

The Goodness of the Lord

These words from Psalm 116:13 are often used by Christians during communion. That is a reasonable setting, as the bread and cup point to the sacrifice Jesus made for us to have eternal life.

But Brethren have historically understood communion to take place within the fuller love feast, which begins with examination. How does our life reflect gratitude for the goodness we have received from God? Is it visible in our daily walk? Love feast also includes time to wash one another's feet in a demonstration of service to our church family. How are our relationships with our church family?

What can we give back to the Lord for all the good things he has done for us, as the psalmist ponders in verse 12? Christian theology teaches us that while we can do nothing to either earn or repay God for the goodness we have received, we do show our commitment to God by a life of faithful Christian living. During love feast, as we both lift up the cup of salvation and bend our knee to wash one another's feet, we are expressing our love for God and one another by the way we treat others.

Unison Prayer of Examination

O Lord, we are your servants, gathered here because of the goodness you have shown us. We want our words of thanks to you to match the choices we make each day. May our love for you be reflected in the ways we love our neighbor, and our enemy.

Reveal those places where our lives are not consistent. We have been set free from sin, so deliver us when we put those chains on again. Forgive us, we pray, and make us whole. Amen.

Hymn

I hunger and I thirst

No. 474, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

— Tim Harvey, pastor
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
Roanoke, Virginia

Text for today: "I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. . . . What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will *lift up the cup of salvation* and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones" (Psalm 116:1-2, 12-15, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

03-24-16, Maundy Thursday/Love Feast. Printed in the USA
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Lift up the cup of salvation



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

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:30) Toccata and Fugue in D Minor *J. S. Bach*
(11:00) *Terra Voce*

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 TRINITY CHIME *Charles A. Jacques* (1910)

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.

UNISON PRAYER back of bulletin

***HYMN # 323** *Beyond a dying sun* ENGLE

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 10:16-26 *NRSV*

CELLO AND FLUTE DUET (11:00) *Terra Voce*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Bea Miller
Eli Quay
Steve Watson
Erin West

RESPONDING

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

Prayer

Robert Lau

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

Terra Voce

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jeff Carr

***HYMN # 226** *You are salt for the earth* BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (8:30) Lamb of God *Francois Couperin*
(from Mass for the Convents)

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

The roses in the front of the sanctuary this morning are given in honor of Lowell and Peggy Miller's 70th wedding anniversary on June 8 and Lowell's 100th birthday on July 28 by their children.

Flutist Elizabeth Brightbill and cellist Andrew Gabbert perform throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in their duo Terra Voce. Elizabeth is the daughter of David Brightbill.

GIFTS DISCERNMENT SURVEY

YOUR NAME _____

Listed below are the offices, boards, commissions, committees, and delegate assignments, some of which the Gifts Discernment Committee will be submitting names for the Council to call to serve the church. Please give prayerful consideration and please mark positions in which you would be willing to serve our church for a term beginning January 1, 2018.

- Moderator
- Board of Administration
- Board of Deacons
- Christian Education
- Fellowship and Recreation
- Finance
- Ministerial Services
- Mission and Service
- Properties and Custodial Care
- Witness and Renewal
- Worship and Music
- Food Pantry Coordinating Committee
- Interfaith Association of Harrisonburg-Rockingham
- Annual Conference Delegate
- District Conference Delegate

Please place in the offering plate or return to the church office

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.

Organist (8:30) – John Barr

Head Usher – Kevin Keplinger

Decorators – Deb Mitchell & Lev Norford

Deacon Caregivers – Andrea & Curtis Nolley

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

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 August 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 AND INVITATION

The Sanctus Choir's dedication through music provides an essential contribution to our worship service and to the life of our church. Please consider joining! Regular rehearsals for the Sanctus Choir will begin Thursday, August 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. The choir will provide childcare during Thursday rehearsals, just please let us know if you need it so arrangements can be made. If you have questions regarding the Sanctus Choir please call Curtis Nolley at 433-3031, email carnolley@hotmail.com, or contact any Sanctus Choir member.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 30-August 5, 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	2:00	Plan of Organization Forum “ <i>Section VII – Foundation</i> ”	
	7:00	VBMHC Vespers @ CrossRoads Amphitheater	
		Youth Night: Walt Wiltschek, <i>message</i>	
Mon.	7:00	BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	11-1	BRC Auxiliary Luncheon	Social Hall
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Rm.
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– August 6, 2017 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: “Men, Women and Children”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:13-21 & 19:13-15

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

(Menu: Taco Bar)

Council – 1 p.m. – Social Hall

PASTORAL STAFF SCHEDULE

Pastor Chris is on vacation July 29-August 5.

NB1. Polity for Agencies *The 2017 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendations:*

- the recommendation from On Earth Peace entitled "Polity for Agencies" be returned with appreciation and respect, but that the concern of the recommendation regarding lack of applicable polity be accepted.
- the Leadership Team be tasked to update current polity. The Leadership Team shall consult with each Annual Conference agency in making this update. The update shall include:
 - *The definition of an Annual Conference agency
 - *The process to become an Annual Conference agency
 - *The process by which issues of conflict or dispute between the policies and/or practices of the Annual Conference agencies and the polity, policies, & positions of Annual Conference can be resolved
 - *The process to review agency status if conflicts can't be resolved.

NB2. Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience

The 2017 Annual Conference received Standing Committee's response: receiving NB 2 "Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience" from On Earth Peace as another thoughtful reminder of our calling to, and history of, practicing forbearance with one another in the church when in faithful conscience we disagree.

We confess that in our current struggle, in which we are deeply divided on same gender issues, we, from all perspectives on the issues, have often not practiced forbearance well. We also confess that our inconsistent "practice of patiently living with differences in matters of conscience" has led to injustice.

The 2017 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendations: Standing Committee recommends the insights of NB2 "Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience" to the entire church for serious, prayerful consideration. As a continuation of the work already done on the "Living Together as Christ Calls" query, we further ask the Mission and Ministry Board, in consultation with On Earth Peace and others with expertise in this area, to provide resources and insight as to how to implement more consistently and fully the 2008 Annual Conference resolution "Urging Forbearance" into the life of the church. Standing Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that Unfinished Business item 2 "Review and Evaluation" and Unfinished Business item 4 "The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts" not be delayed for the purpose of developing guidelines as stated in the "Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience" recommendation.

Summary of the Actions

of the 2017 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
(see Official 2017 Annual Conference Minutes when published)

2017 Ballot Elections Results

Annual Conference Secretary:

James M. Beckwith of Lebanon, Pa., Annville COB

Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee:

Jan Glass King of Martinsburg, Pa., Bedford COB

Mission and Ministry Board:

Area 1: *Colin W. Scott of Harrisburg, Pa., Mechanicsburg COB*

Area 2: *Christina Singh of Freeport, Ill., Freeport COB*

Bethany Theological Seminary Trustee, Colleges:

Celia Cook-Huffman of Huntingdon, Pa., Stone COB

Bethany Theological Seminary Trust, Clergy:

Paul Brubaker of Ephrata, Pa., Middle Creek COB

Brethren Benefit Trust Board:

Sara Huston Brenneman of Hershey, Pa., Harrisburg First COB

On Earth Peace Board:

Cheryl Thomas of Angola, Ind., Pleasant Chapel COB

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee:

Daniel L. Rudy of Roanoke, Va., Ninth Street COB

*Separately, the Standing Committee chose delegates to represent the **Church of the Brethren at the World Council of Churches:**

Liz Bidgood Enders, delegate; Glenn Bollinger, alternate.

Reports Received

Church of the Brethren, Bethany Theological Seminary, Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, On Earth Peace, Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee, Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, Christian Churches Together in the USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and World Council of Churches. Annual Conference received an interim report from the committees and granted an additional year of study for:

UB3. Vitality and Viability & UB5. Creation Care

2017 Annual Conference Actions

Unfinished Business (UB) Item 1 and New Business (NB) items 3&4 were referred to the agenda for the 2018 Annual Conference:

UB 1. Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century

NB 3. Brethren Values Investing

NB 4. Polity for Electing Brethren Benefit Trust Board Directors

UB2. Review and Evaluation

- *Recommendation 1*: that Leadership Team “coordinate a gathering of denominational leadership” – Annual Conference adopted the recommendation of Standing Committee to refer this item to the Program Feasibility Study Committee, delaying a decision for one year in order to do a feasibility study.
- *Recommendations 2-4* Annual Conference adopted the recommendations of the Review and Evaluation Committee that these item be recommended to the Mission and Ministry Board for bringing a recommendation to Annual Conference to amend the Bylaws of the Church of the Brethren.”
 - *Recommendation 2*: that Leadership Team “assume responsibility for how denominational vision shall be implemented.”
 - *Recommendation 3*: that Leadership Team become responsible for the budget of Annual Conference and the employment and evaluation of the Conference director.
 - *Recommendation 4*: that a district executive be appointed by the Council of District Executives and approved by Annual Conference to serve on the Leadership Team.
- *Recommendation 5*: that a study committee “assess prudent stewardship related to the General Offices” – Annual Conference adopted the recommendation of the Review and Evaluation Committee that this item be recommended to the Mission and Ministry Board.
- *Recommendation 6*: that On Earth Peace no longer remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren – the motion to adopt the recommendation did not obtain the required two-thirds majority vote and therefore failed.
- *Recommendation 7*: that all congregations, districts, denominational and agency staff find ways to involve the work of On Earth Peace in the ongoing mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren – the motion to adopt the recommendation failed.
- *Recommendation 8*: that *Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren* be returned – the query was declared by the officers to have been answered by the decision of Recommendation 6.

- *Recommendation 9*: that all congregations examine their financial contributions to both district and denominational ministries, and bring their giving into compliance with the Congregational Ethics Polity. Congregations that feel they cannot do so should be in conversation about this with their district, in accordance with the 2004 AC Statement *Congregational Disagreement with Annual Conference Decisions* – Annual Conference adopted the recommendation.
- *Recommendation 10*: that Standing Committee rescind the 2014 rejection of On Earth Peace’s Statement of Inclusion – the motion to adopt the recommendation failed.

**In its meetings immediately prior to Annual Conference’s deliberations, Standing Committee had made the following statement in response to Recommendation 10:

Standing Committee humbly receives the chastisement of the Review and Evaluation Committee in recommendation #10 of its report. We apologize for the misunderstanding and hurt caused by our 2014 response to On Earth Peace’s Statement of Inclusion. The church welcomes all persons to participate in its life. Standing Committee’s comments were meant to be more narrowly focused on the implications of the On Earth Peace statement that were inconsistent with Annual Conference decisions.

UB4. The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts

Annual Conference adopted the recommendations from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives that this statement of clarification about our current polity and standard practice be received as the answer to our assignment and that the church turn its attention to the framing of a compelling vision for how we will continue the work of Jesus together. The “Questions and Answers” and the “Introductory Statement” documents for this item of business will be included as introductory information in the official minutes.