

## West Richmond Church of the Brethren

# The Herald

2022 VIRGINIA DISTRICT  
CONFERENCE

## "BOUND TOGETHER BY LOVE"

"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God  
must also love their brother and sister."

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2022** is 100% in-person! Praise God for the passing of time, the availability of vaccines, and a better understanding of the spread of COVID. With that said, we have learned that God equips us to make changes for the safety of our delegates, leadership, and participants as we see the need to do so.

You can support our delegates, see your friends from the rest of the district, and browse the exhibit area! The exhibit area is back this year. Read more on page 7!

### Richmond CROP Hunger Walk

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

The in-person starts and ends at Ginter Park United Methodist Church, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond. The kickoff rally starts at 1:30 p.m. with the walk at 2:00 p.m. You can also walk virtually, anytime during the week.

You can write a check to "CWS/CROP" with West Richmond Church of the Brethren in the memo field and to Jori Carter before 1:00 p.m. on CROP Walk day OR donate online at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/west-richmond-church-of-the-brethren>.



Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

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**A**dvent devotionals will be arriving soon! Our Leadership Team has a standing order with Brethren Press. This year's author is former West Richmond COB member, Kathy Guisewite.



Here's what the website has to say about Kathy's "Simple Gifts"... *Every part of the Christmas story is miraculous. God's love was made manifest in a lowly barn, in the dark of night, for ordinary people. We need not believe that we must do anything extraordinary to make this season magical. There's no need to worry about shopping for it or allowing the stresses of life to weigh us down. Perhaps if we practice leaning into the simplicity of the holy story and the sacredness of our ordinary lives, we will find joy and peace.*



Now you are the  
**BODY**  
 of Christ and  
 individually members of it.  
 1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

In my first pastorate many years ago, I visited with a man, who during the six years I was there, never missed a Sunday of church. He was very dedicated to the church. Except he had never joined the church. He was a baptized believer who grew up in the hills of West Virginia and had a free spirit about him. During that visit, I asked him why he had never become a member of the church. In response, he challenged me to locate in the Bible where it says you have to be a member of a church to be Christian. Well, I didn't really find anything that stated requirements for church membership.



The Church of the Brethren's Membership Polity explains it like this...



According to the New Testament, life in Christ means life in the *body* of Christ. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13), so that we, "though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:5).

Membership in a local fellowship of believers, the congregation, is the way in which we affirm and live out our membership in Christ's larger body, the church universal. In our interrelatedness with other Christians in the local church, we experience the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit, we discover ways to be faithful to our covenant with God and each other, and we are able to support one another in carrying out our common calling as the people of God.

There are three ways to become members in the Church of the Brethren.

- 1) Confession of faith and baptism by trine immersion as practiced by the Church of the Brethren.
- 2) A letter transferring membership from another congregation of the Church of the Brethren or of another Christian denomination.
- 3) Reaffirmation of faith and renewal of the commitment to membership made at an earlier time in another congregation.



Though I am not able to defend the need for official church membership in the Bible, I am convinced to be a member of the church is to be involved in the greatest effort to make a difference in the world through Christ our Lord. Again, from the Church of the Brethren Membership Polity:

At the heart of our calling as members of Christ's body is the summons to follow Christ as his disciples. Christians do not live unto themselves but are called to seek first the kingdom of God, to risk themselves for Christ's sake, to take up the way of the cross. To accept and practice the costly grace of radical discipleship is no easy task. In the community of faith, however, we find courage and strength to live out our discipleship in solidarity with others.

(Continued on page 3)

# In Our Congregation

*(Continued from page 2)*

For those who are not familiar with the history, faith and practices of the Church of the Brethren, I suggest attending a class on church membership. If, at the end of the class, you feel moved by the Spirit to be baptized, or to transfer your membership to West Richmond, we would plan to do just that.



I will offer a membership class sometime in late-winter or early-spring of next year. If interested, please contact me. We can set the time and place at the convenience of the class participants.

*Pastor Dave*

## Just Married



**BRENDAN & SYDNEY FAW**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2022**



Helping hands to make helpful hands.



Richard & Isaiah @ Veterans Liberation Shelter

### West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

Phone: 804-288-6439 Fax: 804-282-4408

www.wrcob.org wrcob@wrcob.org

Pastor.....David Whitten (319-610-2274)

Administrative Assistant.....Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Church office (M-F).....9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted by **noon each Thursday** to the church office. All articles for the **Winter** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **November 15, 2022**.

# Look Who's Celebrating and Serving in...



Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please, contact the church office to correct our oversight.

2..... Wyllys Vanderhoff	16..... Donald Lum	24..... Tina (Lowe) Brockman
4..... Sean Solanky	17..... Brett Mitchell	Comfort Frimpon
6..... Virginia Vassar	18..... Betty Meyer	Chelsea (Goss) Skillen
7..... Cameron Sabel	19..... Campbell Mitchell	Zherina Whitten
9..... David Layman	<i>Fred &amp; Paula (Crawford) Bryant</i>	25..... <i>Greg &amp; Gayle (Wampler) Adams</i>
11 ..... Flora Vassar	20..... Bob Gangwer	26..... Carol (Walbridge) Goss
<i>Karl &amp; Jan Hoff</i>	Donnie Holsinger	Benedict Mbecha
12 ..... Zack Hurst	22..... Adam Clark	28..... Rebecca Wilson
Annie Lipato	<i>Kevin &amp; Barbara Beers</i>	29..... Janet Brunk
14 ..... Sue (Mullins) Aigner	23..... Matt Ludwick	Lauren Gangwer
15 ..... Benson Etiendem	Jennifer McCloud	Colleen Wampler
Sophie Diamond	<i>Patrick &amp; Pamela McCloud</i>	30..... Fern Damour

Nov.	Greeter	Worship Leader	Nursery Care	Tellers
6	Carol Goss	Barbara Beers	Children's Church	Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman
13	Barbara Beers	Susan Robertson	Carrie Dedrick & Thoko Lipato	Joel & Dolly Guyer
20	Dolly Guyer	Thoko Lipato	Children's Church	Bob & Pat Gangwer
27	Ann Andrus		Sandy Faw & Carol Goss	Ann Andrus & Nancy Martin

Weekly Statistics	Attendance	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
	Worship (total)	53	42	44	40
	In-person & visitors	39	27	33	40
	Live stream	14	15	11	0
	On-line views by that Friday	37	19	22	8
	Offering per week	\$4,030.00	\$760.00	\$1,240.00	\$4,145.00



# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat																																																	
		<b>1</b>  ALL SAINTS DAY 10:30 am Ladies Circle 5:15 pm Shelter on Hull Street	<b>2</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  	<b>5</b> 10:00 am JanPro																																																	
<b>6</b>  <b>Remember! Time Changes</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with 	<b>7</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbells	<b>8</b>  ELECTION DAY Henrico County Public Schools & Hilltop Closed 10:30 am Ladies Circle 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting (Virtual) 	<b>9</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  VETERANS DAY 2022 VIRGINIA DISTRICT CONFERENCE <b>"BOUND TOGETHER BY LOVE"</b> <small>"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."</small>	<b>12</b> 10:00 am JanPro																																																	
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site 2:00 pm Richmond CROP Hunger Walk 	<b>14</b> 3:00 pm Handbells	<b>15</b>  NewsLetter DEADLINE 10:30 am Ladies Circle 12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen	<b>16</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> 10:00 am JanPro																																																	
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with  After worship — Congregational Business Meeting and Reception	<b>21</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbells	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Ladies Circle 	<b>23</b> Henrico County Public Schools & Hilltop Closed 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café goes on field trip to Red Lobster	<b>24</b> Henrico County Public Schools and Church Offices are Closed 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 am JanPro																																																	
<b>Pastor Dave will be out of the office this week.</b>																																																							
<b>27</b>  <b>First SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site	<b>28</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbells	<b>29</b> 10:30 am Ladies Circle 	<b>30</b> 9:30 am C.A.A.A. Friendship Café	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 2022</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			December 2022							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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## Around Our District



2022 VIRGINIA DISTRICT  
CONFERENCE  
**"BOUND TOGETHER  
BY LOVE"**

*"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."*

Friday, November 11 & Saturday, November 12 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church located at  
2660 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke, Virginia.

***Friday Night Worship***— Worship will begin at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary of Grandin Court Baptist Church. Lynn Myers, 2022 District Conference Moderator is worship leader and the guest speaker is Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Seminary. Special music will be provided by the Lavinder family from Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren. The service will be one hour and fifteen minutes. Everyone is invited to come be a part of the worship service! There will be a forty-five minute social time after worship in the gym downstairs with coffee and snacks.

***Saturday Business Sessions***— *ALL DELEGATES MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE IN 2022. There will not be mail-in voting options this year.* Registration begins at 7:45 AM. ***Delegates will sit in designated pews*** on the main floor of the sanctuary. There is seating in the back of the sanctuary, in the balcony and in the vestibule for non-delegates. Everyone is welcome to attend District Conference. We pray that 2022 is a celebration year as we go back to our traditional District Conference. The morning session runs from **8:15 AM to 12:00 PM**. Lunch break/Reorganization for newly elected and returning board and OMC members is **12:00 PM to 1:15 PM**. Elected leadership will be asked to have lunch in the designated rooms so that the board and committees can reorganize. All other persons will have their pre-ordered lunches from Firehouse Subs in the gym or at nearby restaurants for those wishing to go off-site. The afternoon session will be from **1:15 PM to 3:00 PM**.

***Ballots and New Business Items***— The ballots for 2023 District Board, OMC, Nominating and Personnel, Program and Arrangements and Standing Committee will be done on site. There will not be a mail-in option this year. We hope to have a safe and welcoming conference where we are all once again in fellowship with each other. Those persons who are on the ballot should plan to be present on Saturday, November 12 for introduction and later reorganization. After the results are counted by the tellers, nominees will be announced prior to lunch.

### "COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE"

Travel through an outdoor live nativity program at Bethlehem Church of the Brethren at 4250 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065. Come experience the story of Christmas as you walk by scenes of Mary & Joseph, shepherds with their sheep, angels, and wisemen. We will have new music, live interactions with characters and refreshments "to go" this year. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour. Please join us anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 3rd and enjoy this Christmas story. Make this activity a part of your family traditions! This program will be held whether rain or shine. If you would like to be a character in our live nativity (costumes provided) our church would love for you to join us. Please let us know if you would like to participate! We can work out further details. For information or questions, contact Sharon G. Grindstaff at (540) 493-7252 or grindstaffsharon@gmail.com.





As seen in E-Headliner

## COURSE ON PREVENTING CONGREGATIONAL BURN OUT

The December offering from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson College will be “Beyond Burned Out to Boundaries and Balance.” The course presenter is Jen Jensen and be held online Tuesday, December 6 from 7–9 p.m. (ET).

An increasing number of congregations are being served by ministers in part time capacities. This structure creates both opportunities and tensions around congregational roles and tasks. Incorporating recent research on resilience in leadership published by the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology, Jen Jensen will invite congregational leaders to consider how to build resilience and care for one another to create healthy balance in congregational patterns.

Jensen is currently serving as the Thriving in Ministry Program Manager for the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry. Her role includes overseeing the Part-time Pastor, Full-time Church program. She is a member of the Monitor Church of the Brethren in McPherson, KS but during the pandemic has been worshipping with Buckeye Church of the Brethren in Abilene, KS. She has provided pulpit supply throughout Western Plains District and at congregations of other denominations in the McPherson area. Jensen is an alumna of McPherson College, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, and completed a master of divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in May 2022.

Continuing education credit is available. All previously held Ventures courses are available through the archive at [www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/courses](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/courses). They are a wealth of insight and information.

Registration for all courses and more information about Ventures in Christian Discipleship is available at [www.mcpherson.edu/ventures](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures).

## PILGRIMAGE XXIV

A FaithQuest for Adults will be held March 17-19, 2023, at Camp Bethel. Pilgrimage is a weekend retreat for adults of all ages who want to spend some intimate time with our Heavenly Father. Filled with speakers, small groups, worship, reflection, and fun, Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper relationship with God. God works in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation.

For more information, contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263, by email at [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com), or go to [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com).



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wrcob@wrcob.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

**Christmas Concert**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.**  
**The James River Ringers present...**

**A JAZZED UP CHRISTMAS**

The James River Ringers is Richmond, Virginia's premier auditioned community handbell ensemble. Its members are dedicated to performing quality handbell music including hymn arrangements, classical works, show tunes, popular favorites, and original compositions.

The concert is free and open to all. Donations are accepted.

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