

Blue Ridge Region Covenant Brethren Church

Month of Missions at Moscow

Moscow Youth carry out Jesus's command to wash one another's feet. See story on page 4.

Please share your church activities with the region so we can get to know one another.

Send items to Diane Pence via blueridge@covenantbrethren.org



Message from BRR Chair

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Church Spotlight

See p. 5

Pray

Communion

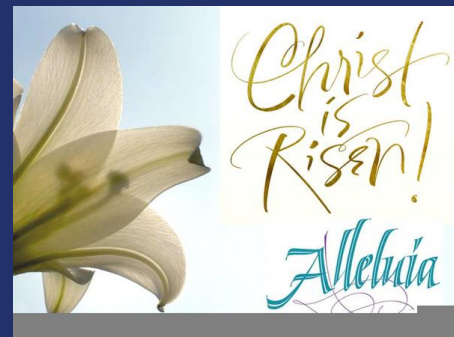
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Prayer Retreat

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1 Corinthians 11:26 - For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Message from BRR Chair

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ!

I hope that 2024 is off to a good start for everyone. Many of us are planning activities at our churches for the year and realizing just how quickly time moves. Your regional leaders are busy as well, making plans for ways that we can serve God, fellowship, and grow brethren in Christ. One of my recent daily devotions centered on Luke 10:2, when our Lord Jesus sends out seventy-two workers / evangelists. Jesus said, *"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."* As in when Jesus walked the earth, we still need those who are willing workers for His Kingdom. Please prayerfully consider how God is speaking to you today and ask Him to show you how you can serve. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Our churches and our region need you!

Specifically, please mark your calendar for **July 18-20 for the CBC Annual Meeting and Worship Conference in Manheim, Pennsylvania**. Churches are asked to send delegates; names need to be submitted by early April.

Additionally, plans are well underway for two (2) **summer youth camps** this summer at Camp Shenandoah Meadows in Fort Valley. **Grades 4-7** will be having camp **June 16-21** and **Grades 8-12** are scheduled for **June 23-28**. Detailed information has been sent to churches. Please encourage all the youth in your church to attend!

Regional Teams have been busy, and the **First Annual Blue Ridge Region Meeting** date has been set for **November 9, 2024, at Calvary CBC in Winchester**. Each church will be asked to send delegates and at least two Regional Board positions will be open for those with gifts to serve.

Please continue to keep our congregations, Regional, and National CBC leadership in your prayers. Prayerfully consider volunteering for roles within the Regional leadership. May we all honor and serve Christ in all that we do.

God bless you all,
Ann Jones & your Blue Ridge Regional Board



WHAT DO WE DO AT CAMP?

- BIBLE STUDY
- CRAFTS
- SWIMMING
- FISHING
- GAMES
- CAMPFIRES



CAMP ADDRESS:

Shenandoah Meadows
443 Meadowview Ln.
Fort Valley, VA 22652

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Becky Leland
(Antioch Church)
adminassistant@antiochcob.org
540-459-3661



BLUE RIDGE REGION CBC

SUMMER CAMP



Join us for a fun-filled week of learning, exploring, and growing in Christ!

WHY COME TO CAMP?

1. Encounter God in a personal way.
2. Build Relationships
3. Be physically active and have fun.
4. Develop life-long skills.
5. Grow more independent.

"Camping allows us to escape the bustle of everyday life and reconnect with nature and God."



JR. CAMP

GRADES 4-7

June 16-21, 2024

SENIOR CAMP

GRADES 8-12

June 23-28, 2024

Fee: \$160

*Check with your church youth representative for help with the cost.

Registration Deadline:
June 2, 2024

Early registration is encouraged.

BEST



MOMENTS



We are also looking for volunteers for both weeks. There are opportunities to serve in various capacities, from kitchen staff to counselors to camp-fire devotion leaders and more! Please reach out to Pastor Shawn Graber at thestlukechurch@yahoo.com or 540.607.0140 if you are interested in helping and learning more about this wonderful outreach to youth in our communities.

Month of Missions at Moscow

In recent years, the Moscow congregation embraced October as our 'Month of Missions.' Throughout the entire month, we wholeheartedly focused on extending acts of service and kindness to others, echoing the teachings of our blessed Savior during love feast. In John chapter 13, Jesus, after humbly washing the disciples' feet, sat down and imparted these powerful words: 'You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.'



Jesus' profound lesson underscores the importance of humility, love, and selfless acts of service to others - a message that our Month of Mission compels us to wholeheartedly embrace. Over the course of four weeks, Moscow commits itself to collecting food donations, essential goods, and financial contributions for our local mission, Valley Mission. This invaluable non-profit Christian organization is dedicated to providing nourishment, shelter, and support to those who have fallen on hard times in the Staunton area. Our work in supporting this ministry is a collective effort that involves both children and adults within the church fellowship.

This year, our children at Moscow decided to share a portion of the funds they raised through the sale of homemade Apple Butter, which they crafted at their Fall carnival, by offering it as a gift to Valley Mission. This act was entirely their own initiative, and they themselves determined the amount (\$350) to be given. In addition to this giving, the children enthusiastically participated in preparing and serving a warm meal for around 60 residents there. Their genuine joy in both giving and serving embodies the right spirit and true teaching of love feast at Moscow. As brethren, may we all continue to follow Jesus' example and 'wash feet' by serving others. As Jesus said, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Submitted by Pastor Darren Howdysell



Church Spotlight

Moscow Church

The story of Moscow Church is typical of the Shenandoah Valley Dunkers. When our ancestors moved into the Shenandoah Valley, they first clustered around a few communities and developed strong congregations. This was a primary motivation for our expansion in those days.

The central congregation of our territory was Beaver Creek. In the early part of the 1800's Brethren farmers began to purchase land and settle in the northwest portion of Augusta County.



Beaver Creek recognized the need to provide religious services for the Brethren in this new territory. Meetings were held in homes, schools, and barns. In 1854, the first church was built. It was a wooden frame building near Pudding Spring. This new Church of the Brethren first took the

name of Pudding Springs Church of the Brethren, but soon became Moscow Church of the Brethren.

Over the years many improvements were made to the little wooden church. In the early 1960's, it was obvious that a larger and more adequate church was needed. Plans were made, money was raised, and ground was broken in 1964 with the Dedication Service on June 13, 1965.



In 2022 the church made the decision to separate from the Church of the Brethren and join the newly formed Covenant Brethren Church. This transition marks a new and exciting chapter for the Moscow congregation which is currently being written.



Pastor Darren Howdysell

"Communion" With my Mom, my Sisters & my Daughter

By: Stephanie Lowery Fincham (Calvary Covenant Brethren Church)

I was asked by the Blue Ridge Covenant Brethren Regional Board to share some of my family history about Love Feast and Communion. My sisters, Marlene Lowery Davis and Janine Lowery Juergens, and my daughter, Bethany Fincham, currently bake the Communion bread. We have been doing this for many years. Our mother, Mary Fahnestock Lowery, has been a part of this in the past, but she is now 89 years old with some health issues. Our Grandmother, Sallie Fahnestock, was instrumental in preparing for Communion before us. She was married to Rev. Cephas Fahnestock, who was one of the founding pastors of Calvary Church of the Brethren (originally Jubilee Church of the Brethren).

We usually bake the communion bread twice a year. It is kept in the freezer until needed. At Calvary we have two (2) Congregational Communion (bread and cup only) on the second Sunday in January and July. Love Feast & Communion are held on Palm Sunday and the first Sunday in October (World Communion Sunday).

The Communion Bread recipe consists of:

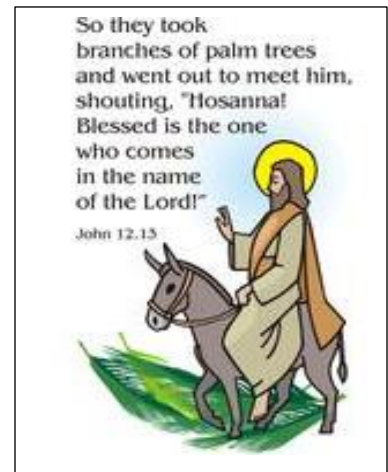
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 pint of half & half
- 1 pound of unsalted butter
- 12 cups flour (never use quite this much – add as necessary)

You knead the bread until it "blisters". My sister, Marlene, seems to be the only one who can really define this and tells us when it has reached this stage. We then divide it into 3 equal portions. We have three (3) cookie trays that we use to roll it out onto, but usually not all the way to the edges of the trays. You must be cautious of not making the bread too thin.

We have special "wooden rulers" that were handmade for us by a neighbor of my mom's. They are used to score the strips of bread evenly before baking according to how we will cut them. Before baking, we use a 3-tine fork to prick each 1-inch square of bread that symbolizes the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

Once the bread is baked, it is cut into strips of six (6) to be broken at the Love Feast and Communion tables. The bread is cut into individual pieces for the Congregational Communion to be put on trays that are passed.

In addition, my sisters, my daughter, and I have taken care of all the other aspects of the preparation of Love Feast and Communion such as setting up, cooking the beef, and preparing the tables, etc. for over 20 years.



Blue Ridge Region Prayer Retreat

Calvary Covenant Brethren Church
578 Front Royal Pike, Winchester, VA
June 1, 2024

Tentative Schedule:

8:00-9:30	Breakfast & Time to Mingle
9:30	Welcome & Introduction
10:00	Prayers in Scripture
11:00	Break
11:15	Organizations of Prayers (A.C.T.S, The Lord's Prayer, Themed Prayer, etc.)
11:45	Prayer Groups
Noon	Lunch
1:30	Essentials of a Prayerful Life
2:00	The Weapon of Prayer
2:30	Break
2:45	Power of Prayer
3:15	Prayer for Motivation
3:30	Prayer Groups
4:00	Closing

No charge for the retreat or meals!

Come grow in your prayer life!

Meet members of our regional churches!

RSVP by May 20th, email:

brprayer@covenantbrethren.org

Bring your Bible.

Optional Resource: *The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds on Prayer: Experience the Wonders of God through Prayer*

Lord, Hear Our Prayer



Chosen People Ministries presented "Messiah in the Passover" at Antioch Church in February. We got a new perspective on Love Feast!

For more information on their presentations, follow the link:

[Church Ministries | Invite a Speaker to Your Church \(chosenpeople.com\)](https://www.chosenpeople.com)

Interested in a Knitting Ministry?

Elizabeth McCarus at **Columbia Furnace CBC** knits helmet liners for IDF soldiers. She can send you the pattern and answer any questions you may have. Her email address is: fibers@shentel.net



I will bless those who bless you [Israel], and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

--Genesis 12:3 (ESV)

Blue Ridge Region Churches

Church	Pastor	Address	Phone
Antioch	George Bowers	23502 Senado Rd, Woodstock VA 22664	540-459-3661
Calvary	Jonathan Martino	578 Front Royal Pk, Winchester VA 22602	540-662-2350
Collinsville		553 John Redd Blvd., Collinsville VA 24078	276-647-8170
Columbia Furnace	Bill Fitchett	20910 Senedo Rd. Edinburg VA 22824	540-325-1819
Elk Run	Jonathan Farmer	1599 Scenic Hwy., Churchville VA 24421	540-350-2166
Moscow	Darren Howdyshell	866 Nash Rd., Mount Solon VA 22843	540-350-2210
New Life	Vacant	923 Natural Chimneys Ln., Mount Solon VA 22843	540-810-0693
Newport	Duane Painter	408 Newport Rd., Shenandoah VA 22849	540-652-8029
St. Luke	Shawn Graber	3250 Back Rd., Woodstock VA 22664	540-459-2309
New Beginnings	Karen Grossnickle	10629 Harmony Rd., Meyersville MD 21773	301-514-5625

Teams

Board Members

Ann Jones, President
 Darren Howdyshell, Vice President
 Ron Layman, Treasurer
 Diane Pence, Secretary
 Penny Adams
 Josh Burner

Ministerial Leadership

Darren Howdyshell
 Buster Doman,
 George Bowers
 Chris Payne
 Tony Turley

Congregational Life/Focus Planning

Stephanie Fincham
 Ann Jones
 Laurie Hoffman
 Dale Bennett
 Becky Leland
 Shawn Graber

Missions

Ron Layman
 Josh Burner
 Charlie Estep

Prayer

Jonathan Martino
 Penny Adams
 Diane Pence

CONTACT US

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PARTNER AGENCIES

