

Directions from Heaven

Years ago, I was looking for a cattle ranch in the canyon country of the Texas Panhandle. I asked for directions from a flatland farmer near the canyon edge. He told me to follow the road until I came to a red barn and then turn left. I drove and drove, but no red barn. I returned to the farmer for a retake. He thought for a moment and said: "Oh yeah, they painted that barn gray several years ago!"

It is easy to get lost when you don't know the territory. Lostness is a common human condition, but Christ knows the territory and gives us a gospel roadmap and a GPS (God's Plan for Service), that keep us on course and equip us to rescue wanderers we find along the way. To travel into the unknown under those conditions keeps our zest for life and makes us mindful of the needs of others.

*Go now into the world, good friends, and share your faith anew.
Touch all you meet with Christ's dear love in everything you do.*

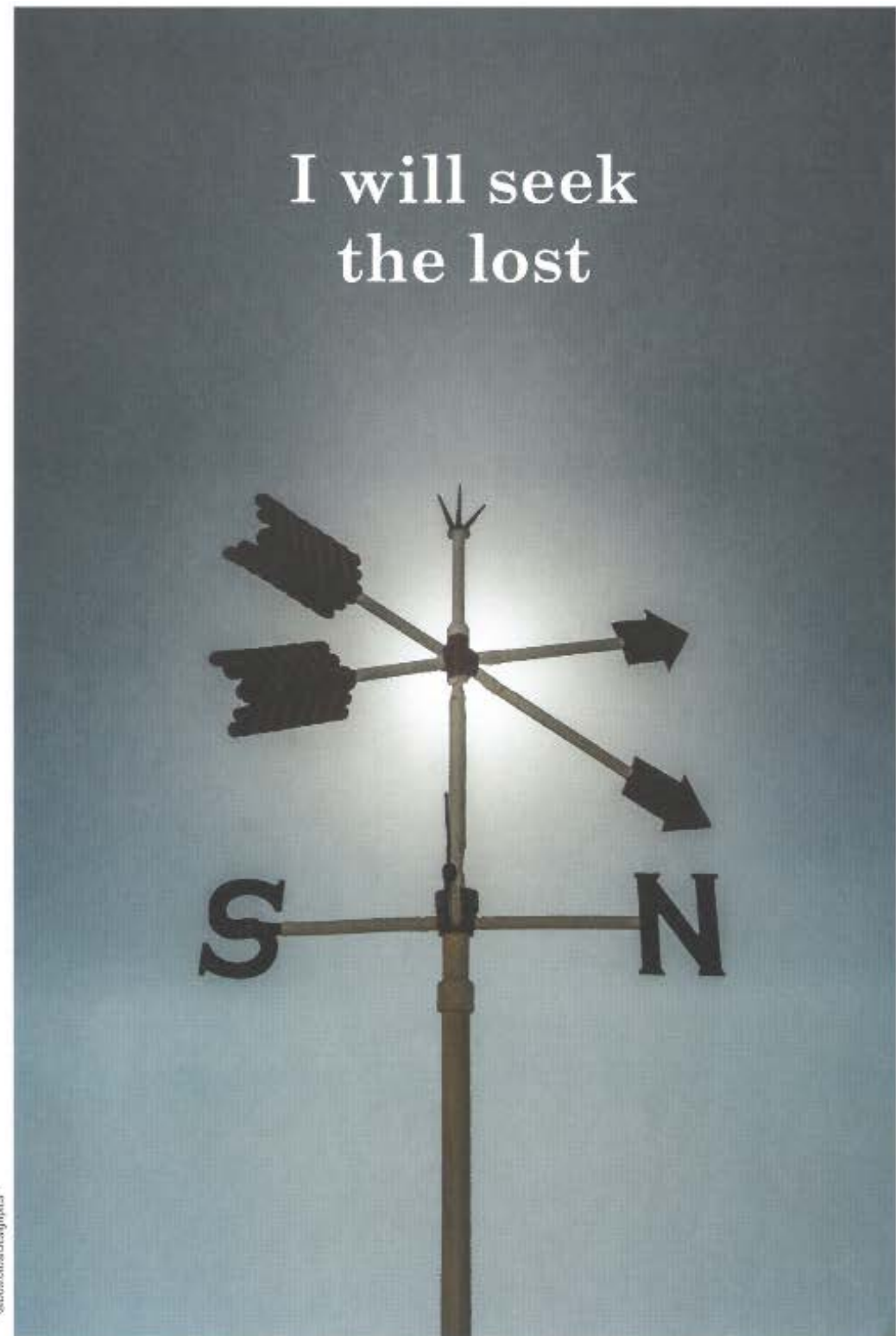
*Give witness now in word and deed, let all creation know
that Christ is Lord o'er life and death, to heaven the faithful go.*

*Fear not, dear flock, Christ is our guide, the Spirit's power comes new.
We are his faithful witnesses; to Christ we will be true.**

—Clyde C. Fry, *Creation Care Advocate*
Northern Ohio District
Church of the Brethren

Text for today: "For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture . . . I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. *I will seek the lost*, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice" (Ezek. 34:11-16, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (16); Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

11-26-17, Christ the King. Printed in the USA
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*Can be sung to ST. ANNE (8.6.8.6).



BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship November 26, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Chorale Improvisation on: *Paul Manz*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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 MALVERN CHIME (11:00) *Worcestershire*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 100

***HYMN # 48** *All creatures of our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Josh Eye
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.

HAND BELL ANTHEM (11:00) *Kevin McChesney*
Fanfare for a Festive Occasion
Adeline Hipps, *French Horn*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-46 *NRSV*

HYMN SING (8:30) Jim & Phyllis Gaskins, and Brent Holl
Holy Manna
How Can I Keep From Singing
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ANTHEM (11:00) Be Still and Know *Victor C. Johnson*

SERMON "Is it Christmas Yet?" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN INSERT** *Christ's is the world* DREAM ANGUS

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

OFFERING
Invitation
Offertory

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

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

"He Shall Feed His Flock"

G. F. Handel
arr. Wilbur Held

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jeff Carr

***HYMN # 318** *Joy to the world* ANTIOCH

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) "King of Kings" *G. F. Handel*
arr. Donald Moore

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

November 26-December 2, 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	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Reception
Tues.	6:15	Child Care Center Board	Lounge
Wed.	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YORFFs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	6:30	Witness & Nurture Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Executive Committee	Seekers Room
Thurs.	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Thurs.-Sat.		Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Bridgewater Foods Market	
Sat.	11 a.m.	Memorial Service for Julie Hostetter	Sanctuary
	4:30	Advent Celebration	Social Hall

NEXT SUNDAY– December 3, 2017 – First Sunday in Advent

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Shining Faces”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 64:1-9;

Mark 13:24-37

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11

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

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Sr. Hi. Movie & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Home of the Zepp’s

BRC Lovelight Service – 7 p.m. – Lantz Chapel

BSM Leadership Team – 8:30 p.m. – Lounge

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) – Betty Caricofe

String Music (8:30) – Jim & Phyllis Gaskins, Brent Holl

Head Usher – Kevin Keplinger

Decorators – Heather Barkey & Becky Replogle

Sound & Light Operator – David Lineweaver

Deacon Caregiver – Amanda Zepp

Van Driver – Melvin Wampler

Worship Leader – Ben Neher

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Victor C. Johnson

Be still and know that He is God.

He will comfort you, keep and strengthen you;

Be still and know that He is God.

In your time of tribulation He will be your strength.

In your moments of loneliness, He will bring you peace.

Be still and know that He is God. Be still. Be still.

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CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Gifts (Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services gift-giving program) are due back today. If any questions, please see Jeannie Turner in the Greeting Hall.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

By **ringing the bell** you can make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate. There are sign-up sheets on the greeting hall hospitality desk and times available to staff the Salvation Army booth at Bridgewater Foods Market. Our church is responsible for Thursday-Saturday, November 30-December 2, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. each day. Your time for this project is very much appreciated.

BRIDGEWATER CHRISTMAS PARADE

Come help spread Christmas Cheer: join us on the Church of the Brethren wagon and sing Christmas carols in the Bridgewater Christmas Parade, December 9, at 9:00 a.m. More information about the location and line-up time will be available in the bulletin prior to the Parade.

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 11/19/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 19 11:00 – 246 Children's - 17

Sunday School: 162

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$7,248.34
Loose Offering	838.00
Books	11.00
College Care Packages	90.00
Backpack Program	125.00
EYN Compassion Fund	100.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	142.00
Friendship Circle	100.00
McIntyre Assistance Fund	200.00
Clayton Towers Memorial Fund	75.00
Charlotte McKay Memorial Fund	50.00

Alternative Christmas Fair Proceeds to Date: \$7,526.57

Christ's is the World

1 Christ's is the world in which we move,
 2 Feel for the people we most avoid,
 3 Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
 4 Feel for the lives by life confused,
 Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
 strange or bereaved or never employed;
 feel for the women whom men have defiled,
 ridiculed with doubt in loving abused;
 Christ's is the voice which calls us to care, and
 feel for the women, and feel for the men who
 feel for the baby for whom there's no breast, and
 feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin, which
 Christ is the one who meets us here.
 fear that their living is all in vain.
 feel for the weary who find no rest.
 longs to be pure but fears to begin.
 To the lost Christ shows his face;
 to the unloved he gives his embrace;
 to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ
 makes, with his friends, a touching place.

Text: John L. Bell, © 1989, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 DREAM ANGUS, Irregular; Scottish folk song
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