

Giving Extravagantly

In his book *Jesus Prom*, author Jon Weece says that generosity is not measured by how much we give away but by how much we keep for ourselves. He then goes on to give practical examples, in storytelling fashion, of giving God's love to others.

This discomfoting truth became all too clear recently. My wife and I invited a young woman and her year-old child to move into our home. We live in a modest ranch with three bedrooms. A few extra bottles and sippy cups on our kitchen counter and a bouncer seat in the living room were minor inconveniences. Clearing out two closets for her to store their clothing presented no major hardship. Besides, what would Jesus do?

I was feeling generous and Christlike until we were asked to surrender our whole house to her extended family for a birthday celebration and leave so that they could have some sense of normalcy. "The whole house!" I gasped incredulously. "I'm supposed to give up *my home* for four hours to complete strangers?" Generosity is measured by how much we keep for ourselves.

Watching faithful patrons present their offerings to the temple treasury, Jesus took specific note of a woman who gave her two cents' worth. As a widow, she was culturally disadvantaged. We would say she didn't have two pennies to rub together. But the woman gave both of her coins. All the others felt they were being generous for giving an amount that cost them nothing but an inconvenience for a day or two. She gave what she couldn't afford—*everything*. I look forward to meeting this woman in heaven, don't you? In the meantime, I want whatever she had that helped her love God so extravagantly.

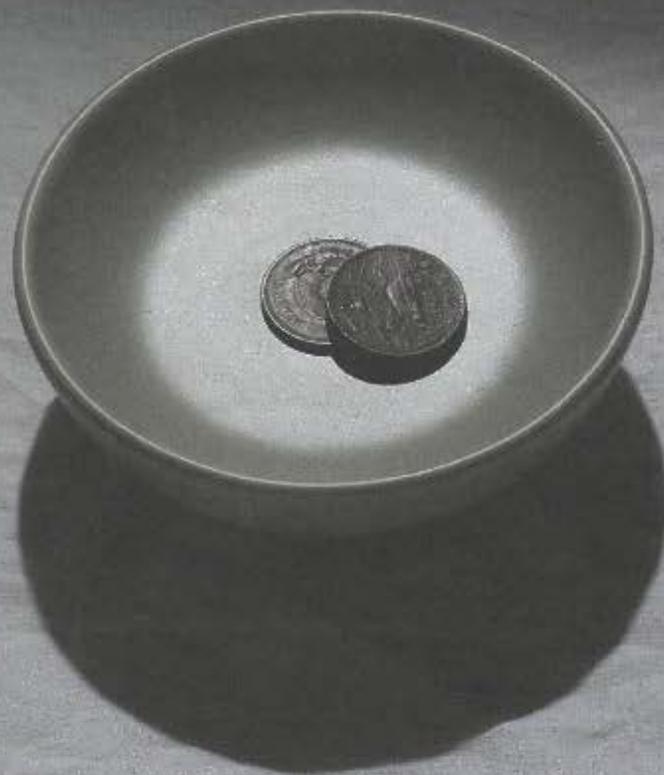
—Joel Nogle, pastor
Memorial Church of the Brethren
Martinsburg, Pennsylvania

Text for today: "Sitting across from the offering box, [Jesus] was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in *two small coins*—a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, 'The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all.'" (Mark 12:41-44, *The Message*). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

11-08-15, Stewardship Sunday
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Two small coins



BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship August 28, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

“Generosity is giving more than you can,
and pride is taking less than you need.”
~ Kahil Gibran

GATHERING

PRELUDE Ricercare V° Tono *Giovanni P. da Palestrina* [?]

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.

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *NRSV*

CHILDREN’S TIME (11:00)

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.

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

ANTHEM (11:00) Clap Your Hands *Alfred V. Fedak*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 14:1, 7-14 *NRSV*

***HYMN # 1065** (8:30) *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love* CHEREPONI

***HYMN # 386** (11:00) *As saints of old* REGWAL

SERMON “When you give...” Jeff Carr

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

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

***HYMN INSERT** *I have decided to follow Jesus*

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 SCHUMANN

John Barr

***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN # 384** *We give thee but thine own* SCHUMANN

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Sortie *Léon Boëllmann*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

August 28-September 5, 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 9:45 a.m. Pre-K-5th Graders Meet New Teachers Social Hall
7:00 Vespers at CrossRoads Hilltop Amphitheater
Victory Fellowship Church, Sonny Henkel, speaking

Tues. 2:00 Another Voice Maple Terrace

Thurs. Noon Interfaith Association EMU
7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– September 4, 2016 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “The VBS Song I Never Liked”

Scripture Readings: Philemon 1:1-21 & Luke 14:25-33

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

ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 8/21/16

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 22 11:00 – 230 Sunday School: 147

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$5,521.00
Loose Offering	367.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscription	14.50
Backpack Program	2.00
Seekers Sunday School Class	24.00
Open Door Sunday School Class	5.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	226.26
David Evick Memorial Fund	50.00
Ben Wade Memorial Fund	50.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller

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

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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.

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

Guitarist (8:30) – Brent Holl

Fellowship Host – Beth Day-Miller

Greeters (11:00) – Dale Ulrich & Doris Metzler; Josh & Erin Eye

Head Usher (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

Sound/Light (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff

Decorators – Missy Hipps & Lev Norford

Deacon Caregivers – Erv & Ann Anderson

Van Driver – Donnie Fulk

Worship Leader – Bill Faw

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Psalm 47; para. Michael Morgan

Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise!

From the dust of conquered nations, God a realm of grace shall raise.

In appointed courts of glory faithful to God's name always.

May we prosper all our days.

With a shout, and blast of trumpet, God shall mount a throne on high;

Let our praise, as finest incense, rise to meet God in the sky.

Fill the world with glad rejoicing, Heav'n shall sing, and earth reply,

All God's works to glorify.

Let your hearts be filled with gladness, as the Lord your life shall bless;

Live as heirs of God's great justice, wear the cloak of righteousness.

God will grant us earth's dominion, all things good, and nothing less,

All things good, for our gift of faithfulness.

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I have decided to follow Jesus



1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
2 Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low,
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low,
The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus
Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low
The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me

No turn - ing back, (no turn - ing back,) no turn - ing back!

Text: Ascribed to an Indian prince

Music: Indian folk melody, Paul B. Smith; harm. N. Johnson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (NRSV)

13 Let mutual love continue.² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.¹⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Luke 14: 1,7-14 (NRSV)

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."