

# Monocacy Church of the Brethren

## Monthly Newsletter

July 2026 – Issue 7 (443) 340-1747 or 240-405-5967



### A Conspiracy of Kindness

Over the years I have attended a number of workshops done by Pastor Steve Sjogren, a wonderful pastor and very effective church planter. Steve developed a simple way to serve unbelievers and show them the love of God and practical ways. He calls this ministry Servant Evangelism. Some years ago, when I was invited to help plant a new church in Lebanon Pennsylvania, we found that Servant Evangelism was a very effective way to share the love of God with others and help them to become followers of Jesus.

In his book entitled "Conspiracy of Kindness" Pastor Sjogren tells the true story of a family that came to know Jesus at a carwash outside of Cincinnati Ohio... Joe Delaney and his eight-year-old son Jared were playing catch in their backyard when out of the clear blue Jared asked, "Dad, is there a God." Joe didn't know how to answer Jared's question and so he finally said "Well, I only went to church a few times when I was a kid, so I really don't know."

Jared ran into the house, "I'll be right back!" he yelled. Moments later he returned with a helium filled balloon from the circus, a pen and an index card. When Joe asked, "Jared, what in the world are you doing." Jared replied, "I'm going to send God an airmail message," and then he began to write, "Dear God. If you are real, and if you are there, please send people who know you to My dad and me.

As they watched the balloon with its message sail away, Joe thought to himself, "God, I hope you're watching." Two days later, Joe and Jared pulled into a carwash that was part of the Servant Evangelism ministry done by Steve Sjogrin's church. When Joe asked, "How much?" Steve answered, "It's free. No strings attached. We just want to show God's love in a practical way."

"Wait a minute" Joe asked. "Are you guys Christians?" Steve said, "Yes, we are Christians". Then Joe asked, "Are you the kind of Christians who believe in God?" With a kind smile, Steve said, "Yes, we're that kind of Christian." Then Joe said "I guess you guys are the answer to the strangest prayer God has ever received."

After witnessing a simple act of service, Joe and Jared were able to see a practical example of God's love and were given a desire to become followers of Jesus.



## **Sunday from 9:30 – 10:30 am**

### **Adult Sunday School**

**We are using David Jeremiah's Series Spiritual Warfare**

**July 5 – The Shield of Faith**

**12 – The Helmet of Salvation**

**19 – The Sword of the Spirit**

**26 – Praying Always with all Prayer**



**The  
Bulletin Board**

A list of supplies needed is on the back table. Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> will be  
The last day to collect supplies here at the church. If you have any questions,  
please see Debbie Eyler.

**2026**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Annual CATOCTIN**  
**Community**  
**School Supply Program**

This program is to assist students attending the Catoctin Area Feeder Schools.  
(Emmitsburg Elementary, Lewistown Elementary, Sabillasville Environmental  
School, Thurmont Elementary, Thurmont Primary, Thurmont, Middle and Catoctin  
High Schools.)

**The date of distribution is:**  
**Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

# Birthdays



|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ricky Baker 1 <sup>st</sup>      | Tammy Orndorff 1 <sup>st</sup>      |
| Tara Free Cooper 1 <sup>st</sup> | Grace Cooper 1 <sup>st</sup>        |
| Colin Webb 1 <sup>st</sup>       | Jerry Free 3 <sup>rd</sup>          |
| Tracy Wiser 3 <sup>rd</sup>      | Judy Kelly 7 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Bob Free 13 <sup>th</sup>        | Allen Seiss 13 <sup>th</sup>        |
| JoAnn Hurley 14 <sup>th</sup>    | Rebecca Shorb 19 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Mike Free 21 <sup>st</sup>       | David 'Jigs' Fogle 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cassidy Andrew 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Brandon Free 30 <sup>th</sup>       |

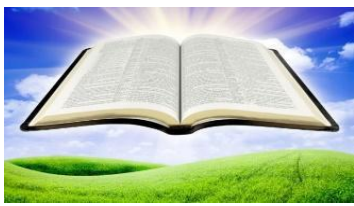
# Anniversaries



|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Ralph & Deb Eyer 6 <sup>th</sup>        | Dave & Diana Collins 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Crystal & Kelly Woods 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Mary & Brant Webb 12 <sup>th</sup>    |
| Terry & Sandie Secular 28 <sup>th</sup> |                                       |

# Contact Information

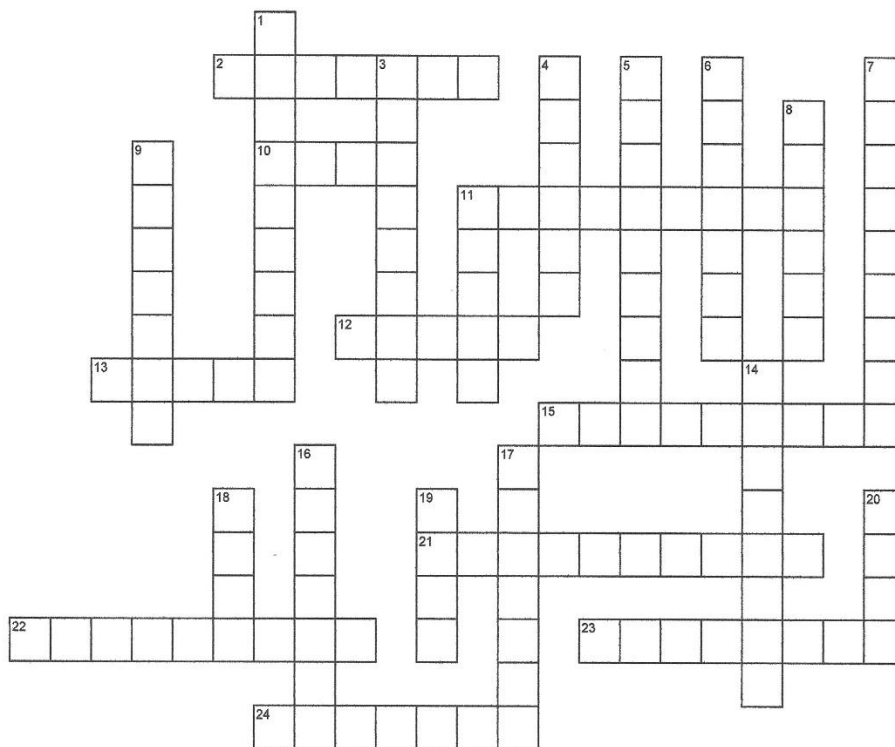
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## SUGGESTED DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS JULY

|                                    |                                  |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Matthew 11:20-24       | <b>2</b><br>Romans 7:1-6         | <b>3</b><br>Romans 7:7-20        |
| <b>4</b><br>Psalm 140              | <b>5</b><br>Psalm 131            | <b>6</b><br>Romans 1:18-25       |
| <b>7</b><br>Romans 3:1-8           | <b>8</b><br>John 13:1-17         | <b>9</b><br>Romans 2:12-16       |
| <b>10</b><br>Romans 15:14-21       | <b>11</b><br>John 12:44-50       | <b>12</b><br>Psalm 92            |
| <b>13</b><br>1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 | <b>14</b><br>Ephesians 4:17, 5:2 | <b>15</b><br>Matthew 13:10-17    |
| <b>16</b><br>Hebrews 2:1-9         | <b>17</b><br>Hebrews 6:13-20     | <b>18</b><br>Matthew 7:15-20     |
| <b>19</b><br>Psalm 139             | <b>20</b><br>Revelation 14:12-20 | <b>21</b><br>Galatians 4:21, 5:1 |
| <b>22</b><br>Psalm 139:13          | <b>23</b><br>Corinthians 4:14-20 | <b>24</b><br>Acts 7:44-53        |
| <b>25</b><br>Matthew 12:38-42      | <b>26</b><br>Romans 8:28         | <b>27</b><br>Psalm 65:8-13       |
| <b>28</b><br>Ephesians 6:10-18     | <b>29</b><br>Mark 4:30-34        | <b>30</b><br>Philippians 4:10-15 |
| <b>31</b><br>Romans 9:6-13         |                                  |                                  |

# CITIES OF THE BIBLE



## ACROSS

- 2 The walls fell after Joshua's army blew trumpets
- 10 Paul was under house arrest in this city
- 11 Birthplace of Jesus
- 12 A people of noble character lived here
- 13 A disciple named Tabitha lived here
- 15 The name of this city occurs 806 times in the Bible
- 21 Paul was taken there by soldiers at nighttime
- 22 Jesus healed a blind man here
- 23 Samson slew thirty men in this Philistine city
- 24 Paul wrote to the church in this place while on his third missionary journey

## DOWN

- 1 Where Abraham and Abimelech settled their differences over a well of water
- 3 Paul spent more than two years in a jail in this city
- 4 Visited by Philip
- 5 Where Absalom held the feast of sheep-shearing
- 6 Home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus
- 7 After leaving Nazareth, Jesus went to this place
- 8 Two disciples met Jesus on the road to this place
- 9 Modern day Iraq
- 11 The Lord confused the language here
- 14 The church here was lukewarm
- 16 A battle during the end times will happen here
- 17 Paul started his missionary journeys from this city
- 18 Where Samson was imprisoned
- 19 Jesus' first public miracle took place here, with water...and wine
- 20 Jesus raised the widow's son here

By Mary Welsh