

For Those Who Are Weeping

The Bible is filled with stories about people whose lives are restored after unimaginable losses: Job comes to mind, and the nation of Israel as it's plunged into slavery and exile.

Just look at Joseph, patriarch, in the book of Genesis. He's riding high with his coat of many colors, then thrown into a pit. He's a slave who then becomes the right-hand man for a powerful Egyptian. He's propositioned by Potiphar's wife, framed, and flung into prison. He spends thirteen years waiting to emerge into the light. Up, then down; up once more, then down again.

The pit and the exile are both biblical metaphors for seasons of intense grief, alienation, and loss. Some psalms are primal screams for tragic times. Others, like Psalm 126, are hymns of joy that celebrate restoration and return after a season of misery and pain.

As I write these words, many from Syria and northeastern Nigeria are being driven from their homes, and even killed, by brutal regimes and terrorist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram. Closer to home are the floods in South Carolina and the wildfires out west. Anyone who has a heart, weeps.

Into this living nightmare of slaughter and devastation, God speaks words of hope and comfort. Coming home once felt like the promise of a distant dream. Now, at long last, it's a reality.

Unfortunately, it may be a very long time before many are restored to home and shalom. In the meantime, those who are safe can offer tangible help and fervent prayers.

Prayer for the Refugees: God of Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, you are the One who sees our pain. Give continued courage, strength, and aid to those in need. And may we embody your grace through acts of compassion and support. Bring them home, loving God. Restore their fortunes, and give us shouts of joy!

Hymn of Response

Beyond a dying sun

No. 323, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

—Paula Bowser
Englewood, Ohio

Text for today: "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' *The LORD has done great things* for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves" (Psalm 126:2-6, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

03-13-16, Fifth Sunday in Lent. Printed in the USA
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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship March 6, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC Hymns of Faith and Trust

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE (11:00) *Élévation* François Clément Théodore Dubois

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 worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

Janet Coffman
Michael Overman

*Congregational Affirmation (Unison)

What a joy to have you as part of our family of faith! As you have reaffirmed your faith among us today, we also reaffirm our own. We now pledge to you our help, our prayers, and most of all our love as together we seek to follow Jesus and live the love of God.

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 126 *NRSV*

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Jeff Carr

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: "Healer of our every ill"

John Barr

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8 *NRSV*

***HYMN # 628** *At evening, when the sun had set* ANGELUS

SERMON "Hopes for Wholeness" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

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

***HYMN # 377** *Healer of our every ill*

SERVICE OF ANOINTING

***HYMN # 627** *There is a balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Call to Confession ~Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, adapted

Prayer of Corporate Confession – Hymnal # 698 (Unison)

Silence for Personal Confession and Reflection

Pastoral Prayer Chris Zepp

concluding with The Lord's Prayer ("debts and debtors")

ANTHEM (11:00) Behold the Lamb of God *G. F. Handel*

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE (11:00) Agincourt Hymn *John Dunstable*
("O love, how deep") *(arr. E. P. Biggs)*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

March 6-12, 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.

Today	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	9 a.m.	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch (Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread)	Social Hall
Wed.	12:05	Lenten Luncheon (Speaker: Dr. Terry Beitzel)	Otterbein UMC
	2:00	Jubilee Circle	Maple Terrace
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal	Social Hall
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YORFF Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	6:30	Friendship Circle	Bridgewater Home
	7:00	JOY Circle – Home of Becky Replogle	
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– March 13, 2016 – *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “Lost & Found and Never Missing”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 32 & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

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 / (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.

Greeters (11:00) – Dale & Kathy Rusmisl; Jim & Lucretia Lane

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Head Usher (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

Sound/Light (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff

Decorators – Heather Barkey, Alice Lee Hopkins, Dwyann Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Jan Flora

Van Driver – Jim Beckman

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

The worship center flowers today are given in memory of Jan Matteson upon what would have been her 76th birthday today. Jan served as Director of Christian Education for our congregation 1990-2005.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR CHRIS will be out of the office Wednesday through Saturday attending meetings in California.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION LISTS

On many occasions we use email to communicate information to the congregation. If you are interested in being added to or removed from the email prayer chain or the congregational email list, please let us know via churchoffice@bwcob.org.

TAKE THEM A MEAL

Often times members / families within our congregation are in need of help with meals due to illness, the birth of a baby, or the death of a loved one. If you would like to share a meal with people when the request is made, please send your email address to the church office at churchoffice@bwcob.org. When we establish an account through www.takethemameal.com, you will receive an email notification, at which time you can choose a date to provide a meal.

ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 2/28/16

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 18	11:00 – 231	Sunday School: 126
Pledges & Envelope Giving		\$6,725.00
Loose Offering		266.25
Church User Fees		200.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions		58.00
Two Cents Worth		50.00
One Great Hour		225.00
Spring Potted Flowers		127.00
Wednesday Night Meals		55.00
Jan Matteson Memorial Fund		100.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller