Manassas Church of the Brethren
September 2026 Newsletter

Welcome Fall!

Starting September 6th

Doughnut Breakfast—9:00am
Sunday School—9:45am
Worship—11:00am

Welcome Back to MCOB!

The kids are back in school, and we're back to our regular September–May schedule!

September is filled with opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, service, and fun, and we're excited to get back into the rhythm of our church year, with lots of ways to make our Christian discipleship count!

We'll begin the month with **Doughnut Breakfast on September 6 at 9:00am**, featuring an informal Q&A with our new Property Proposal Building and Finance Committees. Be sure to read the article on **page 10** for an update on the property proposal.

Also returning on September 6 is **Sunday School at 9:45am**. Our Sunday School options and locations are listed on **page 6**. Parents, don't forget to scan the **QR code on page 6** and provide your child's emergency information.

Our **Wednesday evening activities** resume September 9. Bible Study begins at **6:30pm**, followed by Choir at **7:30pm**. See **page 3** for more information.

We're also getting back to our regular activities, including **Cards & Games, House of Mercy Workday, Retirees' Luncheon, Lovina Conner Circle Ladies Lunch, Forgetful Friends Chorus,** and **Adventure Club**. Brethren Disaster Ministries is also in desperate need of volunteers. See **pages 4–5** for more information about these activities and opportunities to serve.

Our prayers are also with everyone who will be part of the Older Adult Retreat at Shepherd's Spring this month, September 14-18, and we can't wait to hear their stories of growing in faith!

This month, we'll also participate in our **Annual CROP Walk on September 20**. We'll gather our subs from the sub sale and head over to Dean Park for the walk. We hope you'll join us!

We've also made a few improvements around our facilities, including a newly organized **ball closet in the Gym** and several new **recycling bins and trash cans**. Check out **pages 7–8** for more details.

And finally, **keep a space ready for PUMPKINS!** We're bringing back our pumpkins again this year! See **page 9** for a sneak peek, and watch for more information in the October newsletter.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and wonderful September!

Pastor's Page

A New Sermon Series: Revelation for a Renewed World

This September, we will start a 6-week sermon series on the book of Revelation. *Revelation for a Renewed World* invites us to encounter the Book of Revelation not as a frightening prediction of the end times, but as a powerful unveiling of hope, courage, and God's presence in the midst of a broken world. This series explores Revelation as a vision given to communities experiencing pressure, injustice, violence, and uncertainty. We will begin by discovering that Revelation means "unveiling"—pulling back the curtain so we can see God at work even in the chaos. Through the letters to the early churches, we are challenged to consider what Christ might say to the church today and how our communities can become living letters of hope.

As the series unfolds, Revelation presents worship as resistance to the powers of empire and domination, offering the Lamb as a radically different vision of power—one rooted not in violence or control, but in love, sacrifice, justice, and faithfulness. The fall of Babylon reminds us that systems built on greed, oppression, and injustice do not have the final word; God's justice seeks liberation and restoration. Finally, the series culminates in the vision of "all things new," where heaven comes to earth, the river of life flows, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. *Revelation for a Renewed World* calls us not to escape the world, but to participate in God's renewal of it—to live with courage, resist injustice, practice love, and become people who embody the hope of God's renewed creation here and now. Join us for the journey!

~ Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

Sept 6- I am there among them
Scripture Text: Matthew 18:15-20
Speaker: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: TBD

Sept 13 - Revelation for a Renewed World: Unveiling Hope
Scripture Text: Revelations 1:1-8
Speaker: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: TBD

Sept 20— Revelation for a Renewed World: Letters to a Fractured World
Scripture Text: Revelations 2-3
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: TBD

Sept 27 - Revelation for a Renewed World: Worship as Resistance
Scripture Text: Revelations 4-5
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: TBD

If you would like to serve as a Worship Leader in September, please contact Pastor Mandy

Activities

Bible Study Returns!

Wednesday September 9th

6:30pm

Bible Study will resume September 9th at 6:30pm in Room 209. We will begin with our series on Revelations. Our first scripture will be Revelations 1:1-8

Choir and Handbells

Our choir will resume practice on September 9th at 7:30pm in the sanctuary (childcare included.) We will also start handbells again on September 6th during the Sunday school hour at 9:45am. No experience needed for either choir or handbells! If you would like to sing with the choir or play hand-bells, please contact the church office or Susan Dommer.

Immigration Update

Our immigrant neighbors and siblings in Christ continue to face excruciatingly difficult times. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was terminated for Haitians at the end of July, and the Haitian community is being targeted. Haitian Church of the Brethren members in Florida have lost the ability to work, are facing significant hardships and uncertainty, and are living in fear. Aggressive immigration enforcement has hit the Haitian community in Springfield, OH, and two pastors in the area have been unjustly incarcerated by ICE. Unjust arrests continue across the country, and our neighbors needlessly suffer in ICE detention. Deportations to unstable countries continue, and families are separated.

The injustice feels overwhelming. And still, we find peace, rest, and hope in Christ.

"Life becomes an unbearable burden whenever we lose touch with the presence of a loving Savior and see only hunger to be alleviated, injustice to be addressed, violence to be overcome, wars to be stopped, and loneliness to be removed. All these are critical issues, and Christians must try to solve them; however, when our concern no longer flows from our personal encounter with the living Christ, we feel oppressive weight."

It is from our encounter with Christ that we experience concern for the world that doesn't crush us but instead brings clarity about what is ours to do.
Let us be reminded today and every day to surrender ourselves to Jesus and experience his love, mercy, and grace. We are not asked to do everything, nor can we. Let us, instead, offer ourselves to God, ask *What is mine to do?* and move in action with peace and clarity.

There are Prayer opportunities through the COB Deportation Defense Response Team scheduled for September 10 & 24.. Learn more here: Prayer Gathering for Immigrant Justice - On Earth Peace

Giving Back

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

Our Mission, Service, and Outreach ministry is hosting a Crop Walk to benefit Church World Service.

JENNIE DEAN PARK
9501 Dean Park Lane

Sunday September 20th
1:00pm
(Rain date Sept. 27)

Scan the QR Code to learn more or donate!

CropWalk Sub Sale

Only $12.00!
*All proceeds go to our Crop Walk!

Name_____

How Many?	American Cheese	Swiss Cheese	Lettuce	Tomato
_____ Ham	☐	☐	☐	☐
_____ Ham	☐	☐	☐	☐
_____ Ham	☐	☐	☐	☐
_____ Turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐
_____ Turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐
_____ Turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐

_____ **Chicken Salad - Comes on a flaky croissant**
_____ **Tuna Salad - Comes on a flaky croissant**

Please return to the church office:
Call: 703-368-4783
Email: office@manassasbrethren.org
Orders due by September 14th!

***Beverages and Chips included!**

HOUSE OF MERCY
Food Pantry • Thrift Store • Donation Center

House of Mercy Workday

Thursday September 10th

1:00pm—4:00pm

8162 Flannery Court
Manassas, VA 20109

Brethren Disaster Ministries

The Atlantic Northeast District has an urgent need for volunteers to fill out their group going to the Buncombe County, North Carolina, site the week of September 6-12.

Lodging will be provided at the Montreat Conference Center, Sylvan Lodge, located at 360 Florida Terrace, Montreat, NC, 28757 Sylvan Lodge is located in a beautiful, mountainous and treed area in and amongst the Montreat College campus. Please note that there are steps up to the first floor as shown in the photo, and all volunteer bedrooms are on the second floor.

Lynn Evans, Jeff and Sandy Bruens, and Duane Bohn will be your BDM leaders. I understand that there will be new build and repair work to be done, but not sure what work will be on the schedule for September 6-12.

Please contact Ed Olkowski at eolkowski@gmail.com or Dean Sensenig at dean@ecob.church if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Fellowship

Retirees' Luncheon

Thursday September 17th

1:00pm

Great American Buffet

8365 Sudley Road

September—November Sunday School

Fall Sunday School Begins September 6

Classes for children and adults will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 each Sunday morning. Pre-K through Jr. High classes will use the Shine Curriculum as they have in recent years.

Adults will continue to have the choices of Caring Hands, Hand Bells, and a Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday school hour.

During September, October, and November David Smith will lead the class in a discussion of the book, Liturgies For Resisting Empire, by Kat Armas.

Pre-K - Kindergarten	Bonnie C., Elisa P., Donna H.	Shine Curriculum	Nursery
First – Fifth	Mary Jane P., Kim S.	Shine Curriculum	Room 301
Jr. High	Amanda B., Mike B., Mark P.	Shine Curriculum	Room 305 (Jr. High Room)
Sr. High	Mandy N., Mark P.	Not Just Sundays Revelation Study	Room 103(Sr. High Room)
Adults	David S.	Liturgies For Resisting Empire	Fellowship Hall
Adults	NA	Caring Hands	Room 209
Adults	Susan D.	Hand Bells	Choir Room

Parents - Please fill out the Emergency Information Form as soon as possible.

The QR Code will be available near each classroom.

Facility Report

Let's Stay Organized!

We share our gym with many different types of groups. Just to name a few, here is a short list: Alpha-bet Preschool, HOPE (a homeschool social group for Jr. High participants), volleyball and basketball teams with Northern Virginia Homeschool Athletics Association (NVHAA), Wampler Volleyball on Monday nights, a Tuesday night soccer group that has been coming to play every week for over 25 years, and most importantly, our very own children and youth.

All the groups who use the gym, need access to the ball closet and the equipment stored there. The ball closet can get very messy with so many different types of equipment coming out and going back in every day. Sometimes the ball closet is such a mess that people who try to get what they need have a hard time maneuvering to get what they need.

We want to alleviate that problem by using the newly created check-list. It is posted on the closet door with a pen attached to record what group is using it, the date, and how they left it. There will be a place for everything and labels to help show where each item has a home. This process will take some effort and everyone's cooperation to work.

Please be kind and remember to put things in their place after using them.

Creation Care

Creation Care Continues at MCOB

Our Creation Care ministry continues to find practical ways for our church family to be good stewards of God's creation. As part of that effort, Tina Fisher (Facilities and Community Engagement Coordinator) ordered new **trash and recycling bins** which have been placed in the **lower narthex and Fellowship Hall**.

The new bins make it easier to separate recyclable materials—including **bottles, cans, and paper**—from regular trash. Clear signs will help everyone know what belongs in each container.

These may seem like small changes, but when we all participate, small actions can make a meaningful difference. Caring for creation is one way we can put our faith into action by reducing waste, conserving resources, and being mindful of the impact we have on the world around us.

When you see green, think clean—and recycle! Thank you for helping MCOB continue its commitment to caring for God's creation.

Softball

Fall 2026 Softball

Games begin Friday September 11th!

Valley View Park
11930 Valley View Dr, Nokesville, VA 20181

Look for more to come, and contact Sean North (ssnorth@gmail.com) for more information or to join the team!

Pumpkin Sale!

We are On a Mission from God: PUMPKINS FOR SALE

Northern Virginia Growing Project will be selling pumpkins grown by farmer Jay Yankey from Nokesville. The money raised will support a Catholic Relief Services agricultural project in Myanmar/Burma, a country dear to folks in Nokesville who have a hometown missionary serving there.

In October, once the pumpkins are delivered to us at MCOB, you can help support this effort with the purchase of a pumpkin. More details to come…

Let us join in a new way to do God's work in helping farmers in food insecure regions feed their communities!

Executive Committee and Church Board Meetings
Monday, September 14th
Executive Committee at 6:15 pm
Church Board at 7:30 pm
Please check your email for more information.

Stewardship by the Numbers
August 2026

Average Weekly Attendance/ for Worship

In-Person: 78
YouTube: 46

Weekly Offering Average: $6,643.00

Deacon's Meeting
September 13th
12:15pm

Property Proposal Update

After the June 14 Congregational Council meeting, the Board, supported by the Leadership Calling team, created two committees to advance our property proposal: the Building Committee (Don Kline, Chair, Marc Barb, Vice Chair, Rhonda Craighead, Maria Wright, Amanda Riemenschneider, Owen Baughman, Mary Geisler, David Smith, and Mandy North) and the Finance Committee (Louis Harrell, Chair, Rhonda Craighead, Leonard Pumphrey, Luke Croushorn, Christian Sanders, David Smith, and Mandy North). Both groups have met several times and made meaningful progress.

The Building Committee met with architect Keith Switzer and the INTEC Group to outline the spaces needed in a new church building and establish a preliminary square footage. INTEC also produced early site mockups showing how the building could fit on the Cannon Branch property. It was determined that we can build a similarly sized building of 40,000 sq. ft. on 3.77 acres adjacent to the cemetery.

The Finance Committee met with our realtor, Coleman Rector of Weber Rector, formalized the partnership, and authorized him to communicate with the city and Stream Realty. The Building and Finance committees are working together on preliminary budgets for a move to Cannon Branch. And the Finance Committee directed our realtor to submit a counter-offer to Stream Realty and to submit a new letter of intent to the city to purchase 3.77 acres at Cannon Branch.

In consultation with the architect and realtor, and considering the city's feedback and rejection of our initial letter of intent, we are now pursuing 3.77 acres adjacent to our cemetery instead of the full 5 acres. This is roughly one acre less than our original request and provides the city additional space for retail development and parking. This compromise preserves our ability to build a similarly sized church to our current facility, while addressing the city's concerns.

As of August 20, we have not yet received responses from either Stream Realty or the City of Manassas. The city is not expected to respond to our letter of intent until sometime after they next meet in September. As a result, negotiations have not advanced far enough for additional details to be shared publicly. The committees look forward to discussing the details more fully at a later date.

Join us for an informal Q&A session with the committees during doughnut breakfast at 9:00am on September 6th.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**2**	**3** 1:00pm— Cards & Games	**4**	**5**
6 9:00am—Doughnut B'fast w/ Q&A 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship	**7**	**8** 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**9** 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm— Choir Practice	**10** 1:00pm— House of Mercy Workday	**11** Softball	**12** 9:00am— Adventure Group Hike
13 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship 12:15pm—Deacons Mtg	**14** 6:15pm— Executive Com- mittee Mtg. 7:30pm— Church Board Mtg	**15** 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**16** 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm— Choir Practice	**17** 1:00pm— Retirees' Luncheon	**18** Softball	**19**
20 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 12:30pm—Crop Walk & Sub Sale	**21**	**22** 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**23** 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm— Choir Practice	**24** 11:30am— Lovina Conner Lunch 1:00pm—Cards & Games	**25** Softball	**26**
27 9:45am—Sunday School 11:00am—Worship	**28**	**29** 12:00pm— Lunch Bunch @ Arby's	**30** 6:30pm—Bible Study 7:30pm— Choir Practice			

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

Birthdays

1-TODD R.
2-GILMER A.
2-SEAN N.
2-ANASTASIA P.
3-LISA K.
5-MARC B.
5-MARGIE H.
7-DANIEL H.
9-ALICIA S.
13-MEG A.
13-CARLA B.
14-PRESTON L.
15-PEGGY P.
15-ROY F.
17-TRISTEN C.
18-LINDSEY V.
19-TRAVIS R.
20-IRVIN H.
20-JERRY P.
20-KEVIN W.
23-AMANDA B.
24-TRAVIS B.
24-OLIVIA K.
25-KAREN C.
25-WHITNEY R.
26-ANITA A.
27-KEVIN F.
28-EDWARD K.
29-JEN R.

Anniversaries

8-JIM AND SYLVIA B.
12-JERRY AND DIANE P.
16-JAY AND JEAN J.
19-CHUCK AND MARI R.
20-LOUIS AND CHRISTA H.
21-ANNA AND TRAVIS W.
26-CHRIS AND KELLY K.
27-LARRY AND NANCY F.
27-DICK AND NANCY P.

We'd love to celebrate with you! Share your birthday or anniversary with the Church Office:
office@manassasbrethren.org