SUMMER 2026

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Quarterly Newsletter

Evening Walks of Prayer

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

In June, we began a monthly “Evening of Prayer,” which is a focused time of prayer for our church family. The time together is unhurried, and, hopefully, serene. We are invited into a quiet space of reflection and prayerful attention to the matters that dominate our hearts and minds. We focus our attention through guided meditations and song and share prayer requests with one another. We are praying for people, circumstances or events that God may touch, inspire, heal, direct, or impart guidance, wisdom, grace, forgiveness or peace. We gather on the first Sunday nights of each month, and you are welcome to join us in the sanctuary. In the days following, we’ll share the prayer requests from the prayer time so that those who couldn’t join would be able to participate. Keep an eye out for these, and join us in prayer at any time the Lord lays it on your hearts.

Also, the city’s discernment process continues for the Lindsey Funeral Home property and possibility of the Link Apartment buildout. We have mobilized to pray for that property that the Lord would guide the city through the process. We walk around the property often, usually on Monday mornings at 10 am, to pray specifically about God’s plans for the property and how we may be of use in it. I hope this will spur us to the vision of other prayer walks and keeping our eyes focused on both God and on the world we inhabit and the ground we touch. If you feel the nudge to join us, please do, I believe it will change your perspective.

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WV Mission Trip

On June 29, ten members of the church began serving in McDowell County, WV in the community of Kimball on a mission trip. They are impacting a community ravaged by poverty, floods and discontentment. The goal is to shine light, plant hope and rehabilitate a home (and lives) so that families feel God's overpowering love.

Pray for the team to create space for God to move, for strength for each day and for God's wisdom to be imparted on the team members.

Look for trip updates posted in the church app!

Holy Yoga

Join us in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday evening at 7pm, July 21 through August 25 for a time of prayer and praise music as we quiet our minds and stretch our bodies.

Be sure to sign up at the Info Desk if you are planning to join us. Bring a yoga mat with you, a small pillow or towel to roll up and use for extra neck support, and a water bottle to each class.

The class is free but gratuities will be accepted for our leader, Dana Neff, who owns and runs Rockcave Fitness in Weyers Cave. Join us in July!

Egg, Cheese & Veggie Distribution

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

On Thursday, June 18, five members of the church visited the Grattan Street apartments to share items from the Farm Ministry. Keith Turner's Farm Ministry donated 540 eggs to the church for distribution to our families and neighbors. In addition to the eggs, we shared cheese, cucumbers and zucchinis.

It's amazing to me to witness the skepticism of families when we first knock on a door transition into delight as we share the purposes for our visits. I've yet to find a family that doesn't want prayer, that isn't grateful for the gifts and that won't praise God for the blessings.

I believe visits like this give us a chance to share God's love in tangible ways and that these visits matter, even if the recipients don't make it inside the church's walls. In doing ministry in these meaningful ways, the world is being blessed by God's people, and that's fulfilling the promise to Abraham from Genesis 12:3—"all the world will be blessed through you."

Save the Dates

Stay tuned for more details on these events:

- **Sunday, August 16** - end of summer/back to school bash on church lawn
- **Sunday, August 30** - Church Picnic & River Baptisms
- **Friday, October 2**- First Friday event at HBC
- **Sunday, October 25,** 5-7 pm - Harvest Party

Dawnings

This fall we will begin training and implementing the Dawnings program developed and sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Our Dawnings Visioning Team will be in training September 11 and 12 and then you will hear more about how they will lead the church through this process. Dawnings is a story-based spiritual discernment process designed to help congregations discover and fulfill their God-given mission through storytelling, prayer, and contextual planning.

The Dawnings process centers on three core pillars:

- **Vision**: Listening to God and understanding your local community to shape your mission.
- **Formation**: Deepening the spiritual lives and individual callings of your church members.
- **Engagement**: Putting your collective mission into action both in the church and the broader world.

It is not a rigid strategic plan or a "one-size-fits-all" program; rather, it's an ongoing, organic rhythm of listening and discernment. Through a process of telling our own stories as well as the stories of our community, and our church, we will look how all of those find their place in God's great big story. This journey will help us to discern who exactly God is calling Harrisonburg Baptist Church to be in this time in this place. Please be praying now for this opportunity to the church and know that we will be sharing much much more with you as we move further into the process.

Children's Ministry Update

Our children's ministry is spending some time thinking through what this next year will look like for us. Some of you have noticed that we are not having a traditional Vacation Bible School this year and that's because in an effort to try something new, we are trying something new. We are periodically hosting Sunday Fundays for whole families to enjoy time together and with other kids and parents in our church. The first one was on Sunday, June 28 and we had a lovely time together watching the animated movie *David*. Complete with pizza and yummy snacks we had a blast! We are grateful for the Children's Committee and parents who made this event possible.

Make note that we will meet again on **August 16** for an end of the summer/back to school bash of sorts! It is going to be so much fun! This will also be when we kick off our Fall Children's Ministry program and will have lots of exciting information to share with families at this event so please mark your calendars for this special day!!!

Adopt-a-Student

If you and your family or group of friends would like to sign up to adopt a college student this fall, please email Pastor Eli at eli@hbcalive.org. School will be starting before we know it and we want to bring back this very familiar program to HBC. We will connect you with a student(s) and help you with ideas on how to connect with them and build a relationship with them throughout the school year! Be sure to sign up now!

Music Appreciation Luncheon

On May 3rd, our fellowship hall was filled with joy as we gathered for a special Music Appreciation Luncheon honoring everyone who pours their gifts into our music ministry. Our choir singers, praise band, Jubellation, AV Team, interns, and dedicated musicians Betty, Don, and Scott each play a vital role in shaping the sound and spirit of our worship life. Their commitment enriches our congregation week after week, and this celebration was a small way to say “thank you” for the tremendous impact they make.

As Scripture reminds us, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). Through their faithful service, our musicians and volunteers share their gifts in ways that bless and strengthen our entire church family.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to Randy Dail, Mary Smith and the kitchen team for coordinating a delicious meal that made the gathering even more special.
One of the most touching moments came from our congregation. Over 100 handwritten paper hearts were shared, each expressing love, gratitude, and encouragement for the ministry. These messages were a beautiful reminder of how deeply music connects us and how powerfully it moves through our community.

Thank you to all who were able to join us for this special occasion!

Hymn Sing Sunday

On Sunday, June 21st, we enjoyed a beloved tradition, a good old-fashioned hymn sing that brought warmth, joy, and a deep sense of connection to our worship service.

Throughout the morning, we revisited cherished hymn tunes, enriched by brief reflections on the stories behind them. These are songs that have shaped the faith of generations and helped us experience the hymns not only as music, but as living testimonies of God's work over time.

The congregation was led in singing with beautiful accompaniment, featuring organ as well as piano, flute, and violin. This combination added both richness and variety to the service and enhanced our time of worship together.

Perhaps most meaningful was the opportunity to reconnect with familiar and beloved hymns, singing treasured words, recalling meaningful moments, and joining together in a shared expression of faith. It was a powerful reminder that music continues to unite us and carry our worship across generations and traditions.

Fishbowl Five visits HBC Again!

As the spring semester was wrapping up, Fishbowl Five came to perform an evening recital and share their gifts in our worship service. Here are clips of their visit:

- https://www.youtube.com/live/7Jx-lOSXL5c?si=oLodlvx1rp1BA7bS&t=595
- https://www.youtube.com/live/7Jx-lOSXL5c?si=cp031lHTCdeaBYIC&t=4055

Art for the Not Yet

The Baptist General Association of Virginia's Annual Meeting will take place November 9-11 this fall in Virginia Beach. The theme for this year is *Heart for the Not Yet* where "God's compassion for people, places, and possibilities still waiting to be reached" will be explored. A new and creative piece of this meeting will be a collective art display entitled ***Art for the Not Yet*** where folks from all over the state are invited to submit poetry, music, stories, spoken word, visual art or other original expressions of art that highlight the theme.

Harrisonburg Baptist Church, this is your invitation to participate in this event! Choose a Scripture passage or hymn or something else that challenges you to consider what the future of our faith holds for us. And then use that inspiration to create something that invites others into that idea.

If you would like to attend a workshop at the church to brainstorm and consider ways that you as an individual or we as a church might participate, please plan to meet with Pastor Eli on **Saturday, August 1 from 1 to 3pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will look more closely at what this concept means for each of us and how we can uplift, challenge, and inspire the Church toward mission, imagination, and hope.

New Members

KEAMAN CHANG

Keaman was baptised on April 19, 2026. He is a student at JMU, studying education.

SETH LELAND

Seth was baptised on April 19, 2026. He is a student at JMU, studying electro-mechanical engineering.

JOSEPHINE AND JENEVIVE LEONARD

Josie and Vivi were baptised on June 14, 2026 and are the daughters of Jackie and Jon Leonard.

2nd Quarter Stewardship Snapshot

Budget needs as of 6/28/26	$324,142.00
Budget receipts as of 6/28/26	$315,456.72

Non-Budget/Designated Funds

- Welcome Table $240.00
- Passport Kids Flower Fundraiser $85.00
- Love Fund $490.05

Staff Anniversaries

We celebrate the following staff members are celebrating work anniversaries:

- **Jim Kiser,** Facilities Manager — 3 years of service (June 21)
- **Kim Brubaker**, Office Administrator — 7 years of service (September 3)
- **Katelyn Belcher,** Youth Pastor — 16 years of service (September 27)

Please join us in thanking our dedicated staff for their faithful service in support of the ministry of HBC!

Address Change

Wally & Jean Holthaus
165 Harmony House
302 N 2nd Street
Bridgewater, VA 22812

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Wally & Jean Holthaus
Don Cude
TW Johnson
Tom Smith
Kerry Potter
Tony Plume
Don Embrey
Lee Chapman
Vickie Westlake
Faye Bland
Dale Wright
Nancy Russell

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

Bryan Acker
Linda Golden
Dennis Greene
Wayne Hannah
Constance Via

EXTENDED FAMILY

Bella - Angela Hayes' niece
Jack Wampler - Sharon Wampler's grandson
Bob & Sue Ann Withers - Pastor Eli's parents
Tom Dagenhart - Cathy Baugh's brother
Jim Sullenger - Kerry Potter's daughter Erin's husband
Zach Wagenmaker - JMU student
Andrew Anderson - Noelle Carroll's friend's son
Lois Todd - Wife of Pastor Ed Todd & friend of Keith Turner/Farm Ministry

SYMPATHY

We grieve with
- Katelyn & Chris Belcher and family the loss of baby Isla Grace.
- Pete and Janis Giordano the death of Pete's mother, Dorothy Giordano.

HARRISONBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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A publication of

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STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Winters, Senior Pastor
Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor
Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Youth Pastor
Todd Martin, II, Director of Music & Worship
Scott Zane Smith, Worship Pianist
Kim Brubaker, Office Administration

FALL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

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