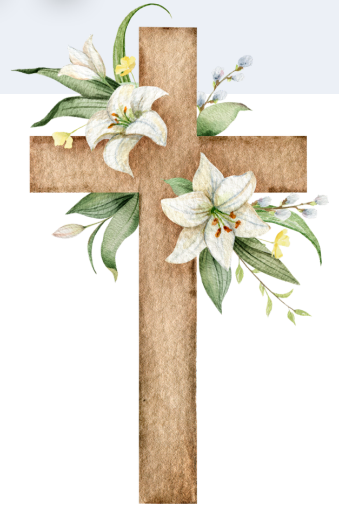




THE FISHNET



April
2026



VBCC Family,

This newsletter arrives in the midst of Holy Week, a week full of expectation, in which we celebrate the coming of God's already-here-yet-still-coming Kingdom. We are met with the devastating word of the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus the Christ, only to have our dashed hopes revived and renewed with the story of the resurrection and the celebration of Christ's victory over death.

The Easter Story is the Heart of our Faith. It speaks of our great hope and the truth that death has lost its sting and that God, in his perfect love and grace, has brought his Kingdom to earth, even as that Kingdom still arrives each and every day. It goes on to tell of the Holy Spirit's communion with us now, of the empowering light of God residing within us, guiding us to live lives full of love for God and God's creation.

Easter is a glorious celebration, and we, at VBCC, will have perhaps our most glorious Easter yet with the choir's beautiful music and the Brass Quintet gathered in worship with us. Our community has spent much time preparing for the celebration of Easter this year with trumpet and song. Oh What a Glorious Day Easter Will Be!

Much like the church anticipates Easter, I found myself alive with joyful expectation over the past few months. Yet as Rahum and I learned that our son is facing challenges in utero, and is likely to be born premature and spend significant time in the NICU before coming home, my spirit started to crave the walk of Holy Week that precludes the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Holy Week is a crucial part of the Easter story; it's the meat that lets the climax of Easter mean so much! Holy Week tells us stories of hardship, of grief, of loss, of injustice, of betrayal, of violence, of sin, of begging God for another path. It brings us close to the hardest parts of being human and reassures us that God has been there, too.

It tells us of Jesus, praying so fervently in the Spirit that sweat falls from his brow like drops of blood, as he asks God, if it is in his perfect will, to take this cup away. It tells of a God who says no, of hardship that comes anyway, of the death of the son of God - and of a God who sends angels to strengthen and sustain us when it's too much for us on our own.

Without going through the dark valley, the sunrise of Easter Morning is just another sunrise. Without the impossible tragedy of Holy Week, we cannot appreciate the impossible Glory of Easter. Without the darkness, we cannot appreciate the light. It is the statement that God still works all these things - the hard, the sad, the unjust, the sinful, the tragic - to his good..

As we approach Easter, take time for Holy Week; take time to identify grief, disappointment, sadness, and hardship in this world and in your life. Let the week remind you that even Christ prayed for God to give him an easier path to walk. Then, come to the tomb on Easter Morning, and experience the truth that God's love has overcome death, that Christ has overcome the world, that all these things which distress us so greatly are being worked together into something good by the gracious love of God. Let the truth of the resurrected Jesus resurrect your Spirit. Experience the Glory of God revealed through the Christ, and let your whole heart shout Alleluia! He is Risen!!

With you in the journey,

Pastor Kelsey

Pastor Kelsey
(757) 903-8549 | revkelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

“Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God’s Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.”

Romans 8:26-28 (MSG)

Events this Month

- April 1 - April Fools Day
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday at Wycliffe, 7:00PM
- April 3 - Good Friday, 7:00PM
- April 4 - Silent Saturday
- April 5 - Easter Sunday, He is Risen!
- April 8 - Cabinet Meeting, 7:00PM
- April 13 - Book Club, 1:00PM
- April 14 - Hi Over Pie, 1:30PM
- April 14 - Lion's Club Electrical Recycling, 3:00PM-5:00PM
- April 13 - 16 Meals on Wheels VA Beach
- April 16 - Thursday Dinner Crew, Waterman's, 5:00PM
- April 19 - Elders Meeting
- April 25 - Movie Night, Night at The Museum, 5:30PM
- April 29 - Lion's Club Electrical Recycling, 3:00PM-5:00PM

Weekly:

Tuesdays: Bible Study, 9:30AM
Choir Practice, 7:00PM

Wednesdays: Bible Study, 3:30PM

Sunday Mornings:
Spiritual Roundtable, 8:30AM via Zoom

Diaconate Schedule

- Barb and Jim Iman, Kaye Griffin, Cindy Childress (Team 1)
- Mary Ann Stubbs, Sydney Davis, Kathy Zurek (Team 2)
- Susie Drew, Steve Eggleston, Traci Ellison (Team 3)
- David and Pam McEwen, Gloria French (Team 4)
- Jim Melvin, Bill Hayden, Phyllis Marshall (Team 5)

Diaconate Schedule

- April 5th - Team 5
- April 12th - Team 1
- April 19th - Team 2
- April 26th - Team 3

Elder Schedule

- April 5th - Dr Rev Bill Austin
- April 12th - Suzanne Genz
- April 19th - Mark Farley
- April 26th - Phyllis Marshall

Sunday Worship:

April 5th

Easter Sunday

Psalm 118:20-24
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12th

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-25
John 20:26-31

April 19th

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-29
Luke 24:30-35

April 26th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23



Upcoming Events



Maundy Thursday at Wycliffe

“Do this in remembrance of me”
Luke 22:18

April 2
7:00 pm



Good Friday

at VBCC
7:00PM
April 3



Upcoming Events



Sunrise Service

at the Sumnicks
April 5th 6:30am



Easter
Sunday
April 5th

HE IS RISEN



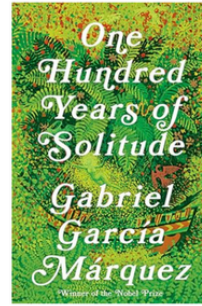
Upcoming Events



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.



April 13th
One Hundred
Years of
Solitude
by Gabriel
Garcia Marquez



Up Next:

May 11th
TBD



Hi Over Pie

April 14th
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!



Upcoming Events

THALIA LIONS CLUB ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & COLLECTION

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 & Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Virginia Beach Christian Church, 2225 Rose Hall Dr., Virginia Beach, VA

3pm-5pm

(Collection held in the back parking lot)

Acceptable items for recycling are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Gaming consoles</i> | <i>GPS, hard drives,</i> |
| <i>Video cards</i> | <i>IPad/MP3 players</i> |
| <i>Mice & Keyboards</i> | <i>Flat screen tv's only</i> |
| <i>Flat screen monitors only</i> | <i>Routers</i> |
| <i>Scanners</i> | <i>Hard drives</i> |
| <i>Servers</i> | <i>VCRs</i> |
| <i>DVD/Blue Ray/CD players</i> | <i>Cable boxes,</i> |
| <i>UPS/batterybackup</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
| <i>Streaming devices</i> | <i>RAM/memory</i> |
| <i>Motherboards</i> | <i>Power supplies,</i> |
| <i>Sound/LAN/Wi-Fi cards</i> | <i>Camcorders,</i> |
| <i>Cables/Adapters</i> | |

NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS EVENT:

To ensure a smooth collection, please note we **cannot** take:

- **CTR/Tube TVs & monitors, Desktop Computers, Desktop inkjet/laser printers, free standing printer/copiers, kitchen appliances**

● **QUESTIONS?**

- For a full list of accepted items or event details, please call or text:

Lion Jim Iman: 757-353-1698

Upcoming Events

Thursday Dinner Crew

5:00PM

April 2 : *Cancelled due to Holy Week*

April 16 : Waterman's *Free Valet Parking!*

(RSVP by April 14th)

RSVP to Jim Anderson @
jim.anderson567@gmail.com

Cheers! See you there!



Virginia Beach Christian Church
Disciples Women's Retreat

April 17th - 18th 2026



Upcoming Events



VBCC
MOVIE NIGHT
 April 25 5:30PM
 Night at the Museum

Dinner and movie snacks are provided!
 Please call/email our office if you would like a ride.
 We hope to see you there!

Virginia Disciples Women Regional Retreat

September 18-20, 2026



W.E.Skelton 4-H Center
Smith Mountain Lake, VA



SAVE THE DATE!
MORE INFO TO COME!

IF YOU ARE A DISCIPLES AND A WOMAN,
 THEN YOU ARE A DISCIPLES WOMAN!

On Supporting Pastor Kelsey and Rahum in their High Risk Pregnancy

It is my wish that Rahum and I are able to communicate transparently with this church about our pregnancy, and I know it is the wish of this church to support us as we walk this precarious journey and fight with our son for his life. It is for this reason that I write this extra note in our newsletter with additional details on our pregnancy and how to best support us.

At this time, Baby Sherazi and I are both healthy, but the connection between our bodies is not as strong as it should be, so he is not receiving proper nutrition. If you speak in medical terms, there is a problem with the placenta. This has led to poor growth and is the reason he is so small; he is below the 1st percentile for everything except his brain and skull, where he is still small but closer to average.

Our doctor, Dr. Warsof of EVMS MFM, expects him to be delivered prematurely and to still be quite small when he is born. Our situation is serious enough that we have been given Dr. Warsof's personal cell phone number, and I have been cautioned to rest as if I overexert myself, I could go into labor early. The goal is to keep him growing in utero as long as possible. Presently, he is still too small to be considered viable. Once he reaches the minimum weight for viability, they will begin steroid treatments to help his lungs and other organs to develop fully to give him the best shot when he makes his entrance into the world. Once he is born, he is likely to spend several weeks in the NICU before he is strong enough to come home.

This is hard news, but it's not without hope or comfort. Because of modern medical technology, we know the challenges Baby Sherazi is facing and can work to alleviate them as best we can. Baby Sherazi is working hard to grow and has an intensely strong kick despite his little legs. He wants to be here, and Rahum and I, along with Dr. Warsof, are doing all we can to help him grow strong and stay. Mostly that involves me sitting on the couch or lying in bed and eating a good deal of fat and protein (Cheeseburgers and milkshakes? Yes please) while we monitor his growth and blood flow.

For now, we ask that y'all continue in prayer for us. We ask that you join us in prayers of gratitude for our little fighter and the strength that this child has shown in striving for life before even taking his first breath. We ask that you join us in praying for growth, for muscle development and the accumulation of baby fat on his little body. This is key for his ability to receive the steroid treatments which will help his development.

On Supporting Pastor Kelsey and Rahum in their High Risk Pregnancy (cont'd)

We ask that you pray for us and our extended family as we juggle hope and anxiety. No parent wants to learn that there is something wrong with their child; it is a tremendous weight to learn that something has been wrong from the beginning and there is no way for us to fix it. That being said, we are trusting in God to be with our little boy as he strives for growth and life and doing all we can to support him.

We ask that you do not ask us questions or offer unsolicited advice about this. We have shared all that we can to make the situation clear and probably do not have answers to the additional questions you may ask.

We welcome words of encouragement, the sharing of your stories, gift cards to five guys (my favorite place for burgers and shakes), and all the other expressions of love this community gives so freely. If you wish to say something encouraging and aren't sure what to say, I invite you to offer a hug or simply say "Look, I might not totally get it, but we both know God does and he loves each of you even more than I do."

Lastly, the best way you can take care of me and help me to follow the Doctor's orders is to take care of each other. Reach out to one another; check on the people you haven't seen in a while. Go out for coffee, lunch, or dinner together. Get together and play cards or tell stories in one another's living rooms. Then, let me know about it. I will rest easier knowing that my church is being church with one another. Take care of each other, and you will be taking care of me.

A laying on of hands prayer for Baby Sherazi, Rahum, and me has been coordinated for Easter Sunday. It will happen during the service, and all will be invited to participate.

Again, we are grateful for you and your care for us. My relationships with each of you which allow me to pastor from a place of authenticity and vulnerability are deeply precious to me. Thank you for trusting in me with the spiritual leadership of this church. It is an honor I carry with humility and passion every day.

With love,
Pastor Kelsey



Department News: Eldership



Spring is here finally. It makes us feel happy, joyful, and more energetic. Hopefully we can use this time of the year to become more involved in VBCC. Our church could use more volunteers. Also remember to pray for all the leaders in the church. Prayers for peace in our world.

In April there are many inspiring occasions at our church. Easter Sunday Service is always special. The retreat for the women of the church is at Patti Watters on April 17 & 18.

Many fun, creative, and inspirational experiences are planned.
The food is delicious too!

Pray for our Elders that we may encourage and help those in need.

Martha Beacham

Disciples Women's Ministry Retreat

Our second annual VBCC DWM Retreat is fast approaching. Last year's Retreat was so rewarding, there were repeated requests for another DWM Retreat. And so it will happen in 2026.

Friday, April 17th at 5:00 pm and on Saturday, April 18th at 10 a.m.
Patti Watters' home at 1313 Lynnwood Drive, Virginia Beach

Pastor Kelsey is such a genius at putting together inspirational and exciting programs. She has been working hard and we cannot wait to see what she has in store for us this year. And she promises our Silent Hour, so you cannot miss this retreat!

Just to be clear, this is **NOT** an overnight event. Patti has offered her home for us to enjoy and she predicts the azaleas will be in bloom. Her backyard and porch are places to find peace and harmony and an escape, if only for a few hours. (NOTE: The optional Saturday morning Yoga in the backyard might be a DIY!)

On Friday evening we will meet for dinner and fellowship. No need to bring anything. We have the food and beverages covered. Saturday morning begins at 10 am with Brunch and ends in the late afternoon with a casual snack. If you cannot join us for both days, you are encouraged and welcome to attend any portion of Friday or Saturday as you wish.

Please contact Maryanne Farley (304.296.1614 or maryanne23320@gmail.com) so we can have an idea of how many will attend or if you have questions or need directions.

Maryanne Farley



Department News: Membership

Thank you for your service, Ryan and Ken!

This month, we CELEBRATE and REMEMBER, as we honor two VBCC veterans!

We CELEBRATE:

Ryan Ellison



Congratulations on your retirement! Ryan, a Naval Academy graduate, and career pilot, retired in March after faithfully serving 20 yrs. in the U S Navy. We know your wife and children are very proud! Your VBCC family wishes you the BEST in this NEW chapter of life!



We REMEMBER:

Clyde "Ken" Hogendobler

Ken also served 20 yrs in the U S Navy and was also a pilot! He had recently been residing at Jones and Cabcoy Veterans Center. Ken passed away on Feb. 11th; memorial services are planned for Apr. 3rd. Ken's VBCC family wishes him a beautiful new heavenly life!



Rhonda Skaggs



Department News:



Thursday Dinner Crew (TDC)

We've dined at eight different restaurants since we began TDC!

We've shared some fabulous food, wonderful conversations, and had lots of FUN!

In April we will skip the first Thursday, since it is Maundy Thursday, and will hope to see everyone at 7:00 p.m. @Wycliffe PC!

On April 16, we will make a final trip to the oceanfront before tourist season kicks in!

Please plan to join us at Waterman's at 5:00 p.m. You don't have to worry about a parking problem, because Waterman's provides complimentary valet parking!

Let's set a new record for attendance!

(Those who attend always help determine our next destination!)

Rhonda Skaggs

Building Events

Request to use the VBCC Church Building



Please remember to fill out a building request form if you plan/schedule ANY events at the building. With the building being used more, we have an up to date calendar with all the events and happenings at VBCC and we would like to keep it accurate to avoid any double bookings. If you have any issues with the form please feel free to email the office for help.

with love, *Jade V.*



Pastor Kelsey:

RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

Office Hours:

Tues - Thurs, 10:00am - 2:00pm
(or by Appointment)

Available By Phone:

Tues - Sun, Anytime
Mondays are her Sabbath Days

Office Secretary:

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/