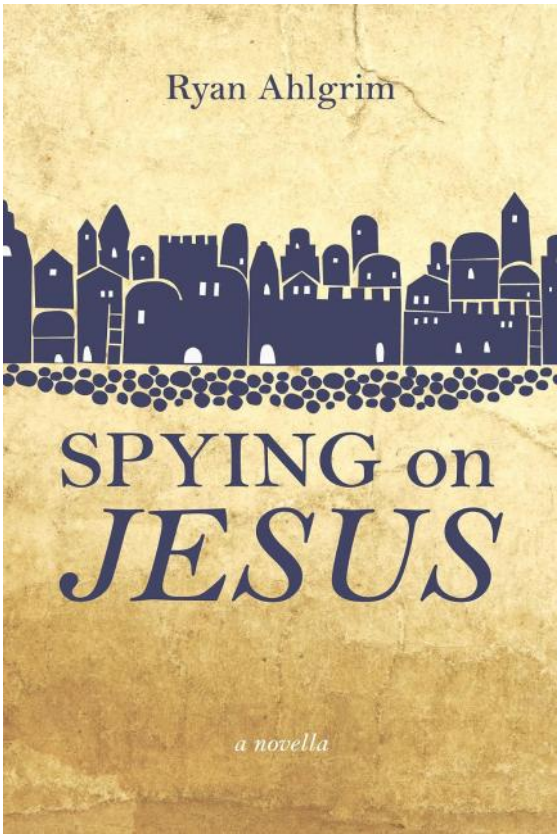
OR MEET AT THE PARK AT 9:00AM

13220 YATES FORD ROAD

CLIFTON, VA 20124

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP FOR CARPOOLING, CONTACT CHRISTA HARRELL AT 571-242-3446.

Reading Group



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!

Beginning July 18th, ten copies of *Spying on Jesus* will be available in the office for purchase at $10 each. Otherwise copies can be purchased from online booksellers.

Call for Greeting Cards

Old, used greeting cards are needed! In preparation for a project for the Older Adult Retreat to be held at Shepherd's Spring in September, donations are requested for used greeting cards and Christmas cards. These will be repurposed into new greeting cards and gift tags. Cards may be given to Bonnie Cheshire.

Massanutten Auction

Bid on a one week stay (July 25-Aug 1) at a condo that sleeps 6 at the beautiful Massanutten Resort! All funds raised will go to the General Budget. There is a key deposit of $50 upon arrival. *Bidding ends July 15th at 4:00pm.*

Click here to bid: https://www.32auctions.com/mcobauction

Softball

Week 12				
Fri 7/10	6:30 PM	Park Valley 1 (Grey)	Brethern	VV2
Fri 7/10	7:30 PM	Brethern	Park Valley 1 (Grey)	VV2
Week 13				
Fri 7/17	6:30 PM	Brethern	Greenwich	VV1
Fri 7/17	7:30 PM	Greenwich	Brethern	VV1

Guest Preacher

Grace Ji-Sun Kim—Guest Preacher

On July 19th, we have a guest speaker. Grace Ji-Sun Kim is Professor of Theology at Earlham School of Religion. She is the author of 26 books, most recently, *Feminist Theologies*, *Earth-bound*, and *When God Became White*. Kim is the host of Madang Podcast hosted by Baptist News Global. She is a contributing correspondent at *Good Faith Media*, and blogs on her *Substack: Loving Life*. She has appeared on MSNBC, PBS, BBC Radio, and C-Span. Please join us and welcome Grace to the Manassas Church of the Brethren.

Youth Retreat and Children's Sunday Report

Children's Sunday

This year, Children's Sunday coincided with a visit from David Radcliff of New Community Project. His message and scripture selections helped shape a worship service that was both child-friendly and welcoming of children's leadership. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade participated by leading various parts of the service through assigned readings. Pastor Mandy welcomed the congregation and shared announcements, and we recognized our teachers, during the Time of Teacher Recognition and Appreciation.

Shepherd's Spring Youth Retreat

Pastor Mark served as a male advisor for the Youth Retreat at Shepherds Spring on June 12–14. Eight youth from our congregation joined several others from around the district for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and fun. Activities included hikes, group games, pool time, team-building challenges, and sessions focused on the theme of "Wilderness" and God's presence in difficult times. The youth also completed a service project by painting food pantry signs for two district congregations. It was a meaningful and enjoyable weekend for everyone involved.

NYC

National Youth Conference

Light within Us,

based on Matthew 5:14-16

July 18 – 23 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado

National Youth Conference (NYC) provides young people in high school and the first year of college (or are age equivalent) and their advisors the chance to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation and more!

FAITHX

FaithX
FAITH OUTREACH EXPEDITIONS

FAITHX Service Trip
July 19-24th
Winston-Salem

FaithX experiences are short-term service trips that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world so that we may learn to participate in God's vision of justice for all people. Participants will serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings, live and worship in community, make friendships, and explore a new place.

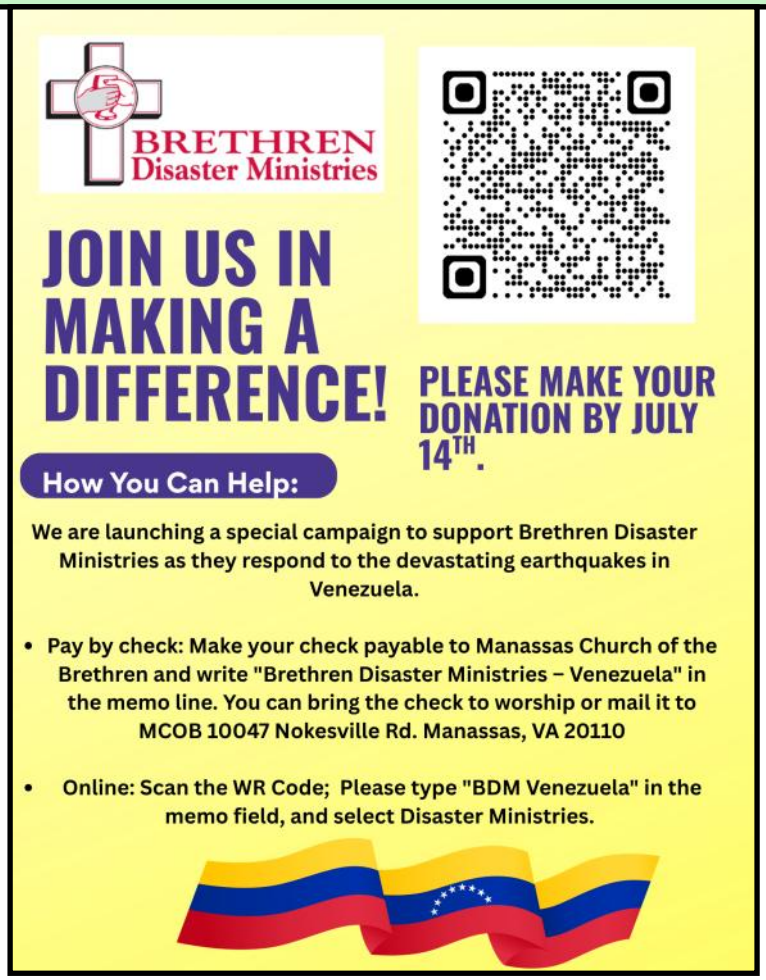
Hoops for Housing

CDS Training

CDS Volunteer Training Two CDS volunteer trainings were held in February 2026. The Beaufort, S.C., training involved 12 participants and the training in Bradford, Ohio had 11 participants. Many of those have already submitted references and passed background checks, and are now certified CDS volunteers. Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about CDS and supporting children after disasters?

There are currently two trainings scheduled for Fall 2026 (listed below), with discussions currently ongoing in additional locations. Updated information on upcoming trainings and registration is available at www.brethren.org/cds/training. October 9-10, 2026 Chalice Christian Church 5612 Haden Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 **October 16-17, 2026 Manassas Church of the Brethren 10047 Nokesville Rd. Manassas, VA 20110** As CDS continues to expand its volunteer base, it is grateful to the hosts who share churches or other CDS volunteer Norm Waggy delights in playing Playdough with a child whose parents were visiting a MARC in Illinois seeking help to recover from a tornado. Photo courtesy CDS spaces to hold volunteer trainings. As more volunteers are trained in various areas of the country, CDS is better able to respond to local disasters for shorter periods of time. If you are interested in hosting a training or have a group of people you know who would like to learn more about CDS, please contact cds@brethren.org or call 800-451-4407.

Brethren Disaster Ministries



Save the Date

SAVE 2026 THE DATES

14-18 SEP	OLDER ADULT RETREAT AT SHEPHERD'S SPRING
20 SEP	CROP WALK
30 OCT	FALL FESTIVAL

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 1:00pm—Cards & Games	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 10:30am—Worship	6	7 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	8	9 1:00pm—House of Mercy Workday	10	11 8:30am—Adventure Club Hike
12 10:30am—Worship 11:30am—Deacon's Mtg	13	14 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's BDM Donations Due	15	16 Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American Buffet	17	18
19 10:30am—Worship	20	21 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	22	23 1:00pm—Cards & Games	24	25
26 10:30am—Worship	27	28 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	29	30	31	

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July Birthdays

1-GRACE MOUVI
2-ADDISON RAIBLE
2-KIRSTEN JOINER
3-MEREDITH KETTEN
7-JUSTIN DOMMER
8-ABIGAIL ALLEN CAVE
9-JAYLIN KIMBLE
11-KELLY KROUSE BACON
11-SARAH BARB
12-JAMIE BAISIDEN
12-ROSE COX
12-KRISTA KIMBLE
13-ROGER GUYETT
13-SONNY COX
15-BECKY BURKE
15-NANCY POWELL
18-RIANNA BARRETT-SCHATZ
21-TRAVIS WILLIAMS
21-CONNIE KETTEN
23-MARY ELLEN COLANDENE
23-NATHAN SCHAEFFER
25-SALLY JANE CONNER
26-BROOKE FLORA
27-PETER BOWMAN
27-ELISE GAGE
27-MARY OWEN
29-SHELLY WEACHTER BRIGHT
29-BOB APEL
30-JASON KLINE
30-TYLER WRIGHT
31-CHRIS KRONZER

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7-KIM AND JAMES BEATY
12-IRVIN AND ANN HEISHMAN
14-LEONARD AND MARY JANE PUMPHREY
15-SONNY AND TERRIE COX
18-BEN AND SHERRIE WAMPLER
21-DANIEL AND REBECCA HOUSE
22-MATTHEW AND JENNIFER RAIBLE
26-PRESTON AND CHRISTY LAZER
27-SEAN AND MANDY NORTH
27-PATRICK AND MARIA WRIGHT

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