

The Christ Light

The campers turned on their battery-powered tea-lights as we took the slow walk down to the campfire ring. We then stood under a black night sky singing “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying.” A line of contemplative campers joined in unity, illuminated only by the twinkling stars and flickering candles.

Around the campfire stood paper, house-shaped luminaries, each signed and decorated individually by the campers and staff to represent who they are and what they bring to our group. Earlier in the week, we had talked about how we are each such an important part of this community, how we all bring something special to the world around us. And now, as we held the metaphoric light of Christ in our hands, each of us gently lowered our Christ light into someone else’s luminary house, lighting up the circle. Throughout this reflective service, we watched the candles dance and provide light and inspiration around our fire.

This is the Christ light—bringing hope and peace and joy and brightness to each person, no matter his or her origin, appearance, thoughts, or temperament.

This is the Christ light—entering each of us as we are willing, lighting up the dark corners of our hearts and in our world.

This is the Christ light—softly prompting us to share it with those around us, regardless of their gender, nationality, age, or background.

This is the Christ light—moving hearts and changing attitudes and transforming lives.

This is the Christ light—for you, for me, for *all* people.

—Jennifer Balmer
Lititz Church of the Brethren
Lititz, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God, ‘Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me. With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people, and foreign nations will also see this. Your mighty power is a *light for all nations*, and it will bring honor to your people Israel.’ ” (Luke 2:27-32, CEV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40 (32).

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Light for all nations

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship December 31, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

RESPONDING

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Hymns of the Changing Year
The Brethren Hymnal (1951) # 580-588

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.

*** WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER**

THE CHIME I heard the bells on Christmas Day WALTHAM

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 148 NRSV

***HYMN # 212** *O come, all ye faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Tony Stovall
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.

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:4-7 NRSV

***HYMN # 199** *The first Noel, the angel did say* THE FIRST NOEL

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-40 NRSV

SINGING WITH BRENT AND FRIENDS (8:30)

SPECIAL MUSIC (11:00) The Flory Family

SERMON "Children of God" Jeff Carr

***HYMN # 218** *As with gladness men of old* DIX

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.

"The old year has passed away" *J. S. Bach*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN INSERT** *Go! Tell it on the mountain* GO TELL IT

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) Epilogue on DIX *William H. Harris*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 31, 2017 – January 6, 2018 (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	5:30	Youth Attend First Night	Harrisonburg
Mon-Tues		Church Offices Closed	
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Book Study	Lounge
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
Thurs.	Noon	Interfaith Association	Islamic Center
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– January 7, 2018 – *First Sunday in Christmas*

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

Preaching: Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Into What Then”

Scriptures: Psalm 29; Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon

Christmas Un-Decorating – 1 p.m.

Sr. Hi. Movie & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Zepp Home

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP

Worship / Sunday School attendance and stewardship information for Sundays, December 24 & 31, 2017, will be printed in the January 7 bulletin.

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.

Organist (8:30) – John Barr

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Decorators – Bea Miller, Dwyann & Tony Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Sally Jane Conner

Van Driver – Donnie Fulk

Worship Leader – Mike Fike

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The church office is closed through January 2. Some staff will be in and checking messages during that time. If you have pastoral needs please contact Pastor Jeff by leaving a message at the office or calling him at home. Pastor Chris will be out of town January 5-6.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2018 but has not made a financial commitment for the year or has not had them in the past should notify our Business Manager, Glenna Wampler. Weekly and monthly envelopes are available. Also, if you're interested in having your contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office or you may speak with Glenna. Envelopes are available to be picked up this morning.

Go Tell It On the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev-'ry-where,

The image shows the first system of musical notation for the Refrain. It consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracket. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

The image shows the second system of musical notation for the Refrain, continuing the melody and bass line from the first system. It includes the same triplet markings and lyrics.

Verses

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born,

The image shows the beginning of the Verses section. It features a treble and bass staff with a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are listed below the staff.

D.C.

Be-hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

The image shows the Double Coda section of the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff with a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Text: Negro Spiritual, adapted John W. Work 1871-1925

Music: Negro Spiritual, arranged Valeria Foster

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