OCTOBER 2026

HBC ALIVE!

Harrisonburg Baptist Church's Newsletter

Staying the Course

PASTOR MATT WINTERS

I recently came across a story that instructed skiers to prepare for the unpredictable weather conditions on a slope by having the right goggles. Visibility in weather is among the greatest challenges a skier faces, so guides suggest skiers have eyewear designed for low light conditions. These lenses, they say, offer the best conditions to see when the routes aren't the most clear. Recently, the City Council approved the rezoning of the Lindsey property, which paves the way for a four-story apartment building to be constructed. As of now, no concrete plans have been submitted, so we're in the waiting phase.

As such, we're navigating low-light conditions with what's happening next door. The path isn't so clear but it looks like life will be changing. I'm suggesting that we put on goggles that are necessary for such conditions. First, let's see the light that does exist, namely, that God is ultimately still in control. Despite our hearts' desires being dashed, we trust that God still has a hand in our community. There is nothing that can take place without His knowledge, so this change in our neighborhood is not a surprise to Him. Let us trust His ability to guide us through this alternation of our lives. Second, God's call to us is to be His agents of love and grace to whomever we meet, even when our neighbors change. Who knows, we may have the opportunity to meet amazing people who become a key part of our lives. Third, our impact has been important already to our neighborhood. The families on Grattan Street, the fraternity, the funeral home, the Compass therapeutic care agencies have all benefited from our ministry, and that constancy will not need to change. We are now invited to add one more name to our checklist of neighbors who need our best.

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Youth Update

PASTOR KATELYN BELCHER

We are very excited to share with you that our youth group is going to try a different summer camp next summer. It's called Passion Camp, which is a one-week event in Daytona Beach, Florida. Passion Camp is organized by Passion City Church, which was founded by Louie and Shelley Giglio in Atlanta. Chris and Katelyn Belcher have attended many Passion events.

We are so excited to offer this new opportunity to our middle and high school students. A typical day at camp consists of "Squad Wars Games" to get the energy going in the morning, followed by a worship session. After lunch, there are several hours of free time on the beach, followed by dinner and another evening worship session. We believe and have faith that this camp will be a life-changing and faith-deepening event for each student that attends! We need six scholarships for Passion Camp. A scholarship costs $300.00. Please see or email Katelyn Belcher if you, your Sunday School class, or friend group are interested in donating a scholarship!

We are also starting to fundraise for Passion Camp, and our first fundraiser will be a free-will offering luncheon held on **October 18** following worship. 100% of the proceeds will go toward the camp registration fees and travel expenses. Lunch will include lasagna, roll, salad, grapes, dessert, lemonade, and water. There is no need to sign up for this event, and we ask that you prayerfully consider your free-will donation. Thank you!

The Harrisonburg Baptist Music Program is pleased to welcome two music interns!

Josephine Suwanpoh, a soprano and pianist from Indonesia, is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Voice Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature with an emphasis on Singing Health at James Madison University. She studies under the tutelage of Bridgid Eversole and Grammy award-winning baritone Kevin McMillan. Josephine holds a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance and Collaborative Piano from The University of Akron in Ohio, USA, and a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from UCSI University in Malaysia. We are grateful to have her with us and look forward to the musical gifts she will share with our community.

Emma Kamara is a sophomore Music Education Major (Vocal Emphasis) currently studying at JMU. Although her family currently resides in Richmond, VA, she was raised in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Emma is looking forward to being part of the wonderful HBC community through the beauty of music making and praise! In her words, "singing with one another is how we connect at the deepest level; it is such an honor to be here and to work with this beautifully talented group of musicians."

Fall Art Project

OCTOBER 10, 11AM

All are invited to join us in the Fellowshp Hall on Saturday, October 10 at 11 a.m. following the Welcome Table lunch for a special fun fall art project, where we will be decorating pumpkins and autumn leaves to take home with us! (Materials provided.) It will be a good time together when we can encourage one another in our efforts of creativity.

WV Mission Blitz

OCTOBER 12-13

We will tkae a short fall mission trip to McDowell County, West VIrginia October 12-13. This is open to anyone who would like to attend, regardless of whether you visited McDowell on our summer mission trip. We have room for one or two more people - reach out to Pastor Matt for more info.

Youth Fundraiser Lunch

OCTOBER 18, 11:45AM

All are invited to a luncheon fundraiser to benefit Passion Camp. The menu will include lasagna, roll, Casear salad, grapes and cupcakes. The youth group is kindly requesting a free-will offering for the meal and all the proceeds will go toward sending 21 students and chaperones to Passion Camp in Daytona Beach, FL, next July. There is no need to sign up ahead of time- there will be plenty of food! We also offer to-go options.

Wonder Women

OCTOBER 20, 6PM (ROOM 111)

Wonder Women will be meeting again on Tuesday, October 20, at 6pm in Room 111. For the next few sessions, we will be reading through the book “Prayer in the Night” by Tish Harrison Warren that will help lead us through a conversation concerning the harder, more challenging aspects of life and how relying on regular communication with God can help us find strength. Even if you’ve never joined us for Wonder Women, we would love to have you. All ages are invited!

Harvest Party

OCTOBER 25, 5-7PM

Plan on joining the Children’s Ministry Department as we gather on Sunday, October 25 from 5pm to 7pm for an evening on the lawn to celebrate this colorful season! We will have a bounce house, games, food and a fair amount of candy for everyone! Feel free to come dressed in your favorite costume (try not to amek it too scary!) and bring a friend wtih you!

First Friday Open Mic Night

NOVEMBER 6, 7PM

Do you have a poem you’d like to share or a story you’d like to tell? Maybe you have a work of art you’d like to display or a song you’d like to sing? Let’s have an evening of fun and fellowship together as we head full steam into fall. More details to come but mark your calendars now to join us!

october 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 1pm JOY (Just Older Youth) ice cream social - Smiley's	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 11am Fall Crafting
11 Pastor Appreciation Sunday	12 McDowell, WV Mission Trip ⟷	13	14 6:15pm Youth Clothes Closet	15	16	17
18 11:45 Youth Fundraiser Lunch 2-6pm Kachin Church	19 6:30pm Leadership Team Mtg (B4)	20 6pm Wonder Women (B4)	21	22 11:30am Brookdale	23	24
25 11:45 Budget Presentation 5-7pm Harvest Party	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Gloir-Jhon Rugombosa
6 Julie Aittama
9 David Ingram
9 Matt Winters
10 Sherry Miller
10 Roi Ji Phaga
10 Leigha Winters
11 Todd Martin
13 Janet Hoskins
15 Sandy Weaver
17 Gary Creasy
18 Neese Spitzer
18 Joe Lawrence
19 Evelyn Hoover
24 Vickie Westlake
26 Dustyn Miller
27 Lyn Weaver
29 Tom Reynolds

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAY
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Community Worship
5:30pm Youth Bible Study

MONDAY
8am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Chick-fil-A)
1pm Staff Meeting (Parlor)
6:30pm Scouts

TUESDAY
10:30pm Tuesdays TOgether

WEDNESDAY
10am Ladies' Prayer Group (B4)
4:30pm Jubellation Practice
6pm Choir Practice (begins 8/20)
7pm Young Adult Bible Study

FRIDAY
Office Closed

SATURDAY
10:30am Community Bag Lunch

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Oct 2 — Leah Barnes
Oct 9 — Phil Hoskins
Oct 16 — Karen Burke
Oct 23 — Laura Fly
Oct 31 — Donna Downey

COMMUNITY BAG LUNCH

Oct 3 — Anne Wright
Oct 10 — Youth Group
Oct 17 — Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Oct 24 — Heidi Ruiz
Oct 31 — Sharon Miller

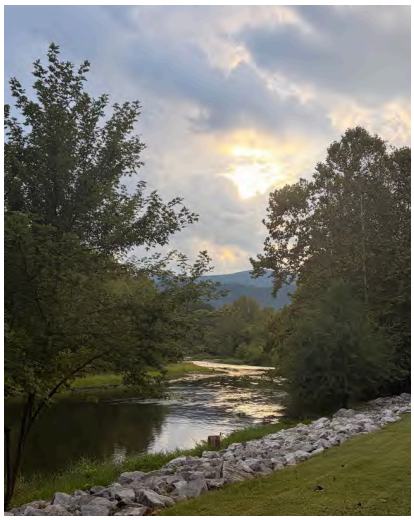
“Loving God and loving people!”

We are honored to continue hosting Skyline Literacy!

New Members

We’re honored to celebrate these baptisms:

- Samantha Winters
- Dustin & Ryan Honeycutt
- Brady Bishop
- Heather Crossman



Thank you

I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the many prayers offered on my behalf and for the numerous cards, hone calls, texts, visits and other expressions of encouragement I received following my three surgeries and four months of recovery and therapy, and after the passing of my sister. Special thanks also for the exceptional pastoral care I received from Dr. Winters and my deacon, Karen Folsom. HBC is indeed a deeply caring congregation. ~T.W. Johnson

PRAYER CONCERNS

HBC FAMILY

Irving Byrd
Angela Hayes
Shawn Thornton
Scott Zane Smith
Keith Turner
Sue Mason
TW Johnson
Tom Smith
Tony Plume
Don Embrey
Lee Chaptman
Vickie Westlake
Faye BLand
Dale Wright
Nancy Russell

NURSING CARE/HOMEBOUND

Bryan Acker
Dennis Greene
Wally & Jean Holthaus
Constance Via

SYMPATHY

We continue to lift up Pastor Eli in prayer, for the passing of her father.

EXTENDED FAMILY

Dave Carroll (Danny Carroll’s Father)
Bella (Angela Hayes’ niece)
Jack Wampler
(Sharon Wampler’s grandson)
Bella (Angela Hayes’ niece)
Gracie Armstrong (Jeannie Petit’s niece)
Doug Wingate
(Pastor Katelyn’s uncle)
Shelby (Karen Burke’s granddaughter)

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, Director of Music & Worship
Scott Zane Smith, Pianist