



## Tailors

Grandma hobbies are experiencing a renaissance. Mahjong, crocheting, baking and birdwatching have gained popularity with young adults and while I am no longer a young adult nor have I embraced all these hobbies, I have dabbled.

Birds have interested me for a couple of years, and I just learned about one a couple of weeks ago – the tailorbird. These little cuties live in Asia and get their name from the way they build their nests. They literally sew them. The dads will gather the materials, and the moms will build. The moms find a strong, healthy leaf on the end of a branch and wrap it around themselves to make sure it's big enough to keep the eggs warm, protected and hidden. Then she gets to sewing. She carefully pokes as many as 200 holes around the edges of the leaf. The dad will bring silk to her from spiderwebs, cotton or cocoons and she will painstakingly weave the thread through the holes, gathering the edges of the leaf until it forms a cone-shaped pouch. Once that's finished, the dad is off to find soft grass and animal hair to create a comfy cushion for the eggs and mom.

Sewing isn't something I think about much, but imagining these birds, then watching the YouTube videos, I was in awe at all the detail.

I recently started over in my Bible, back to Genesis, and was checking out Chapter 3 this week. Things take a turn there. Eve and Adam disobey the one rule they were given, resulting in their shame. They fashion some leaves together to cover themselves the best they could. Then God comes calling.

"Where are you?" Adam confesses, sort of. He tells God he is hiding because he is naked, and he knows what naked means because Eve passed the fruit to him, so he ate it.

"What is this you have done?" Eve deflects. She says she was tricked by the serpent.

Then, in inverse order, God explains the consequences of their actions. First to the serpent, then Eve, and lastly Adam.

The part that stuck out to me the most was what happened next.

In verse 21, ***"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."***

His two creations, with everything they could ever need, weren't quite satisfied and did the one thing He told them they mustn't do. But instead of ditching them in frustration, he chose to make clothes for them himself.

These were clothes from animal skin. These animals he had created not that long ago, he sacrificed to cover the sin of Eve and Adam. Next, he removed the skin and fashioned them to be the size needed to cover their nakedness. I don't claim to understand how he stitched together the skins, but I do claim to believe that he did it with the care of a loving Father. Like the tailorbirds carefully choosing and crafting a safe, strong nest for their babies, God carefully crafted this covering for his dearly loved children. Then he clothed them. I don't know what that looked like, but I'm imagining Eve lifting her arms while God drapes it over her head, the fur sliding over her hair and ears, resting on her shoulders. Then the same with Adam. His love and kindness there, even still.

I know I have messed up big over the years, and it is easy to assume that when we do, God wouldn't want to hear from us. We couldn't be more wrong. If you have made choices that have you hiding out behind trees in shame, consider this a nudge to come on out to your Father. I think he's calling for you.

-Jennifer Chapman

SECOND SATURDAY  
**PRAYER**  
PRAYER ROOM  
AT 9:00 AM  
7/11

*Praise + Testimony*  
July 12



**HF Youth**  
at Huntington First Church  
**Mission Focus**  
7/12 @ 5PM



**OPEN GYM!**  
FRIDAY, JULY 17  
6-9 PM



July 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM



**John James**  
Newsboys  
Co-Founder &  
Original Lead Singer  
*From the Spotlight  
to Redemption*



**HF Homebound Church Family**

Marian Crowe  
Deborah Gibson  
Marie Scheff  
Melba Sprouse  
Tammy Stultz  
Eleanor Dean  
Ron Davidson (Katie)  
Betty Muncy (Judi Cox)  
Ron Dallis (Judi)

Let's remember to pray for each one, consider sending a card or even visiting them.

If we have missed anyone, or if you need the addresses, please see Joey Saxton, Mona Epperly or contact the church office.



**WIDOW'S LUNCHEON**  
July 18<sup>th</sup> @ Noon



**FAMILY CAMP**  
JULY 12-19 2026  
West Virginia Nazarene Camp



WITH DR. DAVID GRAVES, REV. LENNY WISEHART, AND JUSTIN WELLS

WV NAZARENE CAMPGROUND SUMMERSVILLE, WV featuring youth services, children's services, ladies tea, golf tournament, and more!

*July Celebrations*  
Birthdays

2- Kaylee Miller	14- Joe Eldred	24-Cody Bellomy
Marki Toriseva	Riley Mays	Shawn Adkins
3- Adrianna Ashworth	15- Garret Price	25- Ja'Leeza Canada
Brian Belcher	John Stiltner	Jackie Calero
Jennifer Littlejohn	Lexi Rooper	Rene Calero
4- Abby McCallister	17- Megan Martin	Susanna Epperly
John Calhoun	19- Colleen Toppings	26-Emma Hall
5- Kim Taylor	Jerry Zornes	28-Da'terrion Fuller
Ava Tackett	21- Kelle Angle	Isaiah Miller
6- Caleb Saxton	Maria White	29-Marian Crowe
Hadley Lego	22- Ethan Lyons	31-Gabby Nichols
7- Maggie Jones	23- Ryan Hendrick	Wyatt Collier
11- Michael McCullin	Scarlett Tabor	

**Anniversaries**

11- Garret & Alana Price
20- Jerry & Cheryl Bellomy
27- Phillip & Lauren Lanz
29- Michael McCullin & Jodi Ching

July Focus  
**CRISIS CARE KITS**  
Monetary Donations for purchasing items for incomplete Kits.



West Virginia the **GATHERING**  
South District  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**FRIDAY | JULY 31**  
6PM • NYI CONVENTION AFTER PARTY

**SATURDAY | AUGUST 1**  
9AM • NDI CONVENTION 1PM • NMI CELEBRATION SERVICE AND MARCH OF THE NATIONS

**SUNDAY | AUGUST 2**  
6PM • ORDINATION SERVICE

**MONDAY | AUGUST 3**  
9AM • DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

LOCATION: TEAYS VALLEY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 3937 TEAYS VALLEY ROAD • HURRICANE, WV 25526

July Mission Offering Focus

**JEREMIAH TREE BUGHUG CARE PACKS**




Pack a care box for a child or parent



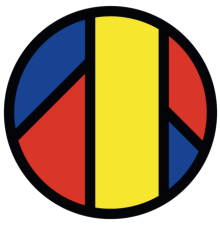
BugHug Wish Lists

**SAVE YOUR STUFF!**

**6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY GIVEAWAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!(AUGUST 8TH)**



FMI- See Mona Epperly



# JULY 2026

ALL CHURCH, **HF KIDS**, **HF YOUTH**, **HF WOMEN'S MIN**, **THRIVE**  
**HIGHLAWN COMMUNITY**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	2	3	4 THRIVE-Mom's of Little Ones
<b>NYC-Wonder</b> -----						
5 <b>John James</b>	6	7 Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	8 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	9 THRIVE-Married Group	10	11 2nd Saturday Prayer
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12 NYI Mission Focus Praise & Testimony	13	14 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	15 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	16	17 Open Gym	18 Widow's Luncheon
<b>Family Camp</b> -----						
19 NDI Meeting	20	21 Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	22 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	23 THRIVE-Married Group	24	25
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26 Leadership Team Meeting	27	28 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	29	30	31 NYI Convention	NDI Convention NMI Celebration

# Connect. Thrive. Serve.

*"Our vision at HF is to be a church that is CONNECTING with Christ and people, THRIVING in Christ and God's Word and SERVING Christ and others."*

## CONNECTING:

**Ministry Center:** With all electrical and plumbing work now complete, the Ministry Center is fully operational for meetings. It has quickly become an excellent hub for our ministries to gather, plan, and connect. Notably, it now hosts our newest Young Adult Discipleship Class, led by Pete Thomas, every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. Meanwhile, we are still waiting for the city to update us on the status of our upcoming coffee shop. Officials are currently determining how to best categorize the shop since it features both mobile and fixed elements. Please keep this process in your prayers!

**Highlawn Ministries:** On June 6, Rick Treadway's Thrive Group sponsored our first-time Community Clothing Giveaway. The inaugural event was a wonderful success, drawing about 30 neighbors who received numerous items from our Clothing Pantry overflow. Building on this success, HF Women's Ministries will sponsor our larger Annual Community Giveaway on Saturday, August 8, in the Family Life Center (FLC). This upcoming event has become a vital resource for our community, offering household items and school clothing just in time for the new school year.

## THRIVING:

**Baptism:** Acts 22:16 tells says, "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord." Have you been "putting-it-off, waiting for the right time, not in a rush" or have you said, "I really should do that.?" Baptism is a public profession of what Christ has done in your heart. If you haven't followed-through with this Biblical command, please reach out to the Church office or a Pastor and we'll set a date to make it happen!

**Youth Ministries:** June has been an incredibly busy and exciting month for our HF Youth Ministries. They kicked off the summer at Mount Vernon Nazarene University with the Regional Blast Competition, where our District proudly took home first place, and our own HF Youth achieved several individual successes. In a historic achievement, WV South took home the overall Talent Award, marking their first win in history by accumulating the most total points.

Our seniors delivered outstanding performances. Logan Hamilton won first place in the Piano Solo, while Ethan Lyons earned silver medals in both Preaching and Instrumental Solo. In the individual categories, Lux Shoemaker captured a gold medal in Drawing, and Harrison Zornes brought home a silver medal in Crafts, alongside his participation in eSports.

Our teams also excelled across the board. The group consisting of Jackie, Logan, Ethan, Lux, Karmen, and Harrison took first place in Human Video. The Praise Band—featuring Logan, Ethan, Karmen, and Harrison—earned a silver medal, and the Volleyball team of Logan, Christian, and Harrison finished strong in third place. Special thanks to those who served by coaching, chaperoning, and driving to make this trip possible. Immediately following the competition, our students stepped right into Middle School and Senior High camps.

## SERVING:

**Giving to others:** Galatians 6:10 reminds us, "Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Thank you for your incredible generosity toward Rand Bethel Church of the Nazarene. Together, we raised \$1,544 to help fund their desperately needed new roof! Your obedience to the Lord has been a wonderful blessing to their congregation, and it is a blessing to ours as well. It is truly amazing to give to those in need and witness God's hand move in such a special way within our own church family.

**Pastor's Note:** It's been my hope and purpose to be able to keep our church body informed about the exciting things happening here at Huntington First. If you ever find yourself in need, or just have a question, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, a Staff Pastor or a Leadership Team member. Let's all go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,

Pastor Marc