

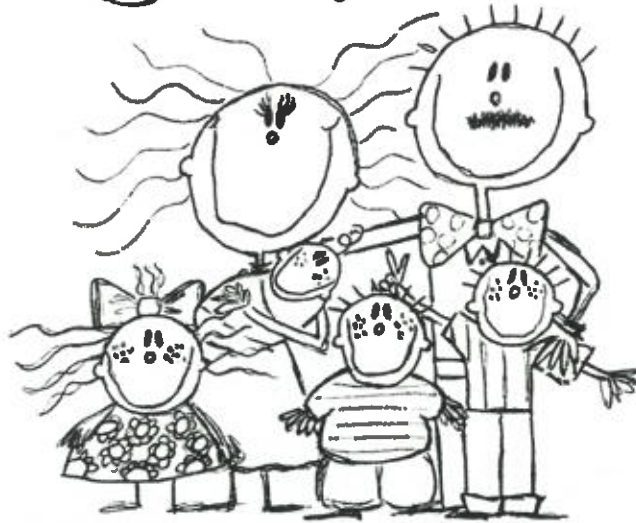


Bridgewater
Church of the Brethren
LIVE • GROW • SERVE • LOVE

CONNECTIONS

May 2017

say, "cheese!"



IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR 2017 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSION!!

Lisa Houff Photography is now scheduling photo sessions for our 2017 pictorial directory! Claim a time to be photographed in our temporary studio in the Gap room or at Bridgewater Retirement Community OR schedule a session with Lisa in a location of your choice.
No obligation to purchase photos or even to hear a sales pitch!
(although that is certainly an option if you are interested)

You can sign up for your session in one of three ways:

Online: Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bwcoepd2017> and submit your information electronically.

Paper Form: Sign up forms are available in the literature rack and can be returned to the office or dropped in the offering plate.

Onsite: Bring your planning calendar and visit the pictorial directory sign-up center before or after worship to schedule your session.

NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to all of you who have supported me with cards, calls, prayers, inquiries, encouragement and cheers during my year long recovery from hip replacement surgery. The surgery was a success from the beginning, and thankfully the pain was gone, but extenuating circumstances made my total recovery difficult. Thankfully, I'm walking almost normally now and I feel so grateful that such surgery is possible allowing me to be fully active again. So thanks for your part in this. You are a wonderful church family, and I look forward to every opportunity I have to be with all of you. Blessings and thanks. ~ Mary Cline Detrick

MAY WOMEN'S EVENT

Theme: A Taste Of Italy

When: Wednesday, May 10, 2017
6:00 p.m.—Appetizers
6:30 p.m.—Dinner

Cost: \$12.00—Adults
\$ 6.00—Children 3 to 8 years old

Come join us for “A Taste Of Italy” featuring good food and fellowship as we experience the sites, sounds and tastes of Italy.

More information is available in the greeting hall at the special Italian display.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

May 7, 2017—4th Sunday of Easter
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 & Mark 1:9-11
Sermon: “*All wet; now what?*”

May 14, 2017—5th Sunday of Easter (*Children's Sunday*)
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Reading: Matthew 5-7
Sermon: “*The Mother of All Sermons*”

May 21, 2017—6th Sunday of Easter
(*Youth Sunday*)
Worship planned and led by our Senior High Youth.

May 28, 2017—7th Sunday of Easter
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Readings: Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10
Sermon: “*The Good Shepherd*”

"WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED"

On Sunday, June 11, at 3 p.m., Mary Beth Flory will be 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.

NEED / WANT A PIANO?

Seekers class has a piano to be donated to anyone interested. Please call Joyce Wampler at 828-2073 for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS



Our church library has a large number of ‘new additions’ recently processed and ready for circulation. A few of the recently added titles:

- Branch—A Memoir with Pictures by John L. Ruth
- Everything is Copacetic—The Life of Stanley Studebaker by Gary W. Studebaker
- Aging—God’s Challenge to Church & Synagogue by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. & Donald F. Clingan
- Knitting into the Mystery—A Guide to the shawl-knitting Ministry by Susan S. Jorgensen & Susan S. Izard
- 17 Roadblocks on the Highway of Life (And How to Move Around Them) by Brian L. Harbour
- The (Un)Common Good—How the Gospel Brings Hope to a World Divided by Jim Wallis
- Fuzzy by Tom Angleberger & Paul Dellinger
- Inspector Flytrap by Tom Angleberger & Cece Bell

Stop by and check out these and many other titles ready for check-out! We look forward to see you!

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements for the first quarter of 2017 will be available for pick up in the greeting hall on Sunday, May 14, and Sunday, May 21. Any help delivering statements to neighbors, friends, family is greatly appreciated!

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BWCOB MAY **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.

- 3 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Puppets Rehearsal – 7:15 p.m.
- 4 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Brethren Student Movement Picnic – Wildwood Park
- 7 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Council – 1 p.m.
Another Voice – 6 p.m.
- 8 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 10 Office Staff Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
Women's May Event – 6 p.m.
- 11 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
- 17 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 18 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Child Care Center Board – 6:15 p.m.
- 24 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Witness & Renewal Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
- 25 Time and Space for Grief – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir – 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Memorial Service for Marie Flory – 10 a.m.

- 28 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
- 31 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 2 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 3 BRC Auxiliary Luncheon – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 4 Interfaith Association (IFA) – Noon
– Trinity Presbyterian Church
- 8 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
- 10 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 14 Turner Ashby High School Choir Concert – 7 p.m.
- 15 Blue Ridge Christian School
Instrumental Concert – 6 p.m.
- 16 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 19 BC Baccalaureate – 6 p.m.
- 20 BC Commencement – 10 a.m.
- 23 Blue Ridge Christian School Vocal Concert – 6 p.m.
- 24 Bridgewater Preschool Graduation – 7 p.m.
- 31 Turner Ashby High School Baccalaureate – 7 p.m.



For Our Prayers during the Month of May 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
- 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 suffer and those who find hope and life amidst their suffering in the midst of the cross and empty tomb

...those who recently welcomed a new baby into their family, especially the family of Jill Craun & Cole Heizer on the birth of Kensie Lee Heizer on April 3

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

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

Erich Brumbaugh who died December 12, 2016

Genevieve Walton, mother of Rosetta Harris, who died February 26; Galen Craun, husband of Susan Craun, who died February 1; Amy Ritchie, who died January 28; Paul Foster, who died January 25;

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, receiving treatments, or are in rehabilitation... Allen Clague, Mike Figgs, Dorris Wampler, Roberta Messamer, Dick Stutzman, 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... Neal & Marsha Wampler

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF MATTERING...

A church leader recently summed up the 10 commandments this way... *"Worship God and take care of each other."* Together we can and should take care of each other – which I honestly believe becomes a way that we worship.

Jesus said we are to... *"Love one another as God loves us."* Our responsibility then, as Jesus' disciples, is to love God and our neighbor. These words, commands, and dreams should then give shape to the patterns of our behavior and character as disciples of Jesus.

April 6th was an interesting and particularly heavy day. On that day I heard about people – real people who are immigrants in our local community – who are afraid... afraid for so many reasons. Then that night, I got to hear the words of a mother whose gay son was murdered. I heard the news of bomb strikes in war torn and ravaged parts of the world. I was reminded of those I have known whose children and loved ones have died.

To all of you... *Thank you for your words, your story, and your resolve.* Your drive to get up and keep living each day is a witness to resolve... determination... and hope for goodness in the world.

To the priest who gave me a hug, straightened my shirt, and paid me a compliment... *Thank you!*

To the woman and child who, based solely on our appearances, likely have differences of religion, culture, power and privilege... *Thank you for entrusting me to give you a ride, and for the gentle way you wished for me God's Blessings.*

The words I heard that day, the gentle gestures of care toward me, and the call of Jesus to love one another as good neighbors left me wanting to proclaim a message of PEACE! And yet in the depth of my soul what I really wanted to say to each person that day was: YOU matter! Your lives matter, each and every single one of you – each of us matters.

Whether or not you profess, or believe, or acknowledge a God or higher power, the God that I profess and proclaim each day and each week loves because we matter. By extension of that love, you matter to me, to my family, and to those in my family of faith. To those who are told by the world you don't matter, I want you to know that there are individuals, institutions, communities, and yes there are churches where you do matter. For those...

*In the LGBT community,
Who are refugees and immigrants,
Whose skin color is used as a tool for judgement,
Women who have been overlooked and diminished,
Trapped in economic and spiritual poverties,
Seen and unseen
With addictions and whose mental health is at times debilitating or challenging,
Seeking to find meaning and purpose and value,
YOU matter. YOU ALL MATTER!*

During Lent, I tried to confess my complacency and my silence, for good news should not be kept silent. In this Eastertide it is time to proclaim peace. And in response to the news of resurrection, it is time to express of the value of human life – all life! In that spirit, for those...

Who find ways to build bridges and to be about the work of love and justice for ALL – *Thank you! You are courageous, and inspiring.*

Who, unlike me, do not carry the privileges of color, gender identification, or biology that the world recognizes as dominant – *Forgive me. Help me to see when and where I am blinded, so that together we may be about the work of proclaiming peace and love as we share in the joy of life abundant.*

As disciples of Jesus, may our eyes, hearts, and spirits be transformed. May the shadows of death, hatred, self-service, and the abuses of power and oppression for personal and corporate gain be overcome by the spark of light, glimmers of hope. May those of us who are currently carrying the light fan and feed it. And may those of us seeking for light be reminded and called by the smallest spark of hope in the darkness with the good news that...

We ...ALL... matter! ~ Pastor Jeff