God's News for Antioch



November 2026

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church

23502 Senedo Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

(540)459-3661

George Bowers, Senior Pastor

Asking God Why

Have you ever asked God, "Why?" Few people there are who haven't looked toward heaven and cried out in despair asking God to explain Himself. But as we learn from the book of Job, He doesn't always do so, although He has promised to be with us no matter what may come our way. While this is a great comfort, we still yearn for explanations that we probably wouldn't accept anyway.

But instead of asking, "Why God," what about asking, "Why, God, have You blessed me so much?" Some of my friends have raised that question to me numerous times. Now they have not, mind you, lived a charmed life. This couple has had their share of broken relationships and challenging illnesses, not to mention an accident that landed one of them in ICU for several weeks hooked up to all manner of life support. Nevertheless, they dwell not on the devastating losses, but on God's wonderful gifts including life itself.

Occasionally they've rephrased it as, "Why has God been so good to us?" This question carries the same sentiment and highlights God's favor that we all enjoy. A popular Christian song declares, "His goodness is running after… me," and who among us hasn't sensed that at some time or the other in our life?

Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned the line oft-quoted, "Into each life some rain must fall," recognizing that in a fallen universe no one is exempt from pain. But Wadsworth is most known for His Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," in which he expresses his grief for the "rain" of losing his wife to a horrible fire, of his son's severe injury in the Civil War, and of the tragedy of war itself. In the fourth verse, however, he turns a corner and celebrates the fact that, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men!"

If we dwell only on the negative, we will be overwhelmed with anguish and fail to see the many blessings God gives. Because we've all sinned and violated God's love and God's laws, we all deserve a miserable life on earth followed by the eternal fires of Hell. The surprise and shock should not come when something bad happens in our lives, but that anything good ever does. Behold the mercy and grace of God!

At Thanksgiving, we tend to be more aware of God's numberless blessings as we pause to consider them, as well we should. But how might it change our attitude and our outlook if we did so all year long? My late brother, Jimmie, when asked how he was doing, often responded with, "Better than I deserve!" What tremendous gratitude is enveloped within this powerful insight and anyone that fails to comprehend its inescapable truth is likely an ungrateful and miserable person.

The composer commands us in Psalm 107:1 to, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Contemplating these words, Martyn Lloyd-Jones observed, "Do you know that if you ever find yourself in hell, it will be for this reason, that you have not praised God? Now, forget all about sin for a moment. Forget all about yourself and your life. Here is the first thing: are you praising God? You were meant to! You were created in order that you might do so. God is to be praised because He is what He is and because He is God, and I know of no more terrible sin than just failure to praise Him." Every human being's first and highest priority is to give praise and thanks to our Creator, Savior, Provider, and Sustainer and may we never fail in this regard!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving again this month, may we turn our "Why God" questions into, "Why, God, have you been so good to me?"

Thanksgiving blessings,

George

Schedule:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

Nursery Provided & Children's Church

Senior Pastor: George Bowers

Associate Pastor for Youth and Visitation: Dale Bennett

Pastor Administrative Assistant/Clerk: Rachel Buffington

Treasurer/Bookkeeper: Kathleen Reynolds

Deacons: John Anderson, Chair

Don Sherman Jr., Co-Chair

Benny & Tammy Andes

Tim & Kathy Cooper

Norma Doman

Matt & Brenda Wendling

Noah & Amy Hepner

Diane Pence

Building & Grounds Chair: Jeff Jett

Pastoral & Worship Chair: Diane Pence

Finance Chair: Doug Doman

Discipleship Chair: Stephanie Chapman

Church & Family Fellowship Chair: Ronda Mace

Mission & Witness Chair: Allen Bowers

Sunday School Superintendent: David Sherman

Church Board Chairman: Bernie Adams

Church Board Co-Chairman: Stephanie Chapman

Moderator: Barry Arey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to……..

Congratulations to Charlie Hubbard who was named Jr. Vice President of the Central FFA Chapter!

If one part of the Body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 1 Corinthians 12:26

Special Opportunity To Support Antioch With Tax Advantages For You:

If you are over 70½ years of age, the tax laws allow you to donate all or part of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a church or charity and you won't have to pay any taxes on the amount you give. A Qualifying Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to donate up to $100,000 per year directly to your church or qualified charity from your IRA and exclude it from your income, and thus your tax liability. The donation has to go directly from your IRA to your church or charity and cannot come to you and then be given. It must go directly. The money or stocks must be drawn directly from an IRA and must go directly from the IRA institution (Schwab, Fidelity, Wells Fargo, etc) to the church or charity. You, the account holder, should never touch the money.

Example: Jane is an active and generous 73-year-old who gives to her church regularly. After retiring a few years back, she has a substantial nest egg in her IRA. The Required Minimum Distribution from her IRA (the minimum amount the government requires her to withdraw and pay taxes on this year) is $30,000. Jane will use $20,000 toward her living expenses but wants to donate the rest to her church. She will send the funds directly from her individual IRA to her church to make her donation. Since the funds go directly from her IRA to the church, it never hits her bank account and therefore it is not included in her annual adjusted gross income, thus giving her a nice charitable deduction and she is able to advance Jesus' work as well. If you have questions, speak to your financial advisor or tax consultant.

Cancellation Notifications:
Cancellations of the worship service due to weather will be sent out on the email chain. For those without email, announcements are usually posted on WHSV (Channel 3). A decision is usually made by 7:30 am Sunday morning. If anyone would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please let Brenda Fadeley know be emailing her at bfadeley67@gmail.com

New Email Address for Pastor George:
Please note: Pastor George's email has changed! His new email is gabowers63@gmail.com !!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available. Please pick up a shoebox and fill it with special items for a child. Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 8, 2026. A donation of $10 per shoebox is critical to help cover collecting, processing, and shipping gifts to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Middle Youth Lights-November 15th-Helping Pack Shoeboxes & Collecting Items for Food Pantry
The Middle Youth Lights (grades 5th-8th) will meet on November 15th after worship to help with shoe boxes. Lunch will be served.

We also will be collecting non-perishable food donations for a local food bank beginning on November 15th and running through November 22nd. Thank you for your support and kindness. Please text or call Sandy Clem at 540-481-0264 if you have any questions.

Sharing of Gifts and Worship Leadership:
If you are willing to lead worship, lead music, or share a gift during worship contact Sister Amy Hepner of the Pastoral and Worship Commission.

Congratulations to….

Congratulations

If one part of the Body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
1 Corinthians 12:26

Newsletter:
If you have information for the church newsletter, please send it to Sheryl Jett. Please send her all birthdays and anniversaries so we can recognize those in the church newsletter.
Please email her at: theboys@shentel.net or put it in her mailbox at church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER REGARDING CHARITABLE GIVING RECEPTS FOR THOSE USING THE ANTIOCH PAYPAL LINK ON THE WEB PAGE: Please make sure you print the receipt from PayPal to use for your charitable giving receipt for income tax purposes. The donations given using the PayPal link are not included in recording that is done from tithes and offerings collected during the regular church offering.

Antioch Little Duckling Preschool continues to enroll children. If you or someone you know is interested, have them call the Preschool at 540-459-9486. The preschool is always looking for donations of stickers, crayons, craft kits (35), treats, and paper products. If you would like to donate to the preschool scholarship fund. Checks can be sent to the church or added to the offering. In the memo line it can be earmarked for the scholarship fund. Blessings, Amy Babcock, Director/Teacher, Antioch Little Ducklings

Ongoing needs of Family Promise include:

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese
Breakfast Bars	Spray Cleaner	13-gallon kitchen trash bags
Paper Towels	Toothpaste	Tampons
Adult Body Wash		

Donations may be dropped off at our Family Center, 781Spring Parkway, Woodstock, VA
Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SPREAD THE WORD

Please spread the word! Antioch's Sunday Worship Services are available on YouTube and you can find them by typing YouTube into your browser and then searching for AntiochCBC. Past services and Bible Studies are there as well. In addition, you can find out more information about Antioch at www.antiochcbc.org including upcoming events, sermon note sheets, ministries, mission opportunities, children's activities, Antioch's history, how to meet Jesus, and much more!

Sign Your Child Up For Free Bible Classes!

Weekday Religious Education Classes are being held this school year and are open to all 2nd , 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Go to www.Biblebreak.com and click on Sign Up! Share with your friends and spread the word! All 2nd , 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are welcome but every participant needs to register and have a signed permission slip. See Pastor George or Dale for any questions.

Join Antioch's Choir!

The Antioch Choir practices are on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and the group will lead worship and provide sharing of gifts for services once a month on the 4th Sundays. If you are interested in joining the Antioch Choir or have questions, please contact Nancy Bowers in person or at gabowers63@gmail.com.

Meals Ministry Opportunity!

Would you be willing to provide a meal for a church family in need? A Meals Ministry team is being formed to help church members when a need for a meal(s) arises due to a surgery or extended illness. We would like to comprise a list of people who would be willing to provide a meal if called upon. You don't have to be a "Betty Crocker" in the kitchen to help out. A casserole, soup and salad, or a pizza and salad, etc. can easily feed a family. Could you pick up a rotisserie chicken, some potato salad and rolls and drop it by someone's house if called upon? Are you comfortable calling DoorDash? Please prayerfully consider if you could lend a hand and be a part of this outreach. Please contact Leslie Helsley by text or phone at 540-325-7127 or by email at slbcbj@yahoo.com and she will be able to answer your questions and get you on the list. You can also call Yvonne Ryman on her cell 540-333-4035 or by text. We recognize that many in our church are already addressing this need but are hoping to reach others who may also have a heart for this ministry. A sign-up sheet will also be available on the table in the fellowship hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antioch's Theme Verse for 2026:

Pastors George and Dale and the Antioch Church Board invite you to memorize, meditate, and live out the following verse for 2026. It will be our "Theme Verse of the Year" and this will be special emphasis in worship, sermons, outreach events, etc.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. John 15:16

AWE

AWE continues to look for musicians to add to our worship team. If you have a nudging from the Spirit, come to practice with us on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. or call Amy Hepner at 540-323-0171. We'd love to have you.

Church Nursery Help Needed

Nursery volunteers are needed for both services. Please, if you are able, consider volunteering in the nursery.

Disaster Work:

Samaritan's Purse is constantly looking for volunteers to go on Disaster Mop up and rebuild trips. See Pastor George if you are interested in either.

Help with Pregnancy

If you or someone you know is facing an unexpected pregnancy, our church is here to help. Please contact either Pastor George or Pastor Bennett or a deacon.

New Members:

If you would like to become a member at Antioch by baptism or transfer or have questions, please see Pastor George or Pastor Dale. We plan to do this again soon.

If you would like to dedicate a child to the Lord, we also plan to do this again soon. See Pastor George

MY FAITH VOTES®

United. We Stand.

Become the Reason Someone Votes This Fall:

Join the movement that's guiding Christians to the polls by the millions, encouraging them to vote their biblical values. 1 in 3 Christians doesn't vote. That's about 25 million people. YOU can help change that statistic! Encouraging someone to vote is easier than you might think - if you're rooted in prayer, have the right tools, and the right message to share. My Faith Votes identifies Christians who are pro-life and pro-traditional family but who are unlikely to vote. And the Write Now Campaign needs your help to contact them before Election Day. You'll receive a letter that's typed and ready to print, so all you need to do is print it and add a short, personalized message they provide at the end. You'll prepare your letters when the campaign starts and mail them in October. You can make a difference now for America's future! To join the e-mail list to receive information about this opportunity, sign up at: https://www.writenowamerica.org.

Gospel Music and Trips Update

Go to **SONshineMinistriesVA.org** to find out more about other concerts and bus trips as well as a listening schedule for WBTX and ministries sponsored by SONshine Ministries.

Bus Trip - Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - Winter Wonderland (Christmas Show) at the American Music Theater in Lancaster, PA Step into the magic of the season with Winter Wonderland, American Music Theater's 2026 Christmas Show! From a charming Bavarian village to the festive North Pole, this dazzling production features stunning sets, gorgeous costumes, and live performances of your favorite sacred and secular holiday songs. With their sensational cast, live orchestra, and even a visit from Santa, its a joyful experience for the whole family--and a holiday tradition for all! This is a great show!! And be sure to bring the kids along!! Discounted pricing for kids age 3-12. Cost: $175 all-inclusive. Includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, ticket to the show, delicious buffet meal and a packed lunch on the way home. Call Jean Kelley at 540-476-5211, Dustin Kline at 540-810-6236 or email Dustin for details or to sign up.

Chordially Yours-Dec. 19 & 20, 2026 Lindale Mennonite Church @ 3 p.m.-
Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley, a 50-member professional choir led by Artistic Director Scott Zane Smith, presents its holiday concert, "The Pure Imagination of Christmas," December 19-20 at Lindale Mennonite Church in Linville. Performances begin at 3 p.m. both days. This one-hour concert features an inspiring collection that captures the spirit—and magic—of the holiday season. Make plans to attend, and bring your family and friends. For more information, find us on Facebook at @Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley.

Bus Trip—JONAH—Multiple Dates in 2027: Thursday, April 29; Thursday, May 20; Tuesday June 29; Wednesday, July 21; Saturday, Sept. 11; Thursday, Oct. 21—Sight And Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA:
A Whale of a Tale. Jonah is a prophet and a man desperately trying to outrun his calling from God-a calling that leads straight to his enemy, Nineveh. After uncharted adventures lead him off a storm-tossed ship and into the belly of a giant fish, Jonah believes all hope is lost. But in the depths, will he learn how to receive grace and extend mercy, even to those he opposes the most? Cost: $225 all inclusive. Kids 12 and under receive a $45 discount. Includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, ticket to the show, delicious buffet meal and a packed lunch on the way home. Call Jean Kelley at 540-476-5211, Dustin Kline at 540-810-6236 or email dustinkline@gmail.com.

How Can I Be Saved?

It is very easy to have your sins forgiven, be saved, and go to heaven. There are three basic steps:

1.Admit. Admit to God that you are a sinner (that you have disobeyed Him and His plan for your life). Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2.Believe. Believe that God loves you and that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the penalty for our sin and to pay our price. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

3.Confess. Confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" of all and that God raised Him from the dead. Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Just pray right now, tell God that you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you through Jesus' blood. Tell Him you want Jesus to be Lord, the Leader of your life.

If you have never prayed to God or it has been a long time it may be hard to know where to start. While you can tell God whatever is on your heart, the following prayer may help you get started if you don't know where to begin.

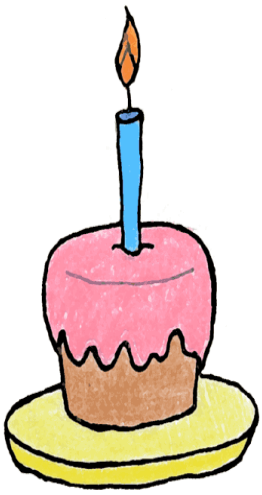
"Dear God, I know I am a sinner and I want to stop. I'm sorry for my sins and I'm asking you to forgive me because of Jesus' death on the cross. I believe Jesus is Your Son and I believe You raised Him from the dead. I want Him to save me and to lead me. Thank you for doing this. I give myself to you. In Jesus Name, Amen"

Now What?

If you have been saved and want to follow Jesus, begin to read His Word, the Bible, and pray every day. Begin attending a Bible believing church where you can grow in your faith and learn to be all that God has planned for you. We'd love to have you join us at Antioch but there are many wonderful churches. What is important is that you are involved somewhere. May God bless you as you serve Him.

Happy Birthday to our November Birthday People

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Celebrating Marriages for the Month of November



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Happy Anniversary!

2026 Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During 2026, the Pastors, staff, and Church Board invite you to join them in weekly prayers for our church. Please spend some time each week, and ideally each day praying about these items:

Week of:

November 1—Pray for all the Christian Radio stations as they proclaim the gospel and that they might produce much good fruit!

November 8—Pray for all the employees and volunteers of Samaritan's Purse and for them to produce much good fruit!

November 15—Pray for all the members of the Blue Ridge CBC Regional Board and for God to inspire, direct, and bless their work.

November 22—Pray for God to rise up willing servants to keep the nursery for each service each week.

November 29— Pray that God would be glorified in our serving the ShenPaco Christmas meal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resources and inspiration for all ages at the Antioch Library

* Reading Magic, Mama Bear Apologetics, How to Talk So Kids Can Learn and other resources to support parenting and academic success
* Fundamentals of the Faith study materials and Book studies from the Bible
* Bible Promise Book for the Anxious, Embraced, and other devotionals

You can stop by Room 3 any time and check out all that Antioch Library has to offer.
If you have books and materials from Antioch Library lying around at home, please return them when you're able so others can enjoy them, too. Thank you.
As always, if you have a book you highly recommend that others read, consider donating a copy to Antioch Library.

Needs for the Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center:

Meeting Practical Needs with Compassion

At the Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center, we're here to support you not just emotionally and educationally, but also in practical ways. We provide essential items to help ease the challenges of pregnancy and parenting, including:

- Maternity clothes
- Prenatal vitamins
- Infant and children's clothing
- Diapers and wipes
- Formula and baby food
- Car seats, cribs, strollers, and other baby gear

If you need additional support, we can also connect you with trusted community partners who offer housing assistance, healthcare, counseling, food assistance, and more. You don't have to do this alone—we're here to help meet your needs every step of the way. Contact number: (540) 984-4673.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Check out some upcoming trips sponsored through Parks and Recs of Shenandoah County:

Day Trips 2026:

- PA Christmas & Gift Show - Dec 5

All Ages overnight trips 2026

- Christmas in New York City December 7-9,2026

All Ages overnight trips 2027

- Islands of Hawaii Cruise February 4-13, 2027
- Salem & Boston - Witches & Ghouls May 15-20, 2027
- Christmas in Charleston December 6-9, 2027

FAITH & REASON
APOLOGETICS

Christian Worldview Conference

Topics

Abortion and the Case For Life,
Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith with Holiness Respect and Truth
The Death of Good and the Quest For Moral Sanity
Why You Matter: How Your Quest for Meaning is Meaningless Without God

Free Admission



Saturday
November 14, 2026
9:30am- 3:30pm

Michael C. Sherrard
President of Apologetics Inc.

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church
23502 Senedo Rd - Woodstock, VA

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ***Orange Sunday*** **6:30 Evening Service**	***2*** 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	***3*** 6:30pm, Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice Election Day	***4*** 9am Morning Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens 3:30 BLAST	***5*** *5 p.m. Custodians cleaning the church* 7pm, Choir Practice	***6***	***7***
8 After worship, Deacon Commission Meeting After worship, Discipleship Committee Meeting	***9*** 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	***10*** 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	***11*** 9am Morning Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens 3:30-BLAST	***12*** *5 p.m. Custodians cleaning the church* 7pm, Choir Practice	***13***	***14*** 9:30am-4:00pm, Apologetics Speaker
15 December Newsletter Items due to Sheryl Jett ***Middle Youth Lights Pack Shoeboxes***	***16*** 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm Evening Bible Study	***17*** 6:30pm, Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	***18*** 9am Morning Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens 3:30-BLAST-Thanksgiving Dinner	***19*** 5 p.m. *Custodians cleaning the church* 7pm, Choir Practice	***20***	***21***
22 ***Youth Sunday*** 6:00pm, Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke CBC	***23*** 6:45pm Evening Bible Study	***24*** 6 pm, NWTF Faithful Call Meeting 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	***25*** 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens	***26*** Thanksgiving Day	***27***	***28***
29	***30*** 6:45pm Evening Bible Study					

Dates for 2026 Antioch Ministry Plan—God Willing

Every Sunday 10am	Worship of Almighty God
Every Sunday 8:45am	Sunday School to study and apply God's Word.
BLAST	Every Wednesday September 16-November 18
Evening Bible Study	Most Mondays 6:45pm
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays at 9 a.m.
Nov 14	Apologetics Speaker at Antioch Mike Sherrard
Nov 22	6 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke CBC
Dec 20	Christmas Program

Go, Make, Baptize!

George Bowers
July 2026

It's time for the church to realize,
Jesus commanded us to go, make, and baptize!
Twas Christ's firm and final transmission,
And comes to us as His Great Commission.
Not sitting still to let them come,
No matter where they may be from,
But clearly did the Lord say, "Go!"
This greatest truth, His people know!
And then for the Kingdom's everlasting sake,
He added, "Disciples you must make!"
Then dunked for each of the Trinity,
Sealing commitments for eternity!
And if we are focused on Jesus' eyes,
We'll get busy and go, make, and baptize!
So join CBC, God's mission team,
And live out together this conference theme!

Dates for 2027 Antioch Ministry Plan—God Willing

Every Sunday 10am	Worship of Almighty God
Every Sunday 8:45am	Sunday School to study and apply God's Word.
BLAST and PM Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from 2/3-5/5/27 and again in the fall.
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from 1/6-5/26 and again in the fall.
Jan 16	5:30pm Sportsmen's Banquet SNOW DATE: Jan 23
TBD	Winter Youth Retreat
Feb 12 6-9pm	Night to Shine at American Celebration on Parade
March 5	SONShine Ministry Concert-Kingdom Heirs
April 3 6:30pm	WRE Concert
March 21	Palm Sunday Worship-Love Feast following
March 26 7pm	Good Friday service
March 28 6:30am	Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast, 2nd service at 8:30am
May 30	Graduate Recognition with meal afterward
June 20-24	Vacation Bible School
July 4-8	CBC Regional Jr. & Sr. Camp at Highland Retreat
TBA	CBC Youth Mission Trip
Aug 22	Church Board Planning Retreat
Sept	Worship in the Wild, picnic at Maurertown Park.
TBD	Sunday School Move Up/Back to Church Sunday
Oct 3	Love Feast following worship.
Oct 24	CBC Sunday and Fellowship Meal
Nov 21	6pm Community Thanksgiving Service
Dec 19	Christmas Program

Executive Committee Meetings: 6:30pm Jan 11, April 12, July 12, Oct 11

Church Board Meeting Dates: 7:00pm Jan 11, April 12, July 12, Oct 11

Congregational Business Meeting Dates: 7:00pm Jan 25, April 26, July 26, Oct 25