



**Join us after Worship at 11 o'clock
on September 10 for our
All-Church Picnic!**

That means you might want to dress in your best
“picnic clothes” that day.

Meats and vegetarian options will be provided.

As are the buns, ketchup, mustard, and other condiments.

Drinks and dinnerware are also provided.

But feel free to bring your own if you want to be more eco-friendly.

**Bring your lawn chairs, favorite backyard games,
and some potluck food to share.**

Food service lines and some seating will be available inside.

And don't worry if it is too much for you to bring a dish. Come anyway...

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTION – “Sitting in the Gap”

It has been nearly a decade since BWCOB has begun a new adult Sunday School class. With that in mind, this Fall we will offer a new option for adult spiritual formation during the Sunday School hour. Tentatively called “Sitting in the Gap,” this class will meet for the first time on our “Welcome Back Sunday” – September 10. While there is plenty of room for it to evolve, this class is envisioned as an intergenerational gathering for anyone interested in deeper exploration of and reflection on the scriptures and topics guiding our worship each Sunday. We will follow a rabbinical model of spiritual formation – using the questions we bring to a scripture text to guide discussion, as we sit together and discuss how to interpret the scriptures and how to apply them to our lives. Each week will be a self-contained discussion, so that regulars and guests can participate fully and equally. The class will meet in the Gap Room (down the hall near the fish pond), and will begin promptly at 9:45ish. Pastor Chris will provide the initial facilitation and guidance. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to be in touch with him.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Pastor Chris invites you to join him for the following book discussion on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 p.m., on September 20, October 4, and October 18:

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams (2016).

“Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? In this unique collaboration, they offer us the reflection of real lives filled with pain and turmoil in the midst of which they have been able to discover a level of peace, of courage, and of joy to which we can all aspire in our own lives.”

Order your copy through our office at an estimated cost of \$18.50 (if ordered no later than September 3) OR obtain your own copy. We will discuss Day I (through page 80) on September 20.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PUPPET MINISTRY COORDINATOR!

Beginning this fall, Mark Dowdy will be serving as the new coordinator of our puppet ministry! Our Jr. High Youth will continue to be our primary puppeteers, but there are always opportunities for interested persons to be involved in this exciting and creative ministry. If you'd be interested in assisting with leadership, writing or editing scripts, helping with staging or costuming, etc., OR if you know of someone who would like to be a puppeteer, please be in touch with Mark.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS – IN DISCERNMENT

On September 13, our Children's Music Ensembles will resume practicing on Wednesday nights. However, a feature of our Wednesday Night routine during recent school years – our congregational Fellowship Meals – will NOT be resuming on that date. With Leanne Kreps and Amanda Zepp stepping down this year from coordinating the meals and the volunteers, respectively, a void has been created that is not easy to fill. And so we are in a period of discerning the future of this ministry. Shall we try to find new coordinators to carry on with these weekly Wednesday fellowship meals? Shall we offer one or two monthly Wednesday evening fellowship meals, perhaps on Commission and/or Board meeting nights? Shall we take a year or a season off to see what the felt needs/desires are? Shall we arrange for catered meals?

These are the questions we are asking now. As we discern our direction in the coming weeks, we would welcome your thoughts and feelings, ideas and suggestions, visions and dreams, and of course, volunteers to turn these ideas into realities! Please contact Pastor Chris if you have thoughts to share...

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM

Valley Program for Aging Services is first in Virginia to offer the Aging Mastery Program (AMP) for adults who want to be proactive and master the challenges of aging. During each of the ten sessions, community experts will share information and lead discussion about health, finance, relationships, personal growth, and community involvement. Participants in this program will: make and maintain small, but impactful changes in health choices, financial well-being, and enrichment in later life, get rewards for taking small steps that can improve well-being, meet new friends, provide support and encouragement to peers, and become more involved in the community. Register by calling Sentara RMH: (800)736-8272 by Thursday, September 7, 2017 .

NOTES OF THANKS

It has been such a blessing to have been so uplifted by all of the expressions of caring that so many of you have shown me through prayers, cards, calls, and visits, including Pastor Jeff's faithful visits. It has helped to make a difficult journey easier. What a joy to be part of such a caring fellowship. ~ Charlotte McKay

A BIG THANK YOU to all the church people who helped with moving the Refugee families!! Sincerely,
The Refugee Committee

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers, emails, phone calls, and cards sent our way during and following the illness and death of my dear sister-in-law, Phyllis Wampler. We have a very caring church family!
~ Elaine Huffman

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

September 3—13th Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Readings: Exodus 3:1-15 & Matthew 16:21-28
Sermon: *"The Labor of Following and Leading"*

September 10—14th Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*
Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-14
Sermon: *"Love is all you need?"*

September 17—15th Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*
Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12
Sermon: *"Community"*

September 24—16th Sunday after Pentecost
Preaching: *Jeff Carter, President,*
Bethany Theological Seminary

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Following David Evick's untimely death a little more than one year ago, his family requested memorial contributions to go toward residents in his home state of West Virginia following terrible flooding, specifically in the town of Rainelle. The generous gifts given toward this goal totaled \$17,530.00. Initially, \$1,874.04 was given, as part of a mission trip that David's brother was already involved with, to finish repairs to the home of a young family in West Virginia whose home was destroyed in the flood. The remaining donations of \$15,655.96 were given to Appalachia Service Project. It took quite a while to determine where the money needed to go in order to help those who most needed it. The money was sent and we received a letter of thanks which reads in part:

"Thanks to your generous partnership with Appalachia Service Project, 23 families are now living in new homes in West Virginia and 19 additional homes are now under construction with 14 additional homes close to groundbreaking...Your gifts are truly bringing families in West Virginia from desperation to HOPE...Your gifts to Rebuilding Rainelle provide families the ability to create equity and a tangible asset that changes the financial course of their future...Your partnership in this effort that God has called us to is life-changing."

Gratefully, Dr. Walter B. Crouch, President / CEO, Appalachia Service Project

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

On August 15, 2017, Genita Metzler received her doctorate in Immunology at the University of Washington. Congratulations!

WHAT IN GOD'S GREEN EARTH

States with bottle deposit laws have 30-40% less litter by volume. Those states include: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon and Vermont. Consider writing your congressman.

Source: Hancock County Planning Commission

CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Since 1980, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) has been meeting the needs of children by setting up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers across the nation. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos created by tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires or any natural or human caused disaster. BWCOB will be hosting a volunteer training session for CDS September 22-23. For more information or to register no later than September 1, see the website at www.brethren.org/cds or contact Gladys Remnant, at 540-810-4999.

2017 BC HOMECOMING ALUMNI ENSEMBLE CONCERT

The Bridgewater College Music Department is creating an alumni choir and alumni jazz ensemble to perform at the 2017 Homecoming Concert on Saturday, October 28th. The concert is at 7:30 pm in the Carter Center for Worship and Music. If you are interested in joining the alumni choir, contact Dr. John McCarty at jmccarty@bridgewater.edu. Include your name, graduation year, and voice part, and Dr. McCarty will send you more information and music. If you are interested in joining the alumni jazz ensemble, contact Dr. Christine Carrillo at ccarrill@bridgewater.edu. Include your name, graduation year, and instrument so Dr. Carrillo can send you the music once she determines the instrumentation.

BRIDGEWATER HOME AUXILIARY FALL FESTIVAL 2017

Friday, September 15, 4:30-9:00 p.m.
Music, Local Food Trucks, Early Shopping
Saturday, September 16, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Breakfast served 7:30-10 a.m.
Auction begins at 9:30 a.m.
Lunch begins at 10 a.m.

All proceeds will benefit Bridgewater Home Residents

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE

Many of our adults are preparing for National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, September 4-8. The theme for this year is "Inspiration 2017." This experience offers intensive opportunities for spiritual growth and faith formation. Please join us in prayer support for these individual and group experiences at this event.

COB MISSION OFFERING

The Church of the Brethren Mission Offering highlights our relationships with international churches and organizations. It supports Core Ministries like Brethren Volunteer Service, Global Mission and Service, and others that allow us to walk with brothers and sisters around the world. Pamphlets with more information on the Mission Offering, as well as offering envelopes are available in the literature rack in the greeting hall.

BWCOB SEPTEMBER EVENTS PROGRAM CALENDAR

- 4 Labor Day—Church Offices Closed
- 6 Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 7 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Welcome Back Sunday
Church Picnic – Noon
- 11 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 13 Office Staff Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 15-17 Brethren Student Movement Retreat at Brethren Woods
- 17 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 21 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 22-23 Child Disaster Services Training Event
- 26 Child Care Center Board – 7 p.m.
- 27 Witness & Renewal Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
- 28 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 5 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 7 Boy Scouts of America Meet & Greet—6 p.m.
@ Generations Park
- 11 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
- 13 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 15-16 BHA Fall Festival @ Rockingham Fairgrounds
- 19 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

For Our Prayers during the Month of September 2017

Each month a prayer list with opportunities for directed prayer is included with our newsletter. In addition to highlighting specific prayer requests, we are invited to pray with particular mindfulness of the persons connected with our congregation and community. Additionally, focusing thoughts and prayers around the following may be helpful as a guide:

Our Congregation and its Ministries, Vision and Mission

Those who are...

- Starting or restarting school and academic schedules
- Attending, serving and participating in National Older Adult Conference Activities
- Facing financial hardships
- Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute
- Seeking spiritual renewal
- Carrying heavy burdens at work, home, or within
- Struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts
- Finding peace and contentment
- In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss of relationship
- Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings
- Seeking a new church home
- Advocating for justice and righteousness
- Wrestling with their faith

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...Our Nation and World amid transitions of power and leadership

...those in Nigeria... facing violence, kidnappings, and deep unrest...and for those committing these atrocities

We continue to pray specifically for Hauwa Abdu, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in April 2014.

We give thanks for the release of 82 of these girls in May of this year.

...our congregation, district, and denomination

...victims of hate crimes, violence, racism, and intolerance

...those who grieve, especially the families and friends of...

Barbara "Bobbi" Georg, wife of Marvin Georg who died August 18

Dolores Poling, sister of Margaret Garner, who died June 25; Dorris Wampler, wife of Fred Wampler and mother of Rick Wampler, who died June 19; Alton Hipps, father of John Hipps who died June 13; Donna Skrobala, daughter of Margaret Horn who died May 26; Glen Naff, brother of Betty Caricofe, who died May 25

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, receiving treatments, recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation...

Pat Compton, Denny Eye, Valley Keplinger, Charlotte McKay, Wilma Robertson, John Sayre, Delores Simmons, Dale Ulrich, Anna Mae Will

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically... in Bridgewater Home

...those in Military Service, specifically...Seth Flory, Tyler Hopkins, Kent Hutchinson

...those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently...

Jessie Valdez, friend of Fonda Erdman;

Samuel Sheffer, nephew of Patty Figs;

Rebecca Flick, granddaughter of Charlie & Jackie Flick and Linda & Norman Liskey

For these and all God's Children we pray...

