

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

**Blue Ridge Region
Covenant Brethren Church**



Genesis 8:22 – “As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

Devotion from Dakota Baker

Joy's Persistence

A few days ago, as I was rushing around, I passed a house with two kids jumping on a trampoline. In the fleeting moment I saw their joyous faces, I fell into a reflective state where I realized there was a gap in my soul that my heart longed to see filled. It is a gap I suspect many of us sense within us because it is a gap left by the joy-filled wonder of childhood, which used to dwell there.

David writes in Psalm 16:11, “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand” (Ps. 16:11, NIV). We are told in multiple places in the New Testament that the Spirit dwells within us, meaning God’s presence is always with us as well. Just as the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence within us, joy’s residence should also be permanent in our lives because God’s presence should fill us with joy.

A child’s summer is whimsical because their joy is connected to their freedom from school and responsibility. What if this freedom is a mirage? Instead of doing whatever I want, whenever I want, what if true freedom is existing exactly how I was designed to exist? What if freedom is living under the lordship of my Creator?

A car dropped upon the ocean will sink. A boat dropped upon the road will remain where it fell. However, a boat dropped into the ocean is free to roam the seven seas, and a car dropped unto a road is free to transgress the land. Why? The boat was designed for the ocean, and the car was designed for the road and they are only free when they are being used how, and where, they were designed to be used. Likewise, humanity is only truly free when it exists in communion with God, and under the authority of the Lord. When we exist as we were designed, we experience true freedom, and we experience true joy, because we are living as creation in harmonious relationship with our Creator.

Part of our design is to be good stewards. A child’s joy, rooted in a false freedom, creates a temporary illusion of joy, which we may experience as “magic.” True freedom manifests itself in true joy, and it lasts beyond a lifetime. Joy is available to us always, as it is inherent in the Lord’s presence in our lives. Instead of viewing the responsibilities that come into our lives after childhood as burdensome, we should view them as opportunities, privileges, and gifts from God. Our responsibilities in life are opportunities to steward the blessings we receive from God in the forms of work, marriage, parenthood, singleness, a home, our health, and the like. All good things originate as gifts from God, and it is a myth that good things do not require effort. The aspects of life that carry the most joy require the most effort. If we view our responsibilities as opportunities to honor God with our effort, we shall rediscover joy, and be free to delight as God’s creation. Even though the “magic” of childhood will disappear, the joy of childhood may persevere throughout our entire lives.

NEWS CORNER



July 15 - Deadline to register for the Blue Ridge Regional Conference being held on September 12th at Mt Zion Church! Don't miss this opportunity for a day of Praise & Worship together



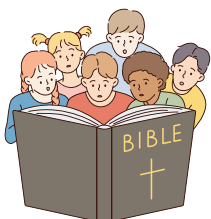
Congratulations to **Doug Hughes** who was approved for licensing in the CBC



Blue Ridge Region CBC is blessed to welcome **Leake's Chapel** to our church family. We are so happy to have them join us. Let's reach out to them and make them feel welcome!



The Blue Ridge Region Board approved adding a line item to the budget to help fund **Mission projects**. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to: Blue Ridge Region CBC & mail to Ron Layman, 2317 Wilson Blvd., Winchester, VA 22601 noted Mission Team.



Conflict Management and Resolution class will be held on **September 11, 2026** at Greenmount CBC for CEU credits. It will be taught by Brother Craig Alan Myers. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jon Prater. More information will follow when it becomes available.



Mission trip scheduled to Asheville, NC from **August 9-14, 2026**. Gary Wingfield will be driving the Barren Ridge Church van. Please contact him if you are interested in going- gwingfield12@gmail.com or 540-942-3139. Right now, he has spots reserved for 4 men and 3 women. Please encourage folks to respond to this mission work. It is a great experience and housing along with meals are supplied by Samaritan's Purse. The only cost to individuals is the trip down and back (eating, gas, etc.). He looks forward to hearing from folks and once he gets their commitment, he will send out the invite from Samaritan's Purse so they can get registered and receive details about what they should bring.



Congratulations to all the graduates in all our Churches! May God guide you in His path during the years to come.

youth

YOUTH WANTED!!! Please bring your Youth to the Regional Conference. They will help pack lunch bags for children in need of food for the weekends and then there will be some fun Youth activities afterwards. And don't forget to tell them we have lunch (since they are growing teens). Please sign them up on the Registration form so we can plan for activities.

Pastors Gathering-Pastors met at the Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg on Monday, May 18th at 6:00 pm. There were about 20 pastors and wives in attendance. We opened with devotion and prayer. We heard some National and Regional updates. Most of all we had great fellowship with each other and felt God's blessings. We are truly blessed to be part of the Blue Ridge Regional CBC family.



Brethren Bible Institute

 Date: July 26-31, 2026

 Duration: 1 week (5 days)

 Cost: \$125.00 - \$300.00

The Brethren Bible Institute believes in the discipline of the whole person (spirit, soul, and body). We will aim to train students not only about how to study the Bible in a systematic way (2 Timothy 2:15), but also how to live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12). God calls Christians to the highest of character when He commands us to be holy (1 Peter 1:15), and holiness requires discipline.



Sign up or online at brfwitness.org.

Blue Ridge Region CBC 2026 Summer Youth Camp

Where: Highland Retreat, 14783 Upper Highland Dr., Bergton

When: July 5th, 6:00 pm through July 9th, 2:00 pm

Who: Junior Camp- Completed 3rd-7th grades

Senior Camp- Completed 8th-12th grades

Cost: \$180 per camper. Contact your camp representative for financial assistance.



Registration closed on June 7th.

If you registered and have any questions or would still like to volunteer, please contact (Becky Leland)

beckyaleland@gmail.com or

(Tammy Yoder)

tammydyoder@yahoo.com.

HOW DID JOSEPH
MAKE HIS COFFEE?

HEBREW-ED IT.





**Help Hugh K Cassell and Fulks Run Elementary
Schools and
Luke's Backpack program along with the
Blue Ridge Region CBC**

**Spread the Love of Jesus Christ
to children in need of food locally!**

The Blue Ridge Region has a goal to fill **400 lunch bags with food** at the Regional Conference on September 12th, 2026. Each bag will feed one child for the weekend!

Find options below on how to help your region reach this huge Goal:



Purchase items from our Amazon Wish List. You can choose to have them shipped directly to the Mission Team Chair, Gary Wingfield! No shipping, driving, or hassle! **Cut off for the Amazon** wish list will be **August 15th** so final needed items can be purchased.

Amazon Link: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IDO4LFEBIVG2/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2



Amazon QR Code:



Make a church monetary donation. You can collect change in your Sunday School class, women's group, or do a small fundraiser. Everything helps! Please send funds to the Regional Treasurer, Ron Layman (note Lunch bags) by **August 15th**.



Sponsor a child(children) for a month (4 weekends). \$40 will help the region purchase appropriate items to pack your lunch bag with healthy food to carry them over until they get to school on Monday. What a Blessing. Please send funds to the Regional Treasurer, Ron Layman (note Lunch bags) by **August 15th**.

Address for Monetary Donations:

Ron Layman
Blue Ridge Region CBC Treasurer
2317 Wilson Blvd.
Winchester, VA 22601

For questions, please contact Gary Wingfield at
540-942-3139 or by email at gwingfield12@gmail.com.

Please invite non-delegates and church youth to help pack lunch bags at the **Regional Conference** on September 12th.



**WITH MORE HANDS AND PRAYERS, WE WILL HAVE MORE FUN
PACKIN FOR NEEDY CHILDREN !!!**



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 BRETHREN 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

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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

Total Number: _____

Name of Church: _____

What have our Teams been doing?

Prayer Team Report-Diane Pence

- The **Prayer Team** met by telephone conference bridge on April 16, 2026 at 7 pm. Ann Jones and Diane Pence attended. Stephanie Shillingburg was unable to attend but expressed appreciation for the prayer team emails and plans to join future meetings. Midge Kester was also unable to attend but has sent in prayer requests to share. We've had no response from Jonathan Martino but are grateful that he has shared the Calvary conference bridge with us to use for our meetings.
- We prayed together about a variety of topics including for our pastors in the CBC and pastors everywhere to stand firm and preach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and that Satan would not get a foothold in our churches.
- During April and May we sent out six prayer team emails to 82 recipients

Ministry Leadership Team – Jonathan Farmer

- **Ministerial Leadership team** met on May 18th prior to the Pastors Gathering at the Wood Grill.
- Pastor George gave an update on churches and pastors looking to join the CBC.
- Leake's Chapel in Stanley, VA voted to join. Pastor George will officiate the welcoming service on 5/31.
- Grottoes COB had their first vote (93%) for starting the process. Pastor Tim Munson has already moved to CBC.
- Pastor David Stewart is to be ordained into CBC. Elder Henry Elsea will make the presentation.
- Light discussion about upcoming classes offered for those seeking credentials. We discussed opportunities for a more flexible class structure for future events. Pastor George will be teaching a class on Preaching this fall. We mentioned the need to be on site as each participant is to be encouraged and also critiqued by their peers.
- Pastor Jonathan shared about the educational opportunity at Brethren Bible Institute. CEU's are available at .75 for each course taken. Here is the website for enrollment and the event date and location. [BBI Enrollment | Brethren Revival Fellowship](#) & event timing is July 27-31, 2026 & event address is Elizabethtown College 1 Alpha Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022
- On Saturday, May 30th, Pastor George will be heading to the Susquehanna Region and offering a class titled Strategies for Busy Servants. The event will take place @ Brandts Church in St. Thomas, PA at a cost of \$20.00. Duration is from 10am-2pm with .3 CEUs available. A light lunch will be provided. Those interested need to RSVP to Roger Myers by May 25th. Pastor George has offered a ride for those interested in going. An invitation has been sent out via email.
- On 9/11, day before Annual Blue Ridge Regional Conference, there will be an event held at Greenmount Covenant Brethren Church with a theme of Conflict Management and Resolution. This will be an 8-hour event taught by Brother Craig Alan Myers..8 CEUs are available for attendees..Ladies from the Greenmount congregation have graciously offered lunch for participants. Exact hours of the event to come.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for August 17 @ 6:30pm at Antioch.

Ministerial Training Team-Jon Prater

- No report

Mission Team – Gary Wingfield .

- **Missions team met on May 14.**
- Talked about Operation Christmas Child and churches getting started with their collections
- Disaster trip to NC will be leaving May 31 & returning on June 5 with 3 volunteers; Gary Wingfield, Darren Howdyshell & Dale Bowers
- Disaster trip to NC has been reserved for August 9 & returning on August 14. Looking for volunteers for that trip.
- Updated info on tool trailer
- Discussed Backpack Lunch program and the youth packing these bags during the Regional Conference in September. Two schools are at present tagged as recipients of the bags and discussed another possibility with Luke's Backpacks through Valley Lutheran.
- Discussed looking for local mission opportunities.
- Discussed developing a presentation to share with congregations in order to develop interest and a contact point for the churches.
- **Missions team met on June 16.**
- Discussed Operation Christmas Child and churches getting started with their collections
- Disaster trip; Gary Wingfield, Darren Howdyshell, and Dale Bowers went to Burnsville N.C. May 31-June 5. A week of both hard work and great fellowship and ministry.
- Disaster trip reserved for August 9 returning on August 14. Looking for volunteers for that trip.
- Used tool trailer in completing a local mission for one of the Barren Ridge home bound members repairing and replacing boards on their fence surrounding their property.
- Becky gave an update on progress setting up the link for ordering supplies for the backpack lunch program. Still waiting for information from Valley Lutheran Luke's Backpack to finalize. The link is set up but not ready with quantities needed.
- Discussed need to have someone oversee the youth packing the lunches for the backpack program during Regional Conference.
- Discussed developing a presentation to share with congregations. Deanna will be gathering pictures from both the local mission project in Woodstock and the recent Samaritan's Purse trip to Burnsville, N.C.
- Pending congregational approval at our July congregational meeting, the Barren Ridge Board approved using some money from the gift that was earmarked for mission/outreach in the amount of \$5,000 to seed the Regional Mission Team budget.
- Next scheduled meeting will be held via zoom on July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Congregational Life Team

- Summer camp registration forms and post cards have been emailed out. Also, the wish list links for the camp stores have been sent out for churches to purchase items. Becky Leland and Tammy Yoder have supplied the links for everyone to buy items needed. .

Regional Elders-Jon Prater

- Pastor Henry Elsea will be retiring August 1 due to living in Florida. We thank him for his dedication to the Regional Elders Board. He has been a blessing to the Blue Ridge Region.



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:

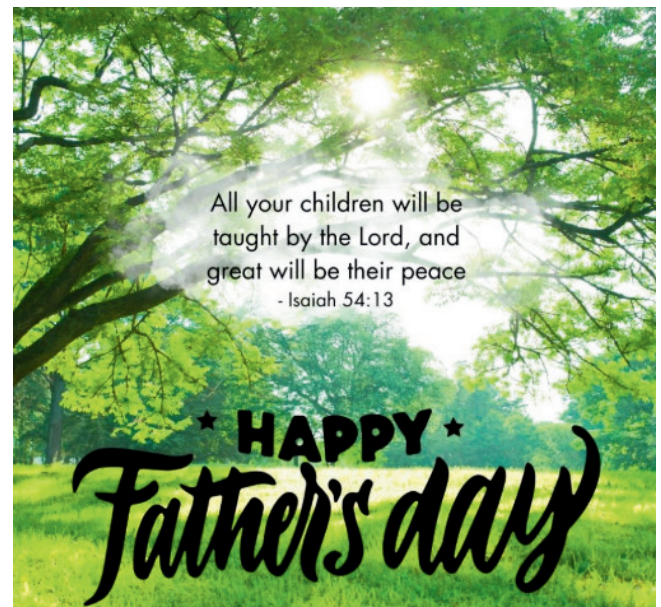
Antioch
Barren Ridge
Calvary
Collinsville
Columbia Furnace
Community Mission
Elk Run
Greenmount
Leake's Chapel
Moscow
Mt. Zion
New Life
Newport
St. Luke

Pastor/Associate Pastor:

George Bowers/Dale Bennett, Sr.
Dan Rhodes
Jonathan Martino/Charlie Estep
Roy McVey
Bill Fitchett/Buster Doman
Dale Bowers
Jonathan Farmer
B. Scott Harris
Vacant
Darren Howdyshell
Jon Prater/Kristi Zirkle
Vacant
Duane Painter
Dakota Baker

Address:

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
2334 Honeyville Rd, Stanley, VA 22851
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 Howdyshell, 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**