NOVEMBER 2026

SMOKE SIGNAL



Burnt Factory Church
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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

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From the Pastor's Desk

7 Reasons

In following up on my sermon from this past Sunday on healthy self-love, I thought this article, whose author is unknown to me, will provide great insight.

God bless you all.

Pastor Steve

1. The people you compare yourself to compare themselves to other people too.

We all compare ourselves to other people, and I can assure you that the people who seem to have it all do not. When you look at other people through a lens of compassion and understanding rather than judgment and jealousy, you are better able to see them for what they are—human beings. They are beautifully imperfect human beings going through the same universal challenges that we all go through.

2. Your mind can be a very convincing liar.

I saw a quote once that said, "Don't believe everything you think." That quote completely altered the way I react when a cruel or discouraging thought goes through my mind. Thoughts are just thoughts, and it's unhealthy and exhausting to give so much power to the negative ones.

3. There is more right with you than wrong with you.

This powerful reminder is inspired by one of my favorite quotes from Jon Kabat-Zinn: "Until you stop breathing, there's more right with you than wrong with you." As someone who sometimes tends to zoom in on all my perceived flaws, it helps to remember that there are lots of things I like about myself too—like the fact that I'm alive and breathing and able to pave new paths whenever I choose.

4. You need love the most when you feel you deserve it the least.

This was a recent epiphany of mine, although I'm sure it's been said many times before. I find that it is most difficult to accept love and understanding from others when I'm in a state of anger, shame, anxiety, or depression. But adopting the above truth really shifted my perspective and made me realize that love is actually the greatest gift I can receive during such times.

7 Reasons (continued)

5. You have to fully accept and make peace with the "now" before you can reach and feel satisfied with the "later."

One thing I've learned about making changes and reaching for the next rung on the ladder is that you cannot fully feel satisfied with where you're going until you can accept, acknowledge, and appreciate where you are.

Embrace and make peace with where you are, and your journey toward something new will feel much more peaceful, rewarding, and satisfying.

6. Focus on progress rather than perfection and on how far you've come rather than how far you have left to go.

One of the biggest causes of self-loathing is the hell-bent need to "get it right." We strive for perfection and success, and when we fall short, we feel less than and worthless. What we don't seem to realize is that working toward our goals and being willing to put ourselves out there are accomplishments within themselves, regardless of how many times we fail.

Instead of berating yourself for messing up and stumbling backward, give yourself a pat on the back for trying, making progress, and coming as far as you have.

7. You can't hate your way into loving yourself.

Telling yourself what a failure you are won't make you any more successful. Telling yourself you're not living up to your full potential won't help you reach a higher potential. Telling yourself you're worthless and unlovable won't make you feel any more worthy or lovable.

I know it sounds almost annoyingly simple, but the only way to achieve self-love is to love yourself—regardless of who you are and where you stand and even if you know you want to change.

You are enough just as you are. And self-love will be a little bit easier every time you remind yourself of that

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Psalm 139:14 (KJV)

Associate Pastor Thoughts

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and He shall direct your path." Proverbs 3: 5-6

A story from A.W. Tozer

There was a river that had frozen over, and there was a man who decided he would walk across the ice. He didn't see anyone else out there but decided to move forward. As he got further out, he became more nervous. Out of caution, he decided to crawl and then squirm across the river. Growing more anxious still, he began to cry and then he heard a cracking sound. He thought he was a goner, but as the noise got closer, the ice didn't seem to be breaking. He looked up and saw a man with a team of horses with a wagon loaded with logs driving across the river. When he realized that was the noise he had heard, he brushed the ice off and strolled across the rest of the river with confidence. What was the difference between these two men? One knew the ice, the other did not.

Where does our faith come from? It comes from a knowledge of God. Those who spend their time getting to know God, can brush off the things that bring anxiety, stresses, and those things that drive us crazy, because knowing God gives us a confidence in living our lives day to day. We don't have to carry those heavy burdens alone; we don't have to "sit on that ice and cry" because we think we have reached our breaking point. Trust God to carry these things for you. Take extra time to sit with God, and God will most definitely take extra time for you. Learn about His promises and trust them. Seek His presence, and He will come to you. We all feel overwhelmed and overstimulated, so power down with God, and allow Him to refuel you. You cannot go wrong with that!

I want to wish you all a very warm and Blessed Thanksgiving! I am so blessed to serve here at Burnt Factory. You all are blessings to me.

Peace and love,

Pastor Carrie

November Birthdays

1st	Pat Ashby
2nd	Linda Nicholson
4th	Tim Stinnette
6th	Martina Bouder
7th	Mike Taylor
8th	Betsy Newlin
12th	Kate Reed
	Robert Willis
	Michael Seabright
	Chuck McFarland
15th	Brenda Johnson
16th	Naleah Seabright
18th	Adam Woods
	Mackenzie Leonard
	Janet Ritter
19th	Jim Pitzvada
20th	Jani Shope
21st	Donna Gallagher
	Abby Melester
22nd	Anne Perrault
	Glen Fair
23rd	Karen Willis
25th	Frances Taylor
26th	Wilson Gilbert
	Mark Lentz
	Marcus Smith
27th	Leila Bayliss
29th	Jo Anne Baker
	Mike Dick





Happy Anniversary

2nd	Johnny & Darlene Morrison
4th	Lisa & Kris Eaton
13th	Joe and Patty Hulver
18th	Jerry & Regina Baldwin
19th	Jimmy & Jo Anna Grayson
24th	Mike & Maureen Dick

Condolences

- Please keep David Peterson in your prayers. His father has claimed the promise of the resurrection
- Nancy's (a friend of Debbie & Keith's) sister, Judy, claimed the promise of the Resurrection.



"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18

Youth Ministry

Hello Burnt Factory Youth!

I hope this letter finds you all well. As November approaches we are looking forward to our first annual Burnt Factory Youth Friendsgiving! At this time this event is planned for Sunday, November 15th after second service. I hope everyone can make it! There will be more information to follow so please keep an eye out! If you have not yet followed our Facebook page and joined our Facebook group, please do so! This is where a lot of our information and announcements will be posted. Please feel free to text me or email me if you ever have any question. I look forward to seeing you all Sunday!

In Him,

Tammy

Children's Ministry



Families: It's that time of year; Christmas Play practice! Please mark these dates on your calendar; kids of ALL ages (including YOUTH) are needed!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

'Twas the Evening of Christmas

by Glenys Nellist

Calling all children & youth!

Join us as we prepare to tell the story of Jesus' birth through this special Christmas program.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- November 8th • 3:30–4:30 PM
- November 15th • 3:30–4:30 PM
- November 29th • 3:30–4:30 PM
- December 6th • 3:30–4:30 PM *DRESS REHEARSAL

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Date: December 13th Time: 6 pm

Erin Hartman - Director of Children's Ministries

Brothers in Faith

The Brothers In Faith next meeting will be on November 14th at 9 am in the fellowship hall. Come join us for a Free breakfast and good fellowship with fellow brothers in Christ! Please also consider bringing a friend. Our guest speaker will be Dudley Rinker from the organization called “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds, assembles, and delivers free beds and bedding to children aged 3 to 17 who are sleeping on floors, couches, or air mattresses.

Thank you so much
Dennis



“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”
Psalm 100:4 (KJV)

Sisters in Faith

Burnt Factory Sisters in Faith is an active group of women who love God and love their neighbors. They meet every two months to encourage one another and to brainstorm ways to help others in our community.

At their most recent meeting on October 17, they made decisions on how to partner with several local organizations reaching out to people in Winchester and beyond. This included allocating funds to support ABBA, the Laurel Center, Special Love, the Evans Home, and Operation Remember. In addition, Sisters in Faith assisted three refugee families by providing funds to cover heating oil costs for the upcoming winter months.

Pastor Carrie and Robin Russell gave a program explaining how Burnt Factory is helping local families with emergency funds to cover housing costs, utility bills, food, transportation costs and other daily necessities. Working with our Church Council, Carrie and Robin have established a Community Emergency Fund which will budget and disperse assistance to families in need on a regular basis. This will ensure that funds are spent wisely to help as many families as possible.

The next meeting of Sisters in Faith will be December 12 at 10 am. All ladies are invited to attend and become a part of this vital ministry.

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."

Happy Fall to you all! I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Fall weather.

The ministries at BFC are continuing to bless many in our community, as well as those who are serving.

October's Family Promise ministry was able to provide nine extra meals to the homeless in motels. They are very appreciative of these meals. Thank you to all those who contributed by providing food, assembling meals, delivering meals, or donating money. We were excited to see new faces helping out, and hope to see you again, along with all those who help when they can.

A big thanks to all who gave donations to The Laurel Center in October.

Opportunities coming up in November:

- There is a need for volunteers to help with the Hospitality table on Sunday mornings
- CCAP collection for Thanksgiving meals is going on now through Nov. 15th
- Nov. 14th - Brothers in Faith meeting at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Nov. 15th - Family Promise Meal
- Nov. 28th - Dec. 5th - BFC WATTS week. This is a great opportunity to minister to the homeless in our community

You can find more information about many of the BFC ministries in this newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested in helping or just want more information.

Our next Outreach meeting is Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the lower cottage. We would love 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.

Collections for CCAP – November is a busy month for CCAP collections! We will continue our traditional giving to CCAP as follows:

It's that time of year when we provide 25+ Thanksgiving meals to CCAP. For the CCAP Thanksgiving Meal this year, frozen turkeys are the only item you need to sign-up for. There is a sign-up for the turkeys in the Fellowship Hall. Please include your phone number on the sheet. During the week of 11/9, Kathy Dick (540-539-2905) or Patty Leonard (540-664-6973) will be calling you to schedule a pick-up of the frozen turkeys. We can also accept monetary donations for the turkeys.

Non-perishable food we will be collecting; No sign-up sheet for these items:

- CANNED GREEN BEANS
- CRANBERRY SAUCE
- BOXED POTATOES
- CANNED YAMS
- BOXED STUFFING MIX

Any canned or boxed items you wish to donate from this list should be left in the RED CARTS marked CCAP located in the Narthex. These items are due by SUNDAY, 11/15. There is no signup sheet for the non-perishable food. Please donate any items from the list above.

Diapers, wipes and blankets collection at the Healing Service on Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

We are asking for:

- SIZES 2, 3 AND 6 OF DIAPERS
- WIPES
- DOUBLE AND QUEEN BLANKETS

CCAP is a great place to give your clothing a second life! Currently CCAP is accepting donations of Winter clothes only.

We need the following gently used items:

- Men’s- all sizes of jeans, sweatpants, sweatshirts, T-shirts, tennis shoes and boots
- Women’s- all sizes of sweatpants, tennis shoes, and boots
- Children- all sizes of baby/child winter clothing; infant sizes through teen
- Adult backpacks and gently used/clean linens (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and towels)

Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday between 9am and 12pm at 112 S. Kent St. Winchester, Va. Call CCAP at 540-662-4318 for a scheduled donation drop off if these hours don’t work with your schedule.

CCAP Corner (continued)

We have 4 Neighborhood FREEDGES. With so many more people in need, these Freedges are more important than ever.

The Freedges are open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy and are stocked by your neighbors and community members.

- 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
- Wayside Inn in Middletown

We appreciate all the support CCAP receives from our Burnt Factory Members!

Patty Leonard- Outreach CCAP Rep.

540- 664-6973

Kathy Dick- Outreach CCAP Rep.

540- 539-2905

WAYS TO SERVE

W.A.T.T.S.

Our week of W.A.T.T.S. is fast approaching November 28th through December 5th, at the Stonewall Ruritan Building. A signup genius will be coming out soon.

We have two ladies who volunteer every year to play bingo with our clients. If you would like to donate $5 McDonald's gift cards that will be used as prizes for bingo, please place in the basket in the Social Hall by the outside door to the ramp.

There are a couple of special fundraising events coming up to support W.A.T.T.S.

Cheesin' For A Reason will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Downtown Walking Mall in Old Town, Winchester.

A ticket allows tastings and samplings of gourmet grilled cheese creations and tomato soups from area restaurants. Ticket and event details can be found on the official WATTS Cheesin' for a Reason Registration Page.

The Faith, Love and Laughter Concert featuring Linda Davis, Lang Scott, and Bill Whyte, will take place on Saturday, December 5, 2026, show start time 6 p.m., at the Millwood Station Banquet Hall in Winchester. Tickets and updates can be found directly through the Millwood Station Events Page or the Faith, Love and Laughter Concert Facebook Page.

With everybody's help, I am looking forward to another good week for Burnt Factory Church to serve W.A.T.T.S. this year. Thanks, Jimmy

Faith and Health Corner

Falling Into Faith:
Embracing God's Beauty This Autumn

As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, fall reminds us of the beauty found in every season of life. The vibrant colors, cooler mornings, and peaceful moments of autumn invite us to slow down, reflect, and recognize God's goodness all around us.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Just as the trees release their leaves to prepare for a new season, we, too, can learn to let go of our worries, trust God's timing, and make room for spiritual growth.

Fall is also a wonderful time to cultivate gratitude. Even amid life's challenges, we have so much to be thankful for: the love of family and friends, the support of our faith community, opportunities to serve others, and the comfort of knowing that God walks with us through every season.

Our faith community is a beautiful reminder that we do not have to walk this journey alone.

Through worship, fellowship, prayer, and acts of kindness, we encourage one another and share the hope of Christ with those around us. As the days grow shorter and the holiday season approaches, may we look for simple ways to extend hospitality, lend a helping hand, and offer a word of encouragement to someone who needs it.

This autumn, let us embrace the changing season filled with gratitude, fellowship, and the warmth of His unfailing love.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 107:1

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

The Believers

November 2026

Fall Fundraiser



On Monday, November 9th at 5:30 PM

The talented Christie Yates will be leading a workshop for a fall leaves watercolor painting

Class will be limited to 10 – 12 people

The cost is $25.00 per person

All proceeds will go to The Believers

Please contact me at (540) 247-5612 if you would like to participate.

"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure." Peter Marshall

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

Stay Connected

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"

November 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Nov 3 & 10	10:00 AM–noon	Paul Bible Study
Thu Nov 5	7:00 PM	Outreach Meeting • Lower Cottage
Nov 8 & 22	1:30–3:00 PM	Cantata Practice
Nov 8, 15, 29	3:30–4:30 PM	Children's Christmas Play Practice
Week of Nov 9	By phone	CCAP frozen turkey pick-up scheduling
Mon Nov 9	5:30 PM	The Believers • Fall Fundraiser
Nov 10 & 24	Noon–1:00 PM	2/4 BLT
Sat Nov 14	9:00 AM	Brothers in Faith • Fellowship Hall
Sat Nov 14	11:00 AM–4:00 PM	Cheesin' For A Reason • Downtown Mall
Sun Nov 15	After 2nd service	Youth Friendsgiving (planned)
Sun Nov 15	Noon–1:00 PM	Family Promise Meals
Sun Nov 15	Deadline	CCAP food donations • Red carts, Narthex
Wed Nov 18		Healing Service • CCAP collection
Wed Nov 25	Closed	No Pastor's Office Hours
Nov 28–Dec 5		W.A.T.T.S. • Stonewall Ruritan Building

Regular Schedule

Day	Time	Event
Sundays	8:30 & 11:00 AM	Worship
Tuesdays	5:00–6:30 PM	Praise Team
Tuesdays	6:30–7:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 4, 11, 18	9:30 AM–1:00 PM	Pastor's Office Hours
Wed Nov 4	6:00–7:00 PM	Women's Bible Study
Thu 5, 12, 19	6:30–8:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop 63

Looking Ahead

Date	Time	Event
Sat Dec 5	6:00 PM	Faith, Love and Laughter Concert
Sun Dec 6	3:30–4:30 PM	Christmas Play • Dress rehearsal
Sat Dec 12	10:00 AM	Sisters in Faith
Sun Dec 13	8:30 AM–noon	Choir Christmas Cantata
Sun Dec 13	6:00 PM	Children's Christmas Program