

## Transformed Speech

The apostle Paul called the Ephesians to a new life in Christ—one that had been radically transformed from the old life characterized by immaturity and impetuosity, or taking the path of least resistance (vv. 17-19). The behaviors demanded by this transformed life are described in a series of *not only . . . but also* disciplines. A negative behavior is followed by a positive action that goes beyond the typical societal expectation. For example, *not only* should a thief no longer steal, *but also* he should work—not merely to earn a living, but so that he may have something to share with those in need (v. 28).

This pattern also describes the new way of speaking amid conflict. The Ephesians are to exercise restraint: “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths,” and “put away” the “wrath and anger” and “slander, together with all malice” (vv. 29-31). *Not only* must they refrain from the retaliatory actions that come so quickly and naturally, *but also* they must use speech that builds up and gives grace.

To “give grace” is a multilayered concept. *Charis*—the Greek for grace—usually refers to an act or attitude of benevolence, similar to our “graciousness.” Giving grace, then, means to offer benevolence, even when you have been ill-treated. We are to imitate God and extend the same abundant generosity we have been given. But grace is also granting direct access to God. For this reason, some translate verse 29 as “so that your words may impart grace.” That is, our words can and should be conduits of God’s grace to others. Speech that gives grace is responding to bitterness and wrath by doing the opposite: being kind and tenderhearted, extending forgiveness as God in Christ has forgiven us, and building the other up (v. 32).

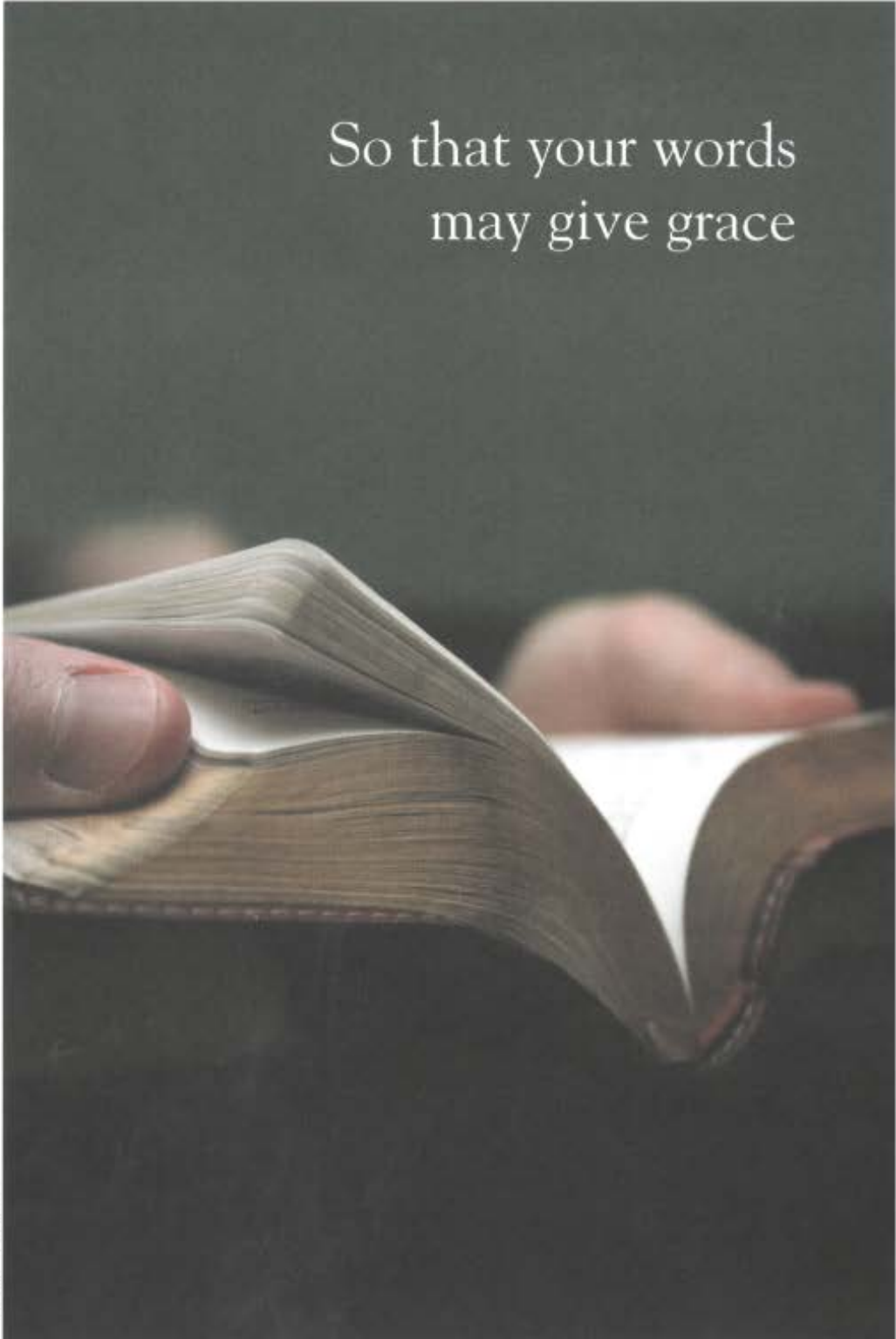
Critically, it is responding like this when we are baited or insulted, when we are indignant and tempted to strike. If we can’t, have we truly “learned Christ” (v. 20)? Let us speak so God’s grace is felt by those who hear both what we say and how we say it.

—Erika Fitz, program coordinator  
Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center  
[www.etown.edu/programs/svmc](http://www.etown.edu/programs/svmc)

**Text for today:** “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, **so that your words may give grace** to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:29-30, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51.

08-09-15

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So that your words  
may give grace

# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship July 2, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** Variations on AMERICA *John Barr*  
Theme – Cantilena – Sarabande  
Musette – Trumpet Tune

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** *Katie Smith*  
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.

**THE MALVERN CHIME** Priory Church, Worcestershire

**CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ HWB # 729  
Spirit of peace,  
quiet our hearts,  
heal our anxious thoughts,  
free us from our fretful ways.  
Breathe on us your holy calm  
so that in the stillness of your presence  
we may open ourselves to trust  
and be transformed. Amen.

**\*HYMN # 553** *I am weak and I need thy strength* LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

## PROCLAIMING

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) *Dianne Murray*  
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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Sonata in A Minor, Mvmt 1 *Jean-Baptiste Loeillet*  
op. 1, no. 1 *arr. Kathleen Wood*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Proverbs 3:21-26; Philippians 4:4-7 *NRSV*

**SERMON** “*Fear Itself*” *Katie Smith*

## RESPONDING

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

**\*HYMN # 651** *I owe the Lord a morning song* GRATITUDE CM

**OFFERING**  
**Invitation**  
**Offertory**

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

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

Chorale Prelude on Gibbons' SONG 13 *Healey Willan*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN # 331** *When peace, like a river* VILLE DU HAVRE

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Nachspiele *Johann Christian Heinrich Rink*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 2-8, 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** Annual Conference Ends in Grand Rapids, MI  
7:00 VBMHC Vespers @ CrossRoads Amphitheater  
Steve & Deb Proctor, *music and meditation*
- Tues.** Church Offices Closed – July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday
- Wed.** 7:00 Food Pantry Social Hall

### NEXT SUNDAY– July 9, 2017 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “Yokes Over Easy”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

**PASTORS CHRIS AND JEFF** are both be away through July 2 while attending the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Jeff will return to the office on Monday and Chris will return on Wednesday.

### ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 06/25/17

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 20 11:00 – 216 Sunday School: 104**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$7,526.00
Loose Offering	423.50
Vacation Bible School	161.00
Building Repair Reserve	1,000.00
VBS Offering for Habitat House	327.00
Habitat House	20.00

## 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](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.

**Pianist** (8:30) – Ann Daggett

**Head Usher** – Kevin Keplinger

**Sound/Light Assistant** – Michael Overman

**Decorators** – Deb Mitchell & Lev Norford

**Deacon Caregivers** – Andrea & Curtis Nolley

**Van Driver** – Rick Wampler

**Worship Leader** – Tony Stovall

The sea scene in the baptistery includes a 5000 piece Ravensburger puzzle Lee Norford received as a Christmas gift from his son Thomas. Lee generously passed the puzzle to Lev who, with Thomas and Lee's help, finished the puzzle in January 2017. It's a pleasure to share this with our congregation. Other ocean items are shared by Deb Mitchell and Lev Norford.

## **BUILDING GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD VBS**

Thanks so much to everyone who helped to make our Vacation Bible School a big success! Special thanks to our Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, Music Leaders, Sound Person, Registration Volunteers, Child Care Volunteers, Photographers, Decorating Volunteers, Builders, and Clean-up Volunteers for all your hard work and dedication. Thanks also to everyone who organized, prepared, served and cleaned up meals each night of Bible School. The donations of supplies and financial contributions were also a tremendous help. Anyone who loaned items may pick them up today in the Greeting Hall or speak with Jeanie Eye.

### **MEALS WITH KATIE SMITH**

Check the sign-up sheet in the greeting hall for opportunities to share a meal with Katie Smith, our summer ministry intern. New sheets for July are now available. 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.

### **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!