



Radiance Community Church

Sparks of God's Love...

When Ric and I were camping earlier this summer, I noticed fireflies flitting around the campsite. I was delighted; it had been a while since I'd seen them. I think there really are fewer fireflies around these days, but I also think I don't do as much sitting outside enjoying the night air as I did when I was a child. It made me wonder: what other sparks of light am I missing, simply because I've stopped looking for them?

This summer has flown by, and it has been full of sparks. We welcomed our community with an outdoor movie night and a Kids Academy cooking class. Our Blessing Box has kept right on feeding the hungry among us. We shared an ice cream party and other moments of fellowship, our youth headed to the mountains of North Carolina for a week of camp and mission work, and we partnered with Colonial Presbyterian Church for a week of loving our neighbors. All summer long, we've studied God's Word and worshiped together. What a wonderful summer - and it's not over yet!

This month, we'll offer a Back to School Blessing for all those headed back into classrooms, do a prayer walk around Green Valley Elementary and deliver donations to the school, and at the end of the month, we'll gather for our first Breakfast Church. We'll share a meal and worship around the table, remembering the ways God has worked in and through our church this year, and looking ahead together to the new church year as we hold our Church in Conference to vote on Council members and deacons.

Sometimes, these last days of summer can be hard. The newness of the change in season has worn off, it is hot and sticky, and we can find ourselves distracted and - the word parents hate to hear - bored. But this is the perfect time to slow down, to get a little quiet. That can be hard when there are screens and other distractions, but sometimes we need a little boredom, a little empty space, to clear our lives out and make room again. We need to do what the psalmist tells us: be still, and know that God is God.

I hope you'll take some time in these final weeks of summer to step outside, to wonder at the night sky, to look for fireflies - and to be reminded that the spark of God's love is everywhere, if we only look for it.

Blessings, Pastor Melissa



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV

pray for one another

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Jim Bryant, Mary Durrer, Betty Heptinstall, Buddy Hawkins, Nadine Minnix, Cheryl Nicely, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Alice Scogin, Vilas Secrist, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair
- Those with cancer including: Dalton Burgess, Betty Hall, Wyatt Hodges (friend of the Kinseys), Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Mary Seithalil (friend of Lisa Baker), Caden Thomas, David Wyatt (friend of the Kinseys)
- Donna Kester's friend, Cathy, who was in a terrible car accident and has multiple broken bones
- Michael Whitt's sister, in the hospital in Richmond
- Aaron Niebergall, the son of a friend of M.J. Fanning, who is having undiagnosed medical difficulties
- Jack and Becky Pilcher, in the death of Jack's sister
- Jean Grady, recovering from eye surgery

Missions Opportunities

- **Blessing Box:** Our little food pantry has continued to be well used by our community. As you shop, please pick up a little extra to share with our neighbors. We are especially in need of proteins, rice, cereal, pancake syrup, fruit and vegetables and spaghetti and sauce.
- **Book and Magazine Collection:** The Evelyn Townsend Circle is collecting reading materials for the Roanoke City Jail library and for TAP. Please place your donations in the box in the foyer.
- **Green Valley School Collection:** Our neighborhood elementary school is in need of plastic pencil boxes and baby wipes. Please bring your donations by August 9, and we will deliver them before the new school year starts.



Breakfast Church: Join us in the fellowship hall at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 30 for breakfast and fellowship. We will remain in the fellowship hall for worship at 10:30. This will be a special time of celebrating all that God has done in and through our church during the last year (as it is the last Sunday of our church year). After worship, we will have a Church in Conference and will be voting on Council members and deacons for the coming year. Sign up on the table in the foyer. There is a spot for you to sign up if you would like to bring a breakfast casserole, fruit, or a sweet pastry/muffins to share. There is also a place for you to submit a favorite hymn that you would like to sing on this day (Bill will be choosing from the list we compile).



Featured Dates

Sunday, Aug. 2

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship & Communion 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Aug. 5

Midweek Spiritual Formations 12:00 PM

Sunday, Aug. 9

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship/Back to School Blessings 10:30 AM
Popsicles & Prayer Walk 11:30 AM

Monday, Aug. 10

Youth Pool Party-Branderwood 12:00 PM
Ministry Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Aug. 12

Midweek Spiritual Formations 12:00 PM

Sunday, Aug. 16

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Monday, Aug. 17

Admin Council Meeting 5:30 PM

Wednesday, Aug. 19

Midweek Spiritual Formations 12:00 PM

Sunday, Aug. 23

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Aug. 26

Midweek Spiritual Formations 12:00 PM

Sunday, Aug. 30

Breakfast Church 10:00 AM

Radiance Kids

A new school year is a great time to sit down as a family and think about your goals for the year. We want to help! We're providing a kindness calendar for each of our children's families. Each month, you'll choose specific ways to develop kindness habits and to be kind to creation, to others, and to yourselves. The calendars will be given out on our Back to School Sunday, so be sure to pick yours up!



Radiance Youth

Join us for our **Back to School Pool Party** at Branderwood Pool on Monday, August 10, 12-3 pm. Bring \$5 for lunch - and don't forget your sunscreen! Friends are welcome, as always!



Faith Formation Opportunities

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study, 9:30-10:15 am:** Adults are studying Romans and Psalms this month, exploring what it means to walk in God's way. We also have classes for our children and youth, so there is something for your whole family.
- **Midweek Spiritual Formation, Wednesdays at noon:** Rev. Steven Harris is leading a study of Jesus and the disciples in the gospel of Matthew. Join us in person or by Zoom: bit.ly/radiancebiblestudy. You can also listen to a podcast of the study on Spotify at bit.ly/rccfaithpodcast.
- **Faith Lending Library:** We have seasonal resources for Ordinary Time & summer on the bookcase in the foyer. Please feel free to borrow books & return them when you are done so that others can enjoy them as well!

Worship Leadership Schedule

August 2

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Neal Kinsey
- **Scripture Reader:** Joyce Short
- **Offertory Prayer:** Ric Scott
- **Children's Worship Leader:** No Children's Church
- **Offering:** Jenna Dillon, Kathy Kinsey, Alyssa Viele, Brennon Viele
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Harris, Joyce Short
- **Communion:** Janice Deyerle, Paul Howell, Linda Murray, Joyce Short, Gordon Williams

August 9

- **Greeters:** Lisa Baker, Nancy Vest
- **Scripture Reader:** Janice Deyerle
- **Offertory Prayer:** Joyce Waugh
- **Children's Worship:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offering:** Cason, Easton, & Michael Krawchison, Ric Scott

August 16

- **Greeters:** Mary Shirley, Gordon Williams
- **Scripture Reader:** Linda Murray
- **Offertory Prayer:** Bobbie Hawkins
- **Children's Worship:** Nancy Vest
- **Offering:** Janice Deyerle, Jonathan Melson, Ray Templin, Becky Beard

August 23

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Vicki Wray
- **Scripture Reader:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offertory Prayer:** Joyce Waugh
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Mary Harris
- **Offering:** Gerri Mills, Ric Scott, Mark Smith, Gordon Williams

August 30

Breakfast Church

Back to School Blessings: On Sunday, August 9, we will have a special time of blessing (and a gift) for all those returning to school—from preschoolers to college students - as well as teachers, bus drivers, and staff. Following worship, we will have popsicles and prayer at Green Valley Elementary School as we do a prayer walk around the school, asking for safety and blessing in the new school year. If you aren't able to do the walk, you can still participate by praying from your car!

Radiance Community Church

4165 Colonial Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24018
540-774-2084

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor

Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence

Karen Viele
Church Administrator

Bill Lininger
Music Director



**Ellen
Nadine
Sandra
Gerri
Mark
Ellie
Crystal**

**Scott
Minnix
Manetta
Mills
Smith
Whitt
Dillon**

**August 14
August 14
August 15
August 16
August 18
August 29
August 31**