

Harvesting Kingdom Fruits

Every spring, my husband and I plant a large vegetable garden. Like the vineyard owner in today's scripture, we anticipate a productive harvest: green beans, tomatoes, sweet corn, raspberries, cucumbers, and other produce that I will freeze and preserve for use during the winter months.

I'll admit that it is a lot of work. And while we cannot control the weather (or the deer and groundhogs who want to "share" the harvest), our faithful planting, watering, and weeding throughout the hot summer months are necessary if we want to open a jar of homemade pickles or salsa come January.

I wonder if the persistence and faithfulness required to grow vegetables in a garden are actually some of the rewards of garden work, part of the harvest we receive. The more we exercise persistence and faithfulness in our daily tasks, the more persistent and faithful we become in all of life's situations and relationships.

I believe the same is true of the other fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness (see Galatians 5:22). Perhaps they are the real fruits of God's kingdom that we are invited to tend and harvest.

Creator God, as we celebrate the harvest of gardens and fields this autumn, may the harvest of your kingdom fruits in our lives be just as bountiful. Amen.

—Karen B. Haldeman
Palmyra Church of the Brethren
Palmyra, Pennsylvania

Text for today: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' [The chief priests and the elders] said to [Jesus], 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces *the fruits of the kingdom*'" (Matt. 21:33-43, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46 (43).

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The fruits of the kingdom

THE BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

*"When in the dark night of suffering
sagacity cannot see a handbreadth ahead of it,
then faith can see God,
since faith sees best in the dark."*

~Soren Kierkegaard
Uplifting Discourses in Various Spirits

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Variations on: *Franklin D. Ashdown*
"Morning Has Broken"
Sing My Tongue (Pange Lingua) *Wilbur Held*
Where Charity and Love Prevail *Charles Callahan*
(Ubi caritas et amor)

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.

THE TRINITY CHIME (11:00) *Charles A. Jacques*

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~Hymnal #661, adapted
One: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.
**All: We come seeking the cloud of your presence
as we travel the way.**
One: We come seeking your pillar of fire to light our darkness.
**All: Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your live.
Make your presence known, as we gather in this place.**

***HYMN # 6** *Here in this place* GATHER US IN

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** ~Sing the Story, #127, adapted

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Mike Fike
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.

OFFERING

Invitation

~Sing the Journey, #147, adapted

Offertory

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

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

Largo e spiccato *Vivaldi – Bach*
from Concerto in D minor

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 21:33-46 *NRSV*
Philippians 3:4b-14

***HYMN # 575** *Precious Lord, take my hand* PRECIOUS LORD

SERMON "Learning to Walk in the Dark" Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

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

ANTHEM (11:00) Hope of the World *Taylor Davis*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*** BENEDICTION** ~Iona Community; *Hymnal Supplement* #1060

POSTLUDE (11:00) Thanks Be to God *John Dunstable*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

October 8-14, 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	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Mon.	5:00	Retired Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Finance Commission	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	8 a.m.	Bridgewater Area Ministers	Maple Terrace
	10:30 a.m.	Office Staff Meeting	Sr. Pastor's Office
	2:00	Jubilee Circle – Smith Room at Maple Terrace	
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YORFFs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Friendship Circle – Home of Kathy Zimmerman	
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.	5:00	Autumn Celebration	Social Hall

NEXT SUNDAY– October 15, 2017 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Preaching: Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Learned, Received, Heard and Seen”

Scripture Readings: Matthew 22:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9

Children's Worship during Worship at 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Office Reception Area

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

Youth Play, Create, & Unwind – Noon – Youth Room

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 / (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) – Ann Daggett

Music Leader (11:00) – Jesse Hopkins

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Decorators – Heather & Ryan Kiracofe

Deacon Caregivers – Betty & Sheldon Propst

Van Driver – Rod Miller

Worship Leader – Alice Lee Hopkins

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 10/8/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 250 Children's – 17

Sunday School: 171

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$14,571.00
Loose Offering	536.25
Food Pantry	100.00
Fellowship Time	38.79
Disaster Relief	88.79
Building Repair Reserve	3,127.00
Youth Programs	559.00
Jubilee Circle	23.00
EYN Compassion Fund	100.00
Seekers Sunday School Class	294.00
Open Door Sunday School Class	35.00
Friendship Circle	250.00
Hurricane Relief 2017	600.00
McIntyre Assistance Fund	630.00
John & Bonnie Glick Honorarium	50.00

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: George Harkness, 1891-1974

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.

Save us, thy people from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,

Still let thy spirit unto us be given,

To heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,

Showing to wand'ring souls the path of light,

Walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways lure us away from thee to
endless night.

Hope of the World. Christ, o'er death victorious,

Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,

We would be faithful to thy gospel glorious; thou art our Lord!

Thou dost forever reign. Hope of the world.

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AUTUMN CELEBRATION

On Saturday, October 14, Fellowship & Recreation Commission will host a special evening of fun for everyone in the social hall. Bring friends, family, or anyone else who is looking to have a fun evening. Also, bring a sandwich or equivalent for everyone in your family (finger foods and beverages will be provided). At 5:00 p.m. the pumpkin carving contest will begin. To enter, bring your pumpkin, any tools you will need to carve with, and a container in which to collect money. If you cannot bring a pumpkin but want to participate in the contest, please call Palmer Lee Berry at 828-2386 and he will provide one for you. At 6:00 p.m., when dinner begins, people can vote on their favorite carved pumpkin by donating money in their respective containers. The pumpkin that raises the most money will be declared the winner. All proceeds will benefit the John Kline Homestead Trust. After dinner, around 7:00 p.m., music, games, and more fun will begin. Everyone is welcome! For more information or if you want to participate, contact Palmer Lee Berry. Let's make this autumn well worth celebrating!

GIVING STATEMENTS through the third quarter are available for pick up today and next Sunday.



CENTRAL VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WHERE 295 Burgess Road, Harrisonburg, VA

WHEN Monday, October 23rd **FROM** 04:00pm - 08:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase. Gift card purchases and catering are not counted towards the event.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/Fundraiser

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Enter "FUND" at checkout to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

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POWER PRIVILEGE *and the* JOURNEY TOWARDS JUSTICE

OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
BRIDGEWATER CHURCH
OF THE BRETHREN

Register now for this timely conference event, co-sponsored by BMC and OEP. Facilitators Regina Shands Stoltzfus and Matt Guynn will help participants meet the goals of the weekend: to examine how power and privilege affects our individual and corporate lives; to analyze how power operates within the church; to learn new ways to use power to further nonviolent change; and to share experiences of liberation through storytelling, worship and conversation. CEUs are available. Registration cost increases October 9.

Brochures are available in the literature rack or by visiting https://docs.wixstatic.com/uqd/fa8ffe_0442e2c19b7e493aa2e42cfff3bb2dd6.pdf.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/BMC-OEP-Bridgewater>

Matthew 21:33-46 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;^[a]
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.^[b]

⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’^[c]

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Philippians 3:4-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,^[a] the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ^[b] and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;^[c] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Beloved,^[d] I do not consider that I have made it my own;^[e] but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly^[f] call of God in Christ Jesus.