

APRIL 2024

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Growing and Growing!

A big congratulations to Katelyn, Chris, Trace and Quinn for the birth of Zeke on March 12. Katelyn and Chris are three for three for births on Tuesdays!! We are so happy for them and thankful for what the Lord is doing. We praise God for a healthy birth and look forward to how God will continue to use the Belchers as a blessing.



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HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS



Easter is around the corner! He is Risen! But the season and spirit & praise doesn't stop there!

The Witness is a narrated, choral one-act, biblical musical that serves as a musical presentation of the gospel. Using Peter's perspective, the show follows the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Witness features a variety of original songs by Carol and Jimmy Owens, that will spark both emotional and spiritual uplifting in celebration and remembrance of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Performances:

Friday April 5th @ 7 pm
Saturday April 6th @ 7 pm
Sunday April 7th @ 10:30 am

To be performed at:

Harrisonburg Baptist Church
501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Admission: Free

Donations will benefit
Our Community Place.

Featuring:

Narrator - Laura Fly
Peter - Michael Richardson
Peter's Wife - Melanie Kulas
Mary - Erin Waddell
Jesus - Farley Fenton
James & John - Marcelo Flores & Jeremy Hawkins
Salome - Elke Schmacker
Judas - Kevin Petit
Ensemble - Cindy Capaccio, Sharon Wampler, Jeannie Petit, Mackenzie Grives, Kathy Beery, Lisa Seymour, Shirley Cobb, Don Sellers, Ron Smith, Vinny Capaccio, Jim Wampler, Jim Kiser, TW Johnson
Directed by - James D Kiser
Audio - Philip Northen



Encourager Group

BEGINNING APRIL 11, 4PM

Our very first Encourager Group (“e” group) will meet in the sanctuary on Thursday, April 11 at 4 pm. If you are struggling with grief, mental health issues, illness, injury, or you are caring for someone dealing with any of these things or more and simply need some encouragement then this group is for you! This group is for all ages and we invite you to join us and feel free to invite a friend who needs to be encouraged too!

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Cupcakes with Neil

APRIL 14, 11:30AM

Neil Showalter turns 102 on April 12! On Sunday, April 14, we’ll have some cupcakes to share after worship. Stop by the gazebo (weather permitting) to wish Neil a happy birthday, drop off your cards, and grab a cupcake. If the weather dictates, we’ll have the cupcakes in the foyer after the worship service.

Creation Sunday

APRIL 21

The Creation Care Team is helping plan a special Sunday morning service for April 21. Matt will be preaching the second of a two-

part series on the creation. There will be special music by the Choir and Praise Team, solos by Michael Richardson and Char Turner, poetry by Katherine Archibold and a creation-themed Children's Message.

JMU Campus Tour and Q&A Session

APRIL 27, 3:30PM

In conjunction with College Sunday, we have a unique opportunity planned for interested high schoolers – a guided tour of James Madison University, led by our college students. This will be followed by dinner and a Q&A session, where high school students can gain insights into college life, academics, and maintaining a strong faith foundation during these transformative years. It's a fantastic opportunity for youth to connect with and learn from those who have recently walked the path they are about to embark on. Contact Heidi Ruiz at heidi@hbcalive.org with any questions.

College Sunday

APRIL 28

Mark your calendars for April 28, a day when our college students will take the lead in our worship service. This special service will include one of our own students delivering the sermon!



April Youth Events

APRIL 7

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

APRIL 10

5:45-8pm Clothes Closet

APRIL 14

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

APRIL 21

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

APRIL 28

9:15am Sunday School

5:30-7:30pm Dinner & Bible Study

Youth Update: Luncheon & Cake Auction Fundraiser

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

The youth group hosted their annual luncheon and cake auction fundraiser for Passport Camp on March 3. Our students did a fantastic job preparing and serving the meal and setting up the fellowship hall. Our novice auctioneers, sixth graders Trace and Ethan, were very entertaining and they successfully sold our many baked goods. We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the church. We are so grateful for the excellent turn out and support of the fundraiser. We were absolutely astounded by the number of baked goods donated by the church as well. Thanks to you, we raised \$1,190.50 and counting!!! The funds raised will enable us to attend Passport Camp at Eastern Mennonite University on July 8 through July 12.





Women's Tea in Honor of our Teachers

SATURDAY, MAY 18 @ NOON



All the ladies of the church are invited to a special Saturday afternoon tea on May 18 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. This special event will be in honor of our many public school teachers—whether current or retired! We want to honor you for all that you do for the children of our community and our world. We want to thank you for the difference you have made and are still making and we especially want to encourage those of you who are currently in the classroom. The rest of us are invited to participate by bringing in finger sandwiches and scones (or any of your other favorite treats) as well as show up in your biggest, brightest hat and pristine white gloves! This is for ladies of the church of all ages and we look forward to this wonderful time together! If you could email names of the teachers in our congregation to Pastor Eli at eli@hbcalive.org that would be much appreciated so that we don't miss out on including someone. More details to come soon!



Prayer and Story Circles

PASTOR ELI

In his book *Sabbath*, author Wayne Muller writes, “In the relentless busyness of modern life, we have lost the rhythm between work and rest... All life requires a rhythm of rest. There is a rhythm in our waking activity and the body’s need for sleep. There is a rhythm in the way day dissolves into night, and night into morning. There is a rhythm as the active growth of spring and summer is quieted by the necessary dormancy of fall and winter. There is a tidal rhythm, a deep, eternal conversation between the land and the great sea. In our bodies, the heart perceptibly rests after each life-giving beat; the lungs rest between the exhale and the inhale... We have lost this essential rhythm. Our culture invariably supposes that action and accomplishment are better than rest, that doing something—anything—is better than doing nothing.”

How does this mentality collide with Scripture’s understanding and explanation of Sabbath? In anticipation of a future conversation about what the role of Sabbath does and should play in our modern life, share with your prayer circles whether or not you feel like you get enough rest on a regular basis. Why or why not? Is rest important to you? How would others know that it is a priority to you? Is Sabbath important to you? What does Sabbath mean to you and your family? Take some time to share some of your favorite Sabbath practices with your Prayer and Story Circles and share concerns with one another for those in your life whom you know are in need for deeper rest and more intentional times of Sabbath.

Our Prayer and Story Circles (as well as the rest of the congregation) are asked to share prayers for our church and others going through this season of Lent. Is Lent a new practice for you and your family? How do you feel about it? Have you noticed anything new about yourself through this season? How can the intentional practice of Lent make the celebration of resurrection more meaningful to you this year? As you are sharing some of these things with your circle, you might also want to share something you look forward to doing in the Spring—something you enjoy doing as the weather begins to warm up. And don’t forget to check in with one another between your in-person meetings!

Jesus Eyes

DUSTYN & SHERRY MILLER

Not long ago I was thumbing through some Christian literature and I came across two words that I had never considered in describing Jesus. The two words were “Jesus Eyes.” The author wasn’t describing the color of his eyes nor their shape, but rather how Jesus used his eyes to seek out those in need. He sought out individuals who were downtrodden, ill, marginal, neglected and so on. He stopped in the middle of great crowds to minister to those who sought him out. The circumstances, the place, event, or time did not deter him from reaching out to those in need.

Reflecting upon those two beautiful words I wondered, is that what I’m doing each day? Am I taking the time out of all my busyness to use



Jesus Eyes to search for opportunities to be his servant? It wasn't hard for Jesus to stop and listen to the difficulties and struggles others might have for he was doing the work of his Father. He was fully invested in servanthood and all that he touched could sense his presence, grace, and especially his love.

The Bible contains countless stories and examples of Jesus' grace and goodness. He used his eyes and heart to reach out to the woman at the well, tax collectors and lepers. Perhaps though one of the most incredible examples of his love occurred when arriving in Jerusalem during the Passover festival. Even though he was to give the ultimate sacrifice, his life, he continued his journey toward the cross with his eyes wide open ministering to any person who was hurting. Matthew 21:14 says "The blind and lame came to him at the temple and he healed them." Jesus never seemed to be in a hurry and he never seemed too busy to stop and help a person in need.

So what does this mean for me or for us? Perhaps it means that as we exist in an uncertain world and in the midst of our busyness, we should always be ready to use the eyes of Jesus. There will always be people hurting in some way and there will always be those in need. As servants of Jesus, we are called to minister to them as he did with love, compassion and kindness.

Missions Minute

JULIE AITTAMA, MISSIONS COMMITTEE

As some of you may know, Don and I were to go on a mission trip to Nasaruni Academy for

Maasi Girls. Then Covid hit and travel and our trip were cancelled.

We are excited to announce that we will be part of a group going to the school in Kenya. Team Leaders Professors Michelle Cude and Tracy Hough will take the first group, student teachers, in May. We will join Michelle and Tracy June 1st with a second group that will have doctors and dentists included. Don and I will be teaching several subjects. I will teach art and sewing. Don will teach music and computer, as well as work with the office staff to learn bookkeeping.

There is a need for donations to take to the school. If you have a laptop, iPad, or chrome book devices that are in GOOD working order that you would like to donate to the school, that would be greatly appreciated. You can contact Don or me. There are other donations needed and I will post these as I learn of them.

New Church Partner: Eritrean Grace Baptist Church

HBC is walking alongside a partner church as they are trying to begin a new work. Baptists have always been willing to help launch new churches and ministries. In fact, HBC has helped start both FBC Elkton and West Side Baptist. We have been supportive of the Kachin Baptist Church of Virginia, and the Eritrean Grace Baptist Church is another example of this exciting work. An initial gathering of a dozen persons met for prayer and Bible study on March 16 at HBC under the



leadership of Eritrean Church pastor Daniel Tes. Pastor Daniel and Pastor Matt have been working together since the fall of 2023 to prayerfully consider what a new church plant may look like. In the Shenandoah Valley, about three thousand Eritreans live and work. Most of these families do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We invite you to pray about this opportunity that's at our doorstep.

Vacation Bible School

This year Vacation Bible School will be held **Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28 from 9 am to noon daily** (with a celebration picnic on the last day). The theme for this year's VBS is SCUBA—diving into friendship with God! We look forward to workshops about sticky Scripture and Bible study discoveries as well as Imagination Station and Sing and Play Splash!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! How can you help you ask? We need

- 1) Teachers/ leaders for the different workshops
- 2) Shepherds to take the groups from workshop to workshop
- 3) Folks to help with decorations. **Two decoration days are already on the calendar: from 1 to 3 pm on both April 27 and on May 11.** If you are willing to come and help out we could use you! There is something for all of us to do!
- 4) Help with some around the house or Dollar Store items for our VBS Wish List. Here's what we're looking for:

- Coffee filters
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- White paper plates
- White Styrofoam balls (various sizes)
- Clear balloons (various sizes)
- White curling ribbon
- Medium to large cardboard boxes
- Toothpicks
- Brown craft paper
- Spray foam
- Bright colored spray paints, floral mesh, or tissue paper
- Wax paper
- Wood dowels
- Barbeque sticks
- Qtips
- Green floral foam

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Pastor Eli (since Pastor Katelyn is on maternity leave!) and Jessica Winters. It is going to be a great week in the life of HBC!

Sea Creature Creation Contest

You are invited to create your very own sea creature to be added to the Vacation Bible School decorations this summer! Feel free to use lots of color, lots of eye balls, lots of imagination—whatever it takes to create your very own sea creature! Please turn sea creatures in no later than Sunday, June 16 so we can have them all in their very own comfy little nook in time for the beginning of VBS! Please talk to Sarah Northen or Pastor Eli if you have any questions! The contest is open to anyone who wants to submit a creature!



Congratulations!

PASTOR ELI

You may already have some of this info - we are a bit late in one instance and pretty darn late in the other instance in celebrating new careers for two of our own at HBC!

Heidi Ruiz has taken a position working part time with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Office and part time with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia to make one full time position. In her dual role she provides operational support for a wide array of functions that underpin the missions and ministries of CBF. Through these collective efforts, they support a diverse community of individuals and churches worldwide, offering meaningful opportunities to put faith into action! Importantly, this includes our church, which, as part of the CBF network, actively contributes to these missions and ministries. Our participation allows us to extend our reach and impact, embodying Christ's love and hope across communities, and making a tangible difference in the world.

And just this past February Leah Tripp started a new position as a Digital Strategy Specialist with CBF Global. She is part of the Identity & Communications team and her job consists of helping launch and manage the new website, managing CBF social media channels, and executing more long-term digital strategy that will amplify the stories and transformative work happening throughout the fellowship! Look at the difference these young ladies are making in the world for our faith and our Lord! We are so proud and so happy for you both and celebrate these milestones with you both! Congratulations to you Heidi and Leah!

Where're My Sunglasses?

If you've been wondering, "My, the church is bright and I can see clearly," then you're not seeing things. You're actually, seeing things. Many thanks to Phil and Deb Douglas who have changed all the lights in the church to LEDs. That's over 700 bulbs they've replaced. We're so thankful for such kindness and quiet service. Well done and thank you, Phil and Deb!

Thank you!

It was an honor to worship with you all. We thank you for your kindness and for receiving us with open arms.

God Bless
JMU Into Hymn

-
Dear Pastor Winters,

We are most grateful for your church's very generous donation.

Our pantry is serving over 1,000 families a month and our numbers (unfortunately) continue to grow.

Your kindness will help many who come to us in need.

God Bless for your support.

Fr. Silvio Kaberia, Pastor
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church



PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Debbie Snyder
Edy Cupp
Diane Gray
Sandy Cude
Jim Wampler
Sarah Northen
Jimmy & Nancy Russell

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

Bryan Acker
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Sue Jones
Bill Pond
Wayne Robertson
Neese & Alma Spitzer
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Cynthia Shifflett
(Joyce Deavers' daughter)
Terry Hughey (Alice Hughey's husband)
Helen Zuercher (Anne Wright's mother)

February Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 2/29/24 \$ 96,064.00
Budget receipts as of 2/29/24 \$ 90,364.52

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Annie Armstrong offering \$20.00
- Alma Hunt State Missions \$20.00
- World Hunger \$100.00
- Community Bag Lunch \$45.00
- Ron Garber memorials
(Community Bag Lunch) \$1,375.00
- Operation Inasmuch \$20.00
- Love Fund \$390.00

Disaster Relief Training

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 8AM-12:30PM
STUARTS DRAFT BAPTIST CHURCH

The Augusta Baptist Association is hosting a free Disaster Relief training in Stuarts Draft on Saturday, April 20 from 8:00am-12:30pm. This training equips you to respond to critical needs in the event of natural disasters. Baptists often respond with feeding units and clean out teams to help address acute needs in the days, weeks and months following a crisis event. If you would like to participate in these ways, this training is for you. Please let Pastor Matt know if you're interested in attending the training event.

Spring Business Meeting

MAY 19 @ 11:30AM

Save the date! The spring business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, directly after the worship service.

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Out of Office Eli: Apr 16-23 Kim: Apr 22-26	1 Office Closed 6:30pm <i>The Witness</i> Rehearsal	2 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4) 6:30pm <i>The Witness</i> Rehearsal	3 6:30pm <i>The Witness</i> Rehearsal	4 6:30pm <i>The Witness</i> Rehearsal	5 7pm <i>The Witness</i>	6 7pm <i>The Witness</i>
7 10:30am <i>The Witness</i> 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	8 6:30pm Deacon Mtg (B4)	9	10 5:45-8:00pm Youth - Clothes Closet	11 4pm Encourager Group (sanctuary)	12	13
14 11:45am Cupcakes with Neil (gazebo) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	15	16	17	18	19 April Newsletter Articles Due	20 8am Disaster Relief Training (Stuarts Draft Baptist Church)
21 Creation Sunday 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	22	23	24	25 11:30am Brookdale	26	27 3:30pm JMU Campus Tour and Q&A (for high schoolers)
28 College Sunday 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	29	30				

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pat Dickens
- 2 Richard Baugh
- 3 Barbara Betts
- 5 Shirley Cobb
- 6 Patrick Fly
- 11 Hanson Stewart
- 12 Sandy Bobbio
- 12 Ellen Lohr
- 12 Neil Showalter
- 13 Sharon Wampler
- 14 Jane Messinger
- 17 Bryan Acker
- 20 Heidi Ruiz
- 21 Tom Hartman
- 25 Katherine Carroll
- 25 Noah Carroll
- 26 Cathy Lawrence
- 26 Ron Lyle
- 28 Lynda Lee
- 29 Debbie Dail

WEEKLY REOCCURRING EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:30am Community Worship
- 11:45am College Lunch
- 11:45am Children's Chime Practice

MONDAY

- 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr J's)
- 10am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201 & 203)
- 1pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:30pm Scouts

TUESDAY

- 10:30am Tuesdays Together (B4)
- 4pm Jubellation Practice

WEDNESDAY

- 10am Ladies' Prayer Group (B4)
- 6pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY

- 10am Skyline Literacy (Rm 111, 201, 203)

FRIDAY

- Office Closed

SATURDAY

- 10:30am Community Bag Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Apr 7 — Jeff Obenschain
- Apr 14 — Cathy Lawrence
- Apr 21 — Randy Dail
- Apr 28 — Laura Fly

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

- Apr 6 — St Stephen's
- Apr 13 — Skelley
- Apr 20 — Mandigo
- Apr 27 — Obenschain

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Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Erin Waddell, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

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MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

APRIL 19, 2024

Please submit articles to

Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

