

The Rainbow Promise

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Delight in being in the right place at the right time to see this awesome convergence of natural elements.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Observe with amazement the beauty of this meteorological phenomenon.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Watch in wonder as sunlight reflects, refracts, and disperses in water droplets, creating a full-spectrum light show.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Recall with relief God's promise to never again deal with sin by violence and destruction.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Recognize with humility that the blessings flowing from this covenant are not based on human response or righteousness.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Marvel at the Creator who takes the initiative to make a commitment of steadfast love with all people and all creation.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Discern the miraculous divine signature on God's promise of never-ending blessing.

Whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds:
Witness with gratitude the sign and seal of God's universal grace and salvation for the entire world.

— Anita Smith Buckwalter
Lausung Church of the Brethren
Lausung, Michigan

Text for today: "When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, *This is the sign of the covenant* that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." (Gen. 9:14-17, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Genesis 9:8-17 (17); Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

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This is the sign
of the covenant

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship February 18, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Adagio in A minor *J. S. Bach*
"Out of the Depths..." *F. W. Zachau*
"Out of the Depths..." *Samuel Scheidt*

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.

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00) Lord, Have Mercy *W. A. Mozart*

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 9:8-17

YORFF ENSEMBLE (11:00) Ezekiel Saw The Wheel arr. *Michael Burkhardt*

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Ben Neher & the Puppets

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.

"Noah for the Journey"

Script by CWZepp with inspiration from Eve Yarroll

Puppeteers: Lilly Day-Miller, Andie Neher,
Eliana Teshome, Glenda Reitze, and Shylah Zepp

Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

***HYMN # 567** *How firm a foundation* FOUNDATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:9-15

SERMON "Wilderness and Promise" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

REFLECTIONS (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

***HYMN # 133** *Out of the depths I cry to you* AUS TIEFER NOT

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Meditation on "Out of the Depths..." *John Barr*

Prayer

ANTHEM (11:00) Take Up Your Cross *Thomas Keesecker*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silence

Praying with the Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

concluding with The Lord's Prayer ("debts and debtors")

***HYMN # 627** *There is a balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00) Toccata in C *J. P. Sweelinck*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

February 18-24, 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	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Reception
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	
	Noon	Youth Play, Create, Unwind	Youth Room
	3:00	Memorial Service for Lois Stover	Sanctuary
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: BFS Fried Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls</i>	
		<i>Suggested minimum donation: \$10 Adults / \$5 Kids</i>	
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	Yorffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Thurs.	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	6:00	Brethren Student Movement – Social Hall / Youth Room	
Sat.		Youth to Turner Ashby Musical	

NEXT SUNDAY– February 25, 2018 – *Second Sunday in Lent*

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

Preaching: Samuel Sarpiya, 2018 Annual Conference Moderator

Sermon: "He Spoke to Them in Parables"

Scripture: Matthew 13:10-17

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

Wayne Judd Memorial Service: 4:00 – Sanctuary

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

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

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.

Fellowship Host – Beth Day-Miller

Pianist (8:30) – Cindy Fike

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Sound & Light Technician – Michael Overman

Decorators – Dwyann & Tony Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

Worship Leaders – (8:30) – Cindy & Mike Fike

(11:00) – Jeanne Neff

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 2/11/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 18 11:00 – 257 Sunday School: 131

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$16,479.00
Loose Offering	873.00
Food Pantry	125.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscription	14.50
Books	95.00
Blankets+, CWS	30.00
Youth Programs	969.00
EYN Compassion Fund	100.00
Seekers Sunday School Class	30.00
Bob McFadden Memorial Fund	100.00

TODAY'S CHORAL INTROIT TEXT: Patrick M. Liebergen

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy on us.

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TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Charles William Everest, *alt.*

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;

Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;

Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,

And brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame,

And let your foolish pride be death upon a cross on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;

For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Take up your cross and follow Christ.

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CORRECTED LENTEN DEVOTIONALS "Growing in God's Garden" by Erin Matteson, are available from the literature rack in the greeting hall.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Looking Ahead – The next book study will meet on March 7 and 21 and April 4, and will focus on *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* by Brian McLaren (2017). A leading voice in contemporary religion, McLaren argues that—"notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, he challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. With his trademark brilliance and compassion, McLaren invites readers to seize the moment and set out on the most significant spiritual pilgrimage of our time: to help Christianity become more Christian." Order your copy through our office at an estimated cost of \$14 (if ordered by Feb. 18) OR obtain your own copy.

Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”