

## The Familiar and the Unexpected

Walking is a miracle of balance and coordination. It's so familiar, that we do it most of the time with very little thought. Just take a moment and think about it. When I do, many scenes of walking come rushing to mind. I walked to school, walked down the aisle to join my husband in marriage, walked the floors at night holding restless babies, and walked the halls and playgrounds of a teaching career. I've also walked through majestic, vacation locales, and walked among my flower gardens at home.

When I renewed my relationship with God, my life was changed by the gift of transforming love and acceptance. By faith I walked in a new direction with God, and trusted God's leading. Embracing this walk has led me into some unexpected situations, but I am thankful for the journey.

Take this writing assignment for instance. The cover photo was included with the bulletin theme. It surprised me, because I recognized the scene immediately! It is early morning at Lake Junaluska during the 2015 National Older Adult Conference. Two women are participating in the charity walk supporting important ministries. The woman on the left is my dear friend from church. We had traveled together. While walking around the lake that morning, I had gotten a little ahead, unaware that a picture had been snapped!

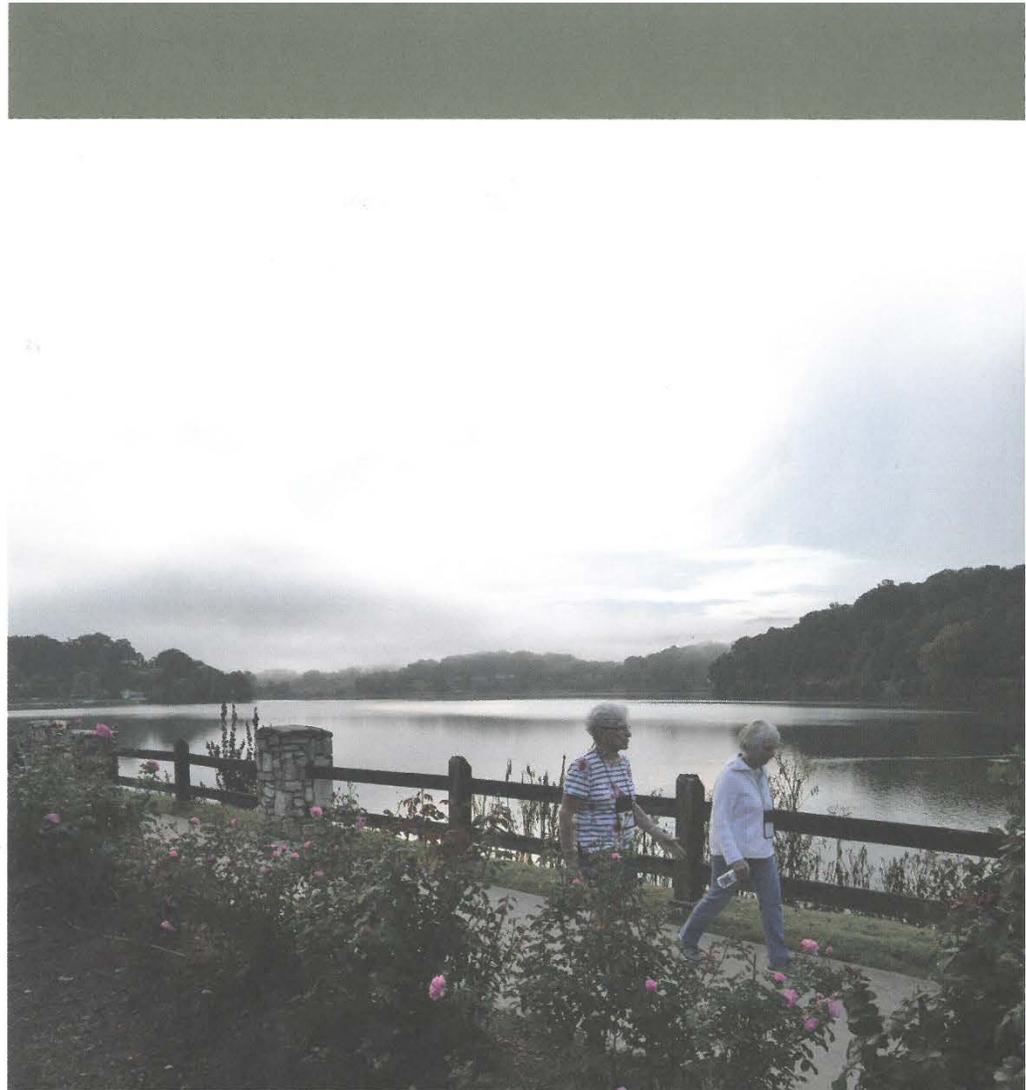
So, how did this unexpected series of events lead me to receive this photo as part of my assignment? How had God walked these individuals—the photographer, my friend, those who selected the photo and then contacted me—through time and space, and then included me, completely unaware of the connections? I don't have the answers. I only know that God blesses us with wondrous works, sometimes unexpected, as we walk in faithfulness.

*God of the past, your love was with us before we walked together. God of the present, your love is with us as we walk together today. God of the future, your love will be with us wherever we walk, forever.*

—Karen Crim Dillon  
Salem Church of the Brethren  
Englewood, Ohio

**Text for today:** "Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and *I walk in faithfulness to you*" (Psalm 26:1-3, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8 (3); Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford; © 2017 Church of the Brethren  
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*I walk in  
faithfulness to you*

# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship September 3, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (11:00) "Lord Jesus Christ, Turn to Us" *J. S. Bach*  
Cantilena *Josef G. Rheinberger*

**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.

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Hymnal #758

**THE MALVERN CHIME** (11:00) Priory Church Worcestershire

## PROCLAIMING

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 16:21-28 *NRSV*

**\*HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT #1061** (8:30) *I have decided to follow Jesus*

**\*HYMN # 77** (11:00) *God of many names* MANY NAMES  
The choir will sing v. 1 and the congregation can join the choir in singing vv.2-3

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Janean Fawley  
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.

**ANTHEM** (11:00) My Faith, My Hope *Gwyneth Walker*

**SCRIPTURE READING** (8:30) Exodus 3:1-15 *NRSV*

**SCRIPTURE READING** (11:00) The Story of Moses  
as told by Gwen Carr using *Godly Play*

**SERMON** "The Labor of Following and Leading" Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

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

**\*HYMN # 577** *O Love that will not let me go* ST. MAGARET

## OFFERING

### Invitation Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.  
(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

"Greet the Rising Sun" *George Lachenauer*  
LE P'ING (Chinese folk tune)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*HYMN # 395** *Here I am, Lord*

## \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Postludio *Costante Adolfo Bossi*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

September 3-9, 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.

<b>Mon.</b>	Church Offices Closed – Labor Day Holiday		
<b>Wed.</b>	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	6:00	Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

### NEXT SUNDAY– September 10, 2017 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### **WELCOME BACK SUNDAY**

**Worship:** 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary  
Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp  
Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-4  
Sermon: “Love is all you need?”  
**Sunday School** – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms  
**Church Picnic** – Noon – Social Hall

### **AGING MASTERY PROGRAM**

The first Aging Mastery Program (AMP) begins on Tuesday, September 12 at 2:00-3:30 pm at the Sentara RMH Atrium in Harrisonburg. This 10 week workshop continues through November 14, 2017 and is designed for adults that want to be proactive and master the challenges of aging. During each session community experts will share information and lead discussion about health, finance, relationships, personal growth, and community involvement. See poster and list of speakers in the greeting hall for more information. To register call Sentara RMH at: (800)736-8272 by Thursday, September 7. Registration fee of \$99 covers curriculum costs.

## 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

### 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) – Kathy Shrader

**Head Usher** – Kevin Keplinger

**Decorator** – Lori Lineweaver

**Deacon Caregiver** – Andrea Miracle

**Van Drivers** – Melvin Wampler and Eliana Teshome

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 08/27/17**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 19 11:00 – 256 Sunday School:136**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$9,034.00
Loose Offering	529.50
Church User Fees	50.00
Habitat House	200.00
Open Door Sunday School Class	260.00

### **TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT TRANSLATION: George Herbert**

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, Such a Life out-liveth death.

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, Spirit, come! My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, Such a Heart, as joys in love.

My Faith, my Hope, my Strength, my Light...

Such a Life out-liveth death:

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Way, as ends all strife.

Come, my Truth, Come, my Heart, Come, my Life, Come, my Faith,

Come, my Hope, Come, my Strength, my Light!

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### **CHURCH PICNIC: September 10**

Join us after Worship at 11 o'clock next Sunday, September 10, for the BWCOB All-Church Picnic! Feel free to dress in your best "picnic clothes" that day. Bring your lawn chairs if you want to sit outside, favorite backyard games, and some potluck food to share. **Meats and vegetarian options will be provided** along with 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.)

Food service lines and seating will be available inside. And don't worry if it is too much for you to bring a dish... Come anyway!

**Fun for all ages!**

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM** will

resume September 13. Schedule will be as follows:

5:15 – Cherub Choir Rehearsal in the Agape Room

5:45 – Carol Choir Rehearsal in the Agape Room

6:30 – YORFFs Rehearsal in Room # 35

### **Exodus 3:1-15 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

### **Matthew 16:21-28 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup> "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."