

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Blue Ridge Region
Covenant Brethren Church



But my God shall
supply all your needs...

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Spring
BLESSINGS

Song of Solomon 2:11-12: “For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”

Devotion from Pastor George Bowers

BURIED TREASURE

On July 5, 2009, Terry Herbert discovered a trove of treasures that would change his life and that of his neighboring farmer greatly. While scanning a field near his home in Great Britain, Herbert's metal detector indicated something below the surface. After a little preliminary digging, he found what would turn out to be some 3,500 items including eleven pounds of gold, numerous garnets, and additional silver that had been buried there 1,300 years earlier. The value of this cache is now estimated at nearly 5.3 million dollars and was split between him and the landowner.

We've all dreamt of being the one to find such a stash and of profiting from its worth. How exciting it would be to dig up something like that in our own backyard! In reality, we each have access to something immensely more valuable that we sadly seldom pursue.

In Matthew 13:44, Jesus tells of a man who discovered such a treasure, buried it again, and then sold all he had in order to buy the field and capitalize on the prize hidden within it. That treasure, Jesus says, is like the Kingdom of Heaven which is worth infinitely more than all we could ever possibly own.

Too often, we don't value Jesus like we should. We take Him for granted and discount His immense love and glory. Instead, we become captivated by the transient treasures of this world that rust, rot, and fade and neglect the greatest Prize of all. When we truly realize His surpassing eternal worth, we can't help but surrender all of our other pursuits, possessions, and hoards in order to have Him. And the trade is more than worth it!

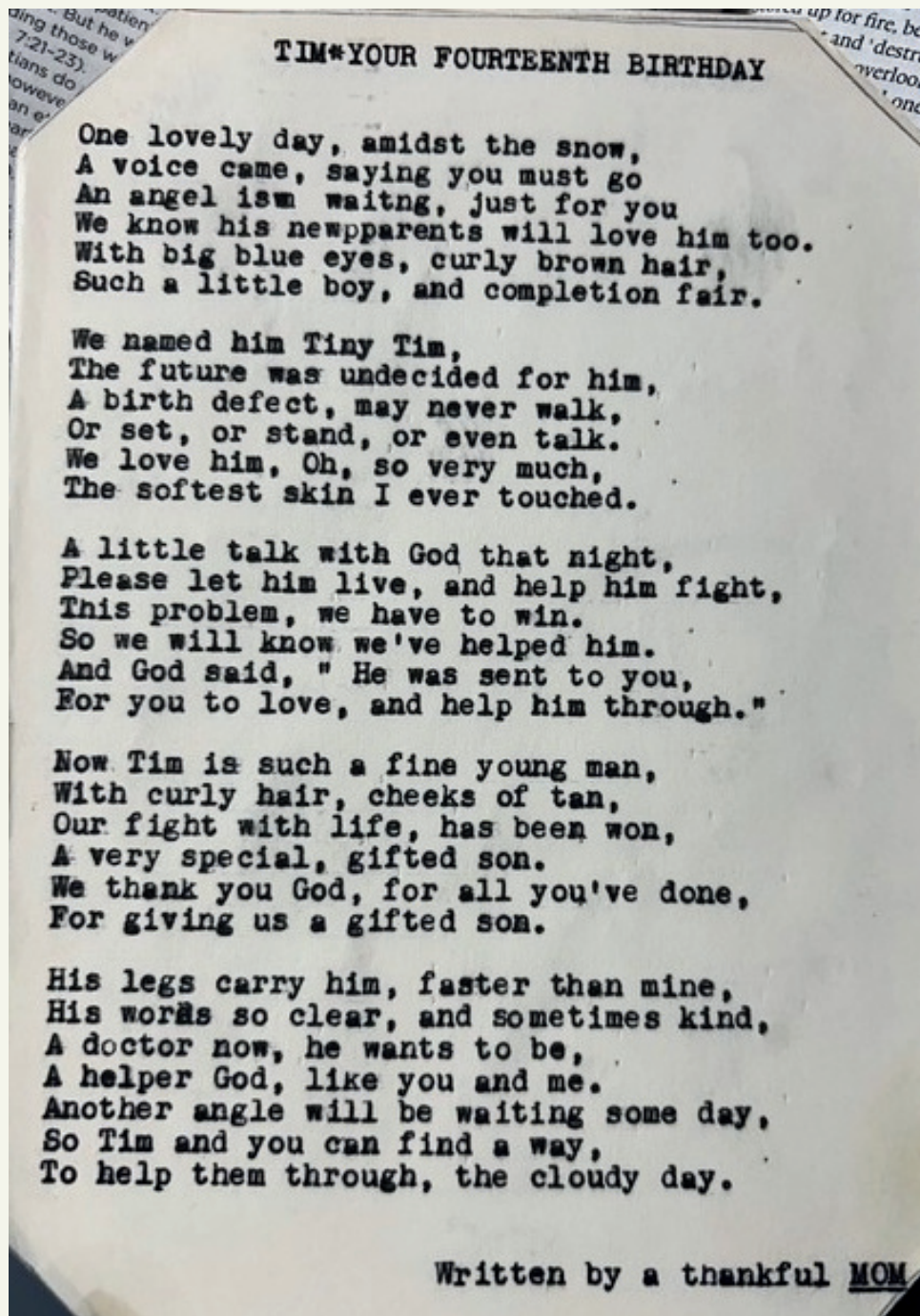
As we ponder the possibility of finding such a stash as Herbert's, let us cherish the surpassing greatness of the God who loves us so. Let us revel in His love and rejoice with each passing moment as we realize He is one prize that we can enjoy throughout all eternity. If you haven't abandoned all selfish pursuits and invested totally in Jesus, do so today. You'll be eternally glad you did!

Blessings, George



From Tim Munson, Blue Ridge Region CBC Pastor

This is a picture of a poem my Mom wrote and put inside of my birthday card 50 years ago. The handwritten one in her penmanship I have as well. Many may or may not know I was adopted at birth and I was born with a birth defect that my parents were told I may never walk and possibly may not live past early teens. Mom passed away in 1993 so she never saw how God has shaped my life. After two major health issues a few years ago where I almost left this earth, I realized a calling that to serve. While I did not follow the doctor dream as Mom's poem says, I am however serving a most gracious and glorious God as a pastor. God is good all the time. I give our Lord and Savior all the glory for this life I have been called to and for His amazing gifts. I pray that I am able to serve Him, place Him first in my life, and remember Him all my remaining days here. To God be the glory for He is greater than anything we could ever imagine. Thank you Lord!!!!



NEWS CORNER

**Congratulations to our newly ordained ministers and
welcome:**

David Stewart



Greenmount will hold Vacation Bible School on June 22-June 26

during the morning hours. The curriculum will be Answers in Genesis and is open for 4 year old children through youth who have finished 8th grade. For any questions, please see the website: greenmountchurch.org or by phone 540-833-5251



Barren Ridge Church will hold Emerald Crossing Vacation Bible School on

May 31-June 5. Join us for a journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. For more information email us at info@barrenridgechurch.com or call (540)248-0938.



Mt Zion would like to welcome **Kristi Zirkle** into the role of Minister of Connection and Care. As the Minister for Connection and Care, Kristi's primary responsibility will be to connect members of our church with meaningful ministry opportunities and to care for those experiencing seasons of need. She will devote time to building relationships with homebound members of our congregation and visiting those who need prayer in hospitals, nursing homes, or other care settings. Kristi and her husband, Adam, have been married for 32 years. They are the proud parents of Lizzi and Jesse. Kristi is grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside the church family at Mt. Zion Church and looks forward to what God will continue to do in the life of the Congregation.

Pastor's Gathering

When: Monday, May 18, 6:00 PM

Where: Wood Grill Buffet, Harrisonburg

Who: All retired, active, licensed, and lay ministers
(spouses encouraged!)

Cost: Pastors pick up their own tab

Questions: Contact Pastor Jonathan Farmer



ATTENTION

June 1 - Nominations for Regional Board members
The region has four openings for which we need nominations this year. Nominations must be approved by each local church congregation and then submitted in advance of the Annual Meeting to the Blue Ridge Regional Board. Proposed candidates must be approved and vetted by the Regional Board in advance, and short candidate biographies and photos should be provided for inclusion within the Annual Meeting program. Nominations for Regional Board membership must be submitted to the Blue Ridge Regional Board on or before **June 1, 2026**.



Update on CBC Summer Camp--A group met the beginning of April to start getting all the details together for youth camp this summer. Jr and Sr Camp will be on July 5-9 at Highland Retreat in Bergton, Virginia. (But at separate lodges) Registration forms will be available online as well as on paper. Becky Leland is working on registration forms and they will be available for our congregations in the next couple of weeks. If there is anyone interested in **volunteering** to help at camp, please contact (Becky Leland) beckyaleland@gmail.com or (Tammy Yoder) tammydyoder@yahoo.com. They will also be getting together an Amazon wishlist for our camp store that the kids really enjoy. It's a good way for people from the churches to contribute to camp. That will also be sent out once they have it together. Watch your email for more information in the upcoming weeks! They are in need of lots of **volunteers!**

2026 Blue Ridge Regional Conference

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2026

Time: 7:45 - 8:30 Registration/Light Breakfast

8:30 - 2:30 Conference

Location: Mt Zion Church

10589 Mt Zion Rd

Linville, VA 22834

Join us for a very special time to fellowship with other Covenant Brethren from our Blue Ridge Region, praise and worship God together and conduct some of the business of our church. There is **no charge** to attend and **lunch is provided**. Let's pack Mt Zion and worship the Lord together!

"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord."



Registration ends July 15, 2026. Go to our website at blueridge.covenantbrethren.org or email blueridge@covenantbrethren.org for more details



COVENANT BRETHERN CHURCH

Blue Ridge Region
P O Box 426
Grottoes, VA 24441
(540) 209-4862

blueridge@covenantbrethren.org
Joy Mauzy, Administrative Assistant

2026 Annual Meeting Delegate Form

Delegate 1) Name: _____
Congregation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email _____

Delegate 2) Name: _____
Congregation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email _____

Delegate 3) Name: _____
Congregation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email _____

Pastor) Name: _____
Congregation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email _____

Board Chair) Name: _____
Congregation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email _____

Please email this form to blueridge@covenantbrethren.org by **July 15, 2026.**



COVENANT BRETHREN CHURCH

Blue Ridge Region
P O Box 426
Grottoes, VA 24441
(540) 209-4862

blueridge@covenantbrethren.org

2026 Annual Meeting Registration Form

Please provide a list of all individuals who plan to attend the Annual Regional Meeting and Worship Conference at Mt Zion Church in Linville, VA on Saturday, September 12th, 2026. Deadline for this form is **July 15, 2026**. Check one box for Pastor, Delegate, Guest or Youth & write Pastor or Associate if that applies. Please email to blueridge@covenantbrethren.org.

Name	Pastor or Associate	Delegate	Guest	Youth	Staying for Lunch? (circle one)	
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO
					YES	NO

Total Number: _____

Name of Church: _____

Team Reports

Prayer Team Report-Diane Pence

- We send out Blue Ridge Region Prayer Team emails covering a variety of praises and prayer requests. Distribution list for these emails is the same list which Joy uses to send out regional emails.
- We have received one request from a BRR member to share a prayer request. We can pass along prayer requests but please share with us how you would like for us to word the request. We don't just assume something should be sent to avoid any confusion about privacy.
- Since our last prayer meeting, two members (husband and wife) asked to be removed from the team for personal reasons. Team members are:
 - Diane Pence, Chair
 - Ann Jones, Vice Chair
 - Midge Kester
 - Jonathan Martino
 - Stephanie Shillingburg
- Our next meeting will be held **Thursday, April 16th, 7:00 pm using the Calvary conference bridge**. We will be working on a monthly prayer calendar.

Mission Team – Gary Wingfield

- Missions team met on March 24 at Mt Zion.
- Team organization with assigning term limits to enable a rotation as follows:
 - Becky Leland-1 year term
 - Deanna Snyder-2 year term
 - John Anderson-3 year term
- Samaritan' Purse Disaster Response – discussed some possible new contacts for scheduling groups
- Gary gave an update on the tool trailer nearing completion
- Gary gave an update on contact with God's Pit Crew and the possibility of packing "Blessing Buckets" as a youth activity during the upcoming Regional Conference.
- Discussed upcoming project of repair work on the home in Woodstock for the family with the autistic children. Repairs will take place March 27 & 28.
- Discussed possible outreach in the form of providing essential needs for Sister churches that our regional congregations have partnered with.
- Discussed working with the Shenandoah County WRE program.
- Discussed developing a flyer to familiarize congregations on our purpose and how we operate.
- Discussed the possibility of setting up a line item on the regional budget to help fund our operations. Discussed doing some fund-raising activities and approaching congregations that may be interested in supporting mission projects.
- Gary has a group rebuild week approved for 5 men & 2 women starting May 31-June 5.
- April 25, Rebuilding Hope Ministry will be building a deck for a house in Mt Crawford and they need volunteers.

Congregational Life Team

- They are currently working on the youth camp for the summer.

Regional Elders-Jon Prater

- David Stewart has been approved for CBC ordination.

Ministry Leadership Team – Jonathan Farmer

- **Ministerial Training team** met at Mt Zion Church 7pm 3/11/2026
- **Worship Training Module** – already being offered and an email was sent out asking for people to register with Tony Turley facilitating it. Diane is currently taking it online.
- The **Pastoral Office and its Administration Module**-Jon Prater is teaching for CBC as a live event with a recording in June. It will be left up to Jon Prater to discern the best time and day.
- **CEU Event** for September 11, 2026 in conjunction with the Regional Conference. A time of 8 to 4 or 9-5 is suggested with a break for lunch. Greenmount Church will hopefully be the location as Scott Harris is checking with his church. Craig Alan Meyers as a facilitator is a possibility and he is checking his calendar and will get back asap. Possible training topic could be on church conflict. Hoping to offer 1 CEU but still not sure. Normally it is .1 CEU per hour of training, there would be about .8 CEU's available at the times proposed? If added to the .25 CEU's for attending the Regional Conference, then the total may equal 1.05.
- The next meeting is **April 22nd at 7pm at Mt Zion Church Meeting Place.**

- **Ministerial Leadership team** met on March 17 at 6:30 pm at Antioch Church.
- New ministers and credentialing:
 - David Stewart approved for ordination
 - Andrew Thompson stepped down as Associate at Mt Zion
 - Kristi Zirkle is Associate at Mt Zion. There was discussion regarding her credentialing.
- Team received a list of Blue Ridge Pastors with address/phone# and church where serving.
- Discussed area churches that may be considering CBC
 - Oak Hill in discussion
 - Mountain Grove mentioned...still with COB.
 - Leakes Chapel...possible vote
- Upcoming class on Worship is being taught by Tony Turley, videos by Roger Myers. Dates are 4/18, 4/25, 5/2 and 5/9. Only one person signed up at this time.
- Preaching class taught by Pastor George tentatively scheduled for early fall
- Looking to offer CEU event at Greenmount on 9/11, Friday before Regional Conference. Hours to be determined...either 8-4 or 9-5. Hoping to provide food. Craig Alan Myers to facilitate. .8 CEUs available.
- Scheduled Blue Ridge Pastor's Gathering for May 18 at 6 pm at Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Ministerial Leadership Training team will meet at 5:30 prior to meal.
- Pastor George shared that National Annual Conference information will be coming soon. Delegate information should be sent in soon. Hoping to have Pastor Lewis from Africa come and share.
- There was discussion about churches in Venezuela. Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Democratic Republic of Congo.

A message from our Mission Team

On Friday, March 21st, the Mission Team began work on repairing/replacing/rebuilding on the home of a family with two autistic children. The work was focused on replacing a broken window, tearing up old carpet, preparing walls for new beaded wall board that would be harder to damage, and preparing the floor for new vinyl snap lock flooring.

The team consisted of Deanna Snyder (coordinator), Dale Bowers, John Anderson, two youth from Community Mission Church, Matt Wade, Pastor Dan Rhodes, David Gochenour and Gary Wingfield. We began by moving all furniture out of the room, taking up the old carpet and removing the broken window. We found that the subfloor needed attention and decided to install OSB over the existing floor in order to provide a sturdy base for the new flooring. After removing the broken window and making an accurate measurement, Deanna and Dale made a trip to Lowes to purchase the OSB and new window. After installation of the OSB and window, the beaded wall board was installed around the room. We enjoyed soup and sandwiches provided by the women of Community Mission Church. The youth began painting the new wall board. We then installed molding around the ceiling and corners of the wall board. After work was completed for the day, Pastor Dan led us in a work closing prayer along with the owner.

The following day the vinyl floor was installed by the vendor who donated the material for the project. The people from Community Mission returned to paint and install moldings to complete the project.

This is just an example of how many Churches in our Blue Ridge Region come together to help people in need. We are blessed.



The Mission team has a group rebuild week approved for 5 men & 2 women starting **May 31-June 5**.

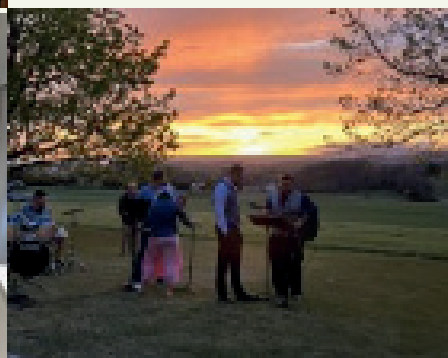
Rebuilding Hope Ministry will be building a deck for a house in Mt Crawford on **April 25** .

If you are interested in helping, please contact Gary Wingfield 540-471-9273.

Volunteers
needed

Resurrection Day at our Churches

Greenmount



Antioch



Barren Ridge



Collinsville



Mt Zion



New Life



Matthew 28:6:
"He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Moscow



Columbia Furnace





Registration Now Open for the 2026 CBC Annual Meeting & Worship Conference!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2026 Covenant Brethren Church Annual Meeting & Worship Conference which will be held July 16–18 at the Pasquerilla Conference Center in Johnstown, PA. This is a time for the Covenant Brethren Church to gather to worship and pray and seek the Lord’s leading while endeavoring to build one another up in faith. A minimum of essential business will also be conducted. The registration fee this year is \$100 for each delegate and \$75 for all others who attend. These fees help offset rising expenses. Youth under 18 are free and you can register and find hotel reservation details at

<https://covenantbrethren.org/amwc/>.

Hotel reservations must be made by June 16, 2026, using the link above. Online conference registration will close on July 3, 2026, but you may still register on site during the conference.

This year’s conference theme is “Go...Make...Baptize” and reminds us of the work Jesus directed us to do in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Blue Ridge Region Churches

Church:

Pastor/Associate Pastor:

Address:

Antioch	George Bowers/Dale Bennett, Sr.
Barren Ridge	Dan Rhodes
Calvary	Jonathan Martino/Charlie Estep
Collinsville	Roy McVey
Columbia Furnace	Bill Fitchett/Buster Doman
Community Mission	Dale Bowers
Elk Run	Jonathan Farmer
Greenmount	B. Scott Harris
Moscow	Darren Howdysshell
Mt. Zion	Jon Prater/Kristi Zirkle
New Life	Vacant
Newport	Duane Painter
St. Luke	Chris Payne/Dakota Baker

23502 Senedo Rd, Woodstock VA 22664
1790 Barren Ridge Rd, Staunton VA 24401
578 Front Royal Pk, Winchester VA 22602
553 John Redd Blvd., Collinsville VA 24078
20910 Senedo Rd. Edinburg VA 22824
50 Coffmantown Rd, Woodstock, VA 22664
1599 Scenic Hwy., Churchville VA 24421
4881 Greenmount Rd, Rockingham VA 22802
866 Nash Rd., Mount Solon VA 22843
10589 Mt. Zion Rd. Linville VA 22834
P O Box 123, Bridgewater VA 22812
408 Newport Rd., Shenandoah VA 22849
3250 Back Rd., Woodstock VA 22664



Contact Us:

Joy Mauzy, Administrative Assistant

Mailing Address:

**P O Box 426
Grottoes, VA 24441
(540) 209-4862**

Physical Address:

**3250 Back Rd
Woodstock, VA 22664**

2025-2026-Executive Board

Darren Howdysshell, Chair

Ann Jones, Vice Chair

Ron Layman, Treasurer

Diane Pence

Scott Harris

Jonathan Farmer

Gary Wingfield

Jon Prater, Elder Rep



blueridge@covenantbrethren.org



blueridge.covenantbrethren.org



**Find us on Facebook at Blue Ridge
Region of Covenant Brethren Church**