

JUNE/JULY 2024

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



Commissioning for Service

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

On Sunday, May 19, we had a commissioning service for three short term missionaries headed out on assignment. For three weeks in June, Don and Julie Aittama are headed to Kenya to work with the Nasaruni Academy, a school for Maasai girls. They'll be responsible for teaching computers, business and art. Nasaruni Academy impacts hundreds of girls and their families. For six weeks, Zoe Moser, a 2024 JMU grad, will be serving in Northeast Mexico with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She'll be working as an advocate for families in Mexico. All three of these individuals have felt the call of God to serve in this specific, unique way. We invite you to pray for their work and for their journeys as they bring the gospel message of love and hope into new lives. While they are going on assignment in new places, they're not the only ones called to mission. We all share in the mission work of the Kingdom of God. We're all called to shine light into darkness, bring hope to the downtrodden, peace to the distraught and joy to the sorrowful. I am so encouraged when I see us stepping out in faith and willing to do something small (or large) for the Lord.

As I think more fully about it, Zoe and the Aittamas are not the only ones doing amazing things this summer for the Lord. We have Sunday School teachers show up

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weekly, VBS volunteers willing to teach children, chaperones for youth and children's camps, mentors that come along side new believers, food preparers to bring comfort to ones who suffer, along with many untold stories of mission work done around us. May we all have their hearts that seek to serve Christ in all circumstances. I'm so thankful for each of you and what you do for the Kingdom.

Come As a Child

CATHY LAWRENCE, DEACON

Most folks know I enjoy children. You may find me in the church nursery or rotating through Children's Church. I especially love the daily joys of watching my youngest grandchild, eighteen-month-old Levi, during the workweek since infancy. This has given me time to reflect on Jesus' love for children and what he teaches us about children and their faith. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14. Jesus wanted little children to come to him not only because he loved them, but they have the kind of attitude needed to approach God. They have a simple faith needed to believe in Jesus.

Children are naturally trusting. They symbolize such qualities as humility, faith, and a Godly virtue due to their innocence. Receptiveness of little children to gentleness, loving touches and responses comes readily. That gentleness, love and grace is what our Lord offers all of us. I don't believe Jesus meant only the cute and

innocent belong to the kingdom of God, but the helpless, needy, empty-handed, weak. These too are qualities of young dependent children. Helpless is how we are to receive Jesus, or better, to be received by Jesus. A child can keep things simple and often take what they hear literally. Complete intellectual understanding is not required, it is enough to know that God loves them and provides forgiveness.

All people need childlike faith in God, not only to accept his forgiveness and gift of salvation but also for daily living. Children are able to trust and praise God without doubts or reservations. As we get older, some of us find this more difficult to do having experienced "life happening". It can be helpful to keep in touch with the childlike quality within us. I invite you to pray with me:

Dear God, give me childlike faith, removing any barriers to having a closer walk with you.

New Newsletter Schedule

You may have noticed that this newsletter is dated June/July - that's because we're transitioning to an every-other-month newsletter format. As you read further, you'll find calendars, birthdays, and announcements for events happening over the next two months.

We understand it can be challenging to keep track of events for such a long period, but don't worry. We'll continue to remind you of details of events through email alerts and verbal announcements on Sundays.



Vacation Bible School

JUNE 24 - 28
9AM - NOON DAILY

Register today at
www.hbcalive.org/vbs



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! Register your children at www.hbcalive.org/vbs.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please check the blue scuba donation box in the foyer for updates on items that can be donated to help out with the decorations. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to co-Directors Katelyn Belcher 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!



June Youth Events

JUNE 2

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JUNE 9

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Youth Worship Service
3:30pm Passport Planning Meeting (B4)
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JUNE 12

5:45-8pm Clothes Closet

JUNE 16

9:15am Sunday School
No Evening Activities

JUNE 22

9:30am-12:00pm Saturday Bag Lunch

JUNE 23

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JUNE 30

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

July Youth Events

JULY 7

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 8-12

Passport Missions Camp

JULY 14

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 21

9:15am Sunday School
4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study

JULY 28

9:15am Sunday School
No Evening Activities

Youth Update

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Summer is typically our busiest time of the year, and this summer is no exception. We will begin Summer Bible Study at the Belcher's house on May 26. We will also celebrate Youth Sunday on June 9 during the worship service. We do not have any graduating seniors this year, but we will still use the morning to thank God for all of the ways He has moved within our youth group the past year. And then, we are eagerly anticipating Passport Missions Camp at Eastern Mennonite University on July 8 through July 12. We are taking 16 students and four chaperones to camp this year (our biggest group yet!), with seven of those students attending camp for the very first time. We can't wait to share about our amazing experiences from camp with you later this summer!



The youth group celebrated the return of Katelyn from maternity leave by going to play mini golf at Mulligan's Golf Center on April 28. It was a gorgeous sunny day, and we had the greatest time trying to beat one another's score at each hole. It was so good for us all to be back together again!



Trustees' Spotlight

A 2024 focal point for the Trustees is *"Blessing HBC: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond."* HBC has a 150+ year history of ministry in Christ. It is our goal to provide ways to continue that ministry into the future. James 4:2 reminds us *"We have not because we ask not. . ."* so the first thing the congregation, as a whole, needs to do is to lift up HBC in prayer for God's continued provision and blessing. Each newsletter we will provide an opportunity for you to be a blessing to HBC: Today Tomorrow and Beyond. These ideas will also be presented at the November Business Meeting and Trustees are available for any questions that arise.

HBC has been blessed with a very generous congregation, as reflected in the budgets and Trustees' funds. While the concept of tithing 10% (a giving of our first fruits) is familiar, carrying that into tomorrow and beyond is less familiar. One way to support HBC in the future is to name HBC as a 10% beneficiary on retirement assets or life insurance policies. Working individuals and families have retirement assets and policies where 10% can grow to be a generous blessing to the future ministry of the church. Older members may be in a situation where they have outgrown the needs for life insurance (funding college or paying off a home) or may have excess in retirement assets and could consider more than 10%.

Please prayerfully consider giving to the HBC general fund and the HBC Trustees' fund by carrying your tithing into the future with your retirement funds or life insurance. If you are not sure how to do this, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sabbath Sunday School Class

PASTOR ELI WITHERS

Beginning on Sunday, June 16 and continuing each Sunday through July 28, our adult and youth Sunday School classes are invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am for a single joint Sunday School class. We want to gift our Sunday School teachers with a few weeks of rest and relaxation and invite them to be students for awhile with the rest of us as we take time to study the Biblical concept of sabbath, what it has meant throughout the history of the Jewish people, what it means to Jesus, and what it should mean for you and I as Christians in 2024. Please plan on joining us as Pastor Matt and I take turns from week to week to lead us in this conversation.

In her book *Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest*, Ruth Haley Barton says that "sabbath is a gift from God that so few of us have figured out how to open..." Often, we don't even think of the seventh day of creation technically as a day of creation but something just tacked on the end. The ancient rabbis believed that when God created the seventh day as a day of rest (literally shabbot/ sabbath/stop) that this was the final act of creation and without this day of rest, creation was not yet finished.

Join us for this special study beginning on June 16.



Missions Minute

KEITH TURNER & JULIE AITTAMA

The Farm Ministry has been very active. In April the Farm Ministry delivered supplies to Myra, Kentucky that consisted of chicken sheds, feed for the Hens for Hope, 200 young pullets, pullet feed, feeders, waterers, seeds, fertilizer, garden supplies, donated furniture for flood victims, and approximately 650 egg cartons.

The Hens of Hope project gives struggling people a “hand up” in helping them feed themselves. There were 72 dozen eggs delivered to their local food pantry (Manna) in one week. Currently they are producing approximately 200 dozen eggs a week. The pullets delivered will be used to start a new phase that will eventually be meat birds. Included in this phase is a pilot youth program. These “at risk” youth will be trained to raise and care for chickens, helping to feed their families and community. Also, Manna will be educating the community and distributing supplies for gardens. The supplies are for a 4-county area in Appalachia.

The Beef Ministry has provided 127 pounds of beef for distribution through HBC to local food pantries. This does not include the beef used for the Bag Lunch Program or people in need within the church family.

Currently plans are for a cheese distribution in June or July.

Music Ministry Update

GARY RITCHER

The last Sunday of Choir will be July 7. We will back August 18. In the meantime we will be enjoying a variety of special music from some of the many talented musicians in our church.

Many thanks to all those who have participated in the HBC music ministry during the past year: Erin and members of the Praise Team; our organist, Rosemary Lonberger; our accompanist, Harold Bailey; Anne Wright and Mike Mandigo, who lead Jubellation; the Young Adult Ensemble; Erin and others who have worked with the children; Betty Ecklund and Don Aittama who play on our hymns; Sharon Wampler and Betty Ecklund, who help with choir sectionals; and all those who have contributed special music during the year. An extra big thanks to Philip Northen and Larry Ecklund, whose expertise and hours of dedicated work behind the scenes help everything go smoothly and all of us sound good. Thanks to Danny Carroll, Heidi Ruiz and Jayden French who help with AV and livestreaming our services.

We are blessed to have such a dedicated and gifted group of people to help lead in worship. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to jump in to any of these groups when we return to action in the fall!

Our Praise Team leader, Erin Waddell, will be visiting family in Austria this summer. Thanks, Erin, for your smiling, spirit-filled leadership. We wish you an enjoyable and restful time away. Philip Northen will be leading the group in Erin’s absence from June 23 to August 11. Thanks, Philip!



Prayer and Story Circles

As our Prayer and Story Circles continue, we find more and more ways to lift up our church, the Harrisonburg community, the world, and quite simply one another in our conversations with the Creator of the world. As we look at the summer ahead, some of us might be filled with excitement about summer vacations or camping trips, time off from school, maybe a reinvigorated soccer or baseball season.

Whatever the motivation, summer, as do all the seasons, has its own rhythm and energy. Here at HBC we are looking forward to trying some new things like a joint summer Sunday School class where we will learn what sabbath is and how God intends for us to practice sabbath even in our modern life. Our kids and are youth are excitedly preparing for their weeks at Passport as well as a week of Vacation Bible School the last week of June. Workshop leaders and group guides are pumping themselves up so they can share the message of God's love with our children. Our directors Katelyn and Jessica have been working hard to provide a tremendous experience for our HBC kids as well as the children in our community.

For the month of June, let's all spend time lifting up our children and VBS workers in prayer. Let's pray for God to lead children and families here for this exciting week and pray that God will move in the lives of our families and children throughout the week so that their relationships with God and with one another are strengthened. Let's pray for the

children that might be ready to commit their lives to Christ for the very first time! Let's be open to God's leadership among us!

And in our Story Circles, take some time to share some of your own special childhood memories. Maybe you have some great VBS stories of your own to share. Maybe you want to share about a particular Sunday School teacher who made a difference in your life. Maybe you even want to share about a time when you got in trouble for talking too much in class or for not doing your homework! Some of our stories may not have been funny at the time, but now we can look back and laugh at ourselves—which is usually a very helpful practice! And whatever your plans are for the summer, soak up every moment and savor the special time you're able to spend with those you love!

Monument Rededication Update

The monument to WWI soldiers that sits off Main Street outside of the church yard turns 100 years old in 2024. The city had planned to host a celebration on the birthday of the statue. Those plans have changed, but the signage should still be installed sometime in June. You'll also notice the upgrade in the sidewalk with brick pavers around that section. In the coming years, the city intends to upgrade the sidewalks beside the church to match this brickwork.



New Member



We welcome **Zoe Moser** as a new church member. She united with us on May 19. Zoe is a recent grad of JMU with a degree in International Affairs. While she's looking for long term

employment options, she's embarking on a six week missionary excursion to Northern Mexico with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Zoe has been a strong part of our college ministry at HBC and often played guitar in the praise band. Additionally, she has helped with our children's ministry, preached on College Sunday and provided strong children's messages. It's so nice to have Zoe be a part of our congregation and a coworker for the Kingdom of God.

Address Changes

Milton "Joe" and Mary Laughland
855 Summit Ave
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2316

Neese Spitzer
Park Place Apt 316
1285 Shank Dr
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Staff Recognition

Jim Kiser has served as HBC's Facilities Manager for a year as of June 21. Jim is doing an excellent job of managing the many ongoing maintenance and repair needs of an aging building, and we greatly appreciate his expertise and patience!

Gary Ritcher became our Director of Worship & Music eight years ago on July 10. Thank you for your faithful effort to provide quality worship music each week. We are blessed by your musical expertise and dry wit!

Reception for Phil & Debbie Douglas

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 @ 11:45AM

We hope you'll join us after the worship service on June 9 for a time of fellowship and light snacks in honor of Phil and Debbie and the many ways they have blessed all of us at HBC!

Deacon & Leadership Nominations

Your nominations for Deacons and a Leadership Team Member-at-Large will be collected June 2 through June 30. Nomination forms will be available in the foyer or can be requested by email to kim@hbcalive.org. Please prayerfully consider nominating qualified members of the congregation to fill these vital roles. **Your nominations must be received by Sunday, June 30.**



April Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 4/30/24	\$ 204,136.00
Budget receipts as of 4/30/24	\$ 188,612.56

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Love Fund \$200.00
- Annie Armstrong Missions \$50.00
- Alma Spitzer Memorials \$325.00

\$3,000 was donated to Our Community Place as a result of the love offering collected during the weekend of “The Witness” performances.

Thank You’s

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your very kind gift to Our Community Place. We deeply appreciate your generous and meaningful support of our mission to be an inclusive community of love, hope and restoration.

With sincere gratitude,
Lisa Schick for Our Community Place

—

Dear church family at H.B.C.,

I can’t express enough my thanks for your kindness and support in so many ways after the passing of Ron. Your donations to the Bag Lunch Program, S.P.C.A. and others were deeply appreciated. We especially want to thank everyone who helped bring Ron’s memorial service together so wonderfully. You have blessed our family so much, and we are very grateful. God bless you.

Liz Garber and family

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Terry Hughey
 Austin Harper
 Don Aittama
 Chris Gamble
 Joyce Deavers
 Sue Mason
 Debbie Snyder
 Edy Cupp
 Diane Gray
 Sandy Cude
 Jim Wampler
 Sarah Northen
 Nancy Russell

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

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

EXTENDED FAMILY

Cynthia Shifflett
 (Joyce Deavers’ daughter)
 Grace Kaleda (Julie Aittama’s cousin)
 Karen Embrey (Don Embrey’s daughter)
 Bonnie Simmons
 (Jane Shifflett & Dawn Krall’s friend)
 Bill Darling (Ralph Darling’s brother)
 Joan & Wiley
 (Susie Versen’s sister & brother-in-law)

SYMPATHY

We grieve with

- Scott and Elisabeth Glover and family upon the death of Scott’s mother, Genevieve Glover.
- Don Embrey upon the death of his nephew, Darryll Lambert (son of Linda Lambert).
- Nancy Russell upon the death of her husband, Jimmy.

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Youth Sunday 11:45am VBS Training (B4) 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	3	4 10:30am Tuesdays Together	5	6	7 6pm Praise Team Practice	8
9 11:45am Reception for Phil & Deb Douglas 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	10 6:30pm Deacons Mtg (B4)	11 11am Tuesdays Together Picnic @ Hillandale	12 5:45-8:15pm Youth - Clothes Closet	13	14	15
16 ^{HAPPY} Father's Day 2-6pm Kachin Church	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	24	25	26	27 11:30am Brookdale	28	29
30 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers					Staff Out of Office Susan: June 12-19	

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dale Wright
- 3 Irv Byrd
- 5 Sallie Darling
- 5 Donna Downey
- 5 Larry Ecklund
- 7 Dennis Greene
- 10 Emily Hartman
- 14 Hunter Hayes
- 17 Susan Huffman
- 20 Randy Dail
- 21 Sue Jones
- 21 Michael Renfroe
- 22 Michael Kopcinski
- 23 Faye Bland
- 27 Daisy Howard
- 27 Steve Smith

WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

- SUNDAY**
 - 9:15am Sunday School
 - 10:30am Community Worship
- MONDAY**
 - 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr J's)
 - 1pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
 - 6:30pm Scouts
- WEDNESDAY**
 - 10am Ladies' Prayer Group (B4)
 - 6pm Choir Practice
- FRIDAY**
 - Office Closed
- SATURDAY**
 - 10:30am Community Bag Lunch
 - 3-5pm Grace Baptist Eritrean Church

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- June 2 — Randy Dail
- June 9 — Jeff Obenschain
- June 16 — Cathy Lawrence
- June 23 — Dustyn Miller
- June 30 — Laura Fly

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

- June 1 — Ritchie
- June 8 — Clark
- June 15 — Ritchen
- June 22 — St Stephen's
- June 29 — Skelley

JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (B4)	3 6pm Choir Practice	4 Office Closed HAPPY 4th of July	5 6pm Praise Team Practice	6
7 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	8	9	10	11	12	13
Youth Passport Camp						
14 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	15 6pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	16	17	18	19 Aug/Sept Newsletter Articles Due 6pm Praise Team Practice	20
21 2-6pm Kachin Church 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	22	23	24	25 11:30am Brookdale	26	27
28	29	30	31		Staff Out of Office Matt: July 14-21 Gary: July 20-26 Katelyn: July 27- Aug 10	

WEEKLY REOCCURRING EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Community Worship

MONDAY

7am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr J's)
1pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
6:30pm Scouts

WEDNESDAY

10am Ladies' Prayer Group (B4)

FRIDAY

Office Closed

SATURDAY

10:30am Community Bag Lunch
3-5pm Grace Baptist Eritrean Church

DEACON OF THE WEEK

July 7 — TBD
July 14 — Shirley Cobb
July 21 — Nico Nguimbi
July 28 — Lyn Weaver

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Schedule TBD.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Aittama
- 2 Don Cude
- 3 Haygan Stewart
- 7 Gary Stiteler
- 10 Jean Holthaus
- 15 Amleset Okubazgi
- 17 Mary Petit
- 19 Sam Huffman
- 22 Liz Garber
- 22 Mary Smith
- 25 Dorothy Layman
- 29 Joe Laughland
- 29 Anne Wright
- 30 Mary Laughland
- 30 Doug Skelley
- 31 Lee Chapman

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
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A publication of

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Erin Waddell, Praise Team Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

AUG/SEPT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY 19, 2024

Please submit articles to
Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org.

