

Manassas Church of the Brethren November 2023 Newsletter



"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

November, the month of gratitude and generosity, is upon us. It is a time to reflect on our blessings and express our appreciation. Throughout this month, the MSO team will be collecting gently used/new coats and sneakers to benefit Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid.

To kick off this month, we invite you to join us on November 4th at 7:00pm for the CASA CIS Benefit Concert. More details can be found on page 3. And don't forget, it's also time to adjust your clocks!

On November 5th, we will be celebrating Junior High Sunday. The day will begin with a delightful Doughnut Breakfast provided by our Senior High Youth. The Junior High students will lead us in worship, creating a meaningful and engaging experience. For more information, please refer to page 5. Additionally, November 5th is the final day to place your poinsettia orders. Don't miss out! See page 4. Our Young Adults will be gathering at Panera Bread in Bristow at 12:30pm on the same day for a time of connection and fellowship.

For those seeking more opportunities to connect with others, we have our monthly service day at House of Mercy on Thursday, November 9th. Join us as we make a difference in our community. On Thursday, November 16th, we will be hosting a luncheon for our retirees at 1:00pm. It will be a wonderful time to reminisce and celebrate. Find more details on page 5.

Our dedicated deacons will be meeting on November 12th at 12:00pm. Their commitment to serving our congregation is truly commendable. Mark your calendars for November 19th, as we will be holding our Sub Sale and Congregational Council Meeting. Please refer to pages 8 and 9 for further information. On November 19 there will be a special adult Sunday School class for those new to congregational council meetings to learn more and to have roundtable conversations about the happenings at the church, as we prepare for congregational council meeting. And on November 26 the adults are encouraged to bring extra cards they may have at home for a card swap and to write cards to members of the congregation such as college students and home bound.

On November 19th Adult Sunday school will partner with Stewardship to discuss the budget during Sunday School. And on November 26th the adults are encouraged to bring extra cards they may have at home for a card swap and to write cards to members of the congregation such as college students and the home bound.

Lastly, we are thrilled to share that Illana N. had the opportunity to participate in a climate change march in NYC. Check out her inspiring pictures on page 12.

To wrap up the month our kids will be baking for the Bread for the World fundraiser on Wednesday November 29th from 6:00pm—8:00pm in the kitchen.

Let us embrace the spirit of gratitude and giving this November. Together, we can make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Stewardship by the Numbers—October 2023

Average Attendance per Week
In-Person: **83** Online Views: **35**

Average Offering per Week: **\$5940**

Pastor's Study



I have a dear friend, Heather Vickery, who once brought my attention to the fact that the beautiful hues of color that we see in the leaves during autumn are actually the leaves true colors. No longer masked by chlorophyll the keeps leaves green to help plants create energy from light. As days get shorter and nights become longer, trees prepare for winter and the next growing season by blocking off flow to and from a leaf's steam. And as I look at these vibrant reds, golds, oranges and browns, I think about the masks of green that needed to be blocked so that these colors could shine. As we enter in this season of thanksgiving, may we, like the fall leaves, come into this space as our true selves. No longer masking so we look the same as everyone else, every other green tree, but rather shining our radiant selves just as we were created to be. May we, like fall leaves, block that which is no longer serving us, no longer allowing us to thrive. May we surrender ourselves to this new season, so we may emerge in a new season with new growth and life. May we do so with thanksgiving, giving God thanks for all that we are and all that we have been created to be.

~Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

November 5: Junior High Sunday

Luke 10:38-42

Speaker: Pastor Mandy

Worship Leader: Junior High Youth

November 12: A Third Way: To Follow

Jesus—Visibly Counter-Cultural

Matthew 5:1-12, Romans 12:1-2

Speaker: David Smith

Worship Leader: Rebecca V.

November 19: A Third Way: To Follow

Jesus: Servanthood (To be Last)

Mark 10:35-45

Preacher: Pastor Mandy

Worship Leader: Rob D.

November 26: A Third Way: To Follow

Jesus: Missionary Church/Thanksgiving

Matthew 28:16-20,

Preacher: Pastor Mandy

Worship Leader: Makayla G.

Concerts for a Cause

BENEFITTING

CASA CIS

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

7:00PM



MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD, MANASSAS, VA

MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH

SUB SALE

6" Sub Sandwich, Chips,
and Soda
\$10.00



NAME _____

How Many?	Cheese	Tomato	Lettuce
_____	Ham <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Ham <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Ham <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Turkey <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Turkey <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Turkey <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Veggie <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Veggie <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Veggie <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	The Mandy Sammy: Flaky Croissant with Chicken Salad (Contains Nuts)		
_____	The Sr. High Club: Sub Roll filled with Turkey, Ham, Cheese, Lettuce, and Tomato		
_____	Total Orders X \$10.00 = _____		

Orders Due by November 15th, Pick up and pay for orders before Congregational Council Meeting November 19th

Poinsettias—Orders due November 5th!



Poinsettia Orders 2023



**Christmas Wholesale
2023 Price List**

Order Deadline: **Wed., Nov. 8th**
*Sizes and Quantities cannot be
 guaranteed after this date*

Florist Quality Poinsettias - all prices include decorative pot cover,
 protective sleeve and ship in cardboard boxes

7" pot - 2 plants / pot - 8-10 blooms - approx. 14-16" tall
 (Colors: *Red, White, Pink & Marble*)

Quantities 10 - 100 \$14
 Quantities 101 and up \$13.50
 (suggested resale price: \$20 - \$24)



6" pot - 1 plant / pot - 4-6 blooms - *green pot covers* - approx. 12" tall
 (Colors: *Red, White, Pink & Marble*)

Quantities 20 - 100 \$10
 Quantities 101 and up \$9.50
 (suggested resale price: \$15 - \$18)

4.5" pot - 1 plant / pot; 2-4 blooms, *green pot cover* \$5.50 approx. 8-10" tall

8" pot - 3 plants / pot; 14-18 blooms, *gold pot cover* \$23 approx. 18-20" tall

10" pot - 4 plants / pot; 18-22 blooms, *green pot cover* \$36 approx. 22-24" tall

**Please turn in your order to the church office by
 Sunday November 5th**



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2023

Every year our sanctuary is filled with beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship service. These flowers are given to the church by members of the congregation in memory or in honor of a friend or loved ones.

Please fill out the form below and place it in a pew envelope, along with a check (made out to MCOB) or cash for each plant ordered. Orders must be received at the church office by **Sunday November 5th**.



POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to order _____ poinsettias. Please specify below:

In honor of _____

In loving memory of _____

Enclosed is my payment for \$ _____

Opportunities



MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Lunch
12:30pm - November 5th
Panera Bread
10401 Bristow Center Dr, Bristow, VA 20136



Retirees' Luncheon

Great American Buffet - November 16th

1:00pm



House of Mercy Workday

November 9th

1:00pm—4:00pm



We will be collecting new or gently used coats and sneakers through November to support Asylum Seekers through Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid in DC with Washington City CoB. There will be a bin in the narthex to receive donations through the end of November.

COATS: Highest priority for men + kids
All coats, jackets, sweatshirts

SHOES: Sneakers
Adult - men 7-9 and women 4-7,
Children - sizes 10-4Y. Please do not bring heels or sandals

Learn



Junior High Sunday!

November 5th!

We cordially invite you to be a part of this remarkable service, exclusively organized by the talented junior high youth. Brace yourselves for an unforgettable experience centered around the theme of being worried and distracted, inspired by the powerful verses from Luke 10:38-42.



Adult Sunday School

We will finish our immigration and refugee resettlement topic with guest speakers November 5th and 12th for the adult Sunday School class.

On November 19 there will be a special adult Sunday School class for those new to congregational council meetings to learn more and to have roundtable conversations about the happenings at the church, as we prepare for congregational council meeting. And on November 26 the adults are encouraged to bring extra cards they may have at home for a card swap and to write cards to members of the congregation such as college students and home bound.



Children/Youth Sunday School

Children will continue using the SHINE curriculum for Sunday School.



We are happy to announce that Terrie C. is our Interim Christian Education Coordinator!

Engaging the Query

The Mid-Atlantic District received a query from the Arlington congregation that was distributed at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference and will be included in the business for the 2024 District Conference. A “query” is a congregation’s way of asking a question to the broader denomination. Should the 2024 District Conference pass the query, it would be received by Standing Committee as a possible item of business for the 2025 Annual Conference. Standing Committee reviews and recommends action for all such received business prior to Annual Conference.

THE QUERY repeats Standing Committee’s assertion that LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination even in Brethren contexts, including “violence, bullying, and a general sense of dismissal.” It wonders if changes to denominational statements would help minimize risks of future harm.

AS A DISTRICT, we are seeking to engage and understand the query prior to discerning and voting on it at District Conference in October of 2024. Regional and online engagement sessions will be held to provide information, answer questions, and share in meaningful dialogue.

You’re Invited!

Oakton CoB <u>Nov. 11, 2023</u> 10:00-11:30am	Westminster CoB <u>Jan .20, 2024</u> 10:00-11:30am	Denton CoB <u>Jan. 20, 2024</u> 3:00-4:30pm	Brownsville CoB <u>Feb. 3, 2024</u> 10:00-11:30am	Online via Zoom <u>Feb. 20, 2024</u> 7:00-8:30pm
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At these sessions, we will **not be deciding** whether to advance the Query to Annual Conference; that vote will take place at the 2024 Mid-Atlantic District Conference. Rather, we hope to find a **better understanding** of the Query and the motivations behind it. Participants are invited to engage the query, turning away an “us-versus-them” model. We hope all participants can **share, listen, seek to understand, and learn** from the convictions of others.

“Therefore... be it resolved: that we commit ourselves to forbearance which recognizes and respects differences of opinion and differing degrees of spiritual insight. We will show deference in disputable matters (Romans 14:1) while practicing prayerful study and conversation in core beliefs.” – Excerpted from the 2008 Church of the Brethren Resolution: Urging Forbearance

The Query: What You Should Know

The full Query is being shared with each congregation in the District, along with an accompanying letter from the Arlington Church of the Brethren. Digital copies may also be requested from the District office. **You are encouraged to read both the Query and the accompanying letter in-full.** Below are some highlights from the Query and the letter.

What the Query does not ask:

- The Query **does not** seek to provide clear answers on where the Church of the Brethren stands on human sexuality.
- The Query **does not** ask congregations or individuals to change current practices or deeply-held convictions.
- The Query **does not** seek an open and affirming stance for the denomination.

What the Query does ask:

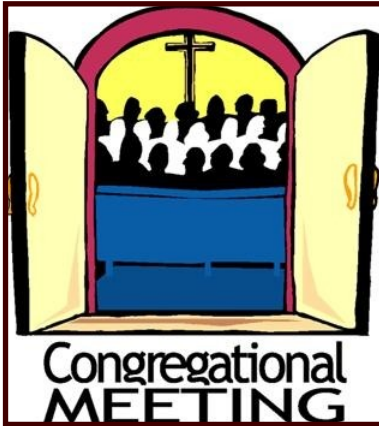
- The Query **does** seek to respect the spiritual integrity and credentialing of both LGBTQ+ affirming ministers and congregations, as well as ministers and congregations who understand such affirmations as inconsistent with their deeply held convictions.
- The Query **does** ask congregations to continue living in fellowship with other congregations even when beliefs and practices differ among us, finding a path forward for all to live peacefully as members of the Church of the Brethren.
- The Query **does** ask us to prayerfully consider how we might encourage pastoral approaches that reduce the risks of harm toward LGBTQ+ siblings in faith.

Some reasons for the Query, according to Arlington:

- The church has largely failed to honor positive encouragements in the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality, such as calls to reduce the discrimination of and advocate for the legal rights of LGBTQ+ people.
- Several suggestions and language used have become out-of-date in the 40+ years since its passing.
- Brethren believe that theological unity cannot be created by human forces; “conformity is humanity’s pattern.” (*Statement on Biblical Authority, 1979*)
- Brethren have always believed in ‘no force in religion’ and have valued the prayerful discernment of the local community in matters of faith and practice.
- Standing Committee led Annual Conference in a time of silent confession in 2023, stating that expressions of theological differences too often cause pain toward one another and specifically toward our LGBTQ+ siblings.
- The time of confession was named as a “first step.” Arlington wonders: What’s the next step?

NEWS

Congregational Council Meeting



Sunday November 19, 2023—12:00pm

The Congregational Council Meeting will take place on November 19th in-person immediately following the worship service. The Congregational Meeting is for our church family to make decisions that will affect our church life together and our ministries.

During the meeting, we will have the opportunity to vote on the 2024 budget, and to affirm the slate of new church leadership, including delegates, committee members, and new members to the Church Board.

This biannual meeting is a critical part of the life and ministry of the church, as we discern our way forward together as a faith community. All members and active participants of Manassas Church of the Brethren are invited and encouraged to attend.

Deacon's Meeting
November 12th
12:00pm
In the Fellowship Hall



**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR
CLOCKS AND SMOKE DETECTOR
BATTERIES!!!**

Sunday, November 5, 2022
**2:00am clocks are turned
back one hour**

This is also the time to change your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries!

VOICE

Sign-Up Today!

GET OUT THE VOTE

Non-Partisan



- Saturday Nov. 4
10am-6pm, canvass
- Sunday Nov. 5,
2-6pm, canvass
- Nov. 7, 10am-6pm,
Hot Spotting (Engaging voters in high foot-traffic areas)

GOTV Headquarters: First AME Church of Manassas



VOICE is working on Affordable Housing (ADU Ordinance and Housing Trust Fund), Mental Health Care (Crisis Receiving Center funding), Criminal Justice Reform (pay parity with the Public Defender's Office.)

November 7th is the Virginia General Election! VOICE is asking all its members to sign up to help get out the vote with low-propensity voters in State Senate District 30, in Manassas. This is a close district in an important election so it's important ALL voices be heard, particularly those that are often overlooked. This will be a nonpartisan effort - we encourage all congregants to sign up for a volunteer shift here: <https://voice-va.org/events/>. Questions? Ask Jessica Sarriot, jsarriot@voice-va.org



VOICE

2023

ANNIVERSARY Gala

Celebrating 15 Years of

BUILDING POWER FOR JUSTICE

14

December 2023

At the Wolf Trap Center for Education

SCAN ME



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
EUGENE ROBINSON
COLUMNIST & POLITICAL ANALYST
The Washington Post
MSNBC



VIRGINIA DIAMOND
PRESIDENT, NOVA LABOR FEDERATION



ATIF QARNI
FMR, VA SECRETARY OF EDUCATION



DREW ASTOLFI
DIRECTOR OF FIELD SUPPORT
COMMUNITY CHANGE

KEYNOTE / PANEL MODERATOR
LINSEY MASTIS
ANCHOR/HOST
abc NEWS ON YOUR SIDE



FREE PARKING | \$125 TICKET
1645 TRAP ROAD, VIENNA, VA 22182

SECURE TICKETS: WWW.VOICE-VA.ORG/GALA

SERVICE

Ways to Serve!

Ushers



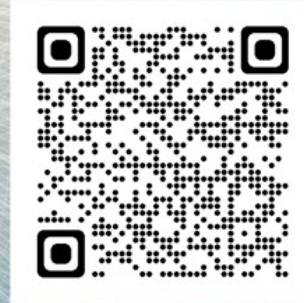
Sound Board



Acolytes



Children's Church



Nursery



Altar Flowers



SAVE THE DATE!

Bread for the World

Seeking Justice. Ending Hunger.

Together, we can end hunger in God's world. The third – fifth graders will be sponsoring a *Bread for the World* bake sale before and after church on December 3, 2023.

Here is the plan:

- * You may bring items to sell that morning.
- * Bring your apron and join us on the morning of December 3, 2023 during Donut Breakfast.
- * We will frost and decorate cupcakes. Come early and join the fun.
- * We will finish decorating and set up during Sunday School /Church.
- * If you can help or have questions, let me know.

Susan Weimer
703-368-9124
SBW@WeimerFamily.net

Our kids will be baking on Wednesday November 29th From 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Kitchen

Climate Change


Illana Naylor was able to attend the End Fossil Fuels Climate March on Sept. 17th in NYC to coincide with the UN conference on Climate Change/Chaos, sponsored by more than 300 Environmental Groups.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. In the beginning, God created the heavens & the earth. Over time, we began to call the earth Mother and the sky Father. As we face our climate crisis, it is past time to understand the Earth and Sky, not as a Mother and Father who cares for us and sustains us no matter our neglect or abuse, but as our child in need of our care.



November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	2	3	4 7:00pm—CASA-CIS Benefit Concert
5 9:00am—Donut Breakfast 9:45am Sunday Sch. 11:00am Worship 12 noon—YA Lunch Fosters	6	7 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's 4:00pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	8 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	9 1:00pm—House of Mercy Workday	10	11
12 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Deacons Mtg	13 6:15—Executive Committee Mtg 7:30 pm—Church Board	14 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	15 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	16 1:00pm—Retirees' Luncheon @ Great American	17	18
19 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12 noon—Congregational Council Mtg./ Sub Sale	20	21 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's 4:00pm—Forgetful Friends Chorus	22 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	23 Office Closed 	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	27	28 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	29 6:00pm—Kids Baking for Bread for the World Sale 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	30		

www.manassasbrethren.org
MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



1-BETTY P.
5-BARBARA S.
8-KATHIE K.
11-JOSHUA C.
13-BART C.
13-JOAN F.
14-PATRICIA G.
14-BRETT S.
15-OWEN B.
15-MARI R.
15-KATHY S.
16-JOSHUA O.
18-JACOB E.
20-P.J. O.

21-JEFF R.
22-JACK R.
23-JARED KI.
23-PAUL M.
23-AUSTIN C.
24-DIANE F.
25-AARON A.
25-DAN R.
25-TINA C.
26-TYLER K.
27-RICHARD H.
28-KATHRYN C.
28-DAVID MI.
28-JARED S.
30-CHRIS C.



12- DALE AND YVONNE R.
13-GENE AND KAREN F.
21-MARC AND CARLA B.
26-FRED AND JOICE B.
27-KEVIN AND DIANNE C.

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