



June

# 2026 SMOKE SIGNAL

## Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL  
people.

Burnt Factory Church  
P. O. Box 399  
Stephenson, Virginia 22656  
burntfactory.org  
PH: (540) 667-4993

*"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your  
good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*  
Matthew 5:16



**This story has been around for a while, but I believe the lesson it teaches is one we all need to be reminded of now and then.**

*There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer, and he started his journey.*

*When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.*

*As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave but before he had gone more than a few steps; he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"*

*Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." But before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."*

**Friends, too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around and to bring pure joy into someone's spirit. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime and we need to know this: God gave us all a fingerprint that no one else has. God does this so that we can leave an imprint that no one else can. Let us all strive to make an imprint that reflects the love of Jesus!**

Pastor Steve

## What's Happening Down the Worship Road



Pastor Steve will be sharing a three-part sermon series that digs into some of the most difficult questions that believers and non-believers have about God.

- June 7**                    "Is God For Real?"  
*Holy Communion will be served*
- June 14**                  "What is God's Will For My Life?"
- June 21**                  "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"  
*Father's Day/ Graduation Sunday*

# Associate Pastor Thoughts



“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I HOPE in Him!

Lamentations 3: 22-24

Jeremiah the “weeping prophet” wrote these words under major stressful circumstances, even in the lowest point in his life, being a prophet of God who watched the destruction of Jerusalem, he felt like a failure.

How often we feel like this, unworthy to be called a child of God, undeserving of His grace, a sinner a failure. But what Jeremiah does in this verse is promote hope, not only to the remnant of people, but also to himself. In all the destruction, sadness, hopelessness, Jeremiah wrote the words, Great is Your Faithfulness. How hard that must have been to write those words at that time. Today it still brings us hope. It is a beautiful hymn that instructs us to trust in God because he fails us not! Pray over these words when you feel unworthy!

*Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with thee; Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been and thou forever wilt be.*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun moon and stars in their courses above. Join with all nature in manifold witness, to thy great faithfulness mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is Thy Faithfulness, Great is Thy Faithfulness*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see, all I have needed they hand hath provided, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Be Blessed, find hope in the most Faithful God, Trust in his mercy and love,

*Pastor Carrie*

## ***Who does what around here!***



This month, we honor Janie Shope. We all know her as the hug and kiss lady on Sunday mornings, but did you know that she has a card ministry that is a blessing to everyone, especially us staff members. Getting a card from her is like getting a hug in the mail. She also is in charge of the altar for communion Sunday in which she trains new people like Karen Mills to set up for communion and prep the bread and juice! Janie also is the official launderer for all the pulpit linens, and kitchen towels! We thank her so much for her willingness to care so greatly for the blessed sacramental cloths. Janie is our wonderful Lay Leader, she is the go-to person to tell all the things that are great or not so great (we hope there is not a lot of that) in the church and reports that to the Board of Servants, and she is a wonderful prayer warrior for all those in the church. She is a greeter/usher for funerals, and she also is in charge of the new member gifts. We love Janie, thank her for all she does.

### **Have you given your email address to Keith Roberts, yet?**

Pastor Steve has special notices he needs to send to those who attend Burnt Factory. The notices will include not only prayer concerns but also schedule changes during bad weather.

Keith keeps an email list in his computer for just such purposes. Your email address is protected, and emails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your email address to Keith Roberts at [john.k.roberts@comcast.net](mailto:john.k.roberts@comcast.net) with the message:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”

### **Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?**

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at [beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com](mailto:beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com) with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”

# June Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Marcia Etu  
2<sup>nd</sup> Madison Somers  
Megan Jenkins  
7<sup>th</sup> Kyle Bouck  
Sue Swimley  
8<sup>th</sup> Tessa McClinton  
9<sup>th</sup> Hannah Keenan  
Sam Melester  
Lucinda Lentz  
10<sup>th</sup> Diana Smith  
Martha Inglis  
11<sup>th</sup> Elener McFarland  
Tom Miiller  
12<sup>th</sup> Wade Bryant  
Bob Rodeffer  
13<sup>th</sup> Willie Umbenour  
15<sup>th</sup> Rich Henry  
18<sup>th</sup> Terri Malone  
Tim Perrault  
21<sup>st</sup> Greg Powell  
Rylee Repine  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mark Duvall  
23<sup>rd</sup> Erica Owens  
24<sup>th</sup> Carrie Fair  
Julia Boudier  
25<sup>th</sup> Kim Bursey  
Beth Neff  
27<sup>th</sup> Charlie Beaver  
Randy Cornwell  
Charlotte Goode  
28<sup>th</sup> Becca Ratliff  
29<sup>th</sup> Paige Flinchum  
30<sup>th</sup> Amy Jenkins  
Pat Dawson



## Happy Anniversary

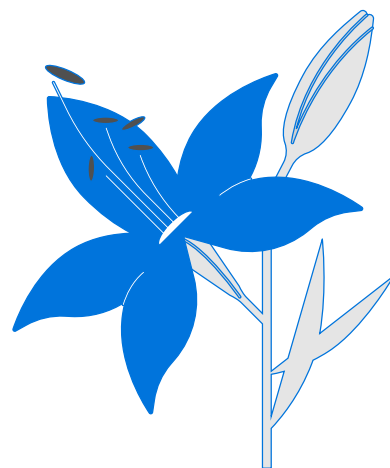
2<sup>nd</sup> Jay and Harriett Hanke  
4<sup>th</sup> Dew and Tita Place  
8<sup>th</sup> Mark and Aimee Taylor  
11<sup>th</sup> Sonny and Iris Sibert  
14<sup>th</sup> Paul and Susie Gerometta  
16<sup>th</sup> Jen and Andrew Bryant  
21<sup>st</sup> Randy and Karen Willis  
Dave and Betsy Newlin

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”**

**Philippians 4:6 NIV**

## CONDOLENCES

*As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:*



- Gary Burke went home to be with the Lord after a long battle with cancer.
- Please keep Willie and Joyce Umbenour in your prayers, their son Jeffery claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Twenty-four-year-old, Brady McKay claimed the promise of the resurrection after dealing with cancer for 7 years.



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 22-26 TIME: 9:30am-12pm**

**JOURNEY BACK TO ROME- WHERE FAITH CHANGED THE WORLD!** Get ready for an unforgettable adventure at VBS! Children will step back in time to ancient Rome as they learn about God's love, courage, and faith through exciting Bible lessons, games, crafts, music, snacks, and hands-on activities.

**Grades:** Preschool - 5th, Everyone is welcome! Invite friends, neighbors, and family to join the adventure!

**VBS VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!!** Consider helping out with snacks, the Roman marketplace, or the Underground Church

If you'd like to be part of this unforgettable journey, please contact me via e-mail/text OR sign up here:

**Let's work together to create a meaningful and memorable VBS experience for our kids!**

**SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER CAMP**  
**JULY 8-10**  
**1PM-4PM**

Erin Hartman - Director of Children's Ministries

E-mail: hartman03@yahoo.com

Text: 540-535-5283





# MINISTRY

*All youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in our events.*



For those of you who don't know me, I work in Frederick County Public schools as an instructional assistant and I am currently working on my teaching license.

My children are all grown up for the most part with the exception of my son Lucas, who most of you know.

I come from a family of 13 children. My Dad and Mom were amazing Christian parents. I am so blessed and I am so thankful for the home I grew up in.

I am so excited to step into this position! I have a huge passion for the youth and I am excited to see where God takes this group. I am looking forward to getting weekly youth group meetings going as well as some fun activities including some missions projects.

Thank you for all your prayers and support. I am excited to see us grow!

Tammy Meeks  
Burnt Factory Youth Pastor

# Greetings from Outreach

## The Outreach Mission Statement

### **1 Peter 4:10-11**

***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”***

Many exciting things happened in the ministries of our church in May.

The Believers had a great turnout for the Believers Ride on May 16th to benefit Helping Hands Cancer Outreach. Over \$2000 was raised and everyone had fun. There are plans for another ride in the Fall.

BFC Sisters in Faith enjoyed a successful and fun Women’s Retreat on May 16th with 38 women attending.

Collections for the Laurel Center continue through May.

The Family Promise ministry continues to provide 72 meals to homeless families in motels in our community. Thank you to all those who support this ministry through money or food contributions, assembling meals, and delivering the meals to the families.

You can also find information about CCAP, Refugee Assistance, Handyman Team, and Missions in other articles in the Smoke Signal.

Coming up:

- June 20th - Sisters in Faith meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- July 24th - Sisters in Faith Christmas in July Celebration @ Rose Hill Nursing Home.
- June 21st - Family Promise
- Aug. 16-21 - Mission trip to Ashe, NC

All the ministries in our church are active and important. If you’re interested in learning more about these ministries, please feel free to contact me, or anyone on the committee. You can also join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, July 2nd** at 7p.m. in the lower cottage. Hope to see you there.

Cheryl Jones  
Outreach Committee Chair  
cheryl\_b\_jones@yahoo.com

# CCAP Corner



**CCAP Mission:** Guided by our faith in God and love of neighbor, CCAP is committed to helping our neighbors meet basic needs with food, clothing and financial resources.

Recent information from a volunteer meeting on 5/21/26

**50%** of residents received some type of benefit (not just CCAP but from all available resources in Winchester). 20% of the Winchester population and 8% of Frederick Co population come to CCAP.

With the increase of food prices and the recent cut of \$350 million from USDA, CCAP anticipates additional clients accessing CCAP's food pantry. CCAP continues to seek donations from outside resources.

Looking ahead to July, we will be doing our QUARTERLY CCAP Collection. We will be collecting new Men's boxer briefs in sizes M, L, and XL, Men's white T-shirts in all sizes except small and Men's white socks. Please place your donations in the red bins located in the foyer of the church.

We are looking for Volunteers to work the Saturday Food Pantry at CCAP on Saturday, **June 13th from 9am until noon**. Volunteers will set up, welcome guests, take them shopping through the pantry, hand out meat and produce and then clean-up for the day. We will arrive at 9am for set up. Customer's services begin at 10 and end at 11:30. Please contact Kathy Dick or Patty Leonard if you can help on June 13th.

**CCAP is the perfect place to REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE your clothing!!**

We need the following gently used items:

- Gently Used Summer clothes - baby through adult sizes - especially Men's Jeans, Men's regular T-Shirts, Men's Shorts and Women's Shorts
- Adult Backpacks
- gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and towels)

## CCAP Corner Cont'd

Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday between 9am and 2pm at 112 S. Kent St. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don't work with your schedule.

Our Friendly Neighborhood Freedges are community refrigerators that are open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy. The Freedges are stocked by your neighbors and community members with fresh produce and items they don't want to waste, pre-cooked meals, etc.

Find them at these 4 convenient drop-off locations:

- 329 N Cameron St. on the Our Health Campus – you can park on Cameron St. and walk across to the Our Health Campus to drop off donations.
- 102 Montague Avenue at the Methodist Church.
- 700 Aylor Road, Stephens City at Abundant Life Church.
- The Wayside Inn in Middletown.

Please know your continued support is making a real difference to the lives of those we serve.

Patty Leonard and Kathy Dick – Outreach CCAP Reps.



### Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Each June, communities around the world recognize Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month – a time dedicated to increasing understanding of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of Dementia. The month encourages education, support for caregivers and families, and continued advocacy for research aimed at improving treatment and finding a cure.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually affects memory, thinking, and behavior. It is the most common cause of dementia and can significantly impact a person's ability to perform everyday activities independently. While aging is the greatest known risk factor, Alzheimer's is not considered a normal part of aging.

This awareness month serves as an important reminder to recognize the early warning signs of cognitive decline. Symptoms may include memory loss that disrupts daily life, confusion with time and place, difficulty completing tasks, and noticeable changes in mood or personality. Early diagnosis can help individuals and families access medical care, support services, and future planning resources sooner.

There are many ways to participate in Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month. People often wear purple – the official awareness color – attend community events, support local fundraising efforts, and share educational resources with family and friends. Organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association continue to provide valuable information, caregiver support, and advocacy opportunities throughout the year.

## Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

Maintaining brain health is also an important focus during the month. Experts encourage habits that support cognitive wellness, including regular physical activity, healthy eating, social engagement, quality sleep, and mentally stimulating activities such as reading, puzzles, or learning new skills.

As awareness grows, so does hope. Increased education, research, and community support can make a meaningful difference for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and for and for the millions of families affected by it each day.

*"Praise be to the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble."*

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

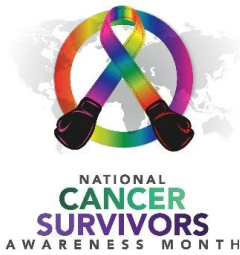
If you have questions about health concerns, medications, upcoming procedures, or need help navigating healthcare resources, please reach out. Conversations are confidential, supportive, and grounded in faith. Together, we can build a healthier, heart-strong community.

*Theresa*

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at [tgilbert@afpdocs.com](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto:theresahgilbert@gmail.com) or by phone at (540) 247-5612



# The Believers



## June is National Cancer Survivors Month

Every June, National Cancer Survivors Month celebrates the strength, resilience and courage of millions of cancer survivors across the country. It is a time to honor those who have faced cancer, recognize their ongoing journeys, and acknowledge the support of families, caregivers, friends and healthcare professionals who stand beside them every step of the way.

Cancer survivorship represents more than completing treatment. It reflects hope, perseverance, and the determination to move forward while embracing life with renewed appreciation. Survivors often continue to face physical, emotional and financial challenges, making awareness, support and access to quality care especially important.

This month also encourages communities to focus on healthy living, regular screenings, early detection and continued research efforts that improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. Through education, advocacy, and compassion, we can help ensure survivors receive the resources and encouragement they need to thrive.

As we recognize National Cancer Survivors Month, we celebrate every survivor's journey and reaffirm our commitment to hope, healing and continued progress in the fight against cancer.



A huge thank you to all of you who participated in, donated to and volunteered for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Ride. We have raised over \$2,000.00 so far and will continue to accept donations until the end of June.

*“ Survivorship is about finding strength you never knew you had.”*

Theresa Gilbert  
(540) 247-5612  
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

# Burnt Factory's Refugee Outreach

Many thanks to all of you for the ongoing outreach our church offers to 6 refugee families in Winchester! We come alongside a total of 40 refugees (24 children) and offer support as needed as they transition to life in the United States. Five of our families are Afghan and one is Syrian.

Here are some of the ways you have welcomed and served this past year:

1. You have prayed and your prayers have been answered! Mohamad, the Syrian father, is back to work 9 months after a bone crushing injury at work. He is so grateful to be able to once again provide for his family. Fifteen year old Shahab had successful surgery to remove a mass on his neck, and it was benign. Baby Abdullah's heart function has improved to the point of not requiring surgery! Our original family of 8 received their green cards (legal permanent residency) last fall after 4 years of red tape. God is good!
2. You have provided! A basic washer and dryer for a family of 9. Used lawnmowers for 2 families, as well as lessons in lawn mowing and yardwork. Food baskets for each family at Christmas. Gift cards/money when families have been under financial stress. Clothing, books and toys for the children. Winter coats and work shoes. A car repair. Fuel oil needed for heating. Used bicycles to get to work. Space heaters when furnaces stopped working. Assistance with medical and dental appointments. Transportation to immigration physicals in Harrisonburg. Help with immigration paperwork. Help writing resumes and college applications. Assistance finding employment. Rental housing for two of the families.

## Burnt Factory's Refugee Outreach Cont'd

3. You have welcomed and shown the love of Jesus! Whenever our refugee families take part in the life of the church they are overwhelmed by the love shown by our congregation. This past year when Mohammad and Danishyar graduated from high school you showered them with cards and gifts, and embraced their entire family. In July seven of the refugee children attended church camp. Approximately 20 of the Afghans enjoyed spending time with you at the church picnic and waterslide in August. Four took part in Apple Butter, and were so excited about it, there will be many more in 2026! Although they are Muslim, the Syrian family enjoys worshipping at Burnt Factory; the father says "I have friends here."

We recently received a thank you note from Samar Jafri, the director of Church World Service, Winchester:

*"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the care and commitment that you have shown in supporting many families through their resettlement and integration journey. Your willingness to step in and walk alongside these refugee families during such a pivotal time has made a meaningful and lasting impact."*

Your advocacy and generosity throughout reflects both compassion and conviction. You have demonstrated what it means to truly show up for others, guided by a belief that all of God's people are inherently good and deserve respect. Thank you for your humanity, your empathy and steadfast support."

If anyone is interested in serving in our refugee outreach, please contact Marcia Etu, [marciametu@gmail.com](mailto:marciametu@gmail.com)

# Brothers in Faith

We had our first gathering of men (young and old) on May 9th 2026, .....38 were in attendance. The kitchen crew Doug Kirocofer and Ron Wagner prepared a wonderful breakfast for all. Our first quest speaker was Ken Wales who gave his life long witness that lead him to the ministry and Burnt Factory.

Future projects and activities were also discussed...such as Support for Watts, Apple Butter and Baseball game attendance. Our next "Brothers in Faith" meeting with breakfast will be July 11th (9am) at the Shelter weather permitting. Come and fellowship with us!



Brothers in Faith Chairmen  
Dennis Loeffler



## Apple Butter Project 2026



The tentative date has been set for October 22nd to 24th. However, to pull this off again this year we need two other men or women to team with me (Dennis Loeffler). These two individuals (along with myself) will play an important role in the overall successful completion of activities that "lead up" to and "during" the Apple Butter making days. Please contact Pastor Steve or me if you are willing to make such a commitment.

# June 2026 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

Date/Time		Event
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM	Sisters in Faith
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	Mission Team Meeting
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

For more info, view the calendar on our website: [CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church](#)

