

Shine Like the Stars

At the end of the book of Daniel, God repeats the message that was given to King Nebuchadnezzar in an earlier dream: “[God’s eternal kingdom] shall crush all these [earthly] kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever” (2:44). The message, here, is that God is in charge of history. Despite the rise and fall of empires and nations, God will be faithful to covenant promises and establish an everlasting kingdom. These prophetic words are meant to bring comfort to Israel, and to us.

We have a need for those with God-given insight, like Daniel, who shine in our midst. Many of us have known people who have crossed our paths with great effect. Their memory brings freshness and joy to mind. Perhaps their influence at a crucial turning point caused us to take a different route and to view the world from a new perspective. Maybe they introduced us to the One who holds all history in his hands. And we were changed, never to be the same.

Maybe it was a grandmother, an uncle, a pastor. It may have been a book we read. How many of us have found transformation in the words and meditations of Julian of Norwich or Oswald Chambers or C. S. Lewis? But then there is the Bible itself: Moses, Ruth, Samuel, Mary, Isaiah. For some of us, a particular Gospel becomes compelling sustenance after years of intimate study. I know Jesus’ teaching and example at the Last Supper in John moves and comforts my spirit with every rereading.

The book of Daniel ends with a tribute to those wise ones who, having given us insight, shine brightly in the memory of our spirit. Now, the fruit of our transformation comes when we turn to those whom God brings into our daily lives to hear a word of encouragement and hope. We then become willing conduits for God’s promise-filled message for the ages.

—Elizabeth G. Rowan, pastor
Pasadena Church of the Brethren
Pasadena, California

Text for today: “At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered. . . . Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, *like the stars* forever and ever” (Daniel 12:1-3, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

11-15-15

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship July 23, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Toccata and Fugue in D Minor (BWV 565) *J. S. Bach*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Chris Zepp

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

THE BESANÇON CHIME (11:00) made by Manufacture Française d'Armes et Cycles de Saint-Étienne (Loire)

CALL TO WORSHIP Hymnal #680

***HYMN #545** *Be thou my vision* SLANE

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.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 3:11-24 *NRSV*

SOLO (11:00) How I Love Your Word *Mark Hayes*
Curtis Nolley, *soloist*

SERMON "Love, Actions, and Truth" Katie Smith

RESPONDING

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

***HYMN #440** *I believe in you, Lord Jesus* MUNICH

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Meditation on BEECHER *John Barr*
("Love divine, all loves excelling")

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~Bruce Prewer, adapted

***HYMN #305** *Where charity and love prevail* ST. PETER

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Postlude on ST. PETER *Healey Willan*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 23-29, 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 7:00 VBMHC Vespers @ CrossRoads Amphitheater
Children's Night: John Kline Riders, *song & story*

Mon. 7:00 B.C. Alumni Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Tues. 7:00 Gifts Discernment Committee Lounge

NEXT SUNDAY– July 30, 2017 – *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Annual Conference Wrap-Up Sunday

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

Congregational Forum to Review Plan of Organization

“Section VII- *Foundation Board*”

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) – Jim Benedict

Head Usher – Kevin Keplinger

Decorators – Deb Mitchell & Lev Norford

Deacon Caregivers – Andrea & Curtis Nolley

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 07/16/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 18 11:00 – 193 Sunday School: 105

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$7,586.50
Loose Offering	871.00
Food Pantry	100.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscription	14.50
Child Care Center	12.34
Habitat House	20.00
Youth Programs	92.97
Backpack Program	450.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	103.00

TEXT FOR TODAY'S VOCAL SOLO: Psalm 119

I love Your Word, it gives me light.

It guides me through the darkest night.

Your law is perfect in ev'ry way. How I love Your Word.

How I love Your Word.

Sweeter than the honey-comb, more precious than the finest gold,

Rich with treasures new and old, Your Word gives life to me.

When I am frightened, You calm my fears.

When I am troubled, Your Word is clear

That in ev'ry moment You are here. Your Word brings peace to me.

I love Your Word, it gives me light.

It guides me through the darkest night.

Your law is perfect in ev'ry way. How I love Your Word.

How I love Your Word.

I choose to follow Your commands. Your ways I want to understand.

I long to learn all that I can from the wisdom in Your Word.

Your words I treasure deep within.

They comfort me and discipline that I may have no cause to sin.

Your Word brings righteousness.

I love Your Word, it gives me light.

It guides me through the darkest night. How I love Your Word.

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 and August 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.

ATTENDING BRETHERN WOODS CAMP

July 23-28

Cooper Bair, Rowan Bair, Andie Neher, Jasmine Reitze

PASTORAL AND OFFICE STAFF SCHEDULES

Pastor Jeff is on vacation July 21-July 28. For pastoral needs during this time please contact Pastor Chris or Katie. Pastor Chris will then be on vacation July 29-August 5.

Administrative Assistant Shannon Puffenbarger will be on vacation July 24-28. The office will be open during the week thanks to help from volunteers and other staff. Shannon will return to the office on Monday, July 31.

1 John 3:11-24 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
Love One Another

¹¹ For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters,^[a] that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ All who hate a brother or sister^[b] are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. ¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[c] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.