

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, Youth Conferences, 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 11-16

Chloe Kiracofe
Olivia Puffenbarger
Electa Tasillo-McLaughlin
Eliana Teshome
Sofia Teshome

June 18-23

Armando Allen (Swatara)
Glenda Reitze
Tristan Zepp (Swatara)

June 25-30

Bryce Driver
Brett Eye
Shelby Eye
Brycen Propst

SAYhello
3 John 13-14
2017 Brethren Workcamps

Sr. High Workcamps

Santa Ana, CA, June 8-14
Madison Evick
Adeline Hipps
Ezra Kasten
Lauren Flora (advisor)

Lybrook, NM, June 21-27

Libby Kreps
Ben Neher
Jasmine Reitze
Lisa Reitze
Hope Staton (advisor)
Clarke Staton (advisor)



**National Jr. High Conference
and Heritage Tour**

Elizabethtown, PA, June 8-11

Lilly Day-Miller
Andie Neher
Glenda Reitze
Katie Smith (advisor)
Chris Zepp (advisor)



PASTORS / STAFF VACATION AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

Pastor Chris and Katie Smith, our Summer Ministry Intern, will be away June 8-11 while serving as advisors for our youth attending National Jr. High Youth Conference and the Heritage Tour.

Pastors Chris and Jeff will both be away June 27-July 2 while attending the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference and Ministers Association Meetings in Grand Rapids, MI.

NOTES OF THANKS

We wanted to thank you so much for your generous contribution to us during this time of need. We truly appreciate it. God bless you all! Thank you!
~ Neal & Marsha Wampler

Please make members of BWCOB aware of the appreciation for your gift in April and of your continued support in years past. We who live in this family we call Bridgewater Retirement Community are very aware of the care that becomes more available as the years of maturity pass. You can observe your neighbors down the hill and some of your members enjoying life here. Personally, I have had the privilege of observing care given my parents here 35 years ago. I was convinced then and continue now to see the value of this Christian service. Your continuing support speaks well of your concern for all who attain later years of life. I am one of those,
Dwight Miller

Thank you for your generous giving to the Global Food Initiative of the Church of the Brethren. In the past year, with your help, much progress has been achieved, and for that we praise God!...This year we will continue to work with partners in Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic of Congo, with plans of beginning new endeavors in China and Spain. Thank you again for being a part of these exciting ministries. Lives are being changed as we seek to provide glimpses of God's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." In Christ's Love and Hope,
Jeffrey S. Boshart, GFI Manager

With lots of love I write this letter of thanks for being such a wonderful church to my girls and I while we were living in the area. You made us feel very welcomed and at home...I was going through a very hard and troubling time in my life, but when I started going to your church, I had a feeling of comfort and a real sense of family...Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are an amazing church!
Love,
Evelyn, Kamille, & Kilee Torres

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

June 4—Pentecost Sunday
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Sermon: "What does this mean?"

June 11—1st Sunday after Pentecost (*Trinity Sunday*)
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Readings: Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Sermon: "I am with you...always"

June 18—2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*
Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7
Sermon: "Presumptions, Possibilities, and Promises"

June 25—3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Readings: Vacation Bible School Texts
Sermon: "Beyond Make Believe"

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 so that they can be recognized in the next edition of *Connections*.

"WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED"

On Sunday, June 11, at 3 p.m., Mary Beth Flory will present a recital of organ and piano selections. This will be a recital to benefit the Habitat House that our church is building. A freewill offering will be taken.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS FAMILY SPONSORS FOR CENTRAL VALLEY HABITAT

One of the most rewarding opportunities with Central Valley Habitat for Humanity is getting to know the families who are future Habitat homeowners. Right now we have several families originally from Eritrea who have qualified as prospective homeowners. We need volunteers to serve as Family Sponsors for each family. That means serving as a liaison between that family and Habitat, helping the family keep track of sweat equity hours, and helping them select the options for their new home such as siding and shingle color, countertops, etc. We are planning a Family Sponsor training session in late June. If you are interested, this is a great time to learn more about this volunteer opportunity. If you have questions, or want to sign up for the no-obligation training session, please call Claire Martindale at 828-0092 or email steveclaire@verizon.net.

**John Sayre Recognized by
Pastors for Peace of the Shenandoah District Churches of the Brethren
at the 7th Annual Living Peace Recognition Banquet**

Many people know John Sayre had a full and rich career as a Church of the Brethren pastor, serving the Oak Grove congregation for 7 years, the Timberville congregation for 10 years, and the Beaver Creek congregation for 14 years. What many people do not know is that while working as a full-time pastor, John also served as Chaplain of the Rockingham County Jail.

When I asked John how he got into a jail ministry that lasted over three decades, he said *"They asked for a volunteer chaplain and I volunteered."* And for the next thirty two years, John went to the county jail every Friday to minister to the inmates there.

John's ministry came to have a special focus on prisoners with alcohol addiction and for many years, he met with Sheriff Glen Weatherholtz to assess the prisoners and determine who he would work with each week.

John indicated that over the course of his jail chaplaincy, many of the inmates became his friends. Knowing John's compassionate and caring spirit, I can certainly understand how that happened.

When I asked John to share any special memories or thoughts about what his work as a jail chaplain meant to him, after a long and thoughtful pause he simply said, *"I enjoyed it."* And I could tell from the look in his eyes and the smile on his face that he really did.

Pastors for Peace of the Shenandoah District acknowledges the extraordinary dedication of John Sayre to inmates of the Rockingham County Jail and his commitment to live out Jesus' call to care for those in prison.

This citation was written and presented by Robbie Miller at the Peace Feast on May 2, 2017 at the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren. Photos from the event of John and the others recognized by Pastors for Peace are included in the release from the Shenandoah District on the reverse.

Peace Feast 2017



Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren hosted the 7th annual Living Peace Recognition Banquet (also known as the Peace Feast) Tuesday, May 2.

Sponsored by the Shenandoah District Pastors for Peace, the 2017 banquet recognized individuals, a congregation and a community-based non-profit organization for work in prison ministry.



Roma Holloway (left) and Elaine Shank led Bible studies at the Rockingham Jail for 13 years.



J. D. Glick (left), a founder of Gemeinschaft Home, congratulated by David R. Miller, coordinator of Pastors for Peace.



Larry Erbaugh (left) and Wayne Pence represented Mountain View Fellowship Church of the Brethren.



John Sayre was chaplain at the Rockingham County Jail for 32 years.

Building God's Neighborhood

Vacation Bible School

**Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
420 College View Dr.
Bridgewater, VA**

**June 19th-22nd 2017
6:00-8:00 PM
Dinner served at 5PM**



Registration begins May 7th

<http://bwcob.org/faith-formation/vacation-bible-school/2017-vbs-registration/>



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. All events are at BWCOB unless otherwise indicated.

- 1 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
(Menu: Breakfast for Lunch)
- 6 Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
- 7 Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
- 8 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 9-11 National Junior High Conference
- 12 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 15 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 19-22 Vacation Bible School
- 22 Sanctus Choir – 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Witness & Renewal Commission – 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Sanctus Choir – 7:30 p.m.
- 29-July 2 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 1 Interfaith Association (IFA) – Noon
@ Hillandale Park, Shelter # 2
- 6 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 7 BRC Auxiliary Luncheon – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 11 Habitat Benefit Recital by Mary Beth Flory – 3 p.m.
- 12 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 14 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 19 BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 20 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 26 BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**

For Our Prayers during the Month of June 2017

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
Attending, serving and participating in Annual Conference Activities
Facing financial hardships
Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute
Seeking spiritual renewal
Carrying heavy burdens at work, home, or within
Struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts
Finding peace and contentment
In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss of relationship
Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings
Seeking a new church home
Advocating for justice and righteousness
Wrestling with their faith
Struggling with feelings of disappointment, disillusionment, or betrayal

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...Our Nation and World amid transitions of power and leadership

...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, district, and denomination

...victims of hate crimes, violence and intolerance

...those who grieve, especially the families and friends of...

Shirley Wilkerson, wife of Edgar "Wilkie" who died May 22

Edgar Wilkerson, husband of Shirley, who died May 18

Becky Hadgi-Maleki, daughter of Charlotte McKay, who died May 11

Clinton White, father of Jan Flora, who died May 9

Sarah Bowman, wife of Paul Bowman, who died April 30

Hazel Heisey who died April 27

Carl May, father of Nikki Watson, Becky May, David May, who died April 22; Marie Flory, mother of Ted Flory, Phil Flory, Janet Flaten, who died April 10; Olive Roop, mother of Shirley Kirkwood, who died April 3;

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, receiving treatments, recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation... Allen Clague, Ivan Mason, Charlotte McKay, Jessie Howdyshell, Anna Mae Will, Dorris Wampler, Roberta Messamer, Charlotte Harvey

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically... in Bridgewater Home

...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... Fred Bernhard, Donna Skrobala (Margaret Horn's daughter)

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

HOSPITALITY FOR KATIE SMITH, OUR 2017 SUMMER MINISTRY INTERN

On June 4, Katie Smith will begin a ten-week summer ministry internship with our congregation through August 13. Katie just graduated in May from Bridgewater College, having majored in Health and Exercise Science and minored in Music. During her time at BC, she played flute in the Symphonic Band and Pep Band and was a member of the Spiritual Life Board, Interfaith Board, Student Ambassador Program, and the Orientation Leader Program. In her down time she likes to read, listen to music, cook, hike, and spend time with friends and family. Katie is originally from the Roanoke, VA area and is moving to Harrisonburg, where she will be attending James Madison University to pursue a Master's degree in Exercise Physiology this fall. She hopes to obtain her cardiac rehabilitation certification and work in personal and public health promotion. She anticipates that this internship will help her to gain insights into how churches operate and to see how different congregations worship and celebrate God.

As has been our practice with previous interns, one of the ways we can extend hospitality to Katie during her internship is by inviting her to join you and/or your family for a meal(s), either in your home or at a favorite restaurant. A sign-up sheet is available in the office for this purpose, with lunch and dinner slots available most days, except for Mondays, which Katie will be taking as her day off each week. Be sure to include your telephone number and/or e-mail and a suggested time, so that Katie can be in touch with you for more details and confirmation.

Thank you for helping us to welcome Katie and extend our famous BWCOB hospitality to her this summer!

**HAPPY
FATHERS DAY**

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Approximately 20 people from our congregation and the Brethren Retirement Village gathered at the church on May 7 to hear Director Jim Hershberger of the Church World Service Office for Refugee Resettlement speak.

He said that our church has helped well over 100 refugees resettle in the Valley. That is more than any other church in Virginia. Our church is one of only six churches between Lexington and Winchester to participate in the program. Individual members of various churches do help, however.

The committee is assuming the responsibilities that Dean Neher performed for many years. Kathryn Albright says that both of the wives/mothers living in the two apartments the church owns would appreciate visits from church members in the afternoons so that they can practice using their English. Because the husband in the back apartment sleeps until about 2:00 p.m. it would be best not to visit before that time. He works nights.

If anyone knows of apartments in the \$700 to \$800 range that would be available at the end of the summer it would be helpful if you would share this info with Kathryn or Jan Flora.