



Manassas Church of the Brethren

March 2024

Welcome Spring!

Spring has arrived at MCOB, bringing a host of exciting activities for the month ahead as we prepare to observe Holy Week and Easter. Discover our Lent events on page 6 and find details about Holy Week and Easter activities on page 7. Deacons will gather on March 10th, while the Church Board will meet on March 11th.

Join our young adults at Mission BBQ in Gainesville on March 3rd at 12:30pm (page 5), and attend VOICE's Annual Meeting at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on the same day (page 11). Pastor Mandy has been serving on the VOICE Strategy Team (Board of Directors) for the last year and have been asked to serve as the Co-Chair of VOICE alongside Rev. Dr. Keith Savage of First Baptist Church. This will be affirmed at the Annual Meeting on March 3.

For some fun and fellowship, don't miss the Cards and Games Club on March 7th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall (page 4). Mark your calendar for the House of Mercy workday on March 14th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, and the Retirees' Luncheon on March 21st at 1:00pm at Great American Buffet (page 5). On March 13th there will be a Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch (page 4). On March 17th, join us for the MCOB Bowl-a-thon to support NVFS (page 3).

Other events this month include a Women's Retreat on March 15th—16th at Brethren Woods Retreat Center (page 9) and the Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner (page 10) - be sure to register before April 1st.

Congratulations to Germain Mouvi on his new book, *Mirror of my Destiny* - find out more and order a copy on page 8.

This Easter, we will use silk flowers to decorate our worship space instead of ordering fresh flowers. The Worship and Music team invites you to sign up for weekly altar flowers - details on page 7.

If you ever wondered what our Christian Education Coordinator does, see the article on page 12, also see page 11 for a Blue Christmas Reflection.

Welcome to Spring at MCOB!

Attendance and Giving February 2024

Average weekly worship attendance: In-Person: 86 Online Views: 33

Average weekly offering: \$6291.44

Pastor's Page

A few months ago, a woman stopped by the church during the day. She came up to the door just as I happened to walk by to see her. I let her in. She was coming from the funeral home. Her husband had just died and she was looking for a place to hold a reception after his funeral service. She regularly attends Camera Club meetings here on Thursday nights. She came to the first church she could think of, the place that provides her Camera Club a safe space to meet. We met for just a few minutes as we talked about grief and joy, the grief of losing someone you love and the joy for all the memories. Then we prayed together. She came looking to rent the facilities, and she found a community of care.

Last week I was at the church pretty late for a meeting, and as I was leaving, a young man came into the building looking for an Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting—a 12-step meeting to help with his recovery. We didn't have an NA meeting scheduled in the church on that night, so I showed him the schedule of when we host meetings in our building. I know that people don't come looking for a 12-step meeting, unless they need a 12-step meeting. We didn't have one for him that night, so I kept the conversation going. I asked him if there was a way that I could support him and pray for him until the next meeting, which would be the next day. We talked for about a half hour or so. We made a plan to keep him sober for the next 24 hours, and I gave him my cell number to call or text if he needed anything in the meantime. The next morning I sent him a text of encouragement to get through the day. I also let our contacts for NA know that he came and to look for him at the next meeting. He came looking for an NA meeting, and he found a community of care.

When we open our doors during the week for outside groups to come in, we have the opportunity to create the welcome and hospitality needed. Then people know that they can come here for healing, for prayer, for love, for support on some of their hardest days. We may never fully know the full depth of that impact. I am just grateful to serve a congregation whose vision is to create this community of care not just within the congregation, but for everyone who walks through our doors and beyond.

~Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

March 3: A Wandering Heart: Praise the Mount

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Carla B.

March 10: A Wandering Heart: I'm Fixed Upon It

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:21-23

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Jennifer F.

March 17: A Wandering Heart: Teach Me

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:15-22

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Chris E.

March 24: Palm Sunday A Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise

Scripture Reading: John 12:12-16

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: Jennifer H.

March 31: Easter A Wandering Heart: And I Hope

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Preacher: Rev. Mandy North

Worship Leader: David S.

Lucky Strike

MCOB Fundraiser for NVFS/SERVE

This year Manassas Church of the Brethren has organized our own Bowl-A-Thon to support the NVFS – SERVE campus!

Sunday, March 17th at 12:30 – 2:30 at Uptown Alley at the Manassas Mall.

(Huge thanks to Uptown Alley for their donation of the lanes!)

Please join our team and come out for some fun and fellowship!
The only cost is for shoes (\$4 pair) and food.

Donations can be made on the website (QR code) or by bringing a check to the church.



**Scan the QR Code to Donate
or join our team!
Scroll down the page until you
see “Join the Team” – make
sure you are signing up for the
team and not as an individual.**

Click Here to join the team or donate: <https://p2p.onecause.com/nvfsstridesforstrongerfamilies/team/manassas-church-of-the-brethren>.

Click here to RSVP to bowl with us: <https://forms.gle/B4hnhwwDetUU6Gfg9>

Opportunities to Connect

Our Cards & Games Club is Back!
First Thursday of every month!
MARCH 7TH, 2024
1PM-4PM



MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CARDS & GAMES!

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN!



Connect with MCOB
We now have an Instagram
account! Follow us!



[@ManassasCOB](https://www.instagram.com/ManassasCOB)



[www.facebook.com/
ManassasCoB](https://www.facebook.com/ManassasCoB)

Little Free Libraries

We are asking anyone who has appropriate school-age books needing to be rehomed to donate them to our Little Free Libraries. There will be 3 little libraries for students in Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. A marked box will be placed in the Narthex to accept donations.



Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch

Wednesday March 13th
12:00pm

Cracker Barrel

Events

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUNG ADULTS



Young Adult Lunch

12:30pm - March 3rd

Mission BBQ

[13944 Promenade Commons St, Gainesville, VA 20155](#)



Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday March 21st
1:00pm at Great American Buffet on
Sudley Road.
Please join us! All are welcome!



Red Cross Blood
Drive

Thursday March
21st

11:00am—5:00pm

Click Here to sign-up: [Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation](#) | [American Red Cross \(redcrossblood.org\)](#)



Workday at House of Mercy

Join us for a workday at House of Mercy on
March 14th 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Please meet at
the food pantry entrance at 1:00pm and con-
tact the office with any questions.



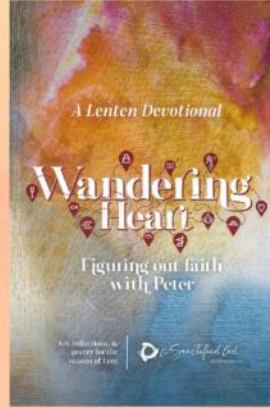
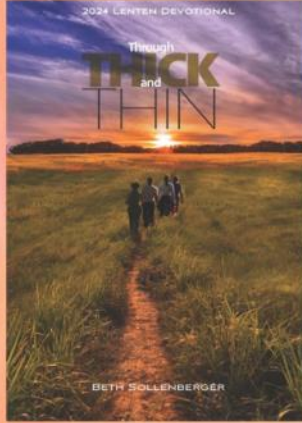
Deacon's Meeting

March 10th

12:30pm

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.



virginia interfaith
power & light

www.vaipi.org



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.

Holy Week

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



Manassas Church of the Brethren

10047 Nokesville Road Manassas, VA 20110

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Sunday March 24th - Palm Sunday

9:45am Sunday School w/ Mark Charles

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday March 28th - Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Love Feast with feet washing, communion, and a simple meal.

Sunday March 31st - Easter

9:00am - Easter Breakfast

11:00am - Worship



Prayer Stations in the Sanctuary available all week

Easter Flowers & Altar Flowers

We are hard at work during this season of Lent preparing the sanctuary to be a welcoming space. Part of our preparations includes one of our annual traditions, offering Easter flowers to honor our loved ones both past and present. Unfortunately, the cost of these flowers has significantly increased from previous years. After careful and prayerful consideration, we have chosen to move forward without our traditional Easter flowers and instead utilize our silk flower arrangements to prepare the sanctuary for the season.

Though we will not have Easter lilies or daffodils available, our weekly offering of altar flowers is still available for congregants to purchase in memory of loved ones or to honor important anniversaries or occasions. Keeping our weekly order helps to keep the cost per arrangement low and there are still many opportunities for people to sign up for a week to request an arrangement. Anna Williams and Alicia Stevens will be available throughout the month of March to help with the sign up sheet (located across from office). Availability is on a first come, first serve basis, so don't wait if there is a date you would like to honor.

~ Worship & Music Team



Mirror of my Destiny—Germain Mouvi



Germain Mouvi has written a memoir called *Mirror of my Destiny*. It was originally written in French and has now been released in English.

Germain tells the story of his childhood and his journey for an education, meeting Dinan, struggling for employment, and moving from Benin to the United States.

You can order a copy through this link: [Mirror of My Destiny: Mouvi, Germain: 9798868274695: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0998868274)

We also have a copy available in the Church Library.

VBS SURVEY

This year, our Vacation Bible School will be held July 8th—July 12th at Midland Church of the Brethren.

As we work towards scheduling VBS, we are asking both volunteers and parents to fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/ymf3Hej2yXT2h56p7>



Associate Pastor Search Committee

As we look into hiring a new Associate Pastor, the Executive Committee has created a Search Committee.

Here are our Search Committee Members:

**Melvin C.
Alicia S.
Joan K.
Kim S.
Joshua C.
Pastor Mandy**

Brethren Woods Women's Retreat



Get ready to explore what it means to be **Rooted in Christ** at Brethren Woods on March 15-16th for our **Women's Retreat!** During this overnight (or day) retreat experience, women (age 16+) will be grounded in God's Word as we dig into the truth of Colossians 2:7 that calls us to be **"rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith."**

Do you wonder about the impact of culture on your sense of value and worth? How can the true sense root and grow in our lives, families, and churches? Grounded in God's very good creation, we will look to scripture to find the answers. Our main session topics will be: Identity: Rooted and Established, Planted, Growing, and Fruitful.

This weekend will provide space to bloom as we enjoy fabulous food and tasty treats, lift our voices in worship, participate in personal reflection time, do crafts, and share encouragement, fellowship, and fun with other sisters in Christ - the One who roots us to grow!



Ladies can arrive anytime after 4pm on Friday. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00pm and our first session starts at 6:30pm. Our time together will end around 4pm on Saturday.



We are excited to welcome Rev. Deb Horst as this year's speaker! Deb's first career was as an LPN and then a homemaker. During those years, her gifts for teaching and leadership were affirmed. God led her to Camp Luz in Orrville, OH, where she served as the Executive Director for 11 years. During that time, she also completed her MDiv degree through Ashland Seminary. She then served as a hospice chaplain, interim pastor, and then Associate Pastor of Christian Formation & Youth at Lindale Mennonite Church in Linville, VA. Deb has been serving as the pastor at Wake-man's Grove Church of the Brethren in Edinburg, VA since July 2022. She says, "it is a blessing to walk together with God's beloved people as we follow Jesus faithfully!" She and her husband moved to Harrisonburg in August 2013. They have 3 children and 10 grandchildren! Deb loves to garden, crochet, sew, draw and paint, be with friends, laugh, visit thrift stores, and refinish furniture!

BRETHREN WOODS' 2024 "ROOTED" WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

To register, visit our website at www.brethrenwoods.org or send this completed form and \$85 registration fee (or \$70 for day-only participants) to Brethren Woods at 4896 Armentrout Path, Keezletown, VA 22832. Registration fee includes three healthy & delicious meals, overnight accommodations, retreat leadership, and all supplies. Registrations are due by Friday, March 8th.

Contact the camp office at 540-269-2741 or camp@brethrenwoods.org for more info!

Name: _____ Email : _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Home Church: _____ Roommate Request: _____

Special Needs/Requests: _____





VOICE ACTION TEAM ANNUAL MEETING

Each VOICE Member Institution is asked to send a designated Action Team Representative to cast their vote. All members of member institutions are welcome!

03.03.24

Sunday 3-5pm

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church,
10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke, VA 22015

Our Agenda

- VOICE's Organizing Plan for 2024
- Launching Strategic Planning & Core Team Building Processes
- Voting on By-Laws, Budget & Board of Directors



VOICE's Annual Meeting at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke from 3:00pm to 5:00pm this Sunday. Pastor Mandy has been serving on the VOICE Strategy Team (Board of Directors) for the last year and has been asked to serve as the Co-Chair of VOICE alongside Rev. Dr. Keith Savage of First Baptist Church. This will be affirmed at the Annual Meeting on March 3rd.



Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner
Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 6 p.m.
At Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821 Green Valley Road (Rt. 75) Monrovia, MD

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and auction of specialty food items co-hosted by Union Bridge Church of the Brethren
Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

Tickets are \$35 per person

Contact Jeff McKee before April 1, 2024 at 443-547-5958 or jamckee26@msn.com

Menu: Fruit Cup, Meat Loaf, Fried Shrimp, Vegetarian Pasta Casserole, Candied Carrots, Scalloped Potatoes, Oven Roasted Vegetables, Homemade Breads, Rolls & Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or abhouch1@gmail.com to provide specialty foods (cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) to auction at the dinner

Blue Christmas Reflection

Reflections from Blue Christmas

by Terrie C.

It had been several years since I had attended the Blue Christmas service at Manassas in person. I've attended in the past where we got a worry stone to be reminded Christ is with us in times of despair, and I still have that stone as a reminder. At each service, we always light candles for those we miss, our troubles, and trials, and to give those worries, feelings, and burdens to God. I had missed the previous year when attendees wrote their burdens on rocks but saw how Karen Croushorn, our Deacon Chair, had painted over those sorrows with words of hope and encouragement. Those rocks gave me courage and hope that something good was going to happen and reminded me that God is doing a new thing.

So, on December 17th, 2023, I attended the Blue Christmas service that was offered to Manassas friends, members, and the community. At this service, the table was once again laid out with the blue tablecloth and tea-light candles. I wondered how this service would be different than the few I'd attended in the past. Pastor Mandy tasked the attendees with writing a prayer wish on a tiny wooden moon, placing it in a bowl, and then picking someone else's moon so we could pray for each other. I wrote my prayer on my moon, placed it in a bowl, and picked up a different moon. This prayer wish struck my heartstrings. I wanted to give the person who wrote it a great big hug and tell them it's going to be ok. You're going to be ok. God's got this. I also realized I could have written the very same wish. Shoot! Anyone of us in that sanctuary could have written this prayer wish. The prayer wish was only 5 words, so I do not even need to read the moon to remember what it says. I appreciate that this service has been so interactive over the past few months that I wanted to write about my experience and let the person who wrote this prayer wish know they haven't been forgotten. I also wanted to give the person who is praying for my wish an update.

To the person whose moon I selected: I put the moon in my coat pocket which is where it is today. (I will have to come up with another location when the weather becomes warm enough not to have to wear my coat, but that's another day's issue.) For now, when I jam my cold fingers into my coat pocket, they catch the sharp edges of the moon and remind me to pray for the wisher. I pray, "Dear Lord, Please envelope this person in your loving arms. Let them know they are not alone. We are all broken, but you've sent your Son to grace us with love and wholeness, not brokenness. Thank you, God, for carrying us when times are rough. Help this person *to not feel so broken* and allow them to see that you are doing a new thing in their life. Help them to rely on you and turn to you, feeling your love, grace, peace, and a little less broken each time they do. Amen." I still pray for this person even though I do not know who wrote it. I will continue to pray because I know prayer works.

To the person who has my moon, I feel the prayers you have offered. They are working. Things are changing for the positive. Not all the issues are resolved, but things are moving in the right direction. You are making a difference by praying. I thank you and I give God thanks for that. Please keep praying.

To anyone else who needs encouragement to pull out the moons from the Blue Christmas service, I hope this gives you a gentle reminder to pray for the wish on the moon even if you've forgotten where you placed it or maybe even what the prayer wish was. You can still pray because God knows what it was.

To anyone who didn't get a moon wish to pray for someone, I hope I encouraged you to pray for anyone who feels discouraged, disheartened, sad, lonely, or anyone in need of God's reassuring presence. God knows all the things on our hearts. Prayers work. God is doing a new thing.

Terrie Cox—Interim Christian Ed Coordinator

What Does The Christian Education Coordinator Actually Do?

An interview with Terrie S. C.

MCOB: What is a Christian Education Coordinator?

TC: A Christian Education Coordinator is a liaison between the Christian Education Team, Pastor, and other staff to communicate information, brainstorm ideas, and discuss the happenings for the Education Ministries of our church.

MCOB: What are some of the specific things you've already done since being hired back in October?

TC: The first task was to clean up and organize the Resource Room on the third floor! It has been an ongoing task that has proved worthy of the time it takes to work on it. By organizing the room, I have found activities and resources to use for Children's Church and Sunday School, helped other Sunday School teachers and Pastor Mandy with materials to use for various purposes, and have begun a mental inventory of what we have and items we may need in the future. There is more to do and I will continue to make improvements to the room so that resources can be easily found and used. I have emailed people on our Child Policy approved list to remind them about openings available for Children's Church and Nursery care. I have worked with others on completing the Child Policy forms and getting them approved for supporting our Children's Ministries at MCOB. I have begun coordinating with Midland Church of the Brethren for this coming summer's Vacation Bible School. Look for the link in the newsletter to help us plan!

I have helped secure Adult Sunday School teachers and the materials they would need for those sessions as well as coordinate an in-person Q and A session with Mark Charles, the co-author of the book the Adult Sunday School class is currently studying. Melvin Cheshire teaches the class, and Mark Charles will be in the Sunday School class on March 24th! I have begun planning the Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will also take place on March 24th after church!

I also attend the monthly Christian Education Team's meetings and attended the Church Board Retreat in January. The Christian Education Team came up with the idea for the Free Little Libraries in Elementary, Jr. High, and Sr. High Sunday School classrooms, and I have put out a collection bin and coordinated Sonny building the library churches as well as placing the article in the newsletter and communicating announcements for the e-bulletin and Sunday bulletin. Thank you to all who have donated books so far.

MCOB: Do you cover Nursery, Children's Church, and fill in for Sunday School teachers every Sunday?

TC: While I am available if absolutely necessary, I don't usually need to cover. I have covered about once every two months or so. People really step up and fill the need when I ask or another teacher needs to be out. Our Christian Education team has backup plans for Sunday School coverage. However, we can always use more people on the list to help with coverage. If you want to help serve our Children's Ministries, it is not hard to complete the training and fill out the paperwork. It can be done online or in person. Just contact me, and I'll send you the information.

MCOB: Besides the Easter Egg hunt and VBS, what other things do you have going in the works?

TC: I am going to be working on creating some curriculum for the Sr. High Youth on Mental Health Awareness. I have materials from Alexandra Delaroderie of the Center for Pastoral Counseling that I need to add scripture and faith-based discussion questions for a few weeks of curriculum for May Sunday School lessons after Youth Sunday on May 5th.

MCOB: Are you taking the summer off since there's no Sunday School during the summer?

TC: Assuming the process to hire an Associate Pastor continues through summer, I am not planning to take the summer off. I will be attending Annual Conference and look forward to seeing what is new for Sunday School materials at the Brethren Press, planning and supporting VBS, preparing for Sunday School in the fall, coordinating volunteers for Children's Church and Nursery, and continuing working on organizing the Resource Room and materials in room 207 for Children's Church.



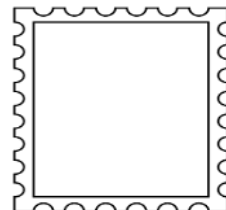
March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00am—Donut Bkft 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship 12:30—YA Lunch @ Mission BBQ	4 7:00pm— Women’s Ensemble Rehearsal	5 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby’s	6 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	7 1:00pm Cards & Games Club	8	9
10 9:00am—Donut Bkft 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship 12:00pm—Deacons Mtg	11 6:15pm Executive Committee Mtg 7:30pm Church Board Mtg	12 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby’s	13 12:00pm - Lovina Conner Lunch 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	14 1:00pm House of Mercy Workday	15 Women’s Retreat @ Brethren Woods	16 Women’s Retreat @ Brethren Woods
17 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship 12:30—Bowl-A-Thon @ Uptown Alley	18 7:00pm— Women’s Ensemble Rehearsal	19 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby’s	20 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	21 11:00am—Blood Drive 1:00pm—Retirees’ Luncheon @ Great American	22	23
24 9:45am—SS 11:00am—Worship 12:00pm—Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt	25	26 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby’s	27 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir Practice	28 7:00pm— Maundy Thursday Love Feast	29 Good Friday	30
31 9:00am—Easter Bkft 11:00am—Worship						

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2-DON K.
3-JOAN K.
4-SCOTT C.
4-GEORGIA K.
4-BILL K.
4-JOE W.
6-SUSAN H.
8-TAMIKA P.
13-TERRIE C.
13-STEVE F.
14-ABDULLAH N.
17-STEPHEN F.
17-BRANDON R.
17-CHUCK R.
18-HEATHER C.
18-AVA K.
25-JOHN B.
25-MADELYN K.
27-GINA P.
28-LARRY M.

28-EMILY E.
29-WILLIAM E.
31-NICHOLAS L.



2-JEFF AND SHARION R.
12-JOHN AND PATRICIA G.
16-DOUG AND JEANETTE S.
22-SCOTT AND RHONDA C.
25-BART AND MARY ELLEN C.

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