



Bridgewater
Church of the Brethren
LIVE • GROW • SERVE • LOVE

CONNECTIONS

February 2016

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Got the winter blues? Then come have fun and laughs at church when the Fellowship and Recreation Commission hosts a Family Game Night on Saturday, February 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m. As always, the active games, such as half court basketball and Ping-Pong, will be located in the Social Hall, while board and card games will be in the Greeting Hall. Drinks will be provided. In case of snow, the alternate date will be Saturday, February 27.

Got a game to play? Bring it!

Got a snack to share? Bring it!

Got friends to bring? Bring them!

All by yourself with nothing to do? Just come and LET'S PLAY!!!

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY FOR LENT

Pastor Chris invites you to join him during Lent for the following book discussion on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 p.m.:
(Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith, by Cannon, Harper, Jackson, and Rah)

February 10 and 24 / March 9 and 23, 2-3 p.m., Lounge

Christianity in America has a bad reputation – a public image marked by hurtful attitudes toward homosexuals, women, minorities, followers of other religions, and others outside our fold. Though this image is sometimes unfair, we must admit: Too often, this reputation is deserved. In this short 2014 book, four Christian leaders confess the church's public failings and call on fellow believers to reengage the surrounding culture in a new and transformative way. With 7 sections to match the 7 Wednesdays of Lent, might this be a timely challenge for collective confession and repentance?

If you have not already ordered a copy through the office, you will need to obtain your own copy of the book. But even if you are not able to read the book, you are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions. We will discuss the introduction and Chapter 1 (through p. 60) on February 10. If you have any questions, please contact Chris. Hope to see you there!

TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT...CAMP

Parents of children in Kindergarten and up should be looking for information on Brethren Woods for this summer. The church will pay for one week for your child to attend camp. This year's theme is Fearless Faith. Those who have attended camp before will be getting information in the mail or online. If you don't receive information by February 1, contact Jeanie Eye at church and she will help you. Registration can be done online. It is important to register early (in March) to assure your camping choice. Also, the church will get a discount for those registering by March 31.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

CHURCH WIDE BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

This year for Lent, instead of giving something up, commit to taking something on! Beginning February 7th, our congregation will begin a yearlong, guided challenge to read the entire Bible. We will be following a reading plan designed as a 52 week challenge, with each day of the week focusing on a different section of the Bible. Anyone interested in participating can choose to have a partner – either one of your own choosing or one assigned – with whom you can discuss your journey together and hold each other accountable. There will be no Bible study to attend – this is all on your own and with your partner.

Here's how to join the challenge:

Sign Up and Get Your Reading Plan. Go to www.bwcob.org, where there will be a link to print your reading plan and sign up for the challenge. Or contact the church office for a full copy of the reading plan and/or to sign-up for a reading partner.

Partner Up. We encourage EVERYONE to have a partner in this. It could be your spouse, best friend, or sibling, or maybe you want to have a random partner assigned to you. Partners will communicate with each other, encourage one another, pray together, and support one another through this challenge.

Begin the Journey. Whether you've read the Bible 20 times or never, this challenge will be a new and different journey for everyone.

Track your Progress. There will be a link on the website through which you can track your progress.

We hope that you will consider participating in this journey through scripture with our faith community. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Debbie Eye or Jeff Carr.

BIBLE READING PLAN February Readings

<i>Dates</i>	<i>(Sunday)</i>	<i>(Monday)</i>	<i>(Tuesday)</i>	<i>(Wednesday)</i>	<i>(Thursday)</i>	<i>(Friday)</i>	<i>(Saturday)</i>
2/7-2/13	Romans 1-2	Genesis 1-3	Joshua 1-5	Psalms 1-2	Job 1-2	Isaiah 1-6	Matthew 1-2
2/14-2/20	Romans 3-4	Genesis 4-7	Joshua 6-10	Psalms 3-5	Job 3-4	Isaiah 7-11	Matthew 3-4
2/21-2/27	Romans 5-6	Genesis 8-11	Joshua 11-15	Psalms 6-8	Job 5-6	Isaiah 12-17	Matthew 5-7
2/28-3/5	Romans 7-8	Genesis 12-15	Joshua 16-20	Psalms 9-11	Job 7-8	Isaiah 18-22	Matthew 8-10

NOTES OF THANKS

I would like to express my appreciation for words of comfort and support, gifts of food, and memorial contributions to Heifer International in memory of Wanda, which were received following Wanda's death on November 5. She was a WONDERFUL wife and is GREATLY MISSED. I thank you so much. ~ Fred Bowman

Thank you very much for the box of treats during exam week. I shared it with my roommates and we all enjoyed it. I miss you all very much and was so honored to still have been included in the group receiving the boxes. Thank you and Merry Christmas! ~ Nicole Hoppe '17

Thank you, BCOB, for the delicious care package during exam week! ~ Clara Metzler

We can't thank you enough for all the calls, emails, cards, prayers and offers of help that you extended to us during Wayne's knee surgery. The visits from Pastors Jeff and Chris were a blessing to both of us. Things took longer than we expected but after several extra days in the hospital, Wayne is home and getting along just great. ~ Wayne & Mary Ann Angleberger

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and get well wishes for Jeff after his surgery. Special thanks for Pastor Jeff with his visit to the hospital. ~ Jeff and Nikki Watson

Thank you to everyone who supported / participated in Angel Tree this past Christmas. A special thank you to Pastor Jeff and Shannon for helping to get Angel Tree up and running! ~ Jeannie Turner

SCOUT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14

On Sunday, February 14, representatives from both the Cub Scout and Boy Scout groups that our congregation charters will be recognized as they help to lead us in worship. We will also recognize past Scouts in our congregation! Additionally, the Cub Scouts will be collecting food to help stock the shelves for our Backpack Program as a service project. If you would like to help support that effort, there will be a collection site on the morning of February 14 for your donations. If you have questions, or would like a shopping list to guide your purchases, contact the church office or coordinating Scout Committee Member Stephanie Lilly at teacherlilly@yahoo.com or 540-849-9363.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

February 7—*Last Sunday before Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "Weddings, Cross-stitch, and a Funeral"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 14—*1st Sunday in Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp
Sermon:
"When the Promised Land turns out to be a Wilderness"
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13

February 21—*2nd Sunday in Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "The Fear Factor"
Scripture: Psalm 27

February 28—*3rd Sunday in Lent*
Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr
Sermon: "Wait and See"
Scriptures: Psalm 63:1-8 & Luke 13:1-9

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Here is an opportunity to hear Laura Ipock, director of volunteer services for Bridgewater Retirement Community, tell of ways we can help "adopt" a nursing household. Some groups within our church have already signed up to help. This will be a chance for other Sunday School classes, small groups, or families to find out about how they can be a part of this worthy effort. **Laura will be in the Agape Sunday School Class on Sunday, February 7, at 10:00 a.m.** Please join us and help support Bridgewater Retirement Community.

CROP UPDATE

The 2015 Bridgewater College CROP Meal on October 29 and Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk on November 1 raised a total of \$6,369.11 for Church World Service's hunger relief, education, and development programs in 80 countries around the world, with 25% of that amount coming back to fight hunger in our own communities through the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry. A heartfelt thanks to all the churches and individuals who helped make our CROP events such a success and blessing for God's children across the street and around the world.

BWCOB FEBRUARY 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.

- 2 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 3 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Stewardship Commission – 6:30 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.
Witness & Renewal Commission – 7 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 4 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 a.m.
- 5-6 Brethren Student Movement Lock-In – 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Council – 1 p.m.
Youth Super Bowl Party – 6 p.m. – Zepps' Home
- 9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meals – 10-1; 4-7
- 10 Office Staff Meeting – 11 a.m.
Jubilee Circle – 2 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
BSM – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
JOY Circle – 6:30 p.m. – Maple Terrace
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Friendship Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Glenda Wampler
- 11 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
- 16 Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 17 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.

- 18 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Game Night – 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 24 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
BSM – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center
YORFF Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Puppets Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
- 29 Plan of Organization Meeting – 7 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 4 Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU
- 8 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace
- 10 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 11 Leaveners – 10:30 a.m. – North River Library



BEING CHANGED

In February 2014 I planned a sermon & worship series on violence. The focus of those sermons shaped not only my thinking, but my awareness of acts of violence in the world around me. It became easy to be consumed by the overwhelming violence that we encounter in living. I will be honest - when the series was over, I was glad to have a break from talking about it; yet for me personally, this focus has remained present with me. When the season was over, I found myself changed by the experience. The change gave me the chance to see new opportunities where God was at work in my own ministry, and to imagine how God's love and compassion can be present- strengthening and healing - in the midst of violence and trauma.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of a Board approved letter stating intent to appeal the action of the Shenandoah District Leadership Team (DLT) on December 10th relative to Chris Zepp's ordination and the letter placed in my denominational file. The DLT is crafting a process for appeal and has been in dialogue with our congregational leadership. Like my sermon series on violence, this season of our congregational life has brought a focus that many of us wish we could stop talking about. Yet it is a season that has changed us and is changing us.

Every season of life changes us, albeit some more than others. We are changed by the death of loved ones; we are changed by acts that violate trust and change relationships; we are changed by health concerns; we are changed by violence, fear, terror, and disaster. We are indeed changed by our experiences. In the midst of such changes I am reminded that Jesus called his disciples to a way of life that does change us in all seasons. I believe we are called to love as Jesus loves - to witness boldly in the way of forgiveness, reconciliation, radical justice - all the while seeking humility and a deep compassion for others. Such living changes us!

When we are in the midst of seasons of change, we need to remember the mercy, grace and compassion of Jesus that sustains and uplifts us, that accompanies us, and that is incarnated among us. The seasons of the church are changing, and I am confident that in the midst of our lives, God is at work - shaping opportunities for witness, healing, and love. As we continue conversations, and as we listen to one another, I am convinced we will discover new opportunities for ministry - changes that will enable Jesus' loving compassion to shine and forever change the lives of others... and maybe even ourselves. Whether by engaging in conversation with someone new, sharing our stories, reaching for our dreams, reading scripture, praying for one another, or being challenged beyond our comfort zones, may we believe in, trust in, hope in, and have faith in the promise that the change of today, is the revealing of God's love for tomorrow.

Shalom,

Jeff



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

January 7, 2016

John Jantzi, District Executive Minister, Shenandoah District (DEM);
Jon Prater, Chair, Shenandoah District Leadership Team (DLT);
Jan Orndorff, Chair, Shenandoah District Ministerial Leadership Team (MLT)

Dear Sister and Brothers,

The Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Board of Administration took action in a called meeting on January 6, 2016 to affirm the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren congregation's intent to enter an appeal process with the Shenandoah District regarding the actions taken by the District Leadership Team on December 10, 2015 based upon the recommendations and information of the Ministerial Leadership Team on November 16, 2015 in regard to our pastors Chris Zepp and Jeff Carr. This action follows consultation from District Leadership and current Annual Conference Officers.

This letter serves as the official notification of intent to appeal.

In addition we request a written response in a timely manner from the District Leadership Team or its representative as to the specific district appeal process and timeline. If no process exists please indicate how we are to proceed from this point.

Claire Martindale, Chair
Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
Board of Administration

Cc: Mary Jo Flory-Steury, Associate General Secretary, Office of Ministry
Andy Murray, Annual Conference Moderator
Carol Scheppard, Annual Conference Moderator-elect
Jim Beckwith, Annual Conference Secretary

For Our Prayers during the Month of February 2016

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

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

...*those in Nigeria...* facing violence, kidnappings, and deep unrest... specifically, **Haurwa Abdu**, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in April 2014, and for those committing these atrocities

...*our congregation and district* as we seek understanding from and for one another, and especially those leaders and representatives who are navigating troubled waters and attempting to discern faithful ways forward

...*the world* as nations and communities grapple with and respond to acts of terror, disaster, and trauma that change us forever

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

Don MacWillie, brother of **Jeanie Eye**, who died January 25

Ethel Ringgold, who died January 24

Phyllis Miller, who died January 22

Mark Aldridge, brother of **Lev Norford** who died January 22

Donald Bible, brother of **Roger Bible** who died January 21

Theda Miracle, mother of **Bill Miracle** who died January 17

Lorraine Fike, mother of **Mike Fike** who died January 16

Wendell Smith, husband of **Elaine Smith** who died January 13

Bruce Barlow, son in law of **Lois Stover**, who died December 20; *"OG" Wise*, mother of **Susan Pugh**, who died on December 18; *Jan Matteson*, who died December 14; *Kathryn Foster Wheelahan*, sister of **Paul Foster**, who died November 25; *Wanda Bowman*, wife of **Fred Bowman**, who died November 5; *Bridget Stovall*, mother of **Tony Stovall**, who died November 3; *Woody Atkins*, father of **Kim Deavers** who died October 29

...*those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, or in rehabilitation...*

Wes Loomis, Phil Hutchinson, Harold "Doc" Petcher, Clayton Towers, Wayne Angleberger, Anna Huffman, Bill Johnson, Heather Barkey, June Craun, Jeff Quay

...*those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically...* in **Bridgewater Home & White Birch Estates**

...*those in Volunteer Service, specifically...* **Jessie Houff**

...*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... **The Quay Family, Randy Cosner (pastor at Briery Branch COB), The Figgs Family, Pat DeMonte, Lisa Sheffer (great-niece of Patty Figgs)**

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

