



God's News for Antioch

September 2026

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church

23502 Senedo Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

(540)459-3661

George Bowers, Senior Pastor

The Hijacking of Culture

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

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attack of 9/11. Every American knows exactly where he or she was when they first heard of this evil murder of nearly 3,000 of our countrymen. We watched in horror as the Pentagon burned and as the Twin Towers collapsed while firefighters bravely struggled to rescue those trapped inside.

The Muslim terrorists who perpetrated these sinister actions did so by hijacking airplanes. Using inexpensive boxcutters and intimidation, they commandeered the cockpits of the aircrafts and used them as enormous weapons of mass destruction. Their plan was carefully designed and involved coordinated effort among several conspirators. Thankfully, one of those planes never found its intended target and praise God for the brave individuals who prevented it from doing so. Nancy and I were privileged to visit the Flight 93 Memorial this summer and we encourage all to do so.

Airplane hijacking is nothing new, however. Less than 30 years after the Wright Brothers took their first flight at Kitty Hawk, revolutionary soldiers commandeered a plane in Peru to advance their cause in 1931. Since then, it has happened over 1,000 times around the world as individuals with warped minds and unscrupulous consciences have preyed upon innocent travelers and trusting pilots. Thankfully, the changes implemented after 9/11 have greatly reduced the frequency of these events in spite of them complicating air travel. These changes have resulted in lost freedoms as we can no longer assume people will do the right thing and respect life. Good, bad, or indifferent, we cannot turn back the clock and pretend nothing like it will ever happen again.

The characteristics of a hijacking are very similar to what the devil has done with the good world God created. Through Adam's sin, Satan gained control of humanity's cockpit and has been flying our plane ever since. Because he is the same one who was ultimately behind the 9/11 attacks, we can clearly discern his intentions which are to steal, kill, and destroy by whatever means possible.

Much of what God created for good has been commandeered by Satan to cause pain and suffering. Instead of being used in moderation, Jesus' adversary has successfully tempted millions to abuse alcohol and hurt both themselves and others. He has twisted God's good gift of sexuality into fornication, adultery, and other perversions that cause more pain than can be measured.

The Devil also hijacks good plans of Christians. Believers founded American schools to teach children to read God's Word. Sadly, the enemy has so usurped control that the Bible can no longer be freely taught in public education and has been relegated to released time, private schools, and home-schools. The first hospitals were started by Christians to relieve suffering but many have been used since to kill unborn children and mutilate bodies with sex-change operations. Other beneficial inventions such as the internet, social media, dynamite, photography, and many more have been seized by the foe and used for much evil.

Sadly, even the church is susceptible to such hostile take-overs. When God's Word is no longer revered, taught, preached, and obeyed, it's apparent that Jesus is no longer in the cockpit, for He is God's Living Word. As those brave individuals stood against the hijackers on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, believers must courageously stand for the timeless truth of all that the Bible teaches. We must resist efforts to revise God's standards and redefine His Word to align with our own preferences.

It has been wisely observed that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." If we stand idly by while the enemy, and those he has deceived, wrest control of our culture, nation, and even Christ's church away from godly pilots, we become complicit in his hijackings. Let's pray that nothing like 9/11 ever happens again. And until Jesus returns to reclaim His rightful seat in this world's cockpit, let us, with His power, stand against those seeking to commandeer God's Word, God's world, and God's ways.

Blessings,

George

Antioch Welcomes New Members!

On August 16, Antioch welcomed 16 new members! These include the following:

Danny and Ann Wetzel have been attending Antioch for a good while and have decided to become members! Danny grew up at Harmony and went to Columbia Furnace Church of the Brethren where he accepted Jesus and was baptized. He graduated from Central and worked for Concord mobile homes, Neff's Meat Market, Blue Ridge Homes but then spent 41 years working for VDOT. His favorite place is the same as mine, the treestand as he likes to hunt and garden and enjoys farming. We welcome him as he transfers from Waterbrook Brethren Church.

Danny's wife Ann grew up in the Union Forge United Methodist Church but got saved in a Revival at Toms Brook UMC when she was 11 or 12 years old. She rededicated her life to Jesus in her 20s and got serious about serving God. She also graduated from CHS and went to work as a part time operator at Shenandoah Telephone company long before they became Shentel. She later became a secretary and worked there for 45 years. She volunteers at the food pantries in Mt. Jackson and Woodstock and enjoys singing in the choir, playing for and leading the youth choir, shopping, gardening, and watching Hallmark. She also plays for our worship from time to time. She and Danny have been married 52 years and have two daughters, Becky Reynolds who goes here and Megan who lives in Ohio and joins us on livestream about every week. They have four grandchildren and she is also transferring from Waterbrook.

We also welcome Josie Reynolds! Josie is the daughter of Kellie and John Reynolds and has been attending Antioch for several months. She is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Peter Muhlenberg Middle School where Art and English are her favorite subjects. She enjoys drawing and playing the cello. She would like to become a veterinarian after she graduates and has a dog named Remy, and 3 cats named Bob, Fancy, and Salt. We are excited for her new sister coming in October! She participated in Creation Camp this summer. Josie has accepted Jesus as her Savior and was baptized!

The next family has also been attending Antioch for quite some time. Candice Jones grew up at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church but she was later confirmed at Burnt Factory Church in Stephenson, VA where she and the children are transferring from. She graduated from Central in 2003 and earned her associates degree from Northern VA Community College. She worked as a dispatcher in Shenandoah County and was a volunteer for the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, but she is now a paramedic and firefighter for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue. She enjoys spending time with her family.

Candice's husband, Will Jones grew up in Hughesville, Md on the Eastern Shore and is currently employed with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue as an EMT and Firefighter. He graduated from Thomas Stone High school and he enjoys spending time with his family. He has accepted Jesus and was baptized!

Layla Hall is 12 years old and is in the 7th grade at PMMS where her favorite subject is history. She accepted Jesus as Savior at Burnt Factory church and is transferring from there. She is involved in the St. Luke/Saumsville 4-H club and is preparing to show goats at the Fair. She likes sewing, playing softball, and working with her goats. She has been to BLAST for several years and has attended Children's Church. She plans to enter the military after graduation.

(New Members Section Continued from the Previous Page)

Robert Hall Jr, better known as Bubba, is 9 years old and in the 4th grade at WW Robinson Elementary School where Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are his favorite subjects. He also has been involved in BLAST and Children's Church and likes to play baseball. He is also involved in 4-H and will be showing goats at the Fair. He accepted Jesus at Burnt Factory Church and when he grows up, he wants to play Major League Baseball for the LA Dodgers.

Candice and Will's daughter Oakley is transferring her membership. She was baptized into the Burnt Factory Church and has been an Antioch Little Duckling where she is returning for her second year this fall. She enjoys the family dog, Pearl. She would like to be a firefighter when she grows up! The letter of transfer we received from Youth Pastor Carrie at Burnt Factory church, said that Layla is a wonderful young lady, Bubba always made her smile, and Oakley has the best sense of humor! It's our joy to welcome this family!

We also welcome Will's mother, Kim Jones into membership. She recently moved to Woodstock from Bowie, Md where she was very active in the Crest Hill Church as a youth leader and deacon, served on the security team, and ministered at a veteran's home. She grew up going to church on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and Wednesdays and she was very involved in the youth program where her parents were leaders. She gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized at 13 years of age and she later graduated from Campbell University in NC. She is retired from the US Secret Service and she and her husband Johnny have 3 children including Will, and 5 grandchildren. She is transferring from Crest Hill Church.

We also welcome Ivy Busch. Ivy lives in New Market but comes to Antioch with her grandparents, Duanna and Richard Shepherd and her sister Peyton. She has two other siblings as well, Tristan and KeeKee. She is 9 years old and in the 4th grade at WWR where reading is her favorite subject. She also likes wrestling and making bracelets and has a dog named Killer and a bearded dragon named Boy-rito. After graduating, she plans to attend Harvard University. She has been involved in Children's Church here at Antioch and she also attended CBC Camp this summer where she made a life-time commitment to follow Jesus! She was baptized to demonstrate that!

Kaiden Larkin is the son of Jessica Larkin and grandson of Pastor Dale and Amy. He is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade at WWR where he really likes writing in cursive. He has a brother named Cohen and 3 dogs and 2 cats and lives right beside the church! He has been involved in BLAST, Children's Church and went to CBC Camp this summer. He has accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized. He enjoys going visiting with his Pawpaw and playing with remote control cars and video games. He also likes to ride 4 wheelers and go fishing and hunting and one day he'd like to race four wheelers.

It's a joy to welcome Sadie Walters! She is the daughter of Jeff and Heather Walters. She has been attending Antioch for several years and recently gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized! She is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at PMMS where science and history are her favorite subjects. She has participated in BLAST and children's Church and sings in Antioch's Youth Choir. She enjoys traveling with her family, cheering, and sign language. She has a dog named Buddy and a cat named Snickers. She plans to attend college and open her own business.

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We also welcome Holly Hubbard! Holly grew up in Ephrata, PA and was involved in FFA! She graduated from Radford University where she earned a degree in English and Technical Writing and later earned her master's degree in counseling and is the Postmaster for Woodstock. She has coached soccer and enjoys working with children and she also enjoys collecting and refurbishing dollhouses and has 17 of them. She and her son Charlie moved to Woodstock and live on Dawn Avenue. She accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was 11 and was baptized and is becoming a member at Antioch!

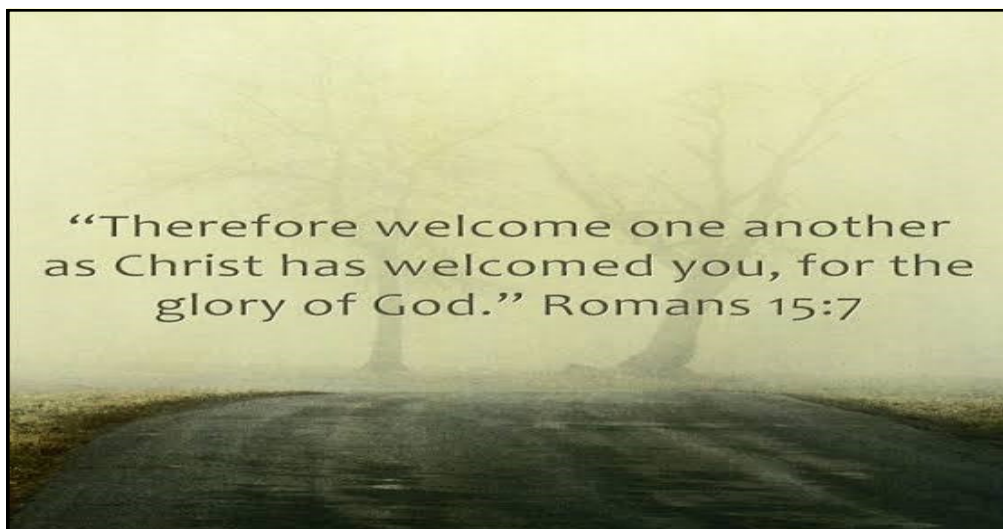
Holly's son, Charlie Hubbard just turned 14 the same day he entered 9th grade at Central High School! AT PMMS, he served as FFA President and competed in Quiz Bowl at the State FFA Convention. He likes to play basketball, baseball, soccer and lacrosse and has two dogs named Nikko and Panda, and a cat named Baby Kitty. He also attended creation camp this Summer and would like to become a lawyer! Charlie has accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized.

We also welcome Huck Hoover. Huck is the 10 year old son of Rowdy and Allison Hoover and is in the 5th grade at WWR where PE is his favorite subject. He has a sister Ruby and brother Mack and he likes playing football, baseball, basketball, riding bikes, and fishing. He has 2 dogs Lily and Lou and would like to play professional football. He has participated in Children's Church and BLAST and has accepted Jesus and was baptized.

What a joy also to welcome Rhett Estep. Rhett is the son of Aaron and Megan Estep. When asked Rhett why he wanted to be baptized, he said, "Because I love Jesus!" As we talked, he knew exactly that Jesus died for his sins and he has asked Him to save him. Rhett is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade at WWR where math is his favorite subject. He has a sister Reese and brother Cole. He enjoys riding his dirt bike, swimming, reading and playing baseball and their family has 2 dogs, Bo and Nash, and one cat, Elsie. He attended Growing Tree School and also participated this past year in WRE and will be again this year. He'd like to be a police officer when he grows up.

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 this fall.

If you would like to dedicate a child to the Lord, we plan to do this September 6.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New address for Dann and Wendy Boyd

27 Camden Causeway,
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Worship In The Wild Date Change

Please note that our outdoor worship service, "Worship in the Wild," has been rescheduled to September 6, and will be held at the large shelter at the Shenandoah County Park in Maurertown at 10:30am. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special time of worship and fellowship.

Middle Youth Lights-Scavenger Treasure Hunt

The Middle Youth Lights "Living in God's Honor to Serve" will be traveling to Woodstock Tower and Maurertown Park after worship service on September 27th. Pack a lunch for a picnic. Transportation will be provided. We will search for clues and find hidden treasures and then we will meet back at Antioch for an ice cream party. 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.

AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 12

Woodstock United Methodist Church is pleased to host an American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED training class, and we would like to invite members of your congregation to participate.

Training details:

Saturday, September 12, 2026

9:00 AM–12:15 PM, there will be a 15-minute break

Woodstock United Methodist Church Social Hall

Cost: \$169 per participant

This blended-learning course prepares participants to respond confidently to:

- Adult and pediatric cardiac and breathing emergencies
- Injuries and sudden illnesses
- Seizures and strokes
- Allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- Poisoning and diabetic emergencies
- Opioid emergencies and naloxone administration
- Epinephrine administration
- Proper use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)

Participants will complete approximately 3 hours and 51 minutes of self-paced online instruction before attending the in-person skills session on September 12. The online portion must be completed before the classroom training.

Successful participants will receive:

- ◆ A two-year American Red Cross certification
- ◆ Free digital training materials
- ◆ A digital certificate following successful completion of the course

We would love to have members of our neighboring churches join us for this valuable training opportunity.

Space is limited, so please let us know as soon as possible if you or members of your congregation would like to participate. To register or request additional information, please contact the Woodstock United Methodist Church office at 540.459.4144. We hope to see you there for a great day of fellowship and learning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER REGARDING CHARITABLE GIVING RECEIPTS 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, 781 Spring 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 gabowers@shentel.net.

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.

Walk & Ride For Life

Join Us for the Walk & Ride for Life on September 26, 8-11am at Massanutten Military Academy! Register by August 31st for your free Walk for Life T-shirt. You can register online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/scpewalk2026>. You can also support your Antioch Team Captain by clicking the donate button on that page and selecting Amanda Lenick as the person you're supporting. If you prefer to register or donate in person, please see Amanda Lenick, Donna Garber, or Penny Adams.

Bible Break Banquet– October 3 at the Woodstock Moose

The Bible Break Banquet will be held October 3 at the Woodstock Moose. If anyone would like to sponsor a table of 8 for \$250, please let Pastor George know. If anyone would like to donate an item for the auction, please let Pastor George know that as well.



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.

Chris Woodward & Hope Rising-September 27, 2026-4-6 p.m.

Columbia Church United Methodist Church invites you to join them for an evening of uplifting music, community, and fellowship. Address: 19 Union Church Road, Edinburg, VA. Hosted by the Nurture and Outreach Committee of Columbia Church United Methodist Church. For ticket information, please call 540-325-1025. Tickets: Ages 11 and up-\$10; Ages 10 and under-\$5.

Bus Trip - September 30 - October 4, 2026 - National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, TN

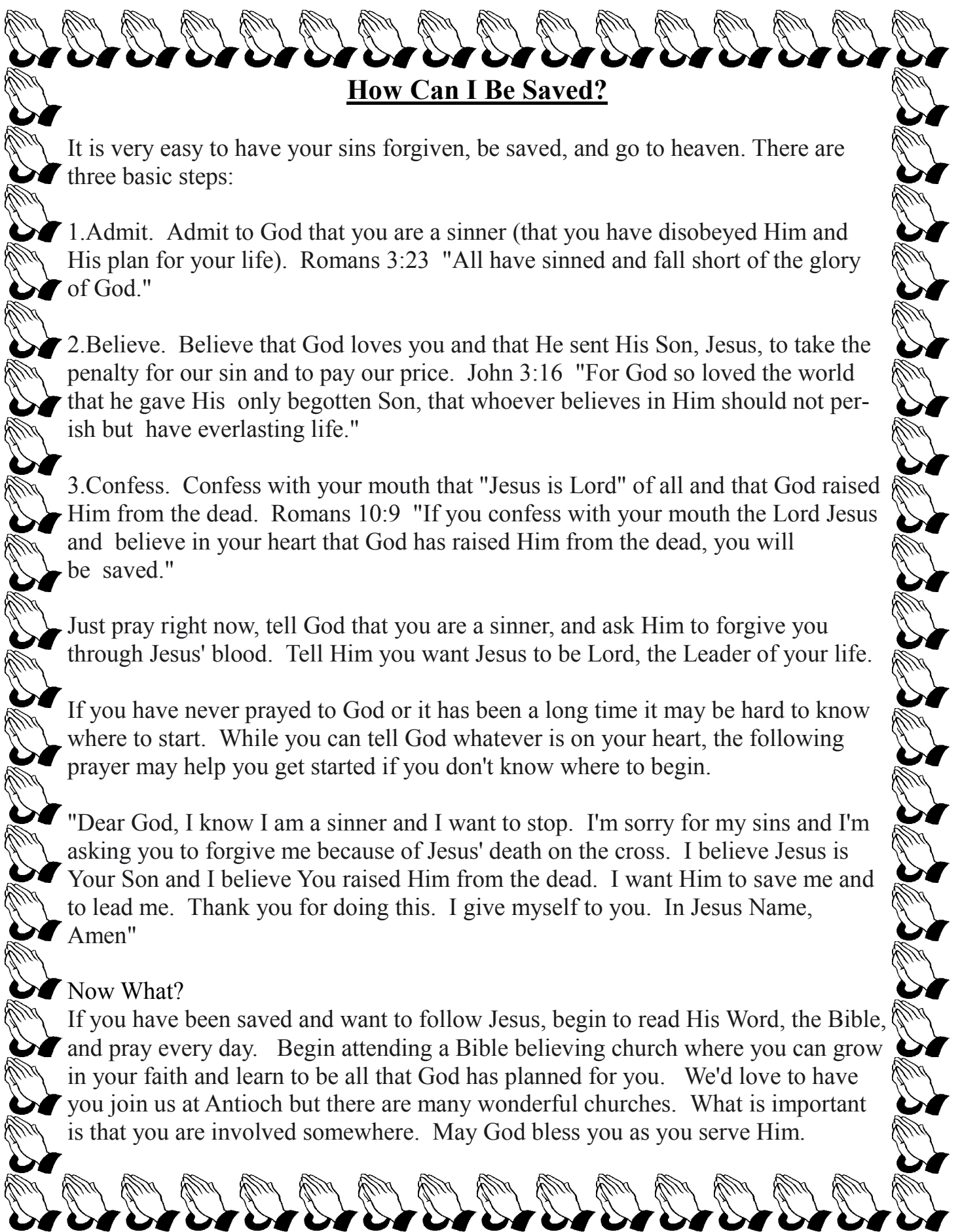
Join us on this unforgettable trip to the National Quartet Convention, held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. You'll get to enjoy all of the phenomenal concerts and events at NQC, plus have the flexibility to come and go as you please to enjoy any of the other endless entertainment/dining options Pigeon Forge has to offer. The National Quartet Convention is the largest multi-day Southern Gospel event of the year, and features top-notch groups in the industry from all over the country, and beyond. You can enjoy great gospel music all day into the night if you'd like, or just enjoy the evening concerts and selected daytime concerts. We are leaving on Wednesday, September 30th and returning home on Sunday, October 4th. You have tons of events/concerts to choose from each day and an extended concert with lots of your favorite artists/groups each evening. This is a great way to see all of the big name groups in person, many of which you don't get to see in this area. Prices are very reasonable and vary depending on the number of people per room. A detailed flyer will be available soon. Call Jean Kelley at 540-476-5211, Dustin Kline at 540-810-6236 or email Dustin for details or to sign up.

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, it's 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.

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.

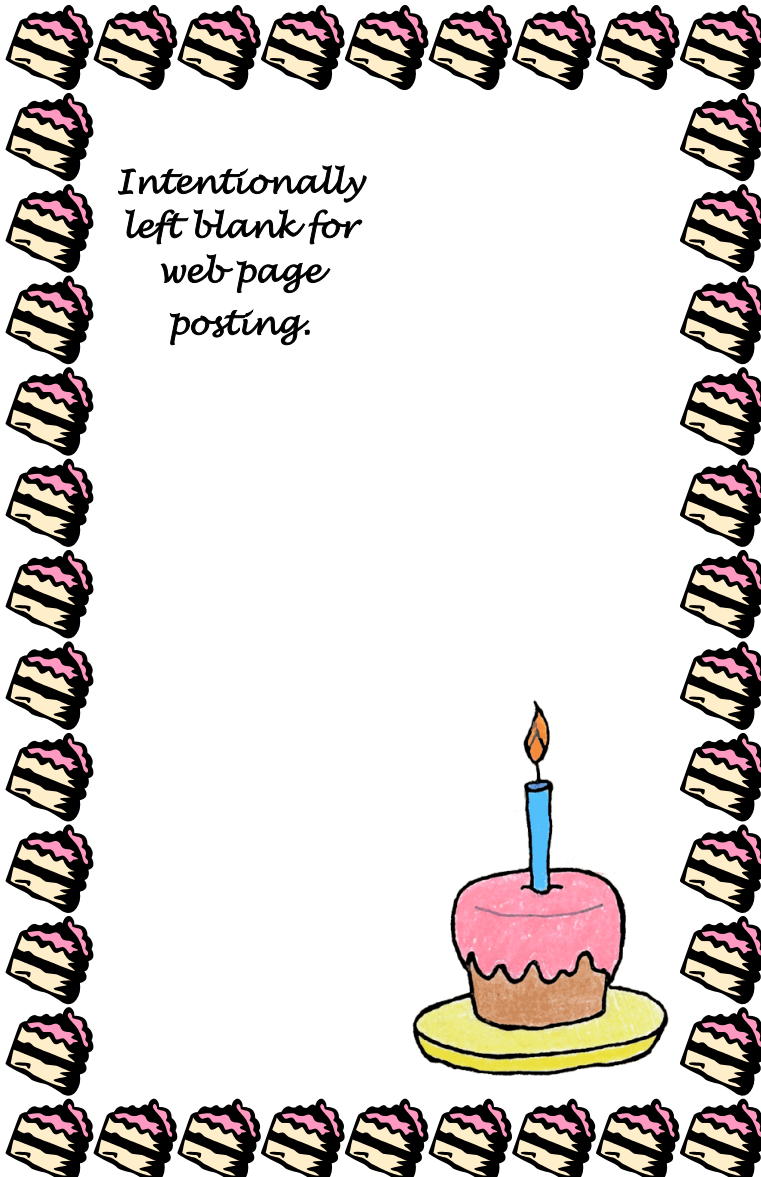
If you have never prayed to God or it has been a long time it may be hard to know where to start. While you can tell God whatever is on your heart, the following prayer may help you get started if you don't know where to begin.

"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 September Birthday People



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Celebrating Marriages for the Month of September



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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:

September 6 Pray for the BLAST PreK participants, the Truth Seekers, and their leaders.

September 13— Pray for the BLAST participants in Grades 1-4, the Pathfinders, and their leaders

September 20— Pray for BLAST participants in grades 5-8, the Ground Breakers, and their leaders.

September 27— Pray for the BLAST High School participants, the Kingdom Builders, and their leaders.

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.

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.

Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center News:

2026 Walk & Ride for Life for Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center:

Saturday, September 26 | 8:00–11:00 a.m. at Massanutten Military Academy Track

Discover the heart behind the Walk & Ride for Life and how every step helps provide compassionate, Christ-centered care for local women, men, and children. Invite your family, friends, or church to raise support and join us for this joyful community celebration of life. Register by August 31 to receive your free Walk for Life T-shirt. Ride for Life Too! Motorcyclists are invited to participate in the Ride for Life, held in conjunction with the Walk. Ride registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Abortion Recovery Support Group: Begins Wednesday, September 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Our confidential, eight-week Abortion Recovery Support Group offers a safe place for women seeking healing after abortion. Thank you for praying for participants. For more information, text Lisa at 540-268-0028.

24/7 Week of Prayer: September 6–13

Join believers from across our community as we seek God's presence through continuous prayer. Sign up to pray at the Center or from wherever you are.

Introduction to Ministry Training: October 16–17

Interested in serving? This introductory training is a wonderful opportunity to learn about pregnancy center ministry and explore volunteer opportunities. To reserve your spot, email Lisa at scpc.lisa@gmail.com.



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

Day Trips 2026:

- Flight 93 National Memorial - Oct. 13
- 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

Woodstock Community Theatre and Shenandoah County
Parks & Recreation
P R E S E N T S

For ages
50+

The 2 pm Premiere

Woodstock Community Theatre
LOCATION: 136 N. Main Street
Woodstock, VA

\$12 per person for movie, drink and snack

NOW SHOWING:
Remarkably Bright Creatures

This is a heartwarming story about Tova Sullivan, a 70-year-old widow, played by Sally Fields, who is working night shifts cleaning a Pacific Northwest aquarium. She forms an unlikely, magical friendship with Marcellus, a remarkably intelligent giant Pacific octopus, who uses his sleuthing skills to help untangle the 30-year-old mystery of her son's disappearance.

Thursday, Sept. 10 Theatre opens at 1:30pm Movie starts at 2pm

Register online at www.scpr.info or in person at Parks & Recreation
1195 Hisey Ave., Woodstock
Questions call 540-459-6777
Register before Sept. 8

WOODSTOCK
COMMUNITY
THEATRE

SHENANDOAH
COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION

A graphic illustration of a red and white striped popcorn bucket filled with popcorn, a clapperboard, and a film reel.

P. A. S. S.

People Actively Staying Social

For Ages 55+
September 10, 2026



Let's play BINGO!

Fun prizes!

Angela from Blue Flame Insurance
will be our caller!

Register by 9/3/2026

*Sign up in person at our
office, online, at
www.scpr.info or mail in a
registration form (with
payment) before deadline!*

All programs are held at the

Woodstock Moose Lodge
152 Moose Road
Woodstock

Gather at 10am
Program at 10:30am
\$5 fee for provided lunch
Social time til 2pm

**SHENANDOAH**
COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION

1195 Hisey Ave., Suite 1
Woodstock, Virginia
540-459-6777



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS 2026

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER**

2

**SHENANDOAH COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**
9:30am-noon
Free admission before
10:00am

SENIOR DAY AT THE FAIR

Vendors on site under event tent.

Join us at 10:30am for BINGO
at the BINGO stand.

Free event

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER**
10am-2pm

31

**Central High School
New Gym**
1147 Susan Avenue
Woodstock

COMMUNITY WELLNESS FAIR AND FAMILY FUN FEST

Treat Yourself to Wellness

Health Screenings

Vendors

Community Resources & More

Food available for purchase at the
Concession Stand

Shenandoah County TRIAD - Reducing crime against the elderly

Abortion Recovery Support Group

Come and find

Freedom in Jesus

Starting Wednesday, September 2nd

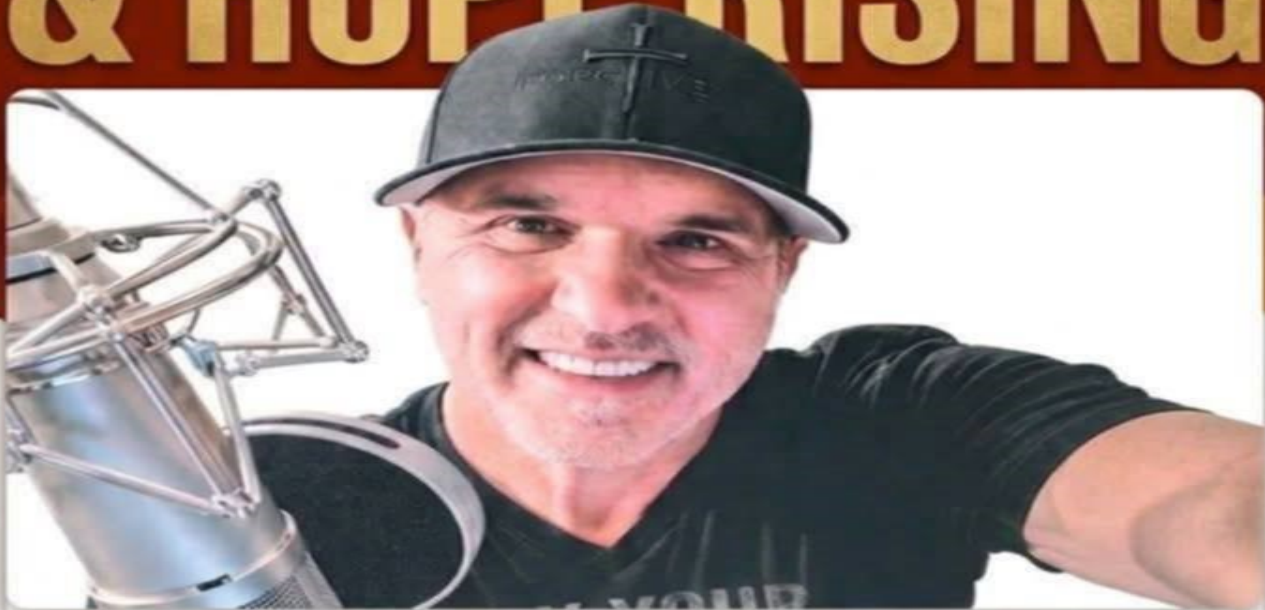
Wednesdays 6pm-8pm for eight weeks
at Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center

Text Lisa 540.268.0028 for information



🎵 LIVE IN CONCERT 🎵

CHRIS WOODWARD & HOPE RISING



Join us for an evening of uplifting music,
community, and fellowship!

When & Where

📅 **Date:** Sunday, September 27th, 2026

🕒 **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

📍 **Location:** 19 Union Church Rd Edinburg

Hosted By

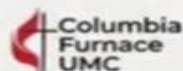
The Nurture and Outreach Committee of
Columbia Furnace United Methodist Church

Ticket Information

please call (540) 325-1025

Ages 11 and up	\$10.00
Ages 10 and under	\$5.00

> Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music! We can't wait to see you there.



Join us for the
Covenant Brethren Church
Women's Conference

*Rejoice!
Even when you don't
feel like it!*



September 26, 2026
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
@Calvary CBC
Winchester, VA

Cost is \$40

Register Online at
www.covenantbrethren.org/wc/

Breakout sessions will focus on the “Bait of Satan”,
“Prayer”, “Made in the Image of God”, and
“Rejoice in Biblical Archaeology”.

Everything

You Wanted to Know

About Aging

But Were Afraid to Ask



Answers. Guidance. Peace of Mind. *Plan today for a better tomorrow.*

As we get older, we—and our loved ones—face important questions about health care, legal planning, and long-term care.

Join us for a **FREE** community seminar to get the answers you need.



Know Your Legal Options

- What legal documents should I have in place as I get older?
- What is a Power of Attorney?
- What are the different types of Powers of Attorney?
- What is an Advance Directive?
- What is a DNR?



Understand Health & End-of-Life Care

- What is hospice?
- What is palliative care?
- What types of care options are available as we age?
- Who needs these services—and how do I or my loved ones get them?



Explore Care Choices

- What is the difference between assisted living and a nursing home?
- What types of home-care services are available?



Representatives from the medical, legal, hospice, and adult-care fields will share their knowledge, answer your questions, and provide practical information to help you and your loved ones plan for the future.

Bring Your Questions!

**Q&A to follow
the presentation.**



**October 6
7:00 PM**



**Antioch Covenant
Brethren Church**

23501 Senedo Road
Woodstock, VA



Everyone is welcome! 



Dear George:

Dear George: This is the column to address questions that are submitted during the month. The answers will be based on Biblical interpretations. If you have any questions, either email them to George or put them into his church mailbox and he'll try to get to them as soon as possible. It may take a little while, but he will attempt to answer your question eventually!

Dear George:

During the past year or longer the Scripture passage Ephesians 6:10-18, specifically, putting on the full armor of God to fight the spiritual war that we are in has intrigued me. I'd be very interested to receive your explanation (and I suspect most likely others in our Congregation in these times would be too). If you could either address this in a sermon sometime or address the "how to's" in Antioch's newsletter I would appreciate it! I realize that you already have your sermons planned so this request is as it works for you!

Signed, Armor Up

Dear Armor Up:

What a great question! The passage from Ephesians 6 is a great one that helps us visualize the spiritual battles we face each day and how to prepare for them. This is a passage I've preached on multiple times but it's been a little while. Pastor Dale also preached on it as well. The passage is as follows:

Eph 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

The Apostle Paul was likely chained to a Roman soldier as he wrote this so he could see each part of the armor that he mentioned. As he did so, he drew a spiritual parallel that is very insightful for us. Some general points:

1. We need to be strong in the Lord and His power, not our own- we must depend on Him and His Holy Spirit when we face spiritual enemies.
2. The devil devises evil schemes to attack and try to defeat us. Let us not be lulled to sleep thinking we have no enemy or that he's not cunning and crafty. Simply not realizing we have a mortal enemy is his number 1 strategy that many Christians fall for and then wonder why they have no victory in their spiritual lives.
3. As such, most of the battles we face are really spiritual, not physical. Instead of concentrating our efforts, arguments, thoughts, and energy against human beings (or Facebook), let's remember who is usually behind it all. It is the Devil and the powers for the dark world that rule under him. There is an unseen spiritual realm that we often never think of but is where most of our battles are won or lost. We can catch a glimpse into it a few places in the Scripture including in the book of Daniel and Revelation. We also see it in Gethsemane as Jesus battled temptation and as He cast out demons regularly.

(Continued on the next page)

(Dear George article Continued from the Previous Page)

4. Since our struggle is spiritual, we need to fight with spiritual weapons. Fighting spiritual battles with physical weapons like human ingenuity and human strength is like fighting against missiles and rockets with rubberbands and slingshots.
5. We need to put on the full armor of God, not just part of it. Each piece that Paul mentions is vitally important. Don't go into spiritual battle half naked.
6. Notice that Paul says, "When the day of evil comes..." not "If." Evil will come our way. Expect it. Be prepared for it. Military unpreparedness can be deadly.
7. We are to stand our ground against evil with God's help. The word "stand" is used four times in this brief passage and elsewhere we are also commanded (not suggested) to stand firm! We are not to be cowards and cowardice is actually mentioned as one of the sins that prevent entry into heaven in Revelation 21:8 along with murder, idolatry, lying, and others. Let us be strong against the enemy of our souls! On this point, I would call attention to the fact that there is no armor given for the back. We are not to turn and run away from our spiritual enemy. But neither should we stand against him in our own strength. We are no match for this great spiritual force of evil. But he is no match for Jesus Christ who has infinite power and gives it to His followers.
8. We are to buckle the belt of truth around our waist! This comes from God's Word! The Roman belt held the soldier's leg armor in place and also covered his loin area. God's Word is eternal truth and it and it alone will keep us from losing our pants and our wits in battle. It shields us from incoming lies.
9. The breastplate is critical for it protects the vital organs of our midsection including our heart and lungs. Our spiritual breastplate is the righteousness of Christ that shields us from incoming arrows and swords. Our own righteousness is powerless to resist the devil's onslaught or those of his demons. Put on the righteousness of Christ by trusting in His good works on your behalf.
10. A soldier's footwear is also crucial and will either enable him to stand firm or slip and slid and fall. Our combat boots are to be those of being ready to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News of the salvation He bled and died to provide which gives peace to all who will receive it. Believers should always be ready to share Jesus with others and this will do much to give us good footing against our foes.
11. In Roman times, shields were handheld and used to prevent arrows, spears, and swords from reaching the soldier. Some of them were covered with leather while others were metal. Paul says our primary shield is faith-trusting in God to save and deliver us and to see us safely through life's battles. When we exercise our faith by declaring our belief in God and His power, it has the effect of extinguishing all incoming enemy missiles. Faith in God through Jesus is like Israel's Iron Dome defense system that protects us from Satan's worst assaults.
12. Or course the most important part of the body is the head and that is covered with salvation-trusting in Jesus Christ to save us. Even if we are wounded elsewhere, the knowledge of our salvation delivers us into life eternal. Salvation is the best army helmet any believer can wear!
13. And of course, we are to take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. It is the only offensive weapon mentioned in this passage but Hebrews 4 tells us it is sharper than any two-edged sword. It is the MOST effective weapon against the enemy and he cannot stand against it. Every time Jesus was tempted, He deployed the sword of the Word to defeat him and Satan had to leave him. Memorizing Scripture is the best way to use this weapon but if not, having it always close at hand is also good.
14. And then Paul mentions the importance of prayer. It is how we communicate with our Commander-in-Chief. We must remain in constant contact so we know His orders to advance, where to attack, how to attack, etc. Pray, pray, pray. On all occasions with all kinds of prayer-praise, petition, etc. And, it is also helpful to fast as we are able. This is another powerful weapon against the enemy.

So that's the quick version. A sermon would obviously be much longer but hopefully this is helpful! I actually pray on the armor of God just about every morning so that I can remind myself of how to fight my battles with God's help and I encourage every Christian to do the same! Go armor up and take territory for Jesus!

In Him, *George*



September 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please NOTE: Weekly Bulletin Announcements Contain the latest info!		1 6:30pm, Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	2 <u>11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Din- er, Women at Wood- stock Gardens</u>	3 <i>5 p.m. Custodi- ans cleaning the church</i> 6pm, Choir Practice	4	5
6 Worship in the Wild 10:30am- Mauretoun Park	7 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	8 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	9 <u>11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Din- er, Women at Wood- stock Gardens</u>	10 <i>5 p.m. Custodi- ans cleaning the church</i> 6pm, Choir Practice	11	12 CBC Regional Conference at Mt Zion CBC
13 Deacon Meeting after Worship	14 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	15 6:30pm, Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	16 <u>7:30am-2:30pm WRE</u> 9-10:30am Bible Study <u>11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens</u> 3:30-7pm-BLAST	17 <i>5 p.m. Custodians cleaning the church</i> 6pm, Choir Practice	18	19
20 October Newsletter Items due to Sheryl Jett <u>Back To Church</u> <u>and Move Up</u> <u>Sunday</u>	21 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	22 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	23 <u>7:30am-2:30pm WRE</u> SEE YOU AT THE POLE 9-10:30am Bible Study <u>11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens</u> 3:30-7pm-BLAST	24 <i>5 p.m. Custodians cleaning the church</i> 6pm, Choir Practice	25	26
27 <i>Middle Youth Lights Scavenger Hunt after Worship</i>	28 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	29 6pm NWTF <i>Faithful Call Meeting</i> 6:30 p.m. AWE Practice	30 <u>7:30am-2:30pm WRE</u> 9-10:30am Bible Study <u>11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Gardens</u> 3:30-7pm-BLAST			

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 resuming in the fall
Sept 6	10:30 am Worship in the Wild, picnic at Maurertown Park.
Sept 12	CBC Blue Ridge Regional Conference-Mt. Zion CBC
Sept 16	BLAST Begins
Sept 20	Sunday School Move Up Sunday/Back to Church Sunday
Oct 4	Love Feast following worship.
Oct 18	CBC Sunday and Fellowship Meal
Nov 14	Apologetics Speaker at Antioch Mike Sherrard
Nov 22	6 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke CBC
Dec 20	Christmas Program

Executive Committee Meetings: 6:30pm: Oct 12
Church Board Meeting Dates: 7:00pm: Oct 12
Congregational Business Meeting Dates: 7:00pm:
Oct 26

**NOTICE: WORSHIP IN THE WILD CHURCH
PICNIC AND WORSHIP AT THE MAURERTOWN
PARK HAS BEEN CHANGED TO
SEPTEMBER 6TH!**

Newsletter:

If you have information for the church newsletter, please send it to Sheryl Jett. Please send her all birth-days 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.

General of the Galaxies

George Bowers
June 2026

Oh God You are the Ruler,
of all that does exist,
And You are ever present,
right here in our midst.
The Commander of the Cosmos,
the Admiral of All,
The Colonel of Creation,
throughout its massive hall.
The General of the Galaxies,
Supervisor of the Stars,
Master of Mad Mercury,
and Manager of Mars.
Saturn's Superintendent,
Principal of Pluto,
You are Lord of all that is,
above and down below!
The universe continues,
beneath Your guiding hand,
And everything that does exist,
bows to Your command!
Oh may we too submit,
to all Your holy will,
And may we recognize,
Your wisdom and Your skill!

**“For in him all things were created:
things in heaven and on earth, visible
and invisible, whether thrones or
powers or rulers or authorities; all
things have been created through him
and for him.”**

— Colossians 1:16