

Ultimate Sacrifice

Life is precious. Heart transplant recipients grope for adequate words to express their gratitude, knowing the offering they received was possible only because of the death of someone else. How precious would your life be should someone give their life to save yours? A stranger pushes you away from the path of an oncoming car and absorbs the impact instead. What made them do such a thing? From 9/11 we recall the heroic stories of police, firefighters, and random bystanders who—with no regard for themselves—paid the ultimate price to save others.

When a life is offered to preserve yours, you are changed and forever linked to the giver. You receive a gift *and* a burden. Life is no longer yours to live as you choose. You must live it for the both of you. You dare not waste it. You are compelled to make of it all that you can—a brave, beautiful, and faithful offering.

In Isaiah 53, God's suffering servant was despised, rejected, and wounded for the world's transgressions. No one could look upon his affliction. No one imagined that God's purposes were hidden in him. He was quiet in his suffering, relying solely upon his intimate bond with God. Then, as now, the nations were riddled with strife. But by the servant's sacrificial offering, the dismembered world was re-membered, restored, and reconciled. The floodgates opened, the will of God prospered: "The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life" (v. 10, *The Message*).

We receive far more sacrifices than we make. The supreme offering of our thorn-crowned, death-conquering, life-giving Savior makes debtors of us all. Therefore Jesus' offering begets our offering, and so we sing with gratitude:

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.**

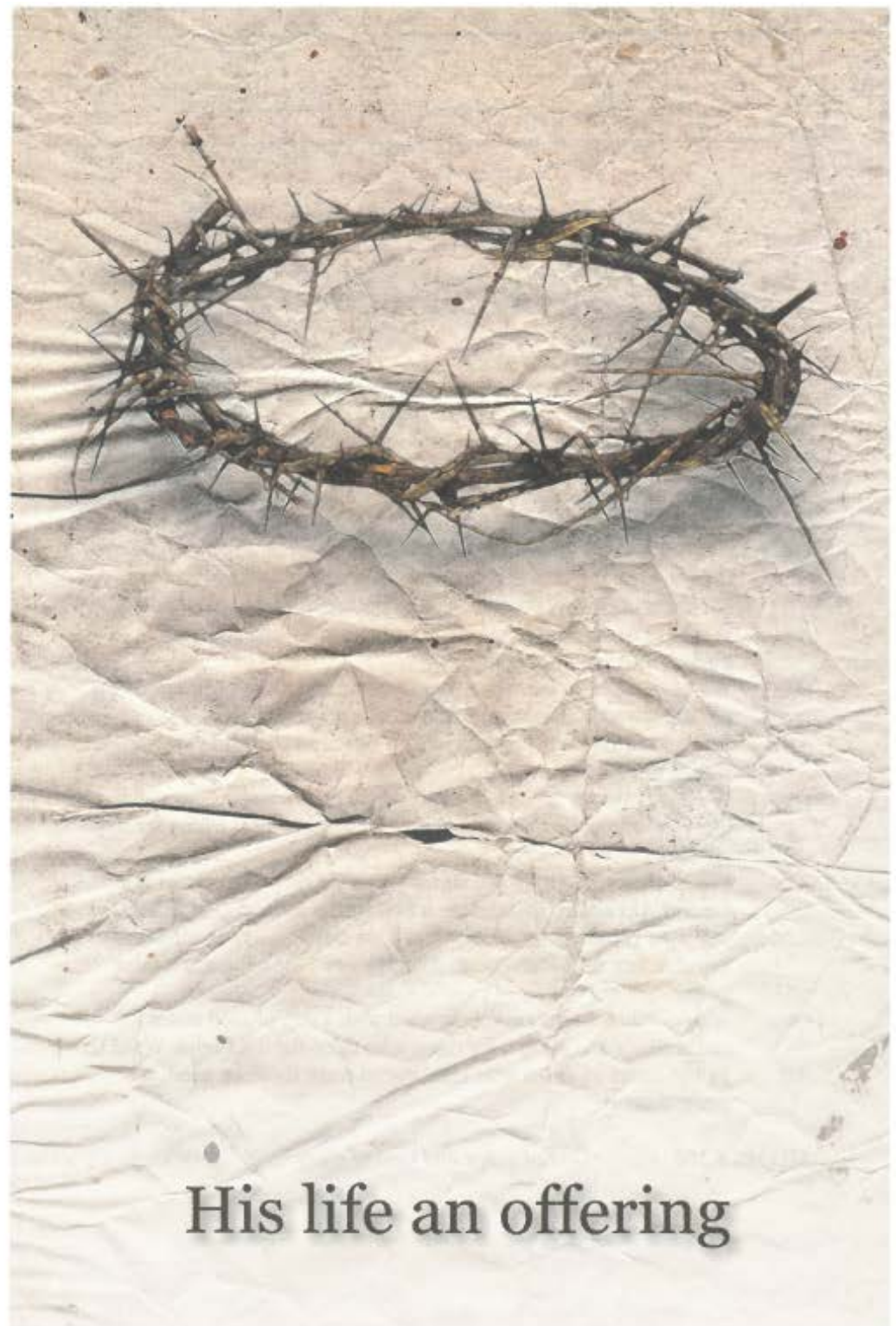
—David Bibbee, pastor
Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Text for today: "When you make *his life an offering* for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light" (Isaiah 53:10b-11a, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.

*Words by Isaac Watts, 1707, alt.
10-18-15, Peace with Justice Week (16-24)
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His life an offering

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship July 16, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Mankind bewail thy grievous fall" *J. S. Bach*
SWEET SACRAMENT *Elizabeth A. Krouse*

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.

THE WHITTINGTON CHIME (11:00) Church of St. Mary Le Bow (London)

***RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Ann Weems*

One: O God, we have said that we "love" our sisters and our brothers, but we confess it is very difficult to put meaning behind that word.

All: We have traded faithfulness for success and security, for power, and for popularity.

One: We have said that we "love" our brothers and sisters but we have not translated that into food, and clothing, and housing.

All: The good that we would do, we do not; and the bad that we would not do, we do.

One: We have said we love God, but if we do not love our sisters and brothers whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

All: We confess that there are times when we do not worship the God of Abraham, instead we worship the approval of others, or our own reputations, or our work, or our family, or money. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Forgive our following after false gods.

One: We pray that we may come forward with a cup of cold water for our brothers and sisters, for those who thirst for the Living Water.

All: In the name of Jesus who ministered unto those in need, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN # 366** *God of grace and God of glory* CWM RHONDDA

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) *Katie Smith*
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.

SOLO (11:00) "The Lord Is My Light" *Frances Allitsen*
Jeanne Neff, soloist

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 25:19-34 *NRSV*

SERMON "Stew" *Jeff Carr*

RESPONDING

***HYMN INSERT** *For Everyone Born* A PLACE AT THE TABLE

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

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

"When in the hour of utmost need" *J. S. Bach*
(from *The Little Organ Book*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *John Maynard*

***HYMN # 142** *Brothers and sisters of mine* MINE ARE THE HUNGRY

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
(from Sonata 6, "Our Father Who Art in Heaven")

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 16-22, 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	Claire Martindale, <i>meditation</i> ; Katie Smith, <i>music</i>
Mon.	7:00	B.C. Alumni Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Wed.	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Sat.	2-8	Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival	Court Square, H'burg

NEXT SUNDAY– July 23, 2017 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary
Summer Ministry Intern Katie Smith, preaching
Sermon: “Love, Actions, and Truth”
Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:11-24
Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 07/09/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 21	11:00 – 199	Sunday School: 94
Pledges & Envelope Giving		\$20,973.00
Loose Offering		477.00
Workers Compensation Insurance Fund		151.00
Church Garden		100.00
Vacation Bible School		25.00
Youth Programs		300.00
Backpack Program		25.00
EYN Compassion Fund		100.00
Glenn & Kathleen Suter Memorial Fund		100.00

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 / (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 – Kevin Keplinger

Decorators – Deb Mitchell & Lev Norford

Deacon Caregivers – Andrea & Curtis Nolley

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

TEXT FOR TODAY'S VOCAL SOLO: Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom, then, shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?

Though an host of men were laid against me,

Yet shall not my heart be afraid;

And though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

For, in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle,

Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me,

And set me up upon a rock of stone.

FREE BOOKS AVAILABLE

You are welcome to browse and take one or more of the books located in boxes in the greeting hall. These books were leftovers from those collected for the VBS community libraries, but which cannot be used for this particular project. All books remaining will be shared with The Salvation Army and/or Book Savers.

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. Sheets for July are 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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY STATUS

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be photographed for the pictorial directory! Lisa Houff will be continuing with the post-processing of the photos through July and into August, so if you haven't yet heard from her to review your proofs, don't worry – your proofs are coming. You'll have the opportunity to review your images and tell her which one you'd like for the directory, as well as request prints if that is your wish. Once all the photos have been processed, chosen, and formatted for the directory layout, the directory will be submitted to the printer. We hope to have new directories available by early fall.

SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER CARNIVAL

You are invited to join Bridgewater Presbyterian Church tomorrow evening from 6 p.m. until dark for games, crafts, treats, prizes, and more. For more information, see the flier on the greeting hall bulletin board.

ATTENDING JUNIOR HIGH WORKCAMP

Baltimore, MD, July 16-20

Lilly Day-Miller, Janna Glendye, Andrew Kreps, Andie Neher

Mandi Glendye and Chris Zepp (advisors)

ATTENDING BRETHERN WOODS CAMP

July 16-21

Anna Flory, Isabelle Flory, Carly May, Trey Mutherspaw

PASTORAL STAFF SCHEDULES

Pastor Chris is attending the Jr. Workcamp July 16-20. Pastor Jeff will be on vacation July 21-July 28th.

For Everyone Born

A Place at the Table

Unison

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wo - man and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - lone.
 For just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de - light when

we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.