



*...an inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus and live the love of God.*

October 24, 2017

Dear Members & Friends of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren,

We have something to celebrate! Today and every day, we celebrate the ways that our church family continues the work of Jesus in the world. We do it by showing healing, hope, and faith in Christ's name to neighbors near and far, far away. We do it by sharing from our abundant blessings in praise and thanks to God.

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren is full of incredibly generous givers. Whenever there is a need, our church family responds with generosity and love that we sometimes take for granted. But today, we stop to say "Thank you." To everyone from the smallest child with their Sunday School offering to weekly donors to special gifts marking special times in life, we say "Thank you, one and all." Your financial gifts DO make a difference in our community and in the world.

We thank you, too, for gifts of your time and action. Building a new Habitat house. Delivering worship bulletins to shut-ins with a reminder that their church cares. Speaking words of comfort to a hungry heart. Guiding youth and college students along their faith journeys. Praying without ceasing. Providing music that stirs and comforts. Volunteering for Children's Disaster Services and cooking meals for CDS trainees. You do it because you care. You do it because our faith calls for action.

Along with our appreciation, we ask you to help us prepare for the continuing and future ministries of our congregation. Please consider how much you hope and plan to give financially to the work of the church in 2018. This is a flexible commitment that will help guide the Finance Commission in assigning resources for the coming year.

The enclosed card will allow you to estimate how much you can give in 2018, as well as indicating how you prefer to make your contributions – through weekly or monthly giving (with envelopes provided if you so indicate), through regular direct withdrawals from your financial institution, or, for some, through your required minimum IRA withdrawal. If you have any questions or would like to discuss other options, the Finance Commission would be glad to speak with you.

Please complete the enclosed card and bring it to worship on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Thank you for your caring hearts and generous gifts.

In Christian Love and Gratitude,

Anita Beckman, Chair, Finance Commission



## Happy Thanksgiving



### PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Pastor Chris invites you to join him for the next book discussion on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 pm, on November 1 and 15. We will be discussing *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the Twenty-First Century* (2017) by the late scholar and theologian Marcus Borg. "Provocative and uplifting, this anthology illuminates Borg's explorations of the miraculous and wonderful, his understanding of conviction and fulfillment, and his contention that we must keep an open mind and question assumptions and certainties in all our religious journeys." If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy. We will discuss chapters 1-8 (through page 130) on November 1. And do note – you do not need to have read or purchased the book to participate (though it is, of course, very helpful!)

### INTERIM FINANCIAL SECRETARY POSITION

BWCOB is looking to hire a person for a part-time *Interim Financial Secretary* position. The person in this role will provide support and detail management, serving as a coordinator for the Treasurer of the financial resources of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, working approximately 12 hours per week.

The Primary responsibilities include:

**Accounts Payable & Payroll**  
**Contribution Records**  
**Congregational Giving Records**

A qualified candidate will have:

- **Familiarity and skills in computerized fund accounting, General Ledger, and computerized contribution reports integrated with the General Ledger.**
- **Ability to work cooperatively with staff and with a congregation.**
- **Personal harmony with the values and program of the Church of the Brethren.**
- **A commitment to the vision, mission, and values of the congregation.**

If you are interested or have a recommendation of someone whom you believe will be a good match for this position, please contact the church office ([churchoffice@bwcob.org](mailto:churchoffice@bwcob.org) or 828-3711).

## NOTES OF THANKS

*I deeply appreciate the many visits and cards I received during my stay at the BRC Nursing Facility's Wellness Household these past three months.* ~ Pat Compton

*We can't begin to say thank you enough to every person who has donated things, sent money, helped us physically, plans to help us as we rebuild, thought about us or prayed for us these last several weeks since Hurricane Harvey hit our home. We wish we could personally thank each and every one of you, and deliver each thank you with a hug, but it's just not possible with the overwhelming amount of love and prayers we have received.*

~ Carl, Samantha, Ace and Duke McIntyre

*Thank you for cards, calls, visits and remembrances recently.* ~ Doris Smootz

*Once I received a request from the local newspaper for a picture of our church, in an effort to identify the various churches in town. I sent a snapshot of our congregation standing in worship, joyously singing the opening hymn of praise. It was returned in three days asking instead for a picture of the building, never thinking of the church as people. How great it is when you are in the hospital to remember a group of people at home all thinking of you and supporting you to get well. Thanks so much for all your care. It meant more than you will ever know, and I still think I sent the right picture the first time.*

~ Wayne Judd

*A significant part of Deacon Caregivers outreach involves a greeting card ministry for our congregational family. Janice Wade has been instrumental in providing beautiful cards to Deacons for this purpose. Janice recycles donated cards and creates beautiful new cards with fresh and meaningful sentiments. Thank you, Janice, for sharing your talent and for donating cards that enrich the lives of so many in our congregation.* ~ Deacons

*Please extend our thanks to everyone who helped for their recent support and hard work volunteering at the Red Front hot dog booth fundraiser in support of Brethren Woods. Your generosity assists us in maintaining a beautiful facility as well as providing meaningful experiences for a lot of people. Thank you for sharing your love of Christ!* ~ Doug Phillips

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

November 5—22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 107:1-9, 33-37;

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon: "Witness Generosity"

November 12—23rd Sunday after Pentecost

*Junior High Youth Sunday*

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: "And Who is My Neighbor?"

November 19—24th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;  
Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "The 'T' in tsp"

November 26—25th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: "Is it Christmas Yet?"



## SIMPLIFY: A SIMPLE LIVING WEEKEND

Brethren Woods is sponsoring a weekend conference on the historic Anabaptist value of simple living. Keynotes will focus on themes such as what nonconformity looks like in a globalized economy and a Biblical theology of simple living. Workshops will look at how to hypermile your car to get 10-50% more miles to the gallon, how technology affects our spiritual life and what to do about it, how to make your home more sustainable, a look at plain dress yesterday and today, living simply as it relates to ministry, and so much more. Learning begins on Friday night, November 10, with registration at 6 p.m., followed by worship, conversation, and fellowship. Saturday, November 11, will include workshops, keynotes, and lunch. Registration forms are available from the literature rack in the greeting hall. Or you may call Brethren Woods for more information at 296-2741; website: [www.brethrenwoods.org](http://www.brethrenwoods.org).

## JUBILEE CIRCLE

The final Jubilee Circle meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 8, at 2:00 p.m. The group will meet in the Smith Room of Maple Terrace at Bridgewater Home. The speaker, a representative from Gemeinschaft Home, will explain the purpose and work of Gemeinschaft. Come enjoy fellowship with other women and learn more about this worthwhile organization. Leadership for 2018 is needed. Come be a part of team leadership.



## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Plans are being made for the Alternative Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday, November 11, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at our church. Come and support the many organizations that will be represented by making donations to your favorite ones. Bridgewater College students are also assisting in making the Fair a reality.

A few of the many worthwhile organizations to be represented include Collins Center, First Step, Habitat for Humanity, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic, Heifer International, John Kline Homestead, New Community Project, Trees for Life, and Valley Program for Aging Services. There will also be a bake sale and lunch.

Christmas is coming, so consider using contributions to these organizations as your gifts to family and loved ones.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROJECT

This is the second year that our congregation is participating in giving gifts for children and adults in need that receive assistance from the Harrisonburg Rockingham Social Services District. These gifts last Christmas helped provide gifts for 1857 children from 750 families and to 196 adults in our community. This year as in prior years the agency is providing gifts for children and some elderly or disabled adults in their caseloads who will have little for the holiday season. The H/R Social Services District anticipates that gifts for approximately 1850 children and 200 adults will be provided this year. Last year our congregation provided 30 gifts for children and 10 gifts for adults; we are requesting the same number of gift tags this year. Gift tags will be available **November 12 and 19** in the Greeting Hall. To participate, select a gift tag from the display, purchase gift requested (approximate value of \$25), and return wrapped gift with tag attached to the Greeting Hall by **November 26**.

## CELEBRATING ADVENT

Saturday, December 2

**Crafts—4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Carry-in Meal—5:30 p.m.**

(Bring a dish or two to share)

Worship Service and singing following the meal

*Come join us and bring a friend!*

## IT'S TIME TO RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

A little time can go a long way in helping others less fortunate have a brighter Christmas. One way you can be one of those persons is by signing up to **Ring the Bell** and staff the Salvation Army booth at Bridgewater Foods Market. Our church will staff the booth Thursday-Saturday, November 30-December 2, from 9 a.m. 'til 8 p.m. each day. There will be sign-up sheets on the greeting hall hospitality desk on Sundays, November 19 & 26 for you to select a time convenient for you. You can staff the booth by yourself for two hours or sign up with a friend and each ring the bell for an hour. Your participation is very much appreciated!

## For Our Prayers during the Month of November 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...*

Recovering, rebuilding and grieving from natural disasters

Facing financial hardships

Starting new ventures, jobs, establishing new homes and new rhythms

Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute

Seeking employment and who have lost work

Finding peace and contentment

In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss of relationship

Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings

Survivors, Victims, Witnesses, and Perpetrators of violence, intolerance, racism and hatred

Advocating for justice and righteousness

Wrestling with their faith

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

#### *...Our Nation and World*

*...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*

*... those recently married, especially...*

*Ryan Nolley & Sarah Gotrell* on October 7

*Colton Ringgold & Megan Cave* on October 7

*... those under the care of Hospices, Palliative Care and Comfort Care*

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

*Charlotte McKay*, who died October 19

*Clayton Towers*, husband of Jackie and father of Jane, Susan Anhold, and Jim who died October 6

*Kay Dove*, sister of Ray Ringgold who died September 29

*Hilda Welch*, who died September 22

*Margaret Strato*, mother of Sarah Rees, who died August 29; *Doris Nolley Markle*, mother of Curtis Nolley, who died August 25; *Virgie McIntyre*, mother-in-law of Phil Flory, who died July 22

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

*Sid Grove, Dean Neher, Doris Good, Fortunato Correa*

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

*...those in Volunteer Service, specifically... Stephen Miller (Japan)*

*...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...*

*Dennis Wright*, a neighbor of Janet and Jerry Wampler; *Peggy Stedman*, cousin of Janean Fawley;

*Gladys Remnant & Children's Disaster Ministry teams; Kerry Foster*, pastor of Bridgewater Presbyterian Church

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

## HELP US PROVIDE "CARE PACKAGES" FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

As the fall progresses toward winter, and our thoughts turn from Halloween to Thanksgiving to Advent and Christmas, our college students have a few extra things on their minds – exams, final papers, exams, heading home for the holidays, and more exams. So to show them a little extra love during this stressful time, we will once again be sending "Care Packages" to our students near and far.

We are inviting you to help us fill them with lots of goodies. Throughout the month of November there will be collection bins in the Greeting Hall for you to make contributions to this effort. Some suggestions:

Microwave popcorn  
Hot Chocolate Packs  
Bags of individually wrapped snack size candy  
Prepackaged cookies, crackers, granola bars, etc  
Snack size raisins, peanuts, etc



We will divvy up all contributions, supplement where necessary, and then ship the packages off to the students. If you wish, you may also contribute \$\$\$ for supplementing and mailing the packages. Donations should be marked "College Care Packages" and can be dropped in the offering plate or given to Pastor Chris no later than November 26.

If you would like to help distribute the goodies, fill the boxes, and prep for delivery, we will be doing so on Wednesday evening, November 29, in the church Lounge beginning around 5 pm and going as long as it takes.

Finally, if your child / grandchild, etc is currently attending a school other than Bridgewater College, we need a **CURRENT** mailing address to get a package to them! Please contact the church office by November 26 to ensure that we have their most up-to-date mailing address.

Thanks for your help in this ministry of care and hospitality!

## FUNDRAISER MEAL FOR BSM AT JALAPEÑOS

On Thursday, November 2, from 4-9 pm, Jalapeños Restaurant in Bridgewater will be hosting a Fundraising Meal for Brethren Student Movement (BSM). All you need to do for BSM to benefit when you purchase your meal is to drop your receipt in the GroupRaise.com donation box at the restaurant. When you do, 15% of your meal will be donated back to Brethren Student Movement! Plus you will probably get to enjoy some pretty good company. 😊

We do need some RSVPs to hold the event, so if you plan to attend, please go to our event page at <https://www.groupraise.com/events/40982> to register your intent. It will only take a few seconds and there is no obligation – it simply assures the restaurant that there will be viable participation. But our participation is unlimited, so even if you don't RSVP in advance, come out and support BSM. The more receipts in the box, the more Jalapeños contributes to BSM! Thanks in advance!

## WHAT IN GOD'S GREEN EARTH

Approximately 88% of the energy is saved when plastic is made from plastic rather than from the raw materials of natural gas and oil.

Source: Hancock County Planning Commission



## **BWCOB NOVEMBER** **EVENTS PROGRAM CALENDAR**

This is a church-related program calendar and does not include all building use. Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS and building use through the church office. All events are at BWCOB unless otherwise indicated.

- 1** Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.  
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.  
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.  
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.  
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.  
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.  
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.  
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.  
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 2** BSM Fundraiser – 4-9 p.m. – at Jalapeños  
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 3** BSM "Halloween" Picnic – 5:30 p.m. – Zepp's Home
- 4** Youth Hike – TBA  
Family Game Night – 6:30 p.m.
- 5** Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11  
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon  
Council – 1 p.m.  
Sr. Hi. Movie Night – 5 p.m. – Zepp's Home
- 8** Office Staff Meeting – 10:30 a.m.  
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.  
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.  
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center  
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 10-11** Youth at Brethren Woods Event
- 11** Alternative Christmas Fair – 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12** Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Habitat for Humanity House Dedication – 3 p.m.  
Youth Sunday Night Live – 6 p.m. – Montezuma CoB
- 13** Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 15** Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.  
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.  
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.  
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 16** Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 17** Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m.
- 18** Youth Trip to Washing, DC Museums – TBD
- 19** Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
- 22** Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.  
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.  
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Witness & Renewal Commission – 6:30 p.m.  
Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
- 23** Thanksgiving Holiday – Building Closed
- 24** Church Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26** Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
- 28** Child Care Center Board – 6:15 p.m.
- 29** Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.  
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.  
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
- 30** Salvation Army Bell Ringing – BFS  
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- 7** Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 8** Bridgewater Area Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace  
Bridgewater Retirement Community Auxiliary  
Luncheon – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 13** Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
- 16** Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU
- 21** Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.