

Shepherd's Staff

August 2026

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m



Back-to-School Season – Maintaining Biblical Values in a Secular World

[Back-to-School Season – Maintaining Biblical Values in a Secular World - Virginia Christian Alliance](#)

Author: Virginia Christian Alliance

As September rolls in, children across the nation head back to school, marking the end of summer and the beginning of a new academic year. For Christian families, this season brings not just the usual preparations of buying school supplies and setting schedules, but also the challenge of maintaining Biblical values in an increasingly secular educational environment. This blog post explores how Christian parents can equip their children to navigate this landscape while staying true to their faith.

The Importance of a Strong Biblical Foundation

Proverbs 22:6 instructs, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." This verse underscores the importance of instilling Biblical principles in children from an early age. As they return to school, whether in public, private, or homeschool settings, the foundation laid at home is crucial for their spiritual development. Christian parents must ensure that their children understand and embrace the truths of Scripture, enabling them to stand firm in their beliefs.

One way to reinforce this foundation is through regular family devotions and discussions about how the Bible applies to everyday life. By engaging in open conversations about faith, ethics, and morality, parents can help their children develop a strong, personal relationship with God. This spiritual preparation is essential as they encounter various worldviews and philosophies in the classroom.

Navigating Secular Curriculums

In many public schools, curriculums are designed to be neutral or secular, often excluding religious perspectives. This can create challenges for Christian students who may feel isolated or pressured to conform to the prevailing cultural norms. However, Romans 12:2 offers clear guidance: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Parents can help their children navigate secular curriculums by encouraging critical thinking and discernment. When controversial topics arise, such as evolution, gender identity, or moral relativism,

it is important to discuss these issues from a Biblical perspective at home. Providing children with the tools to respectfully engage in these discussions while holding fast to their beliefs is key to their spiritual resilience.

Creating a Supportive Community

Another vital aspect of maintaining Biblical values during the school year is fostering a supportive Christian community. This can be achieved through involvement in church youth groups, Christian clubs at school, or homeschooling co-ops. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Being part of a community where Biblical values are shared and upheld can provide much-needed encouragement and accountability for both children and parents. It also offers opportunities for children to form friendships with others who share their faith, which can be a source of strength and comfort in challenging situations.

Conclusion

The back-to-school season is an important time for Christian families to reaffirm their commitment to Biblical values. By laying a strong spiritual foundation, equipping children to think critically about secular teachings, and fostering a supportive community, parents can help their children navigate the challenges of the school year while staying true to their faith. As children grow in their knowledge and love of God, they will be better prepared to shine His light in a world that desperately needs it.



8/11	Kathy Heeren	8/6	Joel & Brandy Reints
8/12	Donald Allspach	8/6	Ryan & Stacy Edeker
8/18	Charlene Kramer	8/6	Ken & Diane Roberts
8/24	Pearl Reints	8/23	Paul & Darlene Bruns
8/24	Lanae Kramer	8/27	Ken & Nancy Mehmen
8/24	Lilly Stirling		
8/26	Karen Oltman		
8/30	Mike Pott		
8/31	Stacy Edeker		

Slow Cooker Loaded Chicken and Potatoes

"Hearty, creamy, saucy goodness."

By [Keaton Larson](#)

Tested by [Marianne Williams](#)

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 2 hrs 55 mins

Total Time: 3 hrs 5 mins

Servings: 8

Yield: 8 cups

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 3 1/2 tablespoon ranch dressing mix
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 1/2 pounds yellow baby new potatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 6 ounces cream cheese, cubed at room temperature
- 1/4 cup ranch dressing
- 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided, plus more for garnish
- cooked and crumbled bacon to taste
- thinly sliced scallions for garnish

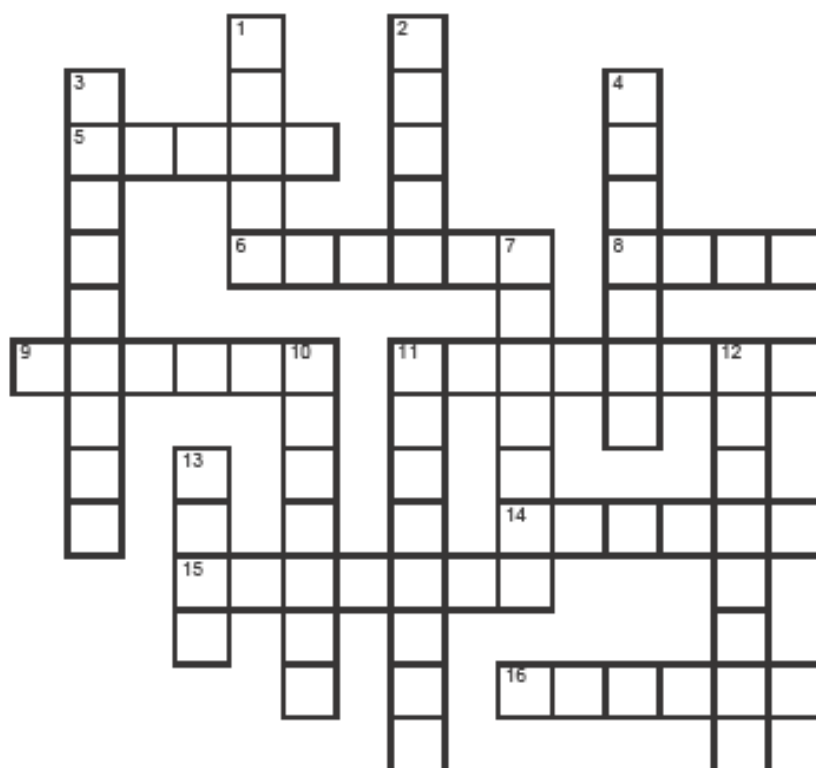
Directions

1. Gather all ingredients
2. Stir together chicken broth and ranch dressing mix in the bottom of a 5-quart slow cooker until combined. Add chicken breasts in an even layer over broth mixture, followed by an even layer of potatoes. Drizzle with oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. Cover and cook until chicken is cooked through and potatoes are fork tender, about 2 hours and 45 minutes on HIGH or about 3 hours and 45 minutes on LOW.
4. Remove chicken breasts from the slow cooker and place them on a cutting board. Let them cool slightly for 5 minutes. Coarsely shred the chicken using 2 forks.
5. Add cream cheese, ranch dressing, and 1 1/2 cups of the shredded cheese to slow cooker. Cover and cook on HIGH until cheeses begin to melt and potatoes are fully tender, about 10 minutes. Uncover and stir cheese mixture until just about fully combined.
6. Add shredded chicken back to slow cooker and stir until evenly coated in cheese mixture.
7. Divide among 8 shallow bowls. Garnish with remaining 1/2 cup shredded cheese, top with bacon and scallions. Serve immediately.

Recipe developed by Amanda Holstein

Name: _____ Date: _____

Back to School



ACROSS

5. Present for the teacher.
6. Time to play outside during a break in the school day.
8. A place to sit and study in your room or at school.
9. Writing utensil made of wood.
11. What school is all about.
14. A small tool to undo mistakes.
15. The person who guides and helps you in class.
16. A place where you learn and have fun.

DOWN

1. It helps you measure and draw straight lines.
2. Mark on an exam or in a class.
3. Place where you might eat your lunch at school.
4. Someone who goes to school.
7. Use this to stick things together.
10. Where you go to enjoy stories and explore new worlds.
11. A colorful container to keep your sandwiches and snacks.
12. A pad made of bound sheets of paper for taking notes.
13. A subject that involves numbers.

WORDBANK: Apple, Cafeteria, Desk, Eraser, Grade, Learning, Library, Lunchbox, Math, Notebook, Pencil, Recess, Ruler, School, Stapler, Student, Teacher