

Blue Ridge Region Covenant Brethren Church

Executive Board

L. to R. Darren Howdeyshell (vice chair), Stephanie Fincham, Diane Pence (secretary), Penny Adams, Ann Jones (chair), Josh Burner, Ron Layman (treasurer)



July 23-27

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**Message from
BRR Chair**

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Join One of our Teams

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Congratulations Graduates

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

—Jeremiah 29:11

Message from BRR Chair

Welcome to the Blue Ridge Region of Covenant Brethren Church. I am honored to serve as the current Regional Board Chairperson. Our board members are brothers and sisters in Christ who are each uniquely gifted with different skills and abilities; every member has willing hands and loving hearts for service.

The regional board is working hard to lay a strong foundation for our denomination. We covet your prayers and invite you to become more active and involved in our Covenant Brethren Church. The Region has commissioned several ministry teams: Congregational Life/Focused Planning Team, Ministerial Training Team, Missions Team, and Prayer Team.

Our goal is to strengthen the bond between the churches in our region and capitalize on our collective strength to grow the ministries within our own congregations. We need your participation to be successful, and prayer is our foundation for all our initiatives. Trusting God for our bright and joyous future, we are excited for how He is working in our midst and blessing our efforts. Won't you join us? Reach out to your local church leadership or Pastor today for ways to get involved.

- - - **Ann Jones**

Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us – to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. -Ephesians 3: 20-21 (CSB)

Regional Teams

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." -Luke 10:2

Our goal is to have at least one representative from each church in our region on each team.

Please prayerfully consider joining one of the four teams. For more information or to join a team, please send an email to blueridge@covenantbrethren.org. Let us know which team you are interested in and the best way to contact you, and someone from the team will reach out to you.

Congregational Life/Focused Planning Team

Members: Lori Hoffman (chair), Dale Bennett, Judy Cain, Carla Estep, Charlie Estep, Stephanie Fincham, Rosie Graber, Shawn Graber, Tyler Jenkins, Ann Jones, Becky Leland

Purpose: Promote interaction among all regional congregations so that congregations are vitally connected to one another, and to provide organization and oversight to various regional ministries. Members of this team will:

- Be gifted in the area of helping people and promoting fellowship among believers
- Plan events which are effective in building healthy interaction between congregations
- Develop, promote, and maintain a youth camping program
- Develop and promote regional youth conferences and youth ministry opportunities
- Develop and promote regional men's and women's fellowship programs
- Develop and promote regional youth and children's ministries

Ministerial Leadership Team

Members: Darren Howdysshell (chair), George Bowers, Buster Doman, Chris Payne

Purpose: Develop a ministerial training program, manage the delivery of training courses, work to develop CEU opportunities including scheduled ethics trainings for pastors and churches, & set mentors for pastors in training.

This team needs one additional lay member. The first course on “The Bible: Our Foundation” is being field tested with the Southern Region and will soon be available. If you are interested in joining a study and discussion group once it is available, please contact George Bowers (gabowers@shentel.net).

Missions Team

Members: Ron Layman (chair), Josh Burner, Charlie Estep

Purpose: Support our member churches in their mission outreach through prayer, education, financial grants, and increasing awareness of the importance of missions and evangelism.

- Bathe all of our mission outreach in prayer
- Support the growth of the summer camp program
- Strategize and support church planting within our region
- Encourage and support short-term mission trips and disaster relief trips
- Support missionaries whose home churches are member churches
- Assist in meeting local needs in member churches where the church is not able to meet this need on their own
- Encourage evangelistic work in our member churches and provide resources for evangelical training
- Encourage congregational support of international missions, especially to those areas that are unreached for Christ, with an emphasis on using indigenous missionaries
- Develop contact lists for member churches of Witness Committee chairpersons and individuals that have a special interest in missions. Find several more members for the Missions team.
- Foster a missional emphasis by sending bulletin notes and articles for congregational newsletters
- Support and pray for National CBC missionaries; be a channel to help member churches understand their work and their mission field
- Respond to humanitarian crises as we are able, especially using Samaritan’s Purse as our channel.

Prayer Team

Members: Jonathan Martino (chair), Penny Adams, Diane Pence

Purpose: Pray for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be spread to all the nations. Pray for the work of the Covenant Brethren Church and the Blue Ridge Region.

- Develop and publish prayer topics to be distributed through BRR social media.
- Encourage member churches to develop local prayer teams.
- Encourage individual members to deepen their prayer life and make it more intentional.
- Lead devotions and prayer at all BRR meetings.

Sharing Hope in Jesus' Name Conference

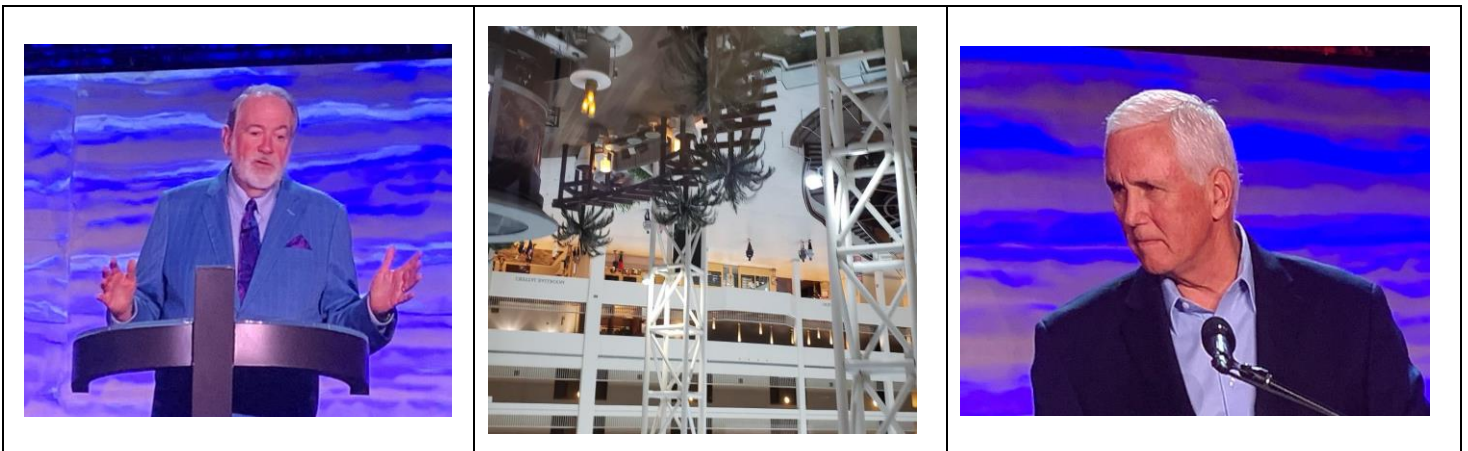
This conference was an inspirational and informational time for anyone who volunteers with *Samaritan's Purse*. It included updates on the organization, preaching, teaching, worship, and fellowship. We learned that The Billy Graham Evangelical Association and Samaritan's Purse both send out volunteers for disaster relief in the United States and overseas. These teams work together to meet physical needs and spiritual/emotional needs of people who are in crises. Usually, the crisis is due to an event like a hurricane, flood, or tornado; but teams are also serving in other countries such as Ukraine and Turkey. Our denomination, *Covenant Brethren Church*, has chosen to partner with Samaritan's Purse for the purpose of disaster relief with evangelism. Anyone can volunteer to serve and no training is necessary. Fourteen and fifteen-year olds can volunteer along with their parents, and sixteen and seventeen-year olds need to bring adult supervision. Many of the people at this conference were retired and volunteer over and over again! *A place can be found for anyone to work - no matter what one's abilities or limitations may be.*

We were most impressed by the love this organization shows to all people. The volunteers who help clear rubble and rebuild houses also share the Good News of the Gospel, providing comfort and spiritual encouragement. We heard many testimonies of the amazing ways that the Holy Spirit used volunteers to meet the needs of disaster victims.

There are great videos to watch at samaritanspurse.org. Wouldn't it be fun to send a team out from our church this summer!

Love in Christ,
Charlie Estep
Calvary

(Article appeared previously in their church newsletter.)



Photos from the Hope in Jesus' Name Conference (Charlie Estep)

Don't Let The Enemy

HAVE A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE



Call (540) 459-3661 for more information or to register.

**Covenant
Brethren Church
Youth Camp**

July 23-27, 2023

For youth entering
6th-12th grades

*Summer Camp
Shenandoah Meadows*

At camp kids:

1. Get out of their normal routines.
2. Get away from distractions and the chaos of life.
3. Have a retreat.
4. Hear things in a new way.
5. Meet new friends.
- 6. Focus on God.**
7. Enjoy God's Creation
8. Develop healthy Christian relationships.
9. Leave their comfort zones.
10. Learn spiritual truths.
11. Have new experiences.
12. Learn funny songs.
13. Make life-long friends.
14. Observe and learn from Godly mentors.

Activities Include

Swimming



Hiking



**Basketball
& Football**



Canoeing & Fishing



Crafts



Prayer Requests

- Summer Youth Camp - pray for the leaders as they create the programs and for all camper slots to be filled
- New Life in Mount Solon - pray for them to find a pastor
- Blue Ridge Region - pray that God will grow our region as he sees fit
- Prayer Teams - pray for the regional team to grow and for each church to have an active prayer team

Our Churches



Antioch



Calvary



Columbia Furnace



Moscow



New Beginnings (MD)



New Life



St. Luke



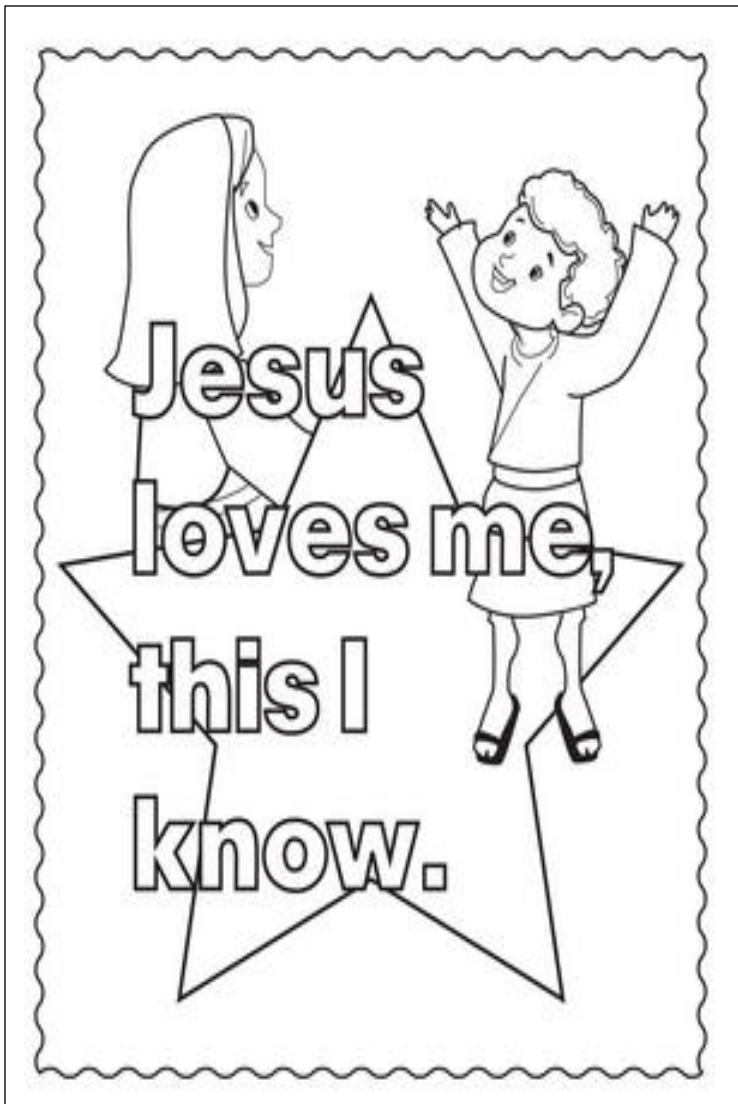
Remember -
our fallen heros.

Memorial Day

God bless

*our men and
women in service*

*Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*
Proverbs 22:6



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

-2 Timothy 3:16-17



♥ Looking Ahead ♥

Covered Dish Picnic

Faith
Fellowship
Food
Fun

*Coming in Late Summer
Watch for More Details!*

CONTACT US

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Website



PARTNER AGENCIES

