

APRIL / MAY 2025

# HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter



## Don't Rush By

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

I've been bested by my daughter, Samantha. I have always been about the slowest eater in my dinner gatherings. Jessica, as a triplet, learned at an early age to eat quickly, but my meals have always been enjoyed at a leisurely pace. But, when I eat with Samantha, you'd think I was competing with Joey Chestnutt—the fastest hotdog eating champion of the world. Learning to take things slow can be a real gift, especially when you have elementary and middle schoolers in the home.

As our year is coasting by, I want to invite you to a special time of fellowship. On Maundy Thursday night, April 17, at 6:30 pm, we'll have a Passover Seder. The Seder is the meal that Jesus would have shared with the disciples in the upper room—the very meal that spawns our communion service. The Seder is an intricately designed meal with elements that cast our eyes to the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It's a family-based time to recall what God has done and what God is still doing today—providing freedom and setting free the captives.

One of my favorite themes of the Passover Seder is the permission to have rest—we no longer have to eat (or live) in haste as the first Israelites did. Because Jesus has conquered sin by his death on the cross and resurrection

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## College Graduate Recognition

SUNDAY, MAY 4

We plan to recognize our 2025 college graduates during the worship service on May 4. If you have a name to add to the list below, please let Pastor Matt know.

Hayden Armstrong  
David Bauserman  
Jared Cruz  
Nick Dawson  
Christian Esleck  
Bradley Fuller  
Emily Fuller  
AJ Gryder  
Campbell Hawkins  
Maryn Jones  
Gabrielle Schofield  
Rhaegan Wilkerson

from the tomb, we are allowed to rest (and recover) in God's faithfulness. I hope you'll join us for this intimate time of worship and community meal. In addition to the elements of the traditional Passover Seder, we'll have a meal of matzah ball soup and salad. Please sign up at the Info Desk so we can prepare accordingly.

## Financial Foundations *For Young Professionals*

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 6:30PM

To invest in the college graduates and young professionals in the church, Pastor Matt is hosting a seminar focused on building a strong financial foundation for one's future. This seminar will be cohosted by Rob Fox, President of Church Benefits Board, and Colin Kroll, Young Adult Ministries Manager at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and will introduce topics such as retirement planning, understanding insurance, debt management and budgeting practices. The seminar will be held in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 pm (dinner will be provided).

If you or someone you know would be interested in attending, please sign up at [hbcalive.org/finances](https://hbcalive.org/finances).



## Faithbits

KAREN FOLSOM, DEACON

Do you document your daily life? Do you rely on your smartphone, smartwatch, or Fitbit to monitor your activity, heartbeat, or sleep patterns? I usually focus on my daily routine and don't dwell on it. However, my husband, Kent, believes that if something doesn't get recorded, it didn't happen. He diligently records his steps on his watch, his sleep patterns at night, and his caloric intake. While this approach works for him, I simply don't care about the numbers. At the end of a long day, I know I'm exhausted, so I must have taken thousands of steps, but the quantity doesn't hold any significance for me. I'm not aiming to achieve a specific fitness goal, but I still recognize that my fatigue at night is a result of my physical activity. Sometimes, when we don't actively try, we still accomplish things.

Have you ever wondered how to cultivate faith or questioned whether you have enough faith in today's world? You may discover that you possess more faith than you realize.

When it comes to spiritual fitness in our lives, sometimes we succeed in reaching our goals, while at other times, we simply can't. In such situations, we must trust that there are ordinary aspects of our lives that contain an element of faith. These seemingly insignificant elements collectively contribute to our overall spiritual well-being.

Here are some examples of faith in action:

1. Do you envision a positive future for your children? That's a form of faith.
2. Are you inspired by the faith of your ancestors? That counts as faith as well.
3. Do you harbor doubts? That's also a form of faith because at least you're still engaged in the question.
4. Do you hold those you love in your heart during their suffering? Do you pray for their aid? That's faith.
5. Do you love Jesus? That's faith.
6. Have you forgiven someone in your life? That's faith.
7. Do you recognize the inherent dignity of every human being? That's faith.
8. Have you asked someone to pray for you when you're unable to pray yourself? That's faith.
9. Do you express gratitude for anything in your life? That's faith.
10. Have you ever prepared a meal for someone, even if they didn't need it? That's faith.
11. Do you ever express sorrow or lament in your life? In the Bible, lamenting is a form of prayer and worship that allows individuals to express their pain and sorrow to God. By acknowledging their vulnerability, they trust in His character and promises, ultimately leading to hope and renewed faith.

Even when you're not consciously displaying faith, you're doing so to others. While we can always strive to increase our faith, perhaps let God increase your awareness of what faith already looks like in your life.

Faith is often associated with grand, sweeping gestures—miracles, profound sacrifices, or life-changing commitments. However, in reality, faith is equally present, if



not more so, in the small things we do daily. It's in the kind word we offer to a stranger, the patience we extend to a friend, and the quiet moments when we choose love over frustration. These seemingly insignificant acts form the very foundation of a life built on trust in God's goodness.

Jesus taught that faith, even as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains (Matthew 17:20). This emphasizes that faith doesn't always have to be dramatic or loud—it often manifests in simple, everyday choices. When we show kindness without expecting anything in return, we're living out the command to love our neighbor. When we forgive, even when it's difficult, we trust God to work in ways beyond our comprehension. When we help someone in need, we're serving Christ Himself (Matthew 25:40).

Every time we choose goodness, we demonstrate faith in God's plan. We trust that kindness makes a difference, even if we don't see the immediate results. We believe that love is more powerful than bitterness, that hope is stronger than despair, and that light will always triumph over darkness.

Faith isn't just about believing in God; it's about living in a way that reflects that belief. It's about trusting that He's working through us, even in the smallest moments. So, the next time you hold a door open, offer a smile, or choose patience over annoyance, remember: you're walking in faith. And those seemingly insignificant acts? They hold greater significance than you may realize.

## Wonder Women

Wonder Women will not meet on its regularly scheduled night in the month of April. Instead, we will gather for a picnic together to welcome the season of spring appropriately. Reach out to Pastor Eli if you would be interested in joining us for the picnic and as we schedule that we will keep you informed!

## Upcoming Senior Adult Events

### GAME AND CRAFT EVENT

*Thursday, April 3, 2pm*

Bring your favorite game and join us for an afternoon of games, crafts and fellowship. Mary Laughland will be available to help you make an Easter card. A "Fellowship Table" will be available for those who just wish to sit and talk together. Snacks will be provided by the Senior Adult Ministry team.

### PICNIC AT HILLANDALE PARK

*Thursday, May 1, 12pm*

Bring your lunch and plan to join us for an afternoon at Hillandale Park. Homemade ice cream and dessert will be provided by the Senior Adult Ministry Team.



## Holy Week Activities



### EASTER EGG HUNT PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

We will gather for a picnic lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the hunt. We need volunteers to provide plastic Easter Eggs with treats inside as well as cupcakes for dessert. If you would be able to help us with that, please include that on the sign-up sheet that will be at the Information Desk each Sunday. If your family would like to join us and if you have grandkids or other little friends you'd like to bring, they are more than welcome! We just ask that everyone please sign up so we will be sure to have enough fun, food, and surprises for everyone! Let's hop to it!



### MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER APRIL 17, 6:30PM

See Pastor Matt's article on page 1 for more information about this event. Please sign up at the Information Desk in the foyer.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18,  
12-6PM

Once again, the sanctuary will be open on Good Friday from noon to 6pm with prayer stations set up around the sanctuary. The stations are designed for all ages so feel free to bring your kids or grandkids along with you. It will be a time of quiet, contemplative prayer and interactive stations that will give you time to think through all that this holy week means for each of us.



### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 7AM

The resurrection celebration will begin with a Sunrise Service in the gazebo at 7:00am followed by our regular worship service at 10:30am. Let's begin even now preparing our hearts to worship God anew in this Easter Season.



## April Youth Events

APR 6

9:15am Sunday School

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

APR 9

6-8pm Clothes Closet

APR 13

9:15am Sunday School

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

APR 20

9:15am Sunday School

No Evening Activities

APR 27

9:15am Sunday School

4:00pm Youth Committee Mtg (B4)

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

## May Youth Events

MAY 4

9:15am Sunday School

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

MAY 11

9:15am Sunday School

No evening activities

MAY 14

6-8pm Clothes Closet

MAY 17

9:30am-12:00pm Bag Lunch

MAY 18

9:15am Sunday School

4:00pm Youth Committee Mtg (B4)

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

MAY 25

9:15am Sunday School

4:30-8:30pm Summer Bible Study  
@ the Belchers'

## Youth Update

REV. KATELYN BELCHER

Our students have much to look forward to during this spring season and we are excited to share some highlights with you. First, we had our biggest fundraiser of the year on March 16. The youth hosted a baked spaghetti luncheon and cake auction. We were absolutely blown away by the many generous donations we received so that we could attend Passport Camp in July. Thanks to our amazing church family, we were able to raise \$2,413.30 (and counting)!!! This was our most successful fundraiser in recent memory, and we are truly grateful for your generous giving and support. We would like to especially thank Keith and Char Turner, with the Farm Ministry, for donating all of the ground beef needed for the baked spaghetti. We would also like to thank these individuals and families for donating food items for the lunch and baked goods for the auction: the Kopcinski family, Julie Aittama, Karen Folsom, Marie Graham, Sandy Weaver, Jeannie Petit, and especially Jeff Obenschain, for baking a cake AND agreeing to be our auctioneer! We are certainly well on our way toward achieving our fundraising goal for 2025.

We are also starting a new Bible Study series on March 23. The series is titled Empty and it will explore themes such as Empty World, Empty Cross, Empty Tomb, and No More Empty Lives. We will spend time in the gospel of John, as well as 1 Peter, and Mark's gospel. We will learn about how our sin separated us



from a loving relationship with God and that is why we need Jesus. And because Jesus's story did not end on the cross, we have hope for our futures. Also, that Jesus proved himself to be God's Son by conquering death and being resurrected. And we'll end with discussing how Jesus came to fill the empty places of our lives. Without Jesus, we will never be satisfied. Our goal for teaching this series on Sunday nights is to prepare our student's hearts for the real reason we celebrate Easter, and also to help them learn more about Jesus, why He came to earth, and why we so desperately need Him.

Another event we are looking forward to is Summer Bible Study, which will officially launch on May 25 and will continue through the summer. Looking ahead, we have three high school graduates we will recognize on Youth Sunday, which will take place on June 8. And we are taking a group of 21 to Passport Choices Camp in Spartanburg, SC on July 13 through July 18.





## Bag Lunch Workshop

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 9AM-12PM

All Bag Lunch team members and anyone interested in joining this ministry are invited!

Sessions include: mental health, practical, and relational matters. Expect to be inspired & equipped while enjoying fun & fellowship! Drinks and Snacks provided.

RSVP to Anne Wright by April 1st.

Let's work together to sharpen our ministry!

## VBS - Save the Dates!

This summer Vacation Bible School will be held on **Wednesday evenings beginning on July 9** and continuing on each Wednesday evening that month. We will begin each evening with a snack supper at 5:30 and conclude at 8 pm. If you are interested in helping (and we cannot do this without you!), please contact Jessica Winters, Sarah Northen, or Alice Hughey and they will let you know how you can help! We are excited to try something new and different this year and promise to have more details in the coming months!

## Community Event

Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley, a 30-member professional choir under the direction of artistic director Scott Zane Smith, presents their spring concert, "It's a Lovely Day" on Mother's Day weekend, May 10-11, at Linville Creek Church of the Brethren in Broadway. Our one-hour concert consists of sacred and secular music, with many familiar tunes. We will also be featuring guest artist Leslie Bradley Alger.

Celebrate Mother's Day with us! **Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 11 at 3 p.m.**

For more information, find us on Facebook @ Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley.



### Neil's Birthday!

Neil Showalter will be celebrating his **103rd** birthday on April 12! If you would like to send him a card to help mark this special occasion, please use the following address:

Neil Showalter  
1200 Sharon Lane  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802



## Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 2/28/25	\$ 111,483.00
Budget receipts as of 2/28/25	\$ 65,444.38

### Non-Budget Designated Funds

• Community Bag Lunch	\$240.00
• Operation Inasmuch	\$120.00
• Love Fund	\$410.00

## Thank you!

We recently purchased a set of six top-of-the-line music stands to augment and begin to replace our aging and mismatched collection of stands. This means no more borrowing stands, no more shuffling stands around the church and no more stands slowly sliding down during the service. Many thanks to **Mary Petit** whose generous donation made this possible!

## Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Sue Jones, who passed away February 13, 2025. Sue was a long-time HBC member and wife of the late Sam Jones, former pastor at HBC.

We also extend our sympathies to Judy Simmons upon the death of her sister, Anne Kendrick, on March 23, 2025.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HBC FAMILY

David Downey  
Carl Herring  
Judi Fields  
Faye Bland  
Dale Wright  
Debbie Snyder  
Edy Cupp  
Diane Gray  
Sandy Cude  
Nancy Russell


### NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

Bryan Acker  
Chris Gamble  
Dennis Greene  
Wayne Hannah  
Neil Showalter  
Constance Via

### EXTENDED FAMILY

Cynthia Shifflett  
(Joyce Deavers' daughter)  
Donna Yarber Davis  
(Fred Gaines' neighbor's daughter)  
Freddie Roach  
(Joyce Deavers' brother-in-law)  
Jack Wampler  
(Sharon Wampler's grandson)  
Amie O'Dell (former long-time member)

# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Gary: Apr 4, 8 Eli: Apr 7, 10-12, 28-29 Susan: Apr 28-May 8		1	2	3 2pm Senior Adult Games & Crafts (FH)	4	5 9am-12pm Bag Lunch Workshop (FH)
6 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	7	8 2pm Bag Lunch & Beyond! Mtg (B4) 6:30pm Financial Foundations (FH)	9 6-8pm Youth - Clothes Closet	10	11	12
13 11:45am Palm Sunday Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	14 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	15	16 8pm Fuller & Brown Rehearsal	17 6:30pm Maundy Thursday: Passover Seder Meal (FH)	18 12-6pm Good Friday Stations of the Cross	19 7pm Fuller & Brown Recital
20 7am Easter Sunrise Service 2-6pm Kachin Church	21 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	22	23	24 11:30am Brookdale	25	26
27 4pm Youth Committee Mtg (B4) 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	28	29	30			

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

## WEEKLY REOCCURING EVENTS

### SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Community Worship  
 11:45am College Lunch

### MONDAY

7am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mr J's)  
 10am Skyline Literacy (201, 202, 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 (201, 202, 203)

### FRIDAY

Office Closed

### SATURDAY

10:30am Community Bag Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Apr 6 — Laura Fly  
 Apr 13 — Nico Nguimbi  
 Apr 20 — Donna Downey  
 Apr 27 — Karen Folsom

## COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Apr 5 — @ St. Stephens  
 Apr 12 — Jeff Obenschain  
 Apr 19 — Heidi Ruiz  
 Apr 26 — Cindy Skelley &  
 Anne Wright

# MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Staff Out of Office</b> Susan: Apr 28-May 8				1 2pm Senior Adult Picnic @ Hillandale Park	2	3
4 <b>College Graduate Recognition Sunday</b> 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	5	6 5:30pm Finance Cmte Mtg (B4)	7	8	9 10am Jennifer Carden rehearsal	10 1pm Jennifer Carden rehearsal
11 <b>Happy Mother's Day</b>	12 6:30pm Deacon Mtg (B4)	13 2pm Bag Lunch & Beyond! Mtg (B4)	14 6-8pm Youth - Clothes Closet	15	16	17
18 11:45am Spring Business Meeting 2-6pm Kachin Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	19	20 Jun/Jul Newsletter Articles Due 6pm Wonder Women (B4)	21	22 11:30am Brookdale	23 4:30pm Gillespie/Girard wedding rehearsal	24 3:30pm Gillespie/Girard wedding
25 4:30pm Youth Summer Bible Study @ the Belchers	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	27	28	29	30	31

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### SUNDAY

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Community Worship  
 11:45am College Lunch

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 4pm Jubellation Practice

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

10am Skyline Literacy (201, 202, 203)

### FRIDAY

Office Closed

### SATURDAY

10:30am Community Bag Lunch

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

May 4 — Mark Griffin  
 May 11 — Dustyn Miller  
 May 18 — Jeff Obenschain  
 May 25 — Cathy Lawrence

## COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

May 3 — Sharon Miller  
 May 10 — Cindy Mandigo  
 May 17 — HBC Youth  
 May 24 — @ Emmanuel Episcopal

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jeannie Petit  
 3 Tinga Pre  
 5 Prime Afolabi  
 8 T. W. Johnson  
 8 Judy Stewart  
 9 Devin Esleck  
 9 Holly Pederson  
 10 Bill Lee  
 11 Olivia Hartman  
 12 Ruth Bryant  
 16 Sandy Cude  
 16 Chris Gamble  
 17 Nick Dawson  
 19 Keith Turner  
 20 Wally Holthaus  
 21 Joyce Deavers  
 21 Mike Mandigo  
 21 Kerry Potter  
 21 Faye Ritchie  
 24 Wayne Hannah, Sr  
 24 Alice Hughey  
 25 Greg Ritchie  
 29 Susan Kiser

## HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

### HBC ALIVE!

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#### HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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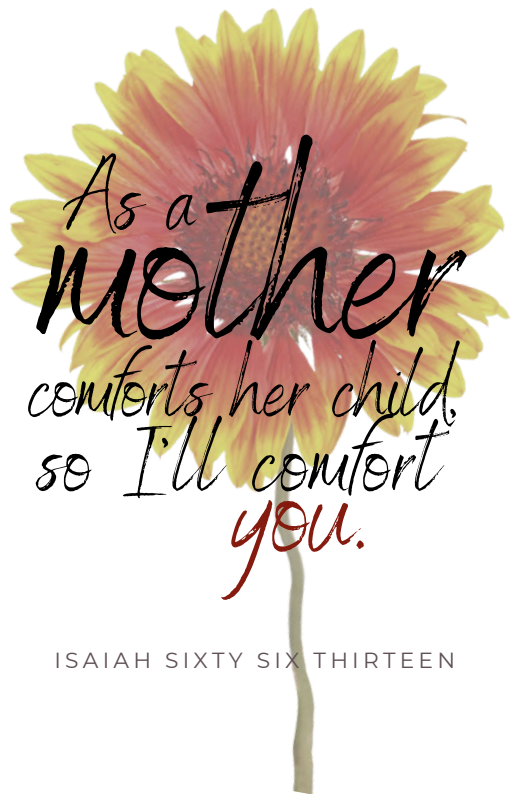
#### STAFF

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

#### JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAY 20, 2025

Please submit articles to  
Kim Brubaker at [kim@hbcalive.org](mailto:kim@hbcalive.org)



As a  
**mother**  
comforts her child,  
so I'll comfort  
**you.**

ISAIAH SIXTY SIX THIRTEEN