

Holy Week and Easter Schedule March 20-27, 2016

Easter Eggs (3/19 & 3/20)

Easter Egg Dyeing & Craft Event—6:30 p.m. Saturday night
Easter Egg Hunt following 11 o'clock worship Sunday morning

Palm Sunday (3/20)

Children's palm procession during 11 o'clock worship
Children's Easter Egg Hunt following 11 o'clock worship

Maundy Thursday (3/24)

Love Feast

Beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Child Care available beginning ~7 p.m. following the meal.
All are welcome!

Holy Friday (3/25)

Community Cross Walk

Sponsored and led by the Bridgewater Area Ministers
Begins at noon at Bridgewater Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Tenebrae

A contemplative journey of light and darkness
Begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday (3/27)

Sunrise Worship

On the hilltop at CrossRoads Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center at 7:00 a.m. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket!

Congregational Fellowship Breakfast

The BWCOB youth are providing an Easter Fellowship Breakfast. Food and drinks will be available 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Come and share in the festivities!

Congregational Worship

Begins at 11 a.m.
Includes the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*—anyone invited to participate!

ON DEATH

Many times over the last months our congregational family has remembered and celebrated the faith and lives of many in our community and the extended families of our congregation who have died.

In Children's Worship on the first Sunday of Lent, as we talked about the symbol of the cross, the children shared their own experiences of encountering death and knowing people and pets that have died. The children talked honestly about the hard realities of death and other hard parts of their lives. The comments and stories they shared affirmed again what I know to be true - Death is hard; Life can be hard too. As we shared more, it became clear that following Jesus can be hard too. We talked about how we find our way when life is hard, and I shared that what gives me strength is recognizing that we are not alone. The children also gave witness to the power of being together in hard times. Over the last year, in addition to those connected to our church family, I remember my own grandmother's death, and the lives and deaths of close family friends. In the pastoral prayer at a memorial service I attended for one such friend the pastor prayed to "God, our Merciful Friend..." As I continue to reflect on the lives of those who have left our community through death, and on the hard realities of living, and on the tough parts of following Jesus, I hold fast to the belief that God, our merciful friend is with us in these moments too.

Lutheran Pastor, speaker, and writer, Nadia Bolz Weber shared the following reflections on the start of Lent. They affirm the reason we celebrate faith and life. They affirm why we gather together in community. They affirm the power of the faith community in the face of death as we look to the promise of the good news of Easter.

"What I did not know at the time was that thirty hours after standing in a restaurant for a funeral of one child, I would stand—on Ash Wednesday—in the birthing room of another...hold the baby of my parishioners in my arms and thank God for brand-new life. God: present in love, present in rooms where women give birth, present in rooms where families wrestle with suffering and death.

What I find interesting is that death used to be more a part of life than it is for us now, and not just because we have a longer life expectancy and a lower infant mortality rate than we did two hundred years ago. Death used to be a part of life because, like birth, it was something we did at home...

People used to die at home, at which point their loved ones would wash and prepare the body. Neighbors, friends, and family would come to see the body and perhaps stroke the hair or kiss the forehead of those who had gone to their rest. Death was a part of life. ...I knew more than on any other Ash Wednesday that the promises of baptisms and funerals, the promises of birth and death, are inextricably wrapped up together. For we come from God and to God we shall go. There is so much that gets in the way of that simple truth.

*...Words from our funerals have come from the past and future to meet us in the present. And in that meeting we are reminded of the promises of God: That we are God's, that there is no sin, no darkness, and yes, no grave that God will not come to find us in and love us back to life... These promises outlast our earthly bodies and the limits of time." **

In this season of our lives, as we look toward Easter, as we continue in our particular congregation to find our way amidst the hard parts of life, may we also find the opportunities to celebrate our faith and that which gives us life. Following Jesus us hard, death is hard, life can be hard - but we are not alone for the Jesus we follow is not dead, but a Christ of abundant, present, and incarnational life who is indeed a merciful friend.

~ Peace, Jeff

*from Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz Weber pg. 110-113

EASTER FAMILY FUN

On Saturday, March 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall, we will have a time of family fun getting ready for Easter.

Bring a snack to share (& / or sandwiches if you haven't had time for dinner).

Drinks will be provided. After eating we'll dye eggs and make spring crafts. All supplies will be provided.



On Sunday, March 20 following Worship at 11, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children. Meet in the social hall to participate. Baskets will be provided and each child will receive an Easter gift.

Please join us for both Easter events and bring a friend!

NOTES OF THANKS

*We are deeply grateful to your congregation for supporting Bridgewater College. Your investment in Bridgewater helps provide the financial resources necessary to operate programs important in developing the moral and ethical decision-making abilities vital in today's society....Again, we thank you for your congregation's continued generosity and support of Bridgewater College. My kind regards,
Colby Horne, Director of Annual Giving*

*It is with excitement that I share that the "Renewing Our Faith Outdoors" capital campaign has been a great success....The capital campaign has been an incredible journey thus far. I appreciate everyone who has been involved in making it such a success....Thank you so much for your involvement in our capital campaign and for the many ways that you support the Outdoor Ministries program.
~ Doug Phillips, Brethren Woods*

*On behalf of the Bridgewater Preschool Staff, Board of Directors and students, I would like to thank you for the generous use of your wonderful church. We are very appreciative and thankful for your support. Sincerely,
Keri Hiner, Bookkeeper*

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

March 6—*Fourth Sunday in Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "Hopes for Wholeness"
Scriptures: Psalm 126 & John 12:1-8

March 13—*Fifth Sunday in Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "Lost & Found and Never Missing"
Scriptures: Psalm 32 & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 20—*Palm / Passion Sunday*
Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp
Sermon: "But..."
Scriptures: Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;
Luke 22:14-23:56

March 27—*Easter Sunday*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "Idle Amazement"
Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 & Luke 24:1-12

BIBLE READING PLAN March Readings

| Dates | (Sunday) | (Monday) | (Tuesday) | (Wednesday) | (Thursday) | (Friday) | (Saturday) |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2/28-3/5 | Romans 7-8 | Genesis 12-15 | Joshua 16-20 | Psalms 9-11 | Job 7-8 | Isaiah 18-22 | Matthew 8-10 |
| 3/6-3/12 | Romans 9-10 | Genesis 16-19 | Joshua 21-24 | Psalms 12-14 | Job 9-10 | Isaiah 23-28 | Matthew 11-13 |
| 3/13-3/19 | Romans 11-12 | Genesis 20-23 | Judges 1-6 | Psalms 15-17 | Job 11-12 | Isaiah 29-33 | Matthew 14-16 |
| 3/20-3/26 | Romans 13-14 | Genesis 24-27 | Judges 7-11 | Psalms 18-20 | Job 13-14 | Isaiah 34-39 | Matthew 17-19 |
| 3/27-4/2 | Romans 15-16 | Genesis 28-31 | Judges 12-16 | Psalms 21-23 | Job 15-16 | Isaiah 40-44 | Matthew 20-22 |

MESSENGER RENEWAL MONTH

For participants in our congregation, we provide an every-family subscription to *Messenger* (regular \$14.50; student \$10.50). *Messenger* keeps readers informed of national & international news relative to Church of the Brethren life, mission, and service. If you are not currently receiving *Messenger* or if you are receiving the magazine but would prefer not to, please be in touch with our *Messenger* Representative – Kay Dove – at 434-1255 or Missykdove@aol.com by March 15.

TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT...CAMP

Parents of children in Kindergarten and up should be looking in the mail for information on Brethren Woods for this Summer. This year's theme is **Fearless Faith**, and those who have attended camp before will be getting information in the mail or online. If you haven't received camp information, contact the church office.

BWCOB will pay for one week for your child to attend camp. Registration can be done online. It is important to register early in March to assure your camping choice; plus, the church will get a discount for those registering by March 31.



UPCOMING PASTOR'S BOOK STUDIES

Pastor Chris invites you to join him for the following book discussion on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 p.m.:

***Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith*, by Cannon, Harper, Jackson, and Rah**

March 2 and 23, 2-3 pm, Lounge (NOTE CHANGED DATE)

We continue our Lenten reading and discussion of this short 2014 book, in which four Christian leaders confess the church's public failings and call on fellow believers to reengage the surrounding culture in a new and transformative way. We will discuss chapter 4 on March 2 and chapters 5-7 on March 23.

***Accidental Saints: Finding God In All the Wrong People*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber**

April 20, 2-3 pm, Lounge

From the book jacket: "New York Times best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls 'a religious but not-so-spiritual life.' Tattooed, angry, and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people..." Order your copy through the office at an estimated cost of \$16.50 (if ordered by 3/20) OR obtain your own copy. We will only have one study for this book, so plan to read the whole or as much as you can for April 20.

Even if you are not able to read these books, you are always welcome to attend and participate in the discussions. If you have any questions – about the books, authors, or discussions – please contact Chris. Hope to see you there!



PEACE FEAST: March 15

Shenandoah District Pastors for Peace will sponsor its sixth annual Peace Feast at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at Harrisonburg First CoB. The Living Peace Award will be presented to Mike & Susan Phillips, members of Cedar Run CoB, in recognition of their work developing sustainable agricultural practices. Tom Benevento of New Community Project in Harrisonburg will be the guest speaker, and Beth Jarrett, pastor of Harrisonburg First CoB, will provide special music.

The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. To register, complete and return the reservation form with payment before March 8. The form can be obtained from the church office or printed from the web at <http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/929/2016PeaceFeast.pdf>.

FROM ANOTHER VOICE

Another Voice has become aware that a Gun Vigil is being held on the sixteenth of every month at the Courthouse in downtown Harrisonburg. The purpose of the Vigils is to bring awareness to the tragic consequences of gun violence. The sixteenth of each month was chosen because the tragedy at Virginia Tech occurred on April 16. The candlelight service of approximately a half-hour is in commemoration of those who have lost their lives. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Members of Trinity Presbyterian Church started these Vigils almost a year ago and they warmly welcome all who are interested in attending.

Also, Another Voice encourages you...If you must have a hand gun in your home, please lock it up. Put the key on a high shelf and if you think a child could find it, spend some time talking with your child(ren) about the dangers of guns.

PASTA BUFFET AND CONCERT

You are invited to join Bridgewater Home Auxiliary for dinner and music at a Pasta Buffet and Rockingham Male Chorus Concert on Friday, March 18, beginning with the meal from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Houff Community Center Alexander Mack Room A&B. Concert will be at 7 p.m. in Lantz Chapel. Donations for the meal are appreciated and will support the Auxiliary's Pledge to The Pastoral Care Endowment Fund.

BOOK OF DAVID METZLER PRAYERS AVAILABLE

There are a limited number of copies of the book of prayers by David G. Metzler available to members and friends of BWCOB. To request a copy, please call Doris Metzler at 828-2126.

GOOD FOR THE HEART AND YOUR 1040! From the Foundation Board

It may be better to give than to receive, but it may be even better to give and see your generosity rewarded. Charitable giving can play a valuable role in your financial and tax strategies. A well-planned gift to the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Foundation could provide an income tax deduction and a reduction of estate taxes. Your donation could also help you maintain financial security, exercise control over assets both during your lifetime and after death, as well as provide for your heirs in the manner you choose.

To accomplish all of these objectives, you need to develop a plan tailored to your individual circumstances. The following strategies can be used to create a giving plan that is both beneficial and appropriate for you.

When planned properly, gifts of appreciated property to charity may allow you to avoid the capital gains tax you would have owed when the asset was sold and may also allow you to receive an income tax deduction, usually worth the fair market value (FMV) of the property. Also, by removing that asset from your estate, you may reduce your potential estate tax burden.

If you wish to make a gift of property to the Foundation but also retain some control over it, a charitable remainder trust (CRT) may be an appropriate vehicle. A CRT is most effective when funded by an appreciating asset, such as real estate or stock in a family-owned business. After the property is transferred to the trust, the trust continues to provide income to the beneficiaries for a period of time, after which the remainder of the trust is donated to the charity. You avoid capital gains taxes on the assets you donated, and you receive a tax deduction on any interest earned by the remainder. Also, by removing the remaining value of the asset from your estate, you may reduce your potential estate tax liability. In short, you obtain the tax benefits of giving while postponing receipt of the gift by the charity.

If you wish to give to the Foundation without giving an asset away permanently, consider a charitable lead trust (CLT). Through a CLT, you essentially give the charity the use of an asset and the right to any income generated for a predetermined time. After the specified time has lapsed, the asset can revert to you or be given to whomever you choose. Appropriate assets might be income-producing stocks and bonds, your rare book collection, or a painting that you transfer to a museum for a certain length of time. You may receive a current income tax deduction for the value given to charity; however, the trust pays income tax on its income. If a CLT is created upon your death, estate tax liability may be reduced.

Early tax planning can help you make the most of your charitable giving opportunities and allow you to take advantage of additional benefits. Be sure to consult your team of qualified tax, legal, and financial professionals for specific guidance.

WALKING WITH THOSE IN NEED

The Church of the Brethren is one of eight denominations that work together to come alongside the weak and advocate for the oppressed through One Great Hour of Sharing. When you give to this special offering, you support life-changing ministries of Global Mission and Service, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Global Food Crisis Fund, the Office of Public Witness, and more. With God's help, your gifts, and the dedication of faithful volunteers, Christ's peace and God's love are shared with people across the country and around the world. Envelopes are included in this mailing and will be received on Easter Sunday, March 27.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The grand total of contributions to the organizations participating in the Alternative Christmas Fair held November 14, 2015, was \$8,708.12. We thank everyone who contributed in any way to this successful event sponsored by Another Voice.



BWCOB MARCH EVENTS **PROGRAM CALENDAR**

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

1 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

2 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
BSM – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
Stewardship Commission – 7 p.m.
Witness & Renewal Commission – 7 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.

3 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 a.m.

6 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon

9 Jubilee Circle – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Friendship Circle – 6:30 p.m. – Bridgewater Home
JOY Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Becky Replogle

10 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

13 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11

14 Executive Committee – 7:15 p.m.

15 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

16 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
BSM – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.

17 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

19 Egg Dyeing & Craft Event – 6 p.m.

20 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Easter Egg Hunt – Noon

22 Child Care Center Board – 7 p.m.

23 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
BSM Love Feast – 6:30 p.m. – Boitnott Room

24 Love Feast & Communion – 6:30 p.m.

25 Community Cross Walk
Good Friday Tenebrae – 7:30 p.m.

27 Easter Sunday
Congregational Breakfast – 9-10:30 a.m.
Worship at 11 a.m.

31 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

3 Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU

9 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace

10 Leaveners – 10:30 a.m. – North River Library

14 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace



CULTURAL FILM SERIES AT EMU

The Center for Interfaith Engagement (CIE) at Eastern Mennonite University continues to present the film series "Across Cultures: Profiles in Courage and Resilience," featuring 12 films of various genres, including fiction and documentaries, about human rights, environmental and social justice leaders. The series is moderated by Dr. Bob Bersson, visiting Jewish scholar at CIE. The films will be shown on Wednesdays beginning at 7 p.m. at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Room 123. Admission is free for all films and the public is welcome. For more information, visit Film Series: Profiles in Courage and Resilience or email interfaith@emu.edu.

Film Schedule

3/2: No Man's Land (Danis Tanovic, 2002, 97 min). Respondent: Barry Hart, professor, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University.

3/16: Black Robe (Bruce Beresford, 1998, 101 min). Respondent: Deacon Fred LaSpina, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and James Madison University.

3/23: When The Mountains Tremble with "Filmmakers' Commentary" (Pamela Yates, Thomas Sigel, Peter Kinoy, 1983, 90 min). Respondent: Burton Buller, independent filmmaker.

3/30: King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis (Ely Landau, Sidney Lumet, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1970, Part 1, 90 min). Respondent: Stan Maclin, founder and president, Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, Harrisonburg

4/6: King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis (Ely Landau, Sidney Lumet, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1970, Part 2, 90 min). Respondent: Stan Maclin, founder and president, Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, Harrisonburg

4/13: Bidder 70 (Beth Gage, George Gage, 2013, 73 min). Respondent: Cathy Strickler, Climate Action Alliance of the Valley.

4/20: A Day without a Mexican (Sergio Arau, 2004, 100 min). Respondent: Isabel Castillo, community organizer, "Dream Act" proponent, and graduate student, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University.

LEARN BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

Tracy Radosevic, Dean at the Academy for Biblical Storytelling will present: MULLing the Bible: Story internatilization for Telling, Teaching, Preaching, and Spiritual Formation on Saturday, April 9, at Muhlenburg Lutheran Church Activities Center in Harrisonburg. Time: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person at the door, includes all materials and lunch. For more information on Tracy, visit www.tracyrad.com. To register for the event, go to <http://biblicalstoryteller.weebly.com>.

ALL ABOARD!

Take a trip with the seagoing cowboys. Join author Peggy Reiff Miller and illustrator Claire Ewart as they share the story of Heifer International's original high-sea adventurers, who took livestock to people suffering the effects of World War II. Visit brethrenpress.com for more information or to order a book.

GEMEINSCHAFT HOME

The men living at Gemeinschaft Home greatly appreciate contributions of men's clothing. They appreciate jeans, slacks, sweatshirts, tee shirts, sport and dress shirts, and outerwear. The need for suits is very limited and they have an adequate supply at this time. Gemeinschaft is a residential facility for men who have been released from prison. It is located at 1423 Mt. Clinton Pike in Harrisonburg. If you wish you can get a receipt for donations to be used for tax deductions. If assistance is needed to transport items to Gemeinschaft, call Ann Anderson (820-0805). This announcement is brought to you by Another Voice.

For Our Prayers during the Month of March 2016

Each month a prayer list with opportunities for directed prayer is included with our newsletter. In addition to highlighting specific prayer requests, we are invited to pray with particular mindfulness of the persons connected with our congregation and community. Additionally, focusing thoughts and prayers around the following may be helpful as a guide:

Our Congregation and its Ministries, Vision and Mission

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...*those in Nigeria...* facing violence, kidnappings, and deep unrest... specifically, **Hauwa Abdu**, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in April 2014, and for those committing these atrocities

...*our congregation and district* as we seek understanding from and for one another, and especially those leaders and representatives who are navigating troubled waters and attempting to discern faithful ways forward

...*the world* as nations and communities grapple with and respond to acts of terror, disaster, tragedy, and trauma that change us forever

...*Refugees* who are finding and establishing a new home and those who are providing support, care and encouragement

...*those who grieve, especially the families of...*

Margaret "Peg" Rainbolt, who died February 20;

Mary Scott, mother of **Jill Horn** who died February 19;

Roscoe Fix, who died February 14;

William "Bill" Johnson, husband of **Lois Johnson** who died February 8;

Anna Huffman, who died February 3;

Don MacWillie, brother of **Jeanie Eye**, who died January 25; *Ethel Ringgold*, who died January 24; *Phyllis Miller*, who died January 22; *Mark Aldridge*, brother of **Lev Norford** who died January 22; *Donald Bible*, brother of **Roger Bible** who died January 21; *Theda Miracle*, mother of **Bill Miracle** who died January 17; *Lorraine Fike*, mother of **Mike Fike** who died January 16; *Wendell Smith*, husband of **Elaine Smith** who died January 13; *Bruce Barlow*, son in law of **Lois Stover**, who died December 20; *"OG" Wise*, mother of **Susan Pugh**, who died on December 18; *Jan Matteson*, who died December 14; *Kathryn Foster Wheelaban*, sister of **Paul Foster**, who died November 25

...*those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, or in rehabilitation...*

Jeanie Eye, **Ben Wade**, **Mandi Glendye**, **Emmalyn Payne**, **John Payne**, **Janet Sohn**, **Anna Mae Will**, **Michael Figgs Sr.**

...*those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically...* in **Bridgewater Home & White Birch Estates**

...*those in Volunteer Service, specifically...* **Jessie Houff**

...*those in Military Service, specifically...* **Seth Flory**, **Tyler Hopkins**, **Kent Hutchinson**

Those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently... **The Quay Family**, **Mary Jo Flory-Steury**, **Mandi Glendye**, **Steve Metzler**, **The Figgs Family**, **Pat DeMonte**, **Lisa Sheffer** (great-niece of **Patty Figgs**)

For these and all God's Children we pray...