

## Good News and a Cup of Tea

In May 2015, I was part of a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Israel/Palestine. We met people whose homes had been demolished and whose lives have been threatened by continuing unrest in the land. Conflicting understandings of property rights are an ongoing source of struggle between Israelis and Palestinians. How do you resolve a desire for a religious homeland with a reality that homes belonging to families for multiple generations have been taken or destroyed to fulfill that desire? There is no easy way to peace in a region that has known war and struggle for far too long. Where is the good news for generations of refugees? Where is the way beyond walls of separation and threats of violence?

Good news is easier to envision than to embody. When Jesus read the scroll from Isaiah proclaiming good news and then announced that the words had been fulfilled, the crowd was pleased but had no idea what Jesus truly meant. As he ate with outsiders and outcasts, outside the expected norm, few understood that Jesus *was* the incarnate good news of God.

God's power and purpose were revealed in Jesus, who willingly gave his life so that all might live. This is truly good news. As we follow in his footsteps, a simple meal becomes a love feast that promises life beyond death and renewed hope beyond destruction.

During the delegation, whenever we heard a person's story, we were offered tea or coffee and sometimes a bite to eat. Even though we were aware of the scarcity of resources, a culture of hospitality would have made it an insult to refuse these offerings. As we drank and ate with our hosts, we were surprised to discover that we had brought a bit of good news. Our presence mattered and reminded them that they were not forgotten. Although life can be difficult and uncertain, when we gather with Christ's love to listen and be present with one another, we awaken hope that Isaiah's prophecy is still being fulfilled in our presence.

—Liz Bidgood Enders  
*Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

**Text for today:** "[Jesus] unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'" (Luke 4:17b-19, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

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10-24-16, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (15-25)  
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Bring good news

# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship January 29, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (8:30) Chorale Prelude: "Jesus, Bread of Life" *J. Barr*  
(11:00) Chorale Prelude: "Jesus, Bread of Life" *J. S. Bach*

**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 # 407** *We are people of God's peace* AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

## PROCLAIMING

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Tony Stovall

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** Micah 6:1-8 *NRSV*

**SERMON** "What is Required" Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**\*HYMN # 409** *What does the Lord Require* MICAH

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) Contemplation and conversation.

## OFFERING

### Invitation

### Offertory

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Couplet of the Gloria *F. Couperin*

(from Mass for the Convents)

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

Meditation on the hymn: *Hendrik Andriessen*  
"O Lord, With Wondrous Mystery"

## SERVICE OF COMMUNION

### Invitation & Thanksgiving

### Prayer

### Passing the Cup & Bread

Meditation on SWEET SACRAMENT *Elizabeth A. Krouse*

### Partaking in the Bread & Cup

**ANTHEM** (11:00) This Touch of Love *Michael Burkhardt*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Chris Zepp

*concluding with The Lord's Prayer ("debts and debtors")*

**\*HYMN # 420** *Heart with loving heart united* O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE

### \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Communion Carillon *Jan Smit*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## ANOINTING INVITATION

Are you feeling burdened or heavy laden?

Are you dealing with health concerns or need healing?

Are you feeling the need for repentance, forgiveness, or reconciliation?

Are you desiring renewal or strengthening of your faith?

Are you feeling the weight of depression, anxiety, or addiction?

Anointing is one way to seek divine grace and wholeness in the midst of life's struggles. After worship today, the pastors will be at each corner in the front of the sanctuary to offer anointing and prayer with any who wish to receive it. You may also request private anointing at any time.

## TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda

This touch of love, this taste of peace, how can it last and still increase?

I cannot bear to have this air of wonder cease.

This happy feast, this friendly bond, how can I keep it long beyond

This fleeting hour, this surge of pow'r, this treasure found?

Christ Jesus, you are what I need, the Bread and Wine on which I feed,

No friend so true, no life so new I'm rich indeed.

O Savior, now my spirit raise, give new direction to my ways,

In all I view, in all I do, to give you praise.

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## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 29-February 4, 2017 (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.

<b>Tues.</b>	7:00	Vacation Bible School Listening Session	Seekers
<b>Wed.</b>	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal	Social Hall
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YORFF Rehearsal	Room # 35
	6:30	Brethren Student Movement	BC Carter Center
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	7:15	Puppets Practice	Agape Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	Noon	Interfaith Association	EMU
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Sat.</b>	3:00	Memorial Service for Paul Foster	Sanctuary

### NEXT SUNDAY– February 5, 2017 – *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “Jesus and NaCl”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11

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

**Youth Fundraiser Lunch** – Noon – Social Hall

**Council** – 1 p.m. – Social Hall

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available to be picked-up in the greeting hall; also **2016 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS** can be picked-up today. Those not picked up will be mailed.

## 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.

**Organist** (8:30) – John Barr

**Fellowship Host** – Tim Kreps

**Greeters** (11:00) – Ann & Erv Anderson

**Head Usher** (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

**Sound/Light** (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff, Mike Overman, Skip Eger

**Decorators** – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Lori Lineweaver

**Van Driver** – Rick Fawley

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 01/22/17**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 266 Sunday School: 153**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$7,918.75
Loose Offering	533.00
Church User Fees	475.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	58.00
Christmas Offering	100.00
Wednesday Night Meals	108.00
Women's Fellowship	300.00
Pat DeMonte Memorial Fund	500.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Our congregation has enjoyed a rich history of Vacation Bible School over the last 50+ years. Some remember outdoor events by the river at Nelson Gardner's farm, the MarketPlace made of PVC pipes in the church basement on College Street, an overnight family event at Camp Overlook, and most recently the spectacular whole-church events. For VBS 2017, the Christian Education Commission is having a brainstorming session on Tuesday, January 31, at 7 p.m. in the Seekers Room. We want to re-imagine VBS. We seek the best way to serve our church and community as we strive to follow Jesus and live the love of God. Simply. Peacefully. Together.

### **MESSENGER MAGAZINE**

It is now time for our church to renew its *Messenger Magazine* subscriptions. Our church pays for the cost of one magazine per family unit. If you wish to cover the cost, you may use the *Messenger* special envelope in the back of your giving booklets. If you are currently receiving the magazine but would prefer not to, or if you are not receiving the magazine but would like to, please contact Kay Dove, *Messenger* Agent at [missykdove@aol.com](mailto:missykdove@aol.com) or 434-1255 by February 15.

**2017 BWCOP PHONE DIRECTORY** information is due. Copies of the current address / phone / email that we have for individuals and families are compiled and on the hospitality desk in the greeting hall. Please take the time to check your and/or your family's entry and make any corrections needed; you need only mark one directory. These proof copies will be available today and next Sunday, February 5 to make any necessary changes.

### **CRITICAL ISSUES/CONCERNS SMALL GROUP**

Where do you have an opportunity to talk about critical issues of the day in an atmosphere of love and acceptance? Where can you share your concerns and ask questions in a group interested in listening and hearing each other as much as talking? You are invited to join a group that will first meet in the Sojourners Class Room on Sunday, February 12 at 6 p.m. (Feb. 19, snow date). The first topic will be "What's on your Mind?" and future issues will be determined by the group as well as future meeting times. Forms to indicate your interest and any issues you would like to be a topic for discussion are available in the literature rack and can be returned to the hospitality desk.

**Micah 6:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

**God Challenges Israel**

6 Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

**What God Requires**

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?