

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship December 25, 2016 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE In dulci júbilo (Fantasia) *J. S. Bach*
Prelude on Adeste Fideles *Eric Thiman*

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.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Luke 2:10-13

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: For unto you is born in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

All: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.*

***HYMN # 212** *O come, all ye faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-14 NRSV

CHRISTMAS DAY PRAYER (Unison) ~Sing the Story, #125, adapted
God of Christmas, in the darkest days and nights of the year, our hearts turn toward your light. On this Christmas day, we are led by your light to a manger where the face of God shines bright and clear. Amen.

Hymn (Back of Bulletin) Hope is a Candle SIMPLY PERFECT

CHILDREN'S TIME

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:1-17 NRSV

CHORAL ANTHEM (11:00) Still, Still, Still *arr. Mack Wilberg*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

***HYMN # 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

SERMON "A Story of... CHRISTMAS" Jeff Carr

***HYMN INSERT** *Wexford Carol* TRADITIONAL
choir v. 1, congregation vv. 2-5

RESPONDING

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory The ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Sweet, Holy Child *arr. Marilyn Ham*

Sweet Little Jesus Boy and Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Jeff Carr & Chris Zepp

***HYMN # 201** *Hark! the herald angels sing* MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Hark, the herald angels sing" *John Barr*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 25-31, 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.

Mon., Dec. 26. - Mon., Jan. 2 Church Offices Closed

NEXT SUNDAY– January 1, 2017 – *First Sunday after Christmas*

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “Going with God”

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Matthew 2:13-23

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

ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/18/16

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 11:00 – 299 Sunday School: 158

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$14,137.75
Loose Offering	766.82
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	29.00
Christmas Offering	6,195.00
Tree Lights of Love	175.00
Alternative Christmas Fair Donation	430.00
Habitat House	1,000.00
Office Expense Reimburse	25.00
Advent Offering	50.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	849.00
Richard Miller Memorial Fund	25.00

CHURCH OFFICE 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 calling him at home. Pastor Chris will be out of town and return to the office on Jan. 3.

95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR DAVID FLORA

David will be turning 95 on December 31st and has expressed his simple wish to be surrounded by his family and closest friends. You are invited to join the celebration at a reception immediately following worship on Sunday, January 1. Stop by any time before 2 p.m. to enjoy some refreshments and time to socialize with David during this special time.

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.

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Head Usher (11:00) – Devin Bowman

Sound/Light (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff & David 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

TODAY'S CHORAL ANTHEM TEXT: David Warner

Still, still, still, the child's eyes softly close.
And Mary, breathless, draws Him, weeping,
To her heart made pure for keeping
Still, still, still, His bright eyes softly close.
Sing, sing, sing, He hears and sweetly smiles.
And kneeling, Joseph joins in chorus
With the angels bending o'er us.
Sing, sing, sing, He hears and sweetly smiles.
Sleep, sleep, O sleep, He breaths a tender sigh,
For soon He'll wake the world from slumber,
Bringing life and endless wonder,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He breathes a tender sigh.
Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep.

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Wexford Carol

Traditional

1. Good peo - ple _ all, this Christ-mas time, Con - sid - er well ___ and bear in
2. The night be - fore that hap - py tide The no - ble vir - gin and her
3. There were three _ wise men from a - far di - rect - ed by ___ a glo - rious
4. Near Beth - le - hem did shep - herds keep Their flocks of lambs ___ and feed - ing
5. With thank - ful _ heart and joy - ful mind, The shep - herds went ___ the babe to

mind What our good _ God for us has done, In send - ing his ___ be - lov - ed
guide Were long time _ seek - ing up and down To find a lodg - ing in the
star, And on they _ wan - dered night and day Un - til they came ___ where Je - sus
sheep; To whom God's _ an - gels did ap - pear, Which put the shep - herds in great
find, And as God's _ an - gels had fore told, They did our sav - ior Christ be -

Son. With Mar - y ho - ly we should pray To God with love ___ this Christ-mas
town. But mark how all ___ things come to pass: From ev - ery door ___ re - pelled, a -
lay. And when they came _ un - to that place, Where our be - lov - ed ___ Mes - si - ah
fear. "Pre - pare and go," _ the an gels said, "To Beth - le - hem, ___ be not a -
hold. With - in a man - ger he was laid, And by his side ___ the vir - gin

Day. In Beth - le - hem up - on the morn There was a blessed _ Mes - si - ah born.
las! As long fore - told, their - ref uge all Was but a hum - ble ox - 's stall.
was, They hum - bly _ cast them at his feet With gifts of gold ___ and in - cense sweet.
fraid, For there you'll find, this hap - py morn, A prince - ly Babe, ___ sweet Je - sus born."
maid, At - tend ing _ on the Lord of Life, Who came to earth ___ to end all strife.

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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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