

MAY/JUNE 2026

THE HARAN HERALD



HARANBAPTIST.COM

7539 Old Bent Mountain Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

COVID, Ukraine war, Iranian war, Israeli war, political division, moral decline, false teaching and preaching: what in the world is going on and how do we as Christians cope?

For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. —Romans 15:4

The hardest thing to remember is that God is NEVER taken by surprise. He's had a foolproof plan from the beginning of the world's existence. Paul reminds us in Romans 15 that our "Hope" is a sure thing that God has given us, planned for us, and written down for us to rely on during our roughest days. Christian hope is rooted and grounded in God. It's not just wishful thinking or being positive. It's a confident expectation in who God is and what He has done for us. So how do we respond to the adversity that exists around us? Paul has the answer: scripture! Notice the last part of Romans 15:4: *have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.*

You see, the word of God has been given to us for our instruction, for our endurance and encouragement when life becomes difficult, so that we experience every day the hope we have through Christ Jesus. **But it's hard to remain hopeful when your Bible remains closed.** Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the start of assured hope! Continued growth spiritually through the scriptures not only strengthens our dependence on God but also increases our knowledge of the assured hope He provides.

Where do we go from here? *The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations* (Psalm 33:11). When everything in this world seems to be out of control, we need to lean on the "counsel of the Lord." There can be no disagreements, arguments or differences if we are on our knees together, worshiping together and serving together. Each of these takes our minds off the ways of the world and on the thoughts of Almighty God.

When life's ups and downs threaten to shake our hope, Scripture is the one constant that redirects us back to God. And if we're rooted in the hope that only God can

provide, we can weather any storm that life throws our way.

How serious are you about prayer? I conclude this article by saying unequivocally that prayer is the most powerful weapon every Christian has at their disposal! It is NOT a last resort! When prayers are added to the knowledge of God's Word, the power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed and NOTHING can stand against the assured hope we have in Jesus Christ!

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a temple of sacrifice. If I shut the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on my people, and My people, who bear My name, humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. My eyes will now be open and My ears attentive to prayer from this place. And I have now chosen and consecrated this temple so that My name may be there forever; My eyes and My heart will be there at all times." —2 Chronicles 7:12-16

—Pastor Don

UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| MAY 2 | Brotherhood breakfast, 8:30 am |
| MAY 3 | Haran Kids sing, 11:00 am |
| MAY 4 | Deacons' meeting, 6:30 pm |
| MAY 9 | Ladies' tea, 11:00 am |
| MAY 10 | Mother's Day |
| MAY 17 | Graduate recognition, 11:00 am |
| MAY 27 | Ice cream social, 6:00 pm |
| MAY 31 | Tailgate breakfast, 9:00 am |
| JUNE 6 | Brotherhood breakfast, 8:30 am |
| JUNE 9 | SAM lunch, 11:45 am |
| JUNE 14 | VBS, 6:00-8:00 pm |
| JUNE 20 | Father's Day grill-off |
| JUNE 21 | Father's Day |
| JULY 20 | World Changers |

MUSIC NOTES



GOD IS SO GOOD!

If you come to me for piano lessons, at your very first lesson I'll teach you to play *God Is So Good*. It's the perfect first song—it's a short, simple tune; it follows a straightforward melodic pattern; it uses only five notes so you don't have to change hand positions; it gives each finger something to do (*Mary Had a Little Lamb* fails that one). And once you figure out which finger is which, you're able to play a real song!

All through our worship services during the month of May you'll hear echoes of *God Is So Good*, both the melody and the sentiment. Because not only is *God Is So Good* the perfect foundational piano piece, "God is so good" is the foundational truth of all we believe.

God is good...and His creation reflects His goodness. When He made the earth and everything in it, He declared it good.

God is good...and He cares for His own creation. He created us in His image, He provides for us, He sustains us. He has filled the earth with good things and given us dominion.

God is good...and we are not. Our sin separates us from His holiness. He is light, and we walk in darkness.

God is good...so He made a way. We were sinners, scorners, enemies of God. But because of His great love for us, He gave His own Son to bring us back to Him. He freely offers reconciliation to all who will receive it.

God is good...and He has prepared a place for us. As His children, members of His family, joint heirs with Christ, we have a place in the house of the Lord forever.

May is a month of celebrating God's goodness at Haran! Our kids will open the month on May 3 with their spring service all about the goodness of God. Mother's Day is the 10th, and we'll recognize our graduates on the 17th. And through it all, as we celebrate special people, remember special days, hear from all generations of musicians, we can't miss one common thread:

*God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to me.*

—Anna Ruth

SO GOOD! His love endures forever.

HARAN KIDS
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 11:00



PHOTOS

If you take pictures of church events, we'd love for you to share them with us! Send photos to Anna Ruth at haranbaptist@gmail.com.



FasCar, March 21



Sunday School activities



Gift for the Back Creek Elementary staff from our craft night in March



Paint night, April 17



ACTIVITIES & REC

The Activities Committee has had a busy last couple of months with events happening at the church, but we have no plans of slowing down! We have lots of fun activities/events coming up in the life of our church. If you have not been able to attend, I encourage you to please come and join us in these events that are planned. It's a way for us to come together as a church and fellowship with one another and also allows us to get our community involved.

Our recent event was our **Paint Night!** We had 21 ladies show up and get creative! Although this was open to both men and women, we only had the ladies show up this time. Next time, we hope to see some men join in on the fun as well. We had a lot of laughter, food and fellowship that evening! Thanks to Lisa Roberts with Paint Nite with Lisa for coming out and working with us all.

May 9 at 11 am we have our **Ladies' Tea Event** to celebrate those special women in our lives. All women are welcome to join. Different teas, "tea foods," games, and photo booth area will be present. We would love to see you there! Please sign up if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly. Deadline to sign up is May 3.

Summer is almost here! Join us for our annual **School's Out Ice Cream Social** on May 27 at 6 pm! The Activities Committee will provide dinner and our famous ice cream sundae bar! Kids, youth and adults are all welcome!



Calling all dads and men in the church...who's the Master of the Grill? Come celebrate fatherhood, family and fellowship on Saturday, June 20 as we host a **Father's Day Grill-Off** here at the church. Bring your best grill, smoker, cooking equipment and your favorite meat and let's get to grilling! Men will then have a "taste test" between all the different meats and choose their winner! The Activities Committee will provide the sides and drinks!

Come join the fun even if it's just to do the taste testing. Not all men have to grill. More info and sign up sheet coming soon!

Blessings,
Brittany Stoots

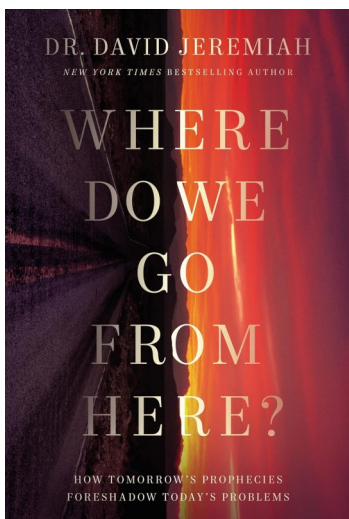
LIBRARY NEWS

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory now and forever! Amen.

—2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! We want to spread the **GOOD NEWS!** For those who are unaware...Haran Baptist Church has a well-stocked **LIBRARY** just waiting for you to come and explore. We would love to be known for “equipping and developing fully-devoted followers of Christ by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ” through good Christian books. We want to reach that goal by meeting our members’ needs and encouraging you to delve into the treasures that we have on our shelves. We try to keep that goal in mind in everything that we do.

We have a library at Haran that is full of Christian fiction and non-fiction books dealing with Angels/Heaven, Bibles, Bible Study/History, Biography, Christian Living, Cooking, Devotionals, Local History/Interest, Missions, Prayer, wonderful novels, and many children’s books. We also have several DVDs, CDs, and cassettes that may be of interest to you.



Special attention to the purchase of the book/DVD series:

- ◆ **Where Do We Go from Here?** by Dr. David Jeremiah

You don't have to be a biblical scholar to see how Scripture predicted many of the events surrounding us. The prophecies about tomorrow reveal much about the problems of today. The series and book examine ten facets of biblical prophecy to provide hope and practical strategies for living in turbulent times.

The following books have been purchased/donated and are currently available in our library.

- ◆ **Nothing Is Impossible with God** by Shannon Bream
- ◆ **The Paradigm** by Jonathan Cahn

The following books were so graciously donated by Martha Knighton:

- ◆ **Love Blooms in Winter** by Lori Copeland
- ◆ **The Christmas Ring** by Karen Kingsbury

The following book was so graciously donated by Susan Hensley:

- ◆ **Twilight at Blueberry Barrens** by Colleen Coble

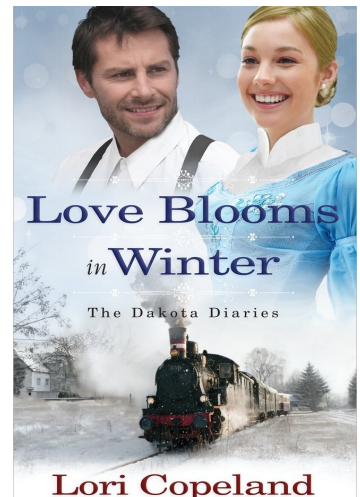
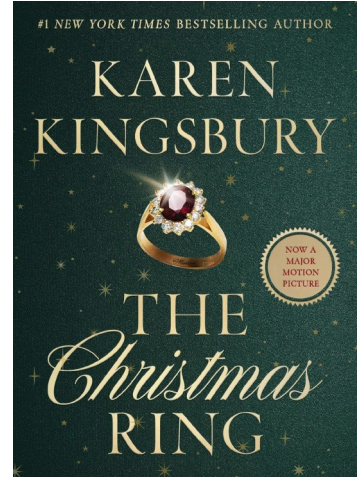
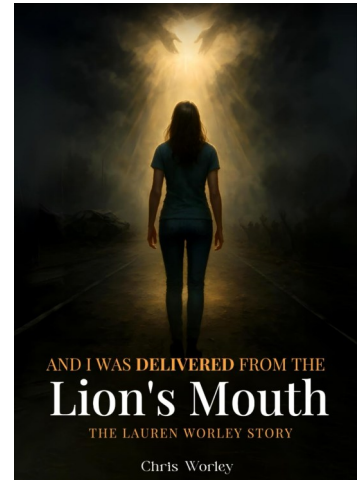
The following book was so graciously donated by Darrell Hensley:

- ◆ **Inside Out** by Dr. Larry Crabb

We are so thankful for these new additions and donations that help to fill our shelves. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

It is spring...time for new discoveries! So, if you are interested in researching a topic or just the joy of reading, we encourage you to stop by and discover a good read that will create joy and growth in your life! Looking forward to seeing you there!

In Christian Love,
Denise Carey



YOUTH NEWS

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." —Matthew 28:19

What a great month we had in April as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And after Jesus was resurrected, He told His disciples to go and make disciples by teaching and preaching the Word of God. We too as believers should be doing the same.

As we get closer to our time to go to World Changers in July, our youth and Dana and I have been talking more about discipleship and the call that God has given each of us as believers. Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior and have grown in the knowledge of His word we should be going out and telling others about Christ. That is why our youth enjoy going to World Changers each and every year because when they do that they are becoming the hands and feet of Christ and they get to interact with people they may not ever see again and have the opportunity to talk to them about God and maybe even give another youth from a different group at World Changers their own testimony of how Christ changed their life. They may be the only person that tells them about Jesus or shows them how much Jesus loves them. Watching our youth and seeing them working so hard, making new friends, and being able for them to see how other people in our world may not be as fortunate as we are, and then to see the expression on their faces when they are done and see what they have accomplished and that what they did made a difference in someone else's life is amazing.

Who have you talked to this year about Christ, who have you invited to church? It is time for us all to stand up and follow Jesus's call to go and make disciples. Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." — Matthew 16:24

The last couple of months in Sunday School we have been in the book of Matthew learning about Jesus and His teachings. After preaching and healing in Galilee, Jesus headed towards Jerusalem. His steps took Him to the cross and an empty tomb. Through Jesus's example we as believers can learn how to face our fears, overcome opposition, sacrifice for others, and embrace the hope that only Jesus can provide. During our study of Matthew, we were able to gain a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day and how we can do as Jesus asks us to do go and make disciples of all nations. We are to share the Gospel with everyone we encounter and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do that. And Jesus was our greatest example while He walked this earth. He shared the good news with everyone. Is God calling you to follow Him and share the good news with those around you? Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson

THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers, for the calls, for the many cards. They were greatly appreciated.

Dewey & Mary Ellen Hale

To our dear church family,
We wish to thank you for the prayers, phone calls, food, visits, and the lovely plant sent to us after the passing of my dad, Dale Hopkins. It makes the hard times in life easier knowing we have such a caring and loving church.

Linda & Doug Johnson

Dear Haran Baptist brethren,
I would like to thank each and every one of you for the cards, prayers, restaurant gift cards, and free haircut while I was convalescing after foot surgery recently. Every act of kindness was such a blessing to not only me but Allen and Lukas. They had their hands full cooking, cleaning, going to work and college, doing laundry and taking care of me. The gift cards gave them a much needed break. You have been a blessing to all of us— thanks again!

Much love,
Victoria White

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

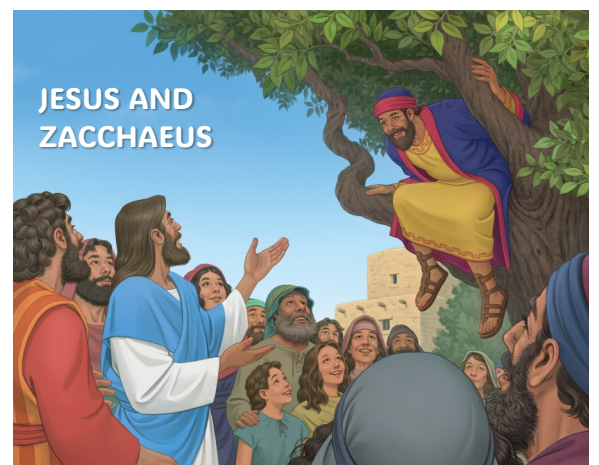


Our four Bible lessons will show kids that God is always there for us, even when we're feeling lonely, lost, hopeless, or not good enough. In fact, God loves us so much that He sent His Son to save us. Because Jesus died and rose to life, we have hope and new life in Him!

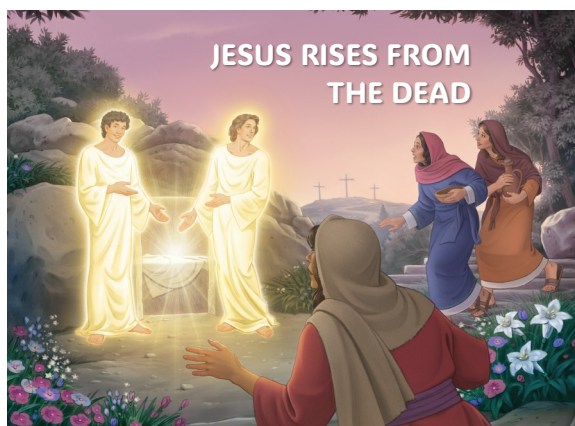
All kids **age 3 to grade 5** are invited for Bible study, music, crafts, and games!



RUTH AND NAOMI



JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS



JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD



JESUS APPEARS TO PAUL



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

1	Cilvia Hartman	11	Susan Hensley	23	Rachel Hartman
2	Walker Champney	17	Ron Francis	24	Grace Edmonds
4	Noah Ferguson	19	David Morris	29	Tiffany Edmonds
6	Kermit Crowe	20	Charlotte Crouch		
6	Shane Martin	21	Mandy Champney		

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Craig & Mandy Champney
18 Chris & Sharon Avery

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

2	Virginia Emery	7	Floyd Agee	18	Jamie Eller
5	Zeke Winfree	8	Chris Avery	22	Kim Scott
6	Steven Ferguson	16	Forrest Sloan	29	Larry Avery
	Victoria White	17	Lee Koon	30	David Crouch

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Don & Mary Etta Summerville 25 Bobby & Dana Ferguson
7 Steve & Carolyn Robbins

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

10	Faye Blevins	16	Danielle Emery	26	Aaron Avery
	Dewey Hale	18	Zane Edmonds	31	John Scott
13	Warren Carey		Gene Knighton		

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Dee & Amy Hartman 30 Hunter & Cilvia Hartman
28 Chuck & Joyce Van Dellen Rick & Barbara Stone

Are we missing a birthday or anniversary? Email the church office at haranbaptist@gmail.com and let us know.