



2026 SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement
Sharing the love of Christ with ALL
people.

*"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

Burnt Factory Church
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"Burnt Factory Reflection Park"
1934 JORDAN SPRINGS ROAD, Stephenson, VA

Dream & Vision: To develop 15 acres of pristine Frederick
County farmland into a spiritual, outdoor place of reflection,
contemplation, prayer and peace where all are welcome.

The Reflection Park would embrace the three foundational principles of the universal church in that they would offer a nurturing environment, an outreach to the greater community and a witness to the Gospel.

Background: In 2018, property was purchased across the road from our church. It contains a circa 1802 farmhouse along with fifteen acres. With the continued growth in Fredrick County, available recreational property & green space is shrinking and in fact, disappearing.

Burnt Factory Church made the decision to use this property for the glory of God and to create a park, gardens, and a walking trail that would reflect the Gospel.

At Burnt Factory Church, we believe that this property, which God blessed us with, should be used for God's glory!

We believe the Burnt Factory Reflection Park would be a lasting asset to the church and community while at the same time proclaiming the truth of the gospel, in a loving, friendly and inviting presentation, for years to come!

The walking trail would be just short of a mile, and along the way, there would be sites that would display the Christian story.

There will be a prayer site, including a prayer labyrinth and a small chapel or gazebo. There would be a Garden of Gethsemane site, a crucifixion site, and a resurrection site with an empty tomb representation.

There would be a baptism site and also an incarnation site complete with a stable.

There will be benches for rest, reflection, and contemplation.

There will be several gardens along with other representations of the Gospel.

There will be a small pavilion for church events.

We hope, one day, to also have a playground area for all children that would include equipment that would cater to differently abled children.

We see families with children strolling along the trail on a summer evening, reading about Jesus and His love. We see families having picnics and enjoying the beautifully landscaped property. We see Easter egg hunts and live Christmas nativity scenes. We see people walking the prayer labyrinth or reflecting in the prayer gazebo. We see people stopping at the sites and perhaps reading about Jesus for the first time. We see Youth Groups from all over the area coming to visit and experience the park. Though not a large park, it could be a very important and meaningful one that could, quite possibly, give hope and peace to many people.

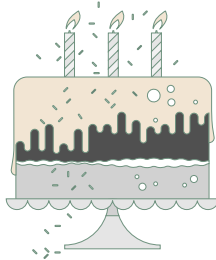
There is nothing like this in our community and we believe this would give glory to God above all things and that perhaps, through this park, someone would come to accept Jesus as their Lord!

I read a really interesting article recently about neuroscience and the Bible. It set some new techniques in place for my personal prayers. You see, our brains are wired to think thoughts based upon the ways we go about our day. If we concentrate on all the negativity on news feeds, social media one-sided accounts, and propaganda, then our fears, worries, and anxieties are going to be what our minds are fixated on. It will essentially rule our lives. But there's hope! We can transform our minds to fixate on better things! Romans 12:2 says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind". A person cannot think like Christ or on Christ if we are constantly feeding our minds based upon things in the world. Transformation begins when we let go of fleshly desires and desire the things of God. Your thoughts are not private little nothings. They are forming you! Keep thinking about defeat, fear, lust, laziness, jealousy, rage/anger, or constantly dwelling on the things of the past, hurts, revenge for those hurts, if we dwell on our anxieties and stresses, then that is where our mind will draw behaviors from. We have to change the way we think, what we think on, to change the way we daily live. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on earth". By doing so, our minds will be aimed not at the negatives that produce negative reactions, but by the comforts, peace, fruits, and behaviors led by Christ. Peace is not found by letting your mind run wild, it is found when we fix our minds on God instead of allowing every thought, fear, or anxious thought to drag us around. Take a little more time on the thoughts that pop into our heads. Is it worthy to be given a place in our day or do we send it into the garbage where it truly belongs and then turn our faces toward the heavens and put our thoughts on the promises and goodness of God. Trust me, your days will change, your heart will change, and what comes out will be fruitful and stronger. No more dragging around the choking thoughts that threaten to consume us. Allow the Peace that Passes all understanding consume us and bring us strength to stand against the distractions of the evil one. Be at peace my dear ones.

Love,
Pastor Carrie

August Birthdays

2nd Stephen Kerns
 4th Daniel Renner
 5th Lindsey Perrault Barros
 Duane Swisher
 Glen Burke
 6th Katie Mowery
 7th Ben Ratliff
 8th Pat Perry
 9th Jo Anna Grayson
 10th Darrin Bursey
 Rachel Hayton
 Cheyanne Owens
 Lisa McClinton
 11th Dave Bodkin
 12th Theresa Gilbert
 13th Sandra Grove
 15th John Renner
 19th Deanna Simmers
 Colby Groce
 23rd Jackson Boudier
 26th Lillianne Owens
 Sandy Burkhart
 27th Connor Lewis
 29th Renee Stump
 30th Jay Kackley



Happy Anniversary

1st Rick and Lisa McClinton
 3rd Rich & Sue Wells
 Dave & Linda Bodkin
 4th Rick & Debbie Walker
 5th Bill & Jani Shope
 Josh & Christina Jenkins
 16th Sean & Laine Everhart
 30th Steve and Tammy Cunningham

“I can do all things through
 Christ who strengthens
 me.”

Philippians 4:13

CONDOLENCES

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



- Please keep the Lewis family (Don & Sherry) in your prayers. Scott Lewis claimed the promise of the resurrection. He is home with the Lord.
- Please pray for the Duvall family as Perry Duvall has claimed the promise of the resurrection. Perry fought cancer with all he had, and it never defeated him. His faith was strong, and he went to glory in total peace.
- Please keep the Garver family in your prayers. Lisa's Aunt Marilyn claimed the promise of the resurrection.



“The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted
and saves those who are
crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18



Dear Families,

As a new school year begins, we want to start it with prayer! On Sunday, **August 16**, we will be having a Blessing of the Backpacks during our worship service. We invite all students (preschool through high school) to **bring their backpack** to church that day to receive a special blessing for the year ahead. It's a meaningful way to remind our kids that God goes with them-into the classroom, on the bus, in their friendships, and in everything they do.

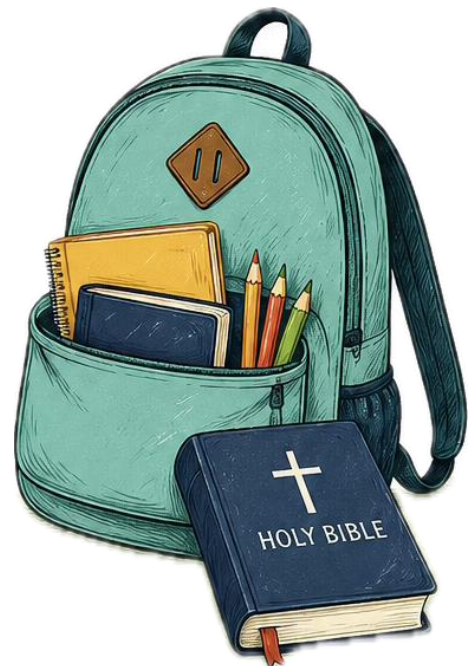
CELEBRATING OUR UPCOMING KINDERGARTNERS!

We will also be recognizing all children who are starting kindergarten this fall. Our upcoming kindergartners will receive their very own Bible during the service! If your child will be starting kindergarten this fall, please let us know by **Sunday, August 9** so we can make sure they are included.

"The Lord will keep you from all harm-he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

Psalm 121:7-8

We can't wait to bless our kids and this new school year together!



Erin Hartman - Director of Children's Ministries

E-mail: hartman03@yahoo.com

Cell: 540-535-5283

The Outreach Mission Statement

“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.”

1 Peter 4:10-11

It is such a blessing to be a part of this loving, compassionate, and generous church. Thank you to all those who are dedicated to making a difference in our community by meeting their needs through our ministries.

Many opportunities are available to serve and be a part of sharing God’s love:

- During the month of August, the church will be collecting school supplies for Bright Futures
- August 15th - Sisters in Faith will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Carrie Fair will be sharing her faith journey. All women are invited.
- August 16th - Family Promise will be packing and delivering meals to the homeless in motels.
- August 16-21 - The mission team will be serving in Ashe, NC
- September 10th - There will be a blood drive in the fellowship hall
- September 25th - There is a Dementia Seminar planned

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, September 3rd** at 7p.m. in the lower cottage. Hope to see you there.

Cheryl Jones

Outreach Committee Chair

cheryl_b_jones@yahoo.com



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.

The congregation was extremely supportive of CCAP in many ways during the month of July! Thank you for all the donations and time given to support CCAP.

We would like to thank our Volunteers who worked at the Saturday Food Pantry at CCAP on Saturday, July 11, from 9am until noon. Thank you to: Sandy Burkhart, Vonnie Jenkins, Paul and Susie Gerometta, Patty Leonard and Kathy Dick.

The BLT lunch group met on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 for their fellowship lunch. The members then prepared sandwiches, cheese snack bags, hard boiled eggs, other individual snacks and water which were placed in the Freedge on North Cameron Steet. Additional supplies for the Freedges were delivered to CCAP along with fresh eggs for distribution in the food pantry. Thank you for your generosity each month for stocking the Freedges located throughout the community.

Our Quarterly CCAP Collection for July was outstanding! The Red Bins donations provided quality items most needed at CCAP! The following items were donated:

Men's

- **Socks - 96 pairs**
- **T-Shirts - 78**
- **Boxer Briefs – 166**
- **A pair of jeans**

Women's

- **Under wear - 85**

Patty Leonard and Kathy Dick attended the 2nd Quarterly Congregational Representative Meeting on Friday, July 24, 2026. Listed are the highlights of the meeting.

Needed projects completed at the CCAP building include:

Warehouse floor sealed

HVAC system replaced (1 unit) in the clothing house

New Roof

Fence between Bo's Barn and CCAP

Continued projects include:

Compressors need to be raised and leveled in case of the Town Run flooding

Repair of the water damage to the back of the main building

Second Quarter Stats provided:

Food - 4206 unique individuals with 474 new.

Clothes - 2261 unique individuals with 222 new.

40,329 items of clothes, 33 adult hygiene, 1070 bedding, and 120 towels were given out.

Finance- 799 unique individuals with 152 new.

Baby and Toddler From 1/1/26-6/31/26

Children served- 888

Children receiving clothing- 761

Children receiving diapers- 837

Total diapers distributed 1/1/26-6/31/26- 25,830

Each family received a package of wipes and each child was offered a book!

Upcoming events:

Bike Event- August 22, 2026-There is still time to register and/or to volunteer. Please contact Jess Leonard at CCAP (540) 662-4318.

A New Resource:

211virginia.org – a site to show where clients can go for help. For example, Utility Assistance, Aging and Disability, Education and employment, family and community Support, Housing, Government and Information Services, Healthcare, Income Support and Assistance, Food and Meals, Legal, consumer, and Public Safety, Mental Health and Substance Use, Transportation, Clothing, and Household Needs. There is online help and 211 can also be called for assistance.

Once again, thank you for the continued support of this important ministry.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep
540-664-6973

Kathy Dick- Outreach CCAP Rep
540-539-2905

Mission Team Update

Burnt Factory Church will be sending another mission team to Ashe County, NC this month. They will be rebuilding homes and bringing hope and encouragement to families whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Helene and subsequent flooding and mudslides in September 2024. The needs remain great and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) anticipates this area will need disaster assistance for approximately 10 years. Both those of you who send and those who serve help lift the spirits of the families, some of whom have been living in campers for the past 2 years while their homes are being rebuilt.

This year's team members are David and Linda Bodkin, Mark Jones, Lisa Patterson, Judy McIntire, Doug Kiracofe, Dawn Oglive, Larry and Kathy Dick, Dave Darsie and Marcia Etu. Please keep them in your prayers August 16-21 as they travel and serve in North Carolina.



As August arrives, many of us find ourselves balancing the last days of summer with preparations for a new season. Whether children are returning to school, vacations are ending, or routines are becoming busier, this is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the importance of caring for our whole selves – body, mind, and spirit.

Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 11:28**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Rest is more than sleep. It is taking time to reconnect with God, to nourish our bodies, and to restore our spirits. Even a few quiet moments each day can reduce stress, improve our outlook, and strengthen our resilience.

Healthy Habits for August

- Stay hydrated, especially during hot weather. Aim to drink water throughout the day.
- Continue enjoying fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables from local gardens or farmer’s markets.
- Take a walk in the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.
- Schedule recommended health screenings and annual checkups before the busy fall season.
- Practice gratitude by writing down three blessings each day.

Preparing for a Healthy Fall

August is an excellent time to think ahead:

- Review your medications and refill prescriptions before schedules become hectic. **11**

- Encourage children and grandchildren to establish healthy sleep routines before school starts.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about recommended immunizations, including seasonal vaccines when they become available.
- Consider how you can support someone who may be lonely, grieving, or facing illness.

A Spiritual Challenge

This month, choose someone each week to encourage with a phone call, handwritten note, or prayer. Small acts of kindness often have the greatest impact and reflect Christ's love in meaningful ways.

Health Tip of the Month:

Follow the **"8-8-8 Rule"** for wellness:

- **8 hours of restful sleep**
- **8 glasses of water** (or enough fluids to stay well hydrated)
- **8 minutes of quiet prayer or reflection** each day

May your August be filled with renewed strength, good health, and the peace that comes from walking with God.

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 or theresahgilbert@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 247-5612





Finding Strength Together

“Hope grows stronger when it is shared.”

As August brings the warmth of late summer, it reminds us that growth often happens quietly. Just as gardens continue to bloom through the hottest days, so too can courage, resilience, and hope flourish, even during life’s most difficult seasons. A cancer diagnosis changes many things, but it does not define who you are. Every treatment completed, every appointment attended, every moment of laughter shared with family and friends, and every act of kindness received is a testament to your strength. Whether you are newly diagnosed, undergoing treatment, in remission, or caring for a loved one, your journey matters, and you are never walking it alone. Remember that emotional health is as important as physical health. It’s okay to ask for help. Support groups, counselors, faith leaders, family members and friends all play an important in healing. Strength is not measured by facing cancer alone. It is found in allowing others to walk beside you.

For caregivers, thank you. Your compassion, patience, and unwavering support make an immeasurable difference. Be sure to care for yourself as well. You cannot pour from an empty cup.

As a group of “Believers” our mission is to raise money for Helping Hands Cancer Outreach. 100% of the money that we raise goes to cancer patients and their families. Our church family has been very generous, so to commemorate the month of August we will be donating \$8,000.00 to HHCO.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness” Desmond Tutu

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

On July 11th, 32 men gathered for the Brothers in Faith meeting at the church fellowship hall. Speakers were Tim Sutphin and Randy Campbell who reported on what Emmaus is all about. Doug Kirocofe and Ron Wagner served up a wonderful breakfast and a bit of history on the Johnny Cakes that were specifically prepared.



After services on July 12th, the Brothers In Faith sponsored a Burnt Factory Church event at the Hagerstown Flying Boxcars Meritus ballpark. The day was sunny and gorgeous. Over 30 folks had the opportunity to fellowship together while enjoying the Flying Boxcars win another game! However, the coolest event had to be watching Pastor Steve throw out the first pitch.

So, for all the guys out there please do consider joining our bimonthly Brothers In Faith gathering whenever you can. Free breakfast, fellowship, informative speakers and project planning are always on the agenda. Next meeting will be on September 12th.

Brothers In Faith Leader
Dennis Loeffler

Outreach committee will be collecting the following items from August 2 - August 16.
Please place items in the red bins.

- dry erase markers
- #2 pencils
- plastic pencil cases
- headphones
- ear buds

These items will be taken to their warehouse and delivered to schools as needed.
Thank you for your donations.

Karen Willis krwillis1@comcast.net 540-539-6989

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 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 with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”

August 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun 2nd	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Youth Group
Tues 4th	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 5th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 6th	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63
Fri 7th	2:00 PM	Youth Lock-In
Sat 8th	9:00 AM	Church Picnic
Sun 9th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Youth Group
Mon 10th	7:00 PM	Mission Team Meeting
Tues 11th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 12th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 13th	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63
Sat 15th	10:00 AM	Sisters in Faith

Date	Time	Event
Sun 16th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	Aug 16–21	Mission Trip to Ashe, NC
	4:00 PM	Youth Group
Tues 18th	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 19th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Thurs 20th	9:00 AM	Home School Orientation
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63
Sat 22nd	8:00 AM	CCAP Benefit Bike Tour
Sun 23rd	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Youth Group
Tues 25th	5:00 PM	Praise Team
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 26th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 27th	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63
Sun 30th	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	1:00 PM	Confirmation Classes Begin
	4:00 PM	Youth Group

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