

## Loving as Christ Loved

Throughout Jesus' ministry, the religious leaders tried to trap him with hard questions. In Matthew 22, the Pharisees got together and tested Jesus by asking him which of the commandments was the greatest. They thought this question would certainly trip him up!

Jesus responded that the first and greatest commandment is: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

To love God with all your heart is to put God first and to trust God completely (Matt. 6:33).

To love God with all your soul is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to die for our sins (Romans 5:8).

To love God with all your mind is to concentrate continually on God's goodness and grace (Phil. 4:4-8).

This is God's *greatest* command.

Jesus then quoted the second greatest commandment, which is like the first: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Loving your neighbor is putting your faith to use. Jesus taught that even those whom we consider enemies are our neighbors (see Luke 10:25-37). That should be a sobering thought in our divided world today. It's easy to be critical of those whom we disagree with, and it's also easy to fall in line with those teaching and practicing hate against others who are different from us. We would do well to remember that Jesus loved unconditionally.

"You shall love . . ." is a command for today for all Christians, not just a suggestion. How are you loving as Christ loved you?

— Tim Laird, pastor  
Cerro Gordo Church of the Brethren  
Cerro Gordo, Illinois

**Text for today:** "When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:34-40, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46 (37).

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# THE BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship September 10, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

"Love is the medicine for the sickness of the world." ~Karl Menninger

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (8:30) What the World Needs Now is Love *Burt Bacharach*  
(11:00) Praeludium und Fuge *Vincent Lübeck*  
Voluntary, Op. 7 No. VI *John Stanley*

## CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER 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.

## \* WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

\* **THE NORFOLK CHIME** (11:00) Norfolk, CT

\***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~from *Homiletics*, adapted

One: We are gathered in the name of Jesus – together, the children of a loving God.

**All: May the peace and love of Christ be upon us.**

One: We are neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers – together, the family of God.

**All: May the peace and love of Christ be upon us.**

One: We are not the same, and we don't always agree, but together we look toward our God.

**All: May the peace and love of Christ be upon us.**

One: Today, we set aside what divides us and embrace what unites us – together, raising our voices in song and praise to our God.

**All: May the peace and love of Christ be upon us, that we may live and love like him.**

\***HYMN # 55** *Let's sing unto the Lord* ROSAS

## PROCLAIMING

**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.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION VOLUNTEER DEDICATION

### OFFERING

**Invitation** ~*Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion*, adapted

**Offertory**  
(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.  
The Love of God *Lehman*

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.  
Prelude on DOMINUS REGIT ME *Healey Willan*  
("The King of Love my Shepherd Is")

**Prayer of Dedication** ~*Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion*, adapted

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Romans 13:8-14 *NRSV & The Message*

\***HYMN # 363** *Renew your church* ALL IS WELL

**VIDEO** 156 countries sing together  
"All You Need is Love!" by the Beatles  
from the Starbucks Love Project Global Sing Along

**HOMILY** "Love is all you need?" *Chris Zepp*

## RESPONDING

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

**ANTHEM** (11:00) Shepherd Me, O God *Marty Haugen*  
Pam Mason and Andrea Nolley, *flute*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** ~*Homiletics*, adapted

\***HYMN # 592** *Love divine, all loves excelling* BEECHER

\* **BENEDICTION**  
**\*and Meal Blessing** (11:00)

**POSTLUDE** (8:30) Love Divine *Zundel, arr. by Lawrence Grant*  
(11:00) *Festival Postlude* *Domenico Zipoli*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

September 10-16, 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** – Join us after Worship at 11 for our **BWCOB All-Church Picnic!**  
Don't worry if you didn't bring a dish to share – just come and enjoy!  
Food service lines in the Social Hall. Fun & Games in the Backyard.

**Mon.** 7:00 Finance Commission Lounge

**Wed.** 10:30 a.m. Office Staff Meeting Pastor's Office  
2:00 Jubilee Circle – Smith Room, Maple Terrace  
5:15 Cherub Choir Rehearsal Agape Room  
5:45 Carol Choir Rehearsal Agape Room  
6:30 YORFFs Rehearsal Room # 35  
6:30 JOY Circle – Home of Deb Mitchell

**Thurs.** 7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**Fri-Sun** Brethren Student Movement Lock-In @ Brethren Woods

### NEXT SUNDAY– September 17, 2017 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Sermon: “Community”

**Blood Pressure Clinic** – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Receptionist Area

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

### ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 09/03/17

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 25 11:00 – 227 Sunday School: 122**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$13,337.75
Loose Offering	904.00
Church User Fees	2,235.00
Food Pantry	400.00
Hurricane Harvey Relief	325.00
Brethren Student Movement	10.00
EYN Compassion Fund	100.00
Honorarium for John Glick	50.00

## 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

### 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**

Names tags; 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) – Ann Daggett

**Head Usher** – Kevin Keplinger

**Decorator** – Lori Lineweaver

**Deacon Caregiver** – Andrea Miracle

**Van Driver** – Wayne Angleberger

**Worship Leader** – Jonathon Wilson

### **TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Psalm 23**

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears,  
from death into life.*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
Rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. [Refrain]  
Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name. [Refrain]  
Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. [Refrain]  
You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my power to hold [Refrain]  
Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. [Refrain]

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### **CHILDREN'S MUSIC ENSEMBLES** will resume practicing this

Wednesday, 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

### **CDS UPDATE**

The training workshop for Children's Disaster Service, hosted by BWCOB, has a full roster of registered participants! As host church, we are responsible for providing the space for meetings and activities, providing meals for participants, and transportation for trainers. Contact Gladys Remnant ([gremnant@aol.com](mailto:gremnant@aol.com) or 828-4377) for ways you can assist with this important and timely ministry.

### **POWER, PRIVILEGE and the JOURNEY TOWARDS JUSTICE**

Registration is now open for this timely conference co-sponsored by BMC and OEP to be held here at BWCOB Oct. 20-22. Registration details and more information are available in the brochures in the literature rack. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, including meals, childcare, and providing housing for participants. Please contact Pastor Chris if you have questions or might be able to help.

### **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. Today is the last day to order your copy through our office at an estimated cost of \$18.50 OR you may obtain your own copy. We will discuss Day I (through page 80) on September 20.

*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."

## 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.

- 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

## **MCINTYRE ASSISTANCE FUND**

Carl and Samantha McIntyre and their sons moved to Lumberton, Texas early this year. (Carl is the son of Peggy Lineweaver and Steve McIntyre.) The contents of their home near Beaumont were ruined during Hurricane Harvey and the house sustained significant structural damage. They are grateful for the blessing of safety, the prayers of so many, and Carl's continued employment. Currently Samantha and the boys are staying with her parents near Houston and Carl is with friends so he can be close to work.

Many of you have asked how to help. A fund has been established to receive donations for Carl and Samantha as they respond to this challenge.

- Checks should be written to the BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN. In the memo line write MCINTYRE FUND.
- Donations may be shared in the Sunday morning offering, delivered to the church office, or mailed to Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, Attention: McIntyre Fund, 420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812.
- Please be aware that donations are NOT tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued prayers for all those affected by this disaster. Please feel free to share this information with others.

## **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 is meeting this Sunday for the first time. 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.