

## IN PRAISE OF PRAISE

To praise God is to be blessed because . . .

it **lifts** our vision and spirits upward and not downward;

it **connects** us with all creation, which reflects the glory of God;

it **draws** us to the Creator, who is much bigger and more wonderful than anything we can imagine;

it **places** us in contact with the Spirit, who is closer than breathing and nearer than hands or feet;

it **squashes** the stifling inhibitions of the soul and **enables** us to let it all hang out with emotion and joy;

it **restores** our souls with peace and gladness;

it **gets** us out of our heads and into our hearts, where love and gratitude abide;

it **transforms** our doubts into believing, for it is in the praising that we discover a blessed assurance we never knew;

it **infects** us with the faith of others and **springs** us free from isolation into a community of singers; and

it **opens** our hearts to the source of all our joy.

—Bill Kidwell, minister of pastoral care  
Oakland Church of the Brethren  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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### Text for Today

### Psalm 148 (1), *NRSV*

**Praise the LORD!** Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! . . . Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. . . . Praise the LORD!



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A close-up photograph of a poinsettia plant with large, vibrant red leaves and a dark center. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and color of the leaves.

# Praise the Lord!

# THE BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship August 30, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (11:00) When In Our Music God Is Glorified *arr. Karrin Ford*

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** Jeff Carr

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

## PROCLAIMING

**ANTHEM** (11:00)  
When In Our Music God Is Glorified *arr. Harriet Ziegenhals*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 148 *NRSV*

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Josh Eye  
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

**\*HYMN # 48** *All creatures of our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
(vv. 1-3 & 7)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:1-7 *NRSV*

**SERMON** "Christmas Already" Jeff Carr

**\*HYMN # 201** *Hark! the herald angels sing* MENDELSSOHN

## RESPONDING

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) a time for conversation.

## OFFERING

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us *arr. Mark L. Williams*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Chris Zepp

**\*HYMN # 318** *Joy to the world* ANTIOCH

**\*SENDING WORDS**

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Psalm 19 *Benedetto Marcello*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in loving memory of LeRoy E. Myers, Sr., father of Mary Beth Myers Flory, by her children and their families.

## TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Fred Pratt Green

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!  
How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!  
So has the Church in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, thru centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue, Alleluia!  
And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the Light?  
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight: Alleluia!  
Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

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## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**August 30-September 5, 2015** (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.  
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

<b>Today</b>	9:45 a.m.	Children's Movin' On Up Event	Social Hall
	7:00	Vespers at CrossRoads – VBMHC Amphitheater Union Sounds; Meditation by Clarence Moyers	
<b>Tues.</b>	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
<b>Wed.</b>	11-1	Auxiliary Luncheon	Social Hall
	6:30	Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Sojourners Room
	7:00	Ministerial Services Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Witness & Renewal Commission	Office Area
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	Noon	Interfaith Association	EMU
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Fri.</b>	5-9	Yard Sale to Benefit Nigerian Crisis	
<b>Sat.</b>	7 a.m.-Noon	Yard Sale to Benefit Nigerian Crisis	

### **NEXT SUNDAY – September 6, 2015 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship:** 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: "Labor of Love"

Scripture Readings: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Mark 7:24-37;  
James 2:1-17

**Sunday School** – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

## BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus  
and live the love of God.*

### ***Our Mission...***

*As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.*

### ***Our Values...***

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.  
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.  
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.  
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

### **PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF**

**Jeff Carr** – Senior Pastor

**Chris Zepp** – Associate Pastor

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF**

**Fortunato Correa** – Custodian

**Phil Flory** – Treasurer

**Shannon Puffenbarger** – Administrative Assistant

**Leon Rhodes** – Head Teller

**Glenna Wampler** – Business Manager

### **PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF**

**Kathleen Arndt** – Child Care Center Administrator

**John Barr** – Organist

**Jim Benedict** – Bell Choir Director

**Jeanie Eye** – Christian Education Director

**Mary Beth Flory** – Pianist

**Marianne Houff** – Children's Choir Director

**Ellsworth Neff** – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

**Curtis Nolley** – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

**Clarke & Hope Staton** – Youth Ministry Coordinators

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

[www.bwcob.org](http://www.bwcob.org) / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

## SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

### **HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall**

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.**

**Rep.** – Sarah Rees

*All Are Welcome* brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

**PARKING ASSISTANCE:** 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

### **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a “cry room” for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

**Hymn Leader** (8:30) – Curtis Nolley

**Greeters** (11:00) – Michelle Martin & Mary Lou Shirkey  
Erin Dalrymple

**Head Usher** (11:00) – Devin Bowman

**Sound/Light Operator** (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff

**Decorators** – Missy Hipps, Lucretia Lane, Lev Norford

**Van Driver** – Bill Miracle

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **VBS LOANED ITEMS “LEFTOVERS”**

Believe it or not, there are still some items loaned and/or donated for use in this summer’s Vacation Bible School that appear to be left behind. If you have loaned any of these items and want them back, they need to be claimed and picked up from the Gap Classroom or the west coat closet **TODAY**. Items remaining will be turned over to be sold at the yard sale to benefit Nigerians in Crisis.

### **YARD SALE TO BENEFIT NIGERIANS IN CRISIS**

Support home, church, and community rebuilding in Nigeria by participating in a GIGANTIC yard sale at BWCOB. Sale runs Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 am-noon. Indoor and outdoor space, so come rain or shine. You can support this effort by donating items or coming to the yard sale. Contact Beth Day-Miller for more information. Phone (540) 421-1151; email [bethday-miller@comcast.net](mailto:bethday-miller@comcast.net)

### **WORSHIP LEADERS AND READERS SOUGHT**

Would you be interested in helping to lead congregational worship one or more Sundays during the upcoming year? Opportunities exist for those looking to do as little as reading scripture or as much as working with the pastors to shape an entire worship service. Assistance and coaching are available as needed or desired. If interested, please contact Pastor Chris to schedule or inquire.

### **ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR LAST SUNDAY: 8/23/15**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 21 11:00 – 282 Sunday School: 142**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$6,196.00
Loose Offering	520.45
EYN Compassion	600.00
International Scholarship Fund	100.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller