

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION EXPERIENCES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

With the beginning of summer, many of our children and youth are preparing for one or more weeks at Brethren Woods, Workcamps, etc. These experiences are all intensive opportunities for spiritual growth and faith formation. Please join us in our continuing prayer support for these individual and group experiences this month:

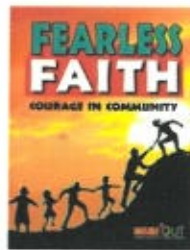
Summer Camp

Brethren Woods unless otherwise noted

June 12-17
Glenda Reitze
Jasmine Reitze
Lisa Reitze

June 19-24
Anna Flory
Isabelle Flory
Joe Horn
Olivia Horn
Francis Kasten
Caroline Miller
Laura Miller
Tristan Zepp (Camp Swatara)

June 26-July 1
Cooper Bair
Rowan Bair
Brett Eye
Laney Eye
Janna Glendye
Andie Neher
Brycen Propst
Eliana Teshome
Sofia Teshome



Sr. High Workcamp

Castañer, Puerto Rico, June 21-28

Ezra Kasten
Libby Kreps
Ben Neher
Jasmine Reitze
Lisa Reitze

Andrew Bollinger (advisor)
Andrea Nolley (advisor)



HEROES

Someone recently asked me who I looked up to in history as a guide and hero...

I had some difficulty answering the question in the moment. As I have thought about it further, I realize our culture is inundated with heroic figures, many of whom we put on pedestals and yet, like us, they put their pants on one leg at a time. Some heroes are characters that have supernatural powers, others are the everyday people who save lives and give of themselves and of their time to make life better for others. The theme of VBS 2016 is "Calling All Heroes: Stand up with Jesus." As preparations continue, I would invite us to consider who and what makes a hero. Then take a moment to write that down and share it with the church. You can email it to the church office or fill out a VBS Hero card at the church. These descriptions and heroes will be included as part of the VBS decorations.

I am grateful for each of you who are inspirations of what it means to be heroic... I enjoy thinking about historical heroic figures, and yet more inspiring is to see how this community rallies together in heroic actions each and every day as we shape and share the Kingdom of God. If you are looking for ways to be a local hero, one option is to come out on June 19 to help set up for VBS: tables and chairs need to be set-up, decorations need to be put into place, and fellowship with others is an added benefit. No prior experience is necessary, as a willing heart goes a long way.

~ Peace, Jeff



Calling All Heroes Stand Up With Jesus

**VBS
2016**

**June 20-24
6-8pm**

Important Dates to Remember

June 17th 1:00-8:00pm—Decorating (Pizza and Childcare provided)

June 18th 10:00am-5:00pm—Decorating (Lunch and Childcare provided)

June 20-23—VBS

5:00pm—Dinner for families and volunteers

6:00-8:00pm—VBS

June 24th—Program for church and families

6:00pm—Carry-in meal

Calling All Heroes is a VBS adventure for kids to discover the hero within themselves and answer God's call. Based on Micah 6:8, "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God," we will learn stories about people of faith in the Bible who have answered God's call to be a hero.

Our mission project offerings for the week will benefit Bridgewater Rescue Squad.

NOTES OF THANKS

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Free Clinic, I want to personally thank you for your ongoing support for the Free Clinic. Our patients so appreciate being able to access their healthcare that they are unable to receive otherwise. You give them hope in having a healthier life. Please accept our deep appreciation.
~ Barbara Stoltzfus

GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you are aware of someone who has, is, or will be completing their course(s) of study during this school year (high school, college, or graduate school), please contact Pastor Chris or the church office with their name and info no later than June 15 so that they can be recognized in the July edition of *Connections*.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

June 5—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Marvel@. Myths. Meaning Making"

Scriptures: 1 Kings 17:8-24 & Luke 7:11-17

June 12—4th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Heroes Among Us"

Scriptures: Psalm 5:1-4, 7-8 & Luke 7:36-8:3

June 19—5th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: "Some Days You're the Hero..."

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-16, 19

June 26—6th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Calling All Heroes"

Scripture: Micah 6:8

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE for the Month of June

Dates	(Sunday)	(Monday)	(Tuesday)	(Wednesday)	(Thursday)	(Friday)	(Saturday)
5/29-6/4	II Corinthians 1-3	Exodus 13-16	II Samuel 1-4	Psalms 48-50	Job 33-34	Jeremiah 22-26	Mark 13-14
6/5-6/11	II Corinthians 4-5	Exodus 17-20	II Samuel 5-9	Psalms 51-53	Job 35-36	Jeremiah 27-31	Mark 15-16
6/12-6/18	II Corinthians 6-8	Exodus 21-24	II Samuel 10-14	Psalms 54-56	Job 37-38	Jeremiah 32-36	Luke 1-2
6/19-6/25	II Corinthians 9-10	Exodus 25-28	II Samuel 15-19	Psalms 57-59	Job 39-40	Jeremiah 37-41	Luke 3-4
6/26-7/2	II Corinthians 11-13	Exodus 29-32	II Samuel 20-24	Psalms 60-62	Job 41-42	Jeremiah 42-46	Luke 5-6

INTERESTED IN A "SMALL GROUP"?

Have you recently found yourself thinking, "Wouldn't it be neat to get a small group of people from the church together to...?"

Perhaps you'd just like to connect with a few other families with similar life circumstances for fellowship and mutual support;

Perhaps you'd enjoy watching movies with others and discussing theological themes in them;

Perhaps you'd love talking with like-minded church folks about the meaning of theology and church doctrine in a changing culture;

Perhaps you'd benefit from the support of others who experience grief/addiction/abuse, etc;

Perhaps you'd like to gather a group of women/men to talk about issues/questions unique to your experience;

Perhaps you like to play bridge/spades/chess/board games/ etc and would enjoy initiating a playing group;

Perhaps you would appreciate being a part of a small group of Christians who would covenant together for mutual accountability, discernment, service, or spiritual practice

We are currently exploring such options for forming and supporting a network of small groups in our faith community. If you are interested in forming, hosting, or being a part of a small group – perhaps like one of those above or perhaps something else entirely – please be in touch with Pastor Chris or the church office. And be watching for more information on these opportunities to come.

NEWCOMER GATHERING JUNE 8

The event will begin with dinner, provided by the deacons, at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include time to get acquainted with BWCOB, find out more information about the congregation, and to learn all the ways to connect as newcomers to this community of faith. Childcare can be available from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please contact the church office by June 5, 2016 to sign-up. Please indicate if you have special dietary restrictions or will need childcare for planning purposes. You can also sign-up by visiting the church website and filing out the online form.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFO

For those who don't feel they can attend the entirety of Annual Conference, you're invited to consider coming for part of it. On the large bulletin board in the greeting hall you'll find information for the weekend of July 1-3 that includes sponsored meals, insight sessions, business, sessions, and closing worship. These events, and nearly 40 exhibits from ministries within the CoB and beyond, and group activities for all ages will be available for you to be part of if you attend Conference for an extended weekend. An advance, two-day registration is just \$70. To register and for lots more information go to www.brethren.org/ac.

BRIDGEWATER HOME AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

When: Wednesday, June 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Social Hall
Cost: \$5 (carry-outs available)
Menu: Carolina Pulled Pork BBQ, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Cakes, Iced Tea, Water
Prepared and served by: Bridgewater UMC
Benefits B. H. Plants and Gardening Supplies

BWCOB ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE AND DELEGATE GATHERING

Are you planning to attend Annual Conference this summer? Are you interested in the happenings but unable to attend? Then you are invited to a congregational Annual Conference preparation gathering. In anticipation of our denominational Annual Conference this summer in Greensboro North Carolina, BWCOB will host a gathering on June 2, 2016 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Seekers Room. This gathering is for those attending conference, conference delegates, and any other interested persons. It will include time to review the proposed agenda items and connect with one another before the "Annual Meeting" in North Carolina.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Fonda H. Erdman donated to our church Library books written by Gary W. Studebaker. His writings are mostly in poetry. He has written songs titled "Heroes and Friends". One song was dedicated to his brother, Ted Studebaker, who was killed in Vietnam in 1971. Ted's brothers, Gary and Doug, visited Vietnam in 2012, and their story can be found in *Messenger*. Check out the notebook with the songs Gary wrote and other information.

Gary and Fonda were both in BVS Unit 59, 1963.

Gary said he had been rescued many times during his life and felt he needed to give God the Glory for those rescues and so his writings started.

Gary Studebaker – Project: Laos – 1963/1965

Ted Studebaker – Project: Vietnam 1968/1971

~ Fonda Erdman

FELLOWSHIP TOUR TO NIGERIA IS PLANNED FOR AUGUST

A "Fellowship Tour" to Nigeria is planned for August with sponsorship from the Nigeria Crisis Response, a joint effort of the Church of the Brethren's Global Mission and Service and Brethren Disaster Ministries and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The tour will provide opportunities to listen to peoples' stories and build relationships, minister to the most vulnerable, visit care centers for displaced people including an interfaith community, provide children's activities at sponsored schools, and do peace and reconciliation work. Requirements for participation include having a caring heart, love for God's people, good health, adaptability, and flexibility. For more information please contact Pastors Jeff or Chris.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION SUMMARY REPORT

The church Board of Administration (BOA) meets almost monthly. Board meetings are open and their minutes are available for persons to read. In an effort to keep communication clear, a monthly summary of any prior months' BOA meeting(s) will appear in the Connections when meetings occur. Minutes can be obtained by contacting the church office and questions can be directed to members of the Board. Each meeting is usually opened with devotion and prayer and the Board approves the minutes from the previous meeting and receives a financial report. In addition to these regular items other items of business, care, and concern are addressed.

The Summary of actions and reports for May 18, 2016 include: Action to approve and allocate \$20,000.00 of the \$23,924.00 disbursed from the BWCOB Foundation be transferred to the Building Repair Reserve. Use of the remaining \$3,924.00 will be considered and acted upon before the end of 2016. The BOA heard a report of and request of an adjacent land owner who has expressed interest in using some of the newly purchased property for a garden. In exchange for use, they will care for the mowing of the newly acquired church acreage and the adjacent parcel. An agreement between the church and the other property owner is being developed. BOA members discussed suggestions from the Executive Committee on how we support our pastors and tasked Executive Committee to return with further information. The BOA then took time to respond to the Plan of Organization and Review Committee's initial draft of a revised plan of organization. The committee received feedback from the BOA and plans to present the plan for BOA action in June 2016 with the hope for Council action in August of 2016. Commission members offered reports that included plans for a pool party this summer and the receipt of a donated baby grand piano to the congregation. Following a report of the pastors, which included information about the 2016 Church Directory, VBS plans and small group development, the meeting was adjourned.

Happy Fathers Day



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Do you have an hour or two a week to help create a brighter future for a local child? Big Brothers Big Sisters is seeking caring adult mentors (18 years and older) to match with children on their waiting list. There are no special qualifications to become a mentor. By simply sharing the gift of your friendship and including a child in the things you already enjoy doing, you can help change his or her perspective on what the world has to offer. Children aren't the only ones who benefit from being a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Bigs frequently express that they feel they get as much out of being matched as their Littles. Get involved and help build a stronger community, one match at a time.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County is a youth-services organization that pairs adult mentors in professionally guided, one-to-one matches with children facing adversity. As an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, the organization holds itself accountable for children in the program to achieve positive, measurable outcomes through research-based methods. Among other improvements, local evaluation data shows that children served progress academically, avoid delinquency, and experience increased self-confidence. Founded locally in 1976, the organization is the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters agency in the state of Virginia, serving 638 children in 2015. For more information, please call 433.8886 or visit www.bbbshr.org.

BWCOB JUNE 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 Stewardship Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
- 2 BWCOB Annual Conference Attendee and
Delegate Gathering – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 a.m.
- 5 Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
- 7 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 8 Office Staff Meeting – 11 a.m.
Newcomer Gathering – 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Executive Committee – 7:15 p.m.
- 15 Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 16 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 VBS Decorating – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- 19 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 20-24 Vacation Bible School
- 21 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 23 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 27-July 1 Church Office open 8 a.m.-Noon only
- 29-July 3 Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 1 Auxiliary Luncheon – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
TAHS Baccalaureate – 6 p.m.
- 2 Interfaith Association – Noon
- 8 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 9 Leaveners – 10:30 a.m. – North River Library
Shen. District AC Briefing – Staunton CoB
- 13 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 20 BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 27 BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.



For Our Prayers during the Month of June 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

Those who are...

- Preparing for Graduation and new phases of life
- Daily wrestling with addictions
- Facing financial hardships
- Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute
- Facing life changes, that bring hope and excitement -- stress and anxiety
- Seeking spiritual renewal
- Struggling with depression, mental illness, pain, or considering suicide
- Seeking employment and who have lost work
- Wrestling with their own or others' sexual orientation or identity
- Carrying heavy burdens at work, home, or within
- Finding peace and contentment
- In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss of relationship
- Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings

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
- ...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...*

Lloyd Moyer, father of **Missy Hipps** and grandfather of **Alton & Adeline Hipps**, who died May 12

Myrna Stinnette, sister of **Bill Faw**, who died May 7

Ruth Good, mother of **Vickie Ringgold**, who died April 28

David Fike, son of **Ella Mae Fike**, who died April 8; *Robert Yeager*, brother of **Sandra Glick**, who died April 3; *Freda Imogene Rothermel*, mother of **Ada Longenecker**, who died March 25; *Carl Lineweaver*, father of **David Lineweaver**, **Peggy Lineweaver**, and **Sue Hutchinson**, who died March 16; *Pat DeMonte*, who died March 16; *Mary Jo Flory-Stewry*, daughter of **Marie Flory** & sister of **Ted Flory**, **Phil Flory**, and **Janet Flaten**, who died March 4; *Arthur Frazier*, brother of **Cathryn Seese**, who died February 28;

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, or in rehabilitation... **Kitty Mason**, **Margaret Garner**, **Mandi Glendye**, **Michael Figs, 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 Figs Family**

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

