

Spiritual Forebears

After reminding us how through faith in God the great leaders of the Israelites had prevailed over unimaginable suffering and obstacles, the writer of Hebrews tells us not to lose faith. “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,” we should lay aside our problems and “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” with Jesus as our guide. In other words, we should take the examples of our spiritual ancestors and buckle down, get to work, and not be distracted or grow weary as we do the Lord’s work.

As Christians, we remember the labors and witness of Ruth, Isaiah, Esther, Amos, and many other Old Testament heroes and heroines. We then remember Jesus Christ, the apostles and martyrs, and those who built the early church. And we should not overlook the many important voices—often ignored—throughout history, from the early church to the Middle Ages to the Reformation.

When the Germantown Trust gathered over the last decade at the “Mother Church” of the Brethren family to discuss matters of preservation and interpretation of the Brethren message, I sometimes led devotions by reminding us of the “cloud of witnesses” I feel in that old meetinghouse. Alexander Mack worshiped at Germantown, as did John Naas, Christopher Sauer, and many others.

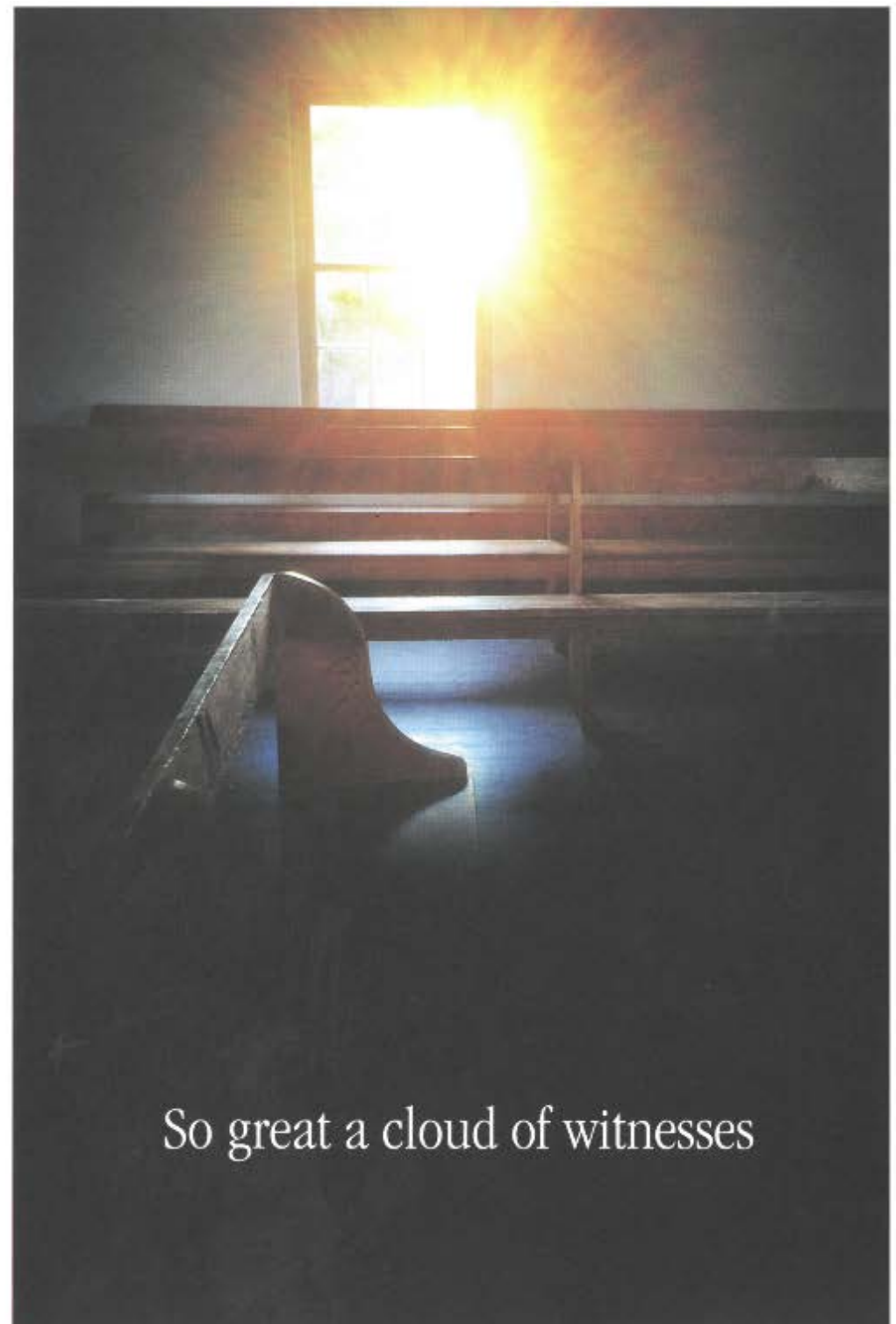
This week’s bulletin cover depicts another important historical Brethren worship space—the old Dunker meetinghouse on the Antietam Civil War battlefield. It reminds us of heroic Brethren “witnesses” such as Samuel Weir and Sarah Righter Major, who paved the way for M. R. Zigler and Anna Mow and so many others.

Do you feel it? Let us remember and be inspired by those who went before us. As we remember our forebears, we also honor those who formed our own congregation and established the spiritual community where we are nourished. May we never forget those whose faith, labor, and financial sacrifice built the place we worship—as they served their Lord and their community.

—J. Kenneth Kreider
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by *so great a cloud of witnesses*, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame . . .” (Heb. 12:1-2, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

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So great a cloud of witnesses

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship June 18, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE from Sonata II *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
Grave – Adagio
Allegro moderato maestoso

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP *A Collection of Liturgy Resources, Online*

One: In God's realm, weakness becomes strength.

All: Emptiness becomes complete.

One: Fear grows into courage.

All: The foolish learn wisdom.

One: The wise learn God's foolishness.

All: The great are humbled, and the humble are lifted up.

One: In God's steadfast love, all things are made whole.

All: We will worship the God of wisdom and truth.

*HYMN # 451 *How pleasant is it* KOMMT HER ZU MIR

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Mike Fike
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 Genesis 18:1-8 *The Message*

*HYMN # 307 *Will you let me be your servant* THE SERVANT SONG

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7 *The Message*

SERMON "Presumptions, Possibilities, and Promises" Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

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

ANTHEM (11:00) How Lovely Your Abiding Place *Austin C. Lovelace*

OFFERING

Invitation *A Collection of Liturgy Resources, Online*

Offertory

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

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

Sarabande (LAND OF REST) *Gerald Near*

(from Suite for Organ)

Prayer of Dedication

~Maynard Pittendreigh

*HYMN # 383 *God, whose Giving* HYFRYDOL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Katie Smith
adapted from Rev. Abigail Carlisle-Wilke

HYMN # 76 *Praise, I will praise you, Lord*
(English Only)

*BENEDICTION Hebrews 13:1-2 *NRSV*

POSTLUDE Tuba Tune in D Major *C.S. Lang*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Arlo D. Duba, 1984

How lovely is your abiding place;

My soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.

The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;

And so Your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In Your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day

Is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.

I'd rather keep the entrance and claim You as my Lord

Than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are You, O Lord Most High;

You shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.

The Saints your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,

And from their life shall rivers of blessings overflow.

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MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

June 18-24, 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.

- Today** 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic Office Reception
7:00 VBMHC Vespers @ CrossRoads Amphitheater
Greg Yoder, *music and meditation*
- Mon.** 7:00 B.C. Alumni Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- Mon.-Thurs.** VBS: "Building God's Neighborhood"
- Tues.** 7:00 Food Pantry South Portico
- Thurs.** 7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– June 25, 2017 – *Third Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: "Beyond Make Believe"

Scripture Readings: Vacation Bible School Texts

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

Annual Conference Pre-Conference Briefing – 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDING BRETHERN WOODS

June 18-23: Glenda Reitze

ATTENDING CAMP SWATARA (PA)

Armando Allen, Tristan Zepp

ATTENDING SR. HIGH WORKCAMP

Lybrook, NM, June 21-27

Libby Kreps, Ben Neher, Jasmine Reitze, Lisa Reitze

Hope Staton (advisor), Clarke Staton (advisor)

PASTOR JEFF is on vacation today. He will return to work tomorrow.

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

Katie Smith – Summer Ministry Intern

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.

Pianist (8:30) – Cindy Fike

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Sound/Light Assistant –

Decorators – Denny & Jeanie Eye

Deacon Caregiver – Bea Miller

Van Driver – Wayne Angleberger

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 06/11/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 214 Sunday School: 112

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$14,370.75
Loose Offering	221.00
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Vacation Bible School	90.00
Women's Fellowship	12.50
Habitat House	3,589.00
Youth Programs	120.00
Office Expense Reimbursement	18.84
Hazel Heisey Memorial Fund	25.00

The flowers in the greeting hall are in honor of Fred & Dorris Wampler's 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 20th.

MEALS WITH KATIE SMITH

Check the sign-up sheet in the greeting hall for opportunities to share a meal with Katie Smith, who is serving our congregation as a summer ministry intern through August 13. A new sheet will be prepared at the beginning of each month. If the listed times do not suit your schedule, feel free to ask Katie about a different date / time. Preference is for only one meal (lunch OR supper) per day.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS ENDING SOON

Time is running out to schedule your photo session with Lisa Houff Photography for our 2017 pictorial directory! The last day for photographs is Thursday, June 29th. There are three ways to sign up for a session:

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bwcoibpd2017>
- Sign up forms in the literature rack and can be returned to the office or dropped in the offering plate.
- Visit the pictorial directory sign-up center in the greeting hall.

CELEBRATE AMERICA!

The 47th annual patriotic/pops concert, *Celebrate America!*, featuring the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, directed by Curtis Nolley; and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Concert Band, directed by Melissa Harper, will be held 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1st, at Harrisonburg High School Auditorium. This popular annual concert features rousing choral and instrumental music that prepares the community for the celebration of Independence Day. This is also a time to give special recognition to the veterans in our community. Tickets are available at the door, from Choral Society and band members, Bridgewater Foods Supermarket, Red Front Supermarket (Harrisonburg), and on-line at www.singshenandoah.org. Admission: Adults- \$12, Seniors/Students- \$10, and children 12 and under- \$5

SANCTUS CHOIR NEWS

The Sanctus Choir will be on recess through the month of July. During this time, music will be presented by a variety of individuals. The Sanctus choir will resume regular rehearsals on Thursday, August 3. Anyone is invited to be a part of this wonderful community of singers. Please consider joining us in the new choir year. We can provide child care for any member who may need it during Thursday evening rehearsals. Please contact Curtis Nolley or any choir member if you have questions regarding the Sanctus Choir. We hope to see you in the choir room on August 3!

Genesis 18:1-15 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham^[a] by the oaks^[b] of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures^[c] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰ Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

Genesis 21:1-7 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
The Birth of Isaac

21 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”