

## Your Face Will I Seek

We come into this world hungry. We search for mother's milk, of course, but that is not our only need. Our eyes also seek her face.

I lie on my back in a field, and without even looking, I find a face in the clouds. Or I see something dear and familiar in stones or streams. Time and again, I'm drawn to the recurring pattern: luminous eyes, wisps of hair, a nose, and the gentle curve of lips—all inside the sacred circle of the human face.

Scientists tell us that this is not my particular habit. All human beings, if endowed with sight, seek faces among the varied shapes in their surroundings.

If you're reading these words, there is a very good chance you are in a sanctuary. Perhaps, like the psalmist, you are looking for shelter, vindication, comfort, or hope. Maybe you simply want to behold the beauty of the Lord! If you don't find it here, perhaps you'll find it in nature, in music, or in the face of a friend. David's words inspire us to become God-seekers and to find shelter under the wings of God's protective care.

Winter can feel like an emotional wilderness, a lean, dark, dry season of loneliness and longing for spring. Lent is an invitation to go on a hunting expedition for the face of One who is Father, Mother, Brother, and Friend.

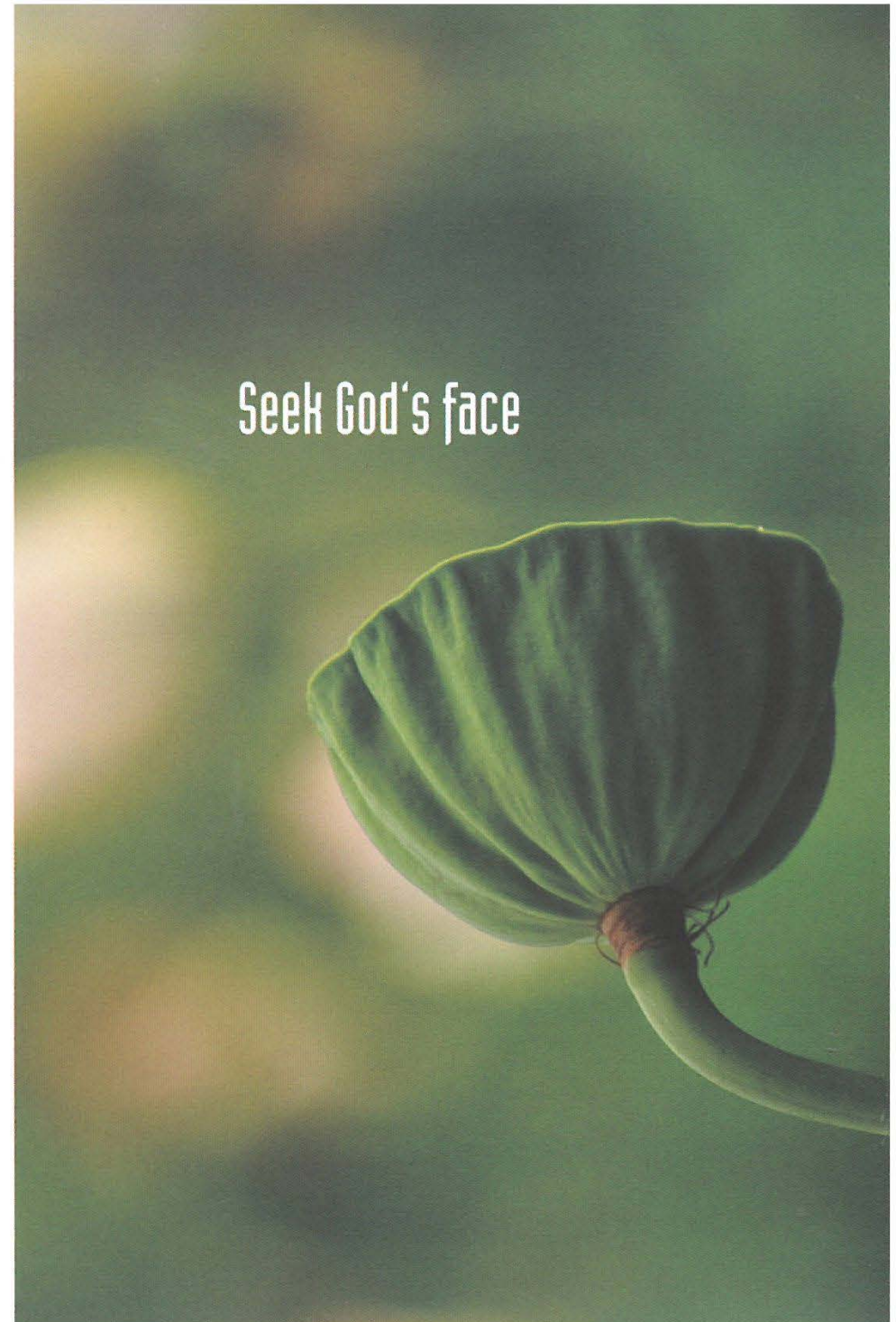
With David, we are invited to meditate on God's goodness in the night and then to rise early with prayers of praise and gratitude on our lips. If seeking God's face is our practice throughout the winter wilderness, we may find our thirst quenched and our deep hunger satisfied even as we wait for a new season of light and life.

**Hymn of Response**      **Open my eyes, that I may see**  
No. 517, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

—Paula Bowser  
Englewood, Ohio

**Text for today:** "The LORD is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything? When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—it's they . . . who stumble and fall! If an army camps against me, my heart won't be afraid. If war comes up against me, I will continue to trust in this: I have asked one thing from the LORD—it's all I seek: to live in the LORD's house all the days of my life, seeing the LORD's beauty and constantly adoring his temple. . . . LORD, listen to my voice when I cry out—have mercy on me and answer me! Come, my heart says, *seek God's face*. LORD, I do seek your face! Please don't hide it from me! Don't push your servant aside angrily—you have been my help!" (Psalm 27:1b-4, 7-9a, CEB). **Bible readings for today:** Genesis 15: 1-2, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36.

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02-21-16, Second Sunday in Lent  
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# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship February 21, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”  
~ Marianne Williamson

Let us ask ourselves...Of what are we afraid?

**PRELUDE** (11:00) Grave-Adagio (Sonata II) *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*  
Meditation on: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” *Elizabeth Krouse*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Jeff Carr

## CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

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.

**\*HYMN # 517** *Open my eyes, that I may see* OPEN MY EYES

## PROCLAIMING

**CHILDREN’S TIME** (11:00) Dianne Murray  
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.

## OFFERING

**Invitation**  
**Offertory**

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.  
(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Meditation on ST. ANNE *Dwight Gustafson*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 27 *NRSV*

**\*HYMN # 328** *O God, our help in ages past* ST. ANNE

**SERMON** “The Fear Factor” Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

**\*HYMN # 366** *God of grace and God of glory* CWM RHONDDA

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Corporate Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, we confess that we give in to fear all too often. Caught in the grip of what we cannot control hoping to escape our finitude we let fear drive our motivations and actions. Despite our trust in your ways, we act in fear and we err. Desperate to reconcile our errors, we consider quick fixes – quick fixes which often lead away from trust. Our lives are trapped in this vicious cycle. Hear our confession. By your gracious gift in Jesus Christ empower us to break this cycle. Teach us to love beyond all distractions. May we seek your Holy Spirit’s presence with us during these Lenten days that we might trust and believe and not be afraid.

With courageous hearts we pray...

#### Silence for Personal Confession and Reflection

#### Pastoral Prayer

*concluding with The Lord’s Prayer (“debts and debtors”)*

**ANTHEM** (11:00) God Be In My Head *Stephen Sturk*

## \*BENEDICTION

**\*THREEFOLD AMEN** *Hymnal #382*

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Allegro moderato maestoso *F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy*  
(from The Berlin Kraków Manuscripts: 2)

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

February 21-27, 2016 (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 a.m. Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	9:30 / 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Reception
<b>Wed.</b>	12:05 Lenten Luncheon	Otterbein UMC
	Speaker: Dr. Frances Flannery	
	2:00 Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15 Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30 Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal	Social Hall
	(Menu: Soup & Sandwiches)	
	5:45 Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30 YORFF Rehearsal	Room # 35
	6:30 Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
<b>Thurs.</b>	7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

### NEXT SUNDAY– February 28, 2016 – *Third Sunday in Lent*

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: "Wait and See"

Scripture Readings: Psalm 63:1-8 & Luke 13:1-9

Children's Worship during Worship at 11

**Puppets Rehearsal** – 9 a.m. – Agape Room

**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.**

*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.

**Greeter** (8:30) – Laura Mapp

**Pianist** (8:30) – Cindy Fike

**Fellowship Host** – Beth Day-Miller

**Greeters** (11:00) – Bill & Andrea Miracle; Betty & Sheldon Propst

**Head Usher** (11:00) – Devin Bowman

**Sound/Light** (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff & Skip Eger

**Decorator** – Heather Kiracofe

**Deacon Caregiver** – Alice Lee Hopkins

**Van Driver** – Fred Zimmerman

### **TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: S. Sturk**

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION EVENT**

Sunday, February 28, at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg. Light refreshments will be served. Nursery workers will be available. Attendees will view and discuss the film by Michael Rossaato-Bennett, "Alive Inside." This documentary explores the impact of music on patients suffering with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** are now available from the literature rack in the greeting hall. Chris Bowman, lead pastor of Manassas COB, authored *Let us also go*, devotions for Ash Wednesday through Easter.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for dish washing and kitchen clean up from our Wednesday evening fellowship meals. These meals are a wonderful ministry of our church! Please contact Amanda Zepp or sign up in the greeting hall on Sunday. Thank you!

### **SHENANDOAH DISTRICT DISASTER RESPONSE AUCTION**

If you plan to contribute items for the Disaster Response Auction, please send a picture and description to [bettymorris0332@aol.com](mailto:bettymorris0332@aol.com) by March 1 and she will put it on auction zip.com. If you want to donate funds for oysters for the Friday night dinner, \$80 can be sent to the Shenandoah District earmarked for oysters.

### **ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 2/14/16**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 21    11:00 – 288    Sunday School: 154**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$4,414.00
Loose Offering	322.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	58.00
Children's Offering	26.54
Women's Fellowship	700.00
Jan Matteson Memorial Fund	50.00
Phyllis Miller Memorial Fund	75.00
Ethel Ringgold Memorial Fund	100.00
Bill Johnson Memorial Fund	50.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller