

**BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
at Worship December 18, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**GATHERING**

**TROMBONE PRELUDE** Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor *J.S. Bach*  
I. Prelude  
III. Courante  
Go Tell It On The Mountain *arr. James Markey*  
*Kyle Remnant, trombone*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HAND BELL PRELUDE** (11:00) Prince of Peace *arr. Bill Ingram*

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

**\*HYMN # 208** *Love came down at Christmas* LOVE INCARNATE

**PROCLAIMING**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 7:10-16 *NRSV*

**MARIMBA SOLO** (11:00) *arr. Nathan Daughtrey*  
Coventry Carol & Ding! Dong! Merrily on High  
*Michael Overman, marimba*

**ADVENT LITURGY**

**Advent Story**

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle** Carl & Elizabeth Nelson

**Advent Prayer** (*Unison*) *~Sing the Story, #125, adapted*

*God of Advent, in the darkest days and nights of the year, our hearts turn toward your promised light. With the first faint glimmer of a single candle, our love is ignited once more. In these Advent days, lead us into your light to a manger where the face of God shines bright and clear. Amen.*

**Hymn** (Back of Bulletin) Hope is a Candle vv.1-4 SIMPLY PERFECT

**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. Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Romans 1:1-7 *NRSV*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** (11:00) In the Bleak Midwinter *arr. Mark Shepperd*  
*Kathy Shrader, oboe*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 1:18-25 *NRSV*

**\*HYMN # 180** *The angel Gabriel* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

**SERMON** "A Story of... LOVE" Jeff Carr

**RESPONDING**

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

**HAND BELL ANTHEM** (11:00) *arr. Paul McKleeven*  
The Hills are bare at Bethlehem  
*Lisa Reitze, clarinet*

**OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

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

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

"Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" Op. 122, No. 8 *Johannes Brahms*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN# 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* ES IST EIN ROS

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Fife and Drum (Patapan) *John Barr*  
(from Four Christmas Pieces)

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**December 18-24, 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  
9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic              Office Reception  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11

**Thurs.** 7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal                      Choir Room

**Sat.** 7 & 11 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Eucharist Communion at 11:00 p.m.

### NEXT SUNDAY– December 25, 2016 – *Christmas Day*

**Worship:** 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: "A Story of...CHRISTMAS"

Scripture Readings: Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14

### ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/11/16

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16    11:00 – 270    Sunday School: 143**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$23,270.68
Loose Offering	570.25
Church User Fees	310.00
Messenger Subscriptions	58.00
Christmas Offering	1,990.00
Tree Lights of Love	100.00
Wednesday Night Meals	149.00
Women's Fellowship	300.00
Youth Programs	10.00
Ann Barr Memorial & John Barr Honorarium	300.00
EYN Compassion Fund	100.00
Wanda Bowman Memorial Fund	20.00
David Evick Memorial Fund	300.00
Richard Miller Memorial Fund	100.00
Janet Foster Memorial Fund	700.00

## 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.

**Pianist** (8:30) – Cindy Fike

**Fellowship Host** – Tim Kreps

**Head Usher** (11:00) – Devin Bowman

**Sound/Light** (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff & Dave Lineweaver

**Decorators** – Anita Beckman, Linda Dean, Alice Lee Hopkins,  
Dave & Lori Lineweaver, Deb Mitchell, Lev Norford,  
Dwynn & Tony Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Jan Flora

**Van Driver** – Donnie Fulk

## **CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT**

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 47<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas concert this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will include Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest," a collection of carols of Spanish descent accompanied by classical guitar, marimba and harp. The second half of the concert will feature a variety of new and traditional carol settings. Tickets will be available at the door.

## **TODAY'S CHORAL ANTHEM TEXT: Christina G. Rosetti**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
What I can I give him: give him my heart.

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Christmas Eve services will be held at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. with candle-lighting at both services and Eucharist communion at 11.

## **CHURCH OFFICE AND PASTORAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The church office will be closed December 26-January 2. Some staff will be in and checking messages during that time.

If you have pastoral needs please contact Pastor Jeff by leaving a message at the office or contacting him at home or via email.

Thanks to Lisa Houff Photography for the image which has been featured on our Advent series bulletins!

## Hope is a Candle

1 Hope is a can - dle, once lit by the proph - ets,  
2 Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way,  
3 Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle,  
4 Joy is a can - dle of mys - tery and laugh - ter,  
5 Christ is the light that the pro - phets a - wait - ed,

nev - er con - sumed, though it burns through the years;  
threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed.  
where ev - ery face is the face of a friend.  
mys - tery of light that is born in the dark;  
Christ is the li - on, the lamb, and the child.

dim in the day - light of pow - er and priv - ilege -  
Friend, feel no en - vy for those in the shad - ows -  
Wid - en the cir - cle by shar - ing and giv - ing -  
laugh - ter at hear - ing the voice of an an - gel,  
Christ is the love and the mys - tery and laugh - ter -

when they are gone, hope will shine on.  
vio - lence and force their dead end course.  
God's ho - ly dare: love ev - ery - where.  
ev - er so near, cast - ing out fear.  
can - dles, make way! Christ is the day.

Text: Richard Leach, Music Rusty Edwards

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