



THE FISHNET



October
2026

VBCC Family,

This year, as we approach the height of harvest season with all the festivities it brings, Rahum and I are very excited for one particular squash-related activity: We are going to put our baby in a pumpkin.

Taking Autumnal photos of your new child sitting in these large gourds with holes cut out for their little legs is brought to us by Pinterest moms and baby instagram accounts, and it's been a silly little dream of mine since I found out I was going to be a mom. (If you haven't seen these pictures, you should. Just type "babies in pumpkins" into google. It will not disappoint.)

This 'baby in pumpkin' phenomenon is an evolution of a more traditional October pass-time - the carving of Jack'o'Lanterns.

Jack'o'Lanterns get their name and their origin from an Irish folktale first found in print in the 19th century. The tale goes something like this: A man named Jack - later nicknamed 'Stingy Jack' - had a drink with the devil. He didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the devil to turn into a coin with which they could pay for their drinks. The devil played along, but then Jack, rather than pay, slid the coin into his pocket next to a silver cross and kept the devil trapped as that coin for a full year before finally freeing him and making him promise that he'd never claim his soul and that he'd leave Jack alone for a full year.

The next year, the devil returned and Jack convinced him to climb a tree to pick some fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a cross into the bark and trapped the devil in the branches. This time, he made the devil promise to leave him alone for ten years before freeing him.

When Jack passed away at the end of his life, the story tells us that God was hesitant to let such a tricky figure into heaven, and the devil, who wanted nothing more to do with Jack, kept his word and wouldn't let Jack into hell. Instead, the devil gave Jack a single ember to light his way as he sent him out into the dark night. Jack carved a turnip - or other root vegetable - in which he placed that ember. Thus, he became 'Jack of the Lantern'

Irish people who heard the story originally carved turnips of their own with spooky faces and lit them with candles, hoping the lights would ward against Stingy Jack and other wayward spirits. When Irish folks immigrated to America, they brought their tradition with them and were introduced to the pumpkin - a larger, softer vegetable for carving. In that blending of cultures, the story was lost, the carved gourd lit from within became known as a Jack'o'Lantern, and these festive pumpkins came to serve as a symbol of the connection between harvest time and our spirituality.

Now anything can be carved into a jack'o'lantern - scary faces, funny faces, words, and more! Pinterest is full of complex carving possibilities and details of how to perfect your elaborate gourd butchering. These jack'o'lanterns are lit with traditional candles - or electronic colored candles - unless they are those pumpkins destined for a higher purpose. The best of the season's jack'o'lanterns get to hold all the cutest babies.

As life gets busier, we tend to carve fewer pumpkins since there is so much else to do, but this year, I hope you get the privilege to at least see some carved jack'o'lanterns even if you don't take the time to make one yourself. When you do, may they remind you of the power of the cross (as used by Jack in the folk tale); may they inspire you to find joy in the harvest - of hearty vegetables and of God's abundance. And, if you're lucky enough to see a baby in a pumpkin, may their smile be truly infectious.

I promise we will share pictures!

Joyfully yours,

Pastor Kelsey

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it." John 1:5

Events this Month

October 1 - Trustee Meeting, 4:00PM-6:00PM

October 4 - Pastor Class, 9:00AM

October 5 - Blessing of the Animals, 3:30PM-6:30PM

October 8 - Lion's Club Beach Bag Service Event, 6:00PM-8:30PM

October 11 - Second Sunday Brunch: Oktoberfest
& Pastor Appreciation Day

October 12 - Indigenous People Day, VBCC Office Closed

October 13 - Hi Over Pie, 1:30PM

October 14 - Cabinet Meeting, 7:00PM

October 18 - Adult Sunday Class, 9:00AM

October 19 - 22 - Meals on Wheels Va Beach

October 20 - Tuesday Dinner Crew: Plaza Azteca (Great Neck), 5:00PM

October 24 - Family Movie Night, 5:30PM

October 25 - Adult Sunday Class, 9:00AM

October 28 - DWM Lunch Meeting, 11:30AM
Weekly:

Tuesdays: Bible Study, 9:30AM

Wednesdays: Bible Study, 3:30PM

Thursdays: Choir Practice, 7:00PM

Sunday: Spiritual Roundtable, 8:30AM via Zoom

Diaconate Schedule

Cindy Childress, Wayne Russell, Anne Myers (Team 1)

Kathy Zurek, Patty Watters (Team 2)

Steve Eggleston Traci Ellison, Melissa Mecca (Team 3)

David and Pam McEwen (Team 4)

Jim Melvin, Bill Hayden (Team 5)

Diaconate Schedule

October 4 - Team 1

October 11 - Team 2

October 18 - Team 3

October 25 - Team 4

Elder Schedule

October 4 - Phyllis Marshall

October 11 - Mark Farley

October 18 - Ryan Ellison

October 25 - Mark Farley

Sunday Worship:

October 4

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Matthew 21:33-43

October 11

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9

Philippians 4:1-9

October 18

Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost

Psalms 96:1-9

Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

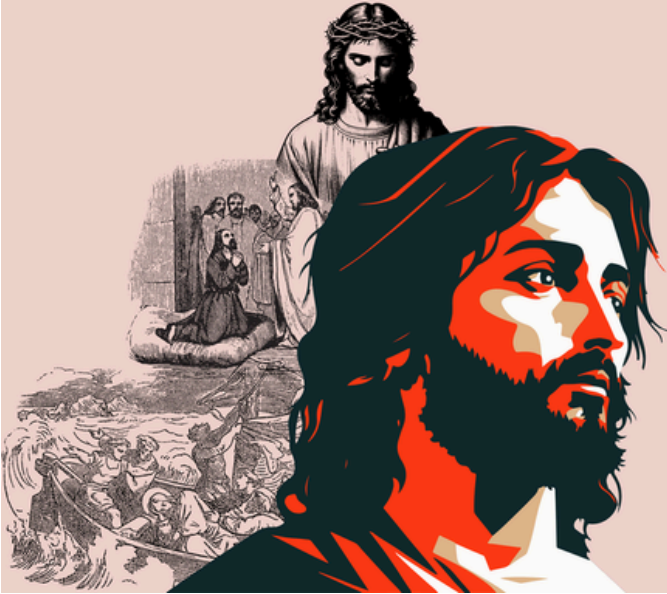
Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost

Psalms 1

Matthew 22:34-46

Upcoming Events

Sketches of Jesus
The Gospel of Mark
Christ as the Suffering Servant
Tuesdays at 9:30 AM



Sketches of Jesus | The Gospel of Mark: Christ as the Suffering Servant

Did you know that each gospel paints a slightly different picture of who Jesus is, why he carried out his ministry, and what that ministry meant? They do! Each Gospel author lends their own voice to telling the Good News, and we intend to read them all to see how they differ and where they align. This study will be the first in a series on the Gospels. Come read, learn, and grow with us!

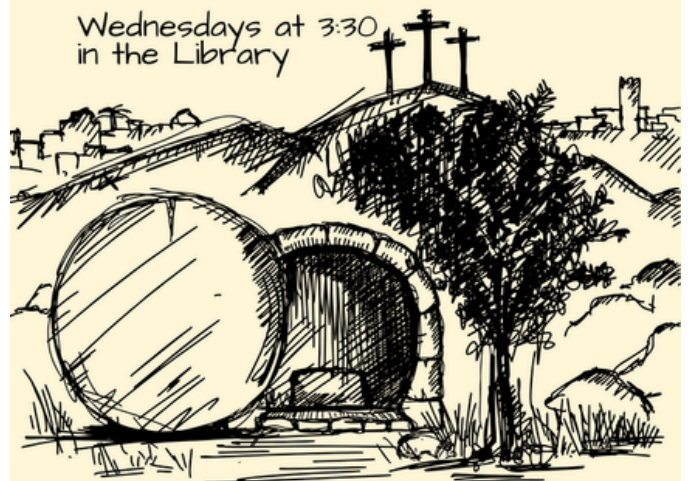
**The Crucifixion & the Resurrection:
What do we believe? Why do we believe it? What might it all mean?**

This class is equal parts bible study, faith defense, and theological conversation. Together we'll read the accounts of the resurrection as recorded in the gospels, discuss the main reasons we believe the crucifixion actually happened, and we will discuss the myriad of ways the crucifixion can be interpreted. If atonement theology - the idea that God sent Jesus as a sacrifice to pay our debt of sin - has never "worked" for you, I invite you come learn about the other ways Christians have made sense of and found meaning in Christ's act of sacrificial love.

The Crucifixion & the Resurrection

What do we believe?
Why do we believe it?
What might it all mean?

Wednesdays at 3:30
in the Library



Upcoming Events



Pastor's Class

October 4th
9:00AM

Our youngest disciples are asking big questions and growing in their faith by leaps and bounds! This class is an opportunity for them to ask their questions in community as they develop into young theologians. All seekers with the heart of a child are welcome.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 5
3:30PM-6:30PM



Join us for a special Blessing of the Animals celebration. Drive By with your furry, feathered, or scaled friend to receive a special blessing as we offer thanksgiving to God for our pets.



October 5th, we invite you to come to our Blessing of the Animals, which will be hosted in a drive-thru format from 3:30-6:30 with a short “formal” service happening about 5:30 pm. Many of us love getting our animals together, and I have heard from others that they are anxious about their pet’s behavior in a large group. I hope this enables all who wish to have their pet blessed to bring their pet or their pet’s picture or toy by during the service time.

Upcoming Events



BEACH BAG SERVICE EVENT 2026

(Lion's Charity Foundation of S.E. Va. Grant
and Gift from Kempsville Lions Club)

Sponsored by Thalia Lions

Date: Thurs. Oct. 8th **Time:** 6:00pm-8:30pm

Location: Corporate Landing Middle school
1597 Corporate Landing Pkwy. Va. Beach, 23454

Needed: 60-70 Lions & Volunteers from V.B.

Please contact Lion Nancy Watters

Nancywatters83@gmail.com - Cell 757 288 3684

join us for brats
and pretzels as we
celebrate

Oktoberfest

with Hosts: Dan & Barb Smith

**Sunday, October 11
at 11:30am**

Please bring a dish to share

Come enjoy the fun, food and fellowship!



Upcoming Events



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

OCTOBER 12

Today we honor the history, resilience, and rich cultures of Indigenous communities. May we continue to learn, respect, and uplift their voices.



BOOK CLUB

The Monday Book Club meets monthly
(2nd Monday) at 1:00pm.

All are welcome to join in. This is a book club that actually discusses the books. Meetings are held mostly on Zoom, but all are welcome. At some point, the club will resume gathering under the pavilion or in the library.



The Remains
of the Day



Kazuo Ishiguro

October 12th

The Remains
of the Day
by Kazuo
Ishiguro

Up Next:

November 9th
Brave New
World
by Aldous
Huxley



Upcoming Events



Hi Over Pie

**October 13th
1:30PM**

**Village Inn
313 Independence Blvd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23462**

Come join us for a special time of fellowship and connection! This event is all about building relationships, sharing stories, and enjoying time together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Bring your smile, your friends, and your desire to connect—we can't wait to see you there!

October 18th - November 8th

Adult Sunday Class:

"Where Does the Holy Spirit Fit in for Us?"

Let's learn more about the Holy Spirit from scripture, hymns, and resources such as Billy Graham as well from each other!

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name,
He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance
all things that I said to you. John 14:26

No preparation required for the first session. I will try to follow in John's footsteps and send weekly "lessons" to think about for these four weeks.

Come when you can! 9:00 a.m. in the library. Invite others who might be interested!

Contact Susan Long-Molnar for more information

Upcoming Events

Tuesday **D**inner **C**rew

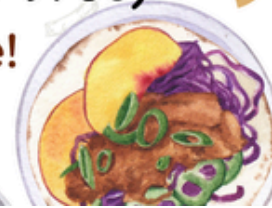
5:00PM

October 20th : Plaza Azteca (Gt Neck)

(Please RSVP by the Sunday before the Dinner)

To RSVP please text either
Jim Anderson (757-375-9695)
or Rhonda Skaggs (757-761-9708)

Cheers! See you there!



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

WITH A COSTUME CONTEST!

DINNER & MOVIE
SNACKS PROVIDED

OCTOBER 24
5:30PM



We resume our congregational movie nights this month with a classic ghostly comedy from the 1980s. I hope you'll consider joining us for this special evening as we enjoy a costume contest, dinner, snacks, and this film as a church family!

Upcoming Events

DWM (Disciples Womens Ministries) LUNCH MEETING

OCTOBER 28TH 11:30AM

LOCATION: TBD

CONTACT MARYANNE FARLEY IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.



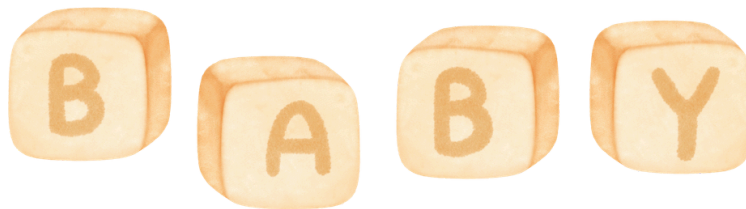
All Saints' Day

Remembering the Faithful.
Celebrating Their Light.

NOVEMBER 1

Today we honor the lives of all
saints who have gone before us.
May their faith and kindness
continue to inspire us all.

We will observe All Saint's Sunday on November 1 this year. All are invited to bring with them a token by which to remember any of the saints from their lives who have passed on. Our worship will include a moment to light candles and place these tokens on a communal altar. I hope this is a space where those who are grieving can find comfort and hope. Please invite others you know who may be in need of God's healing and wholeness.



Hera

Photo Updates





Department News: Outreach



Still hoping for volunteers to feed homeless kids at the beach. I have one volunteer but need two more to make a team. We serve on the fourth Mondays. Please pick my brain for more info

The Outreach bookcase in the hall has been sorely neglected. We will start removing books that appear to be unloved. Continue to slowly add new book donations. You may also add items that may be used by someone else. Items will be curated regularly. Please: no junk.

Susie Sumnick

From the Trustees

The Trusttes are seeking a safer way to store our original church charter and deed and perhaps other documents inherantly important to VBCC. If anyone has a small fireproof safe and no longer needs it, please contact the church office.

A Word from the Building

Folks, I'm getting older every day...just like you. And I need your help when it comes to fixing my many aches and pains. While I certainly feel them, I'm unable to report them...but you can.

There is a Maintenance Log in the Church Office (a green, loose-leaf binder under the mailboxes) that you used in years past to report problems

you see. Rather than just telling Dave Zurek or Bill Hayden about the problem, please use the log to document it. It only takes a minute to record

the issue, and recording it means it won't be forgotten. If it's complicated,

include your name and phone number so the Fix It Team can contact you for a full description. Thanks, and I look forward to hosting you.

Your Church



Department News:



Thoughts From Your President...

“To everything there is a season...”

As we welcome the fall season, I think about this scripture as it applies to our personal lives and to our environmental surroundings. Many of us are living what we might define as the “autumn season” of our lives, enjoying retirement, grandchildren, “old” friends, varied activities...and our church. Let’s continue to thrive in this season as we enjoy the beautiful colors of nature, the relief of cooler temperatures, and the blessings of worship, fellowship, music, and LIFE at our church. Let those in the “springtime” of their lives inspire us. Let those who need OUR inspiration receive it. We are still one loving, caring FAMILY...welcome AUTUMN !

Always focus on the positive. The trees are no longer green, but they are reflecting a beautiful, new phase of life. Let us adventure out, try something new, step up to a new role at church.

Understand that **God’s** in charge of all...our changing earth and our changing lives. Instead of complaining about things we cannot change, like the weather; instead of arguing w/ God about the status of our lives, LISTEN and follow.

Task ourselves. Rake those fall leaves, remove the debris, clean the garage...then, say to ourselves, “How can I help my church in this same way?” There is no task too small; there is no help that will be turned away; we are better together!

Use our time and talents to improve things around us, and to help us feel our personal value in our home, neighborhood, and church. We won’t “fall back” this autumn season; instead, we will “forge ahead”.

Make it happen! As we set our sights on priorities for outdoor property work and “fall cleaning” indoors, let’s remember when we are making lists, that we must put ACTION behind those lists. How many of our personal “to do” lists for Fall, are still “to do” lists in the Spring??

Now is the time! Check the October calendar, listen to announcements, be ready to step up when there is a need expressed. Make contact with the Department Chair of any area in which we’d like to volunteer...they need us!

HAPPY AUTUMN, 2026!

Rhonda Skaggs



From the Office

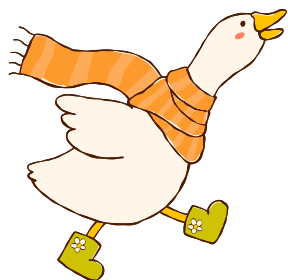


VBCC Building Request Form

Here is the QR Code for the building request form. If you would like a physical copy to fill out please stop by during the office hours.

Thank you!

Jade Vitug



Pastor Kelsey:

RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. : 1:00pm-5:00pm
Tue. & Thur. : 9:00am-1:00pm
(or by Appointment)

Available By Phone:

Mon - Sun, Anytime
(Minus Fridays)

Fridays are her Sabbath Days

Office Manager:

office@vbchristianchurch.com

Secretary Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Available By Phone:

Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday Worship Services

10:00am In Person & YouTube

Website www.vbchristianchurch.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VBChristianChurch>

Facebook Private Group (for VBCC Families only)

www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/

