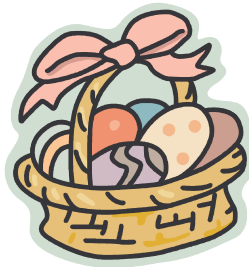




Bridgewater Church of the Brethren

420 College View Drive
Bridgewater, VA 22812
(540) 828-3711; 828-2641

Web Site: www.bwcob.org



EASTER EGG HUNT: Palm Sunday

April 17 will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt for all the children. After Children's Church we will meet in the Social Hall for our hunt. Easter baskets will be provided and each child will receive an Easter gift.

Please join us!

EASTER FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP

Breakfast will be served as a fundraiser for the AGAPE Relay for Life Team on Easter morning at 8:30 a.m. in the social hall. Please come and join us for a brief Easter devotional and this time of fellowship.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

If you wish to honor or remember someone in a special way, you may do so by donating \$8.00 to the church decorating committee for potted spring flowers. After Easter worship, you may take one of the potted flowers home for each \$8 donation. Envelopes for this donation are included in the newsletter and need to be returned to the church office no later than Sunday, **April 17**. Names received after the 17th may not be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you for the tremendous support of our 2011 HARTS week. We served 22 guests every night, one of whom shared "this is a really nice church. Every person I've met here seems to really care." There were over 75 volunteers who generously gave hundreds of hours. Your time, thoughts, and prayers are so greatly appreciated.

LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES



Explore the gospel lectionary through the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.

Organized activities for the kids as well!

Every Sunday evening through April 17

6:30 – 8 p.m.

"GOT SPIRIT?" is the theme for camp this summer at Brethren Woods. Camp is a great experience! Our church pays one week for each child in our congregation who would like to go to Brethren Woods.

If you have been to camp before, you have probably already received your registration form. If you have not, or if you are new to camping, ask Jeanie for a form. There is a camping opportunity for children who have completed Kindergarten through teenagers!

We get a discount if we register early. **Please turn your forms in to Jeanie by March 27** (if you possibly can)! You can place them in her mailbox in the Congregational Office. She will sign them and mail them to Brethren Woods for you.

VBS 2011 – Shake It Up Café

Mark your calendar to join us in carrying out God's recipe at the Shake It Up Café Vacation Bible School, **June 20-23**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Children ages 2 years to those who have completed 8th grade are invited to attend. If you are able to help or if you have questions about VBS, please contact Laura Evick at 828-6921 or by email at levick@hooverpenrod.com.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers when I was in the hospital recently. The cards and visits meant so much. They were very much appreciated.
~ **Doris Smootz**

Thank you for your generous gift to fund health services and medication needs of the patients at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic. Your contribution of \$3,656.66 will assist the friends and neighbors in our local community, many of which are diagnosed with multiple chronic health conditions....Your gift makes a difference in the life of a Free Clinic patient! Thank you for remembering the Free Clinic in your charitable giving throughout the year. Sincerely, **Keith Gnagey**, Executive Director

Please express my deep appreciation to the members of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren for your gift of \$200.00. Your donation is vital to the continuation and strengthening of the Council's ecumenical mission. The work of the Council depends on Covenant Churches like yours, and I want to again express my gratitude for your continued support and understanding of our ministries. Blessing,
The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton
General Minister, VA Council of Churches

ONE EARTH – ONE WORLD

“The Earth is the Lord’s” and its care has been entrusted to us. Each year for 40 years Earth Day has been observed in April to focus awareness on our responsibilities to help care for the earth. As the beauty of spring unfolds, let us continue to seek to protect the environment from misuse &/or destruction.

Reviving a Tradition

Last year our congregation “re-discovered” our Earth Bowl and issued an invitation for you to contribute symbols and memories from your experiences. This will be a focus in worship on May 1st. The Earth Bowl is a reminder of our connectedness not only to the environment, but also with brothers and sisters in other locations around the world. You are invited to be a part of this revived tradition by bringing a small earth-related item from your travels and briefly sharing your spiritual connection to that place. To put your name on the list as a contributor, call Esther Bittinger, 828-6998.

CHURCH PROVIDES GRANT FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN JAPAN

An initial grant of \$25,000 from the Church of the Brethren’s Emergency Disaster Fund is being given in support of disaster relief work in Japan following the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit the island nation. The grant will support work by Church World Service (CWS) and local partner organizations.

“This is a very unusual situation,” reported Brethren Disaster Ministries executive director Roy Winter. “Usually CWS and Brethren Disaster Ministries do not respond to an international disaster in such a developed country, but the complexity and extent of this disaster simply demands we respond when the need is so great. The Japanese government is clearly leading the response effort, but our help is needed to meet the extensive need of so many who have lost so much.” To support the Emergency Disaster Fund, contributions can be made to the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren designated Emergency Disaster in the memo line. Funds will be sent to the Emergency Disaster Fund from the Bridgewater Church.

~ article adapted from *Church of the Brethren Newsline* March 18, 2011

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **Dr. Emmert F. Bittinger** was named Honorary Historian of the Church of the Brethren’s West Marva District for his contributions for the preservation of church history. He is the author of *Allegheny Passage*, an 856 page volume that details the immigration and migration of Brethren settlers and the establishment of the Brethren churches in western Maryland and northern West Virginia. He is completing his sixth volume of Civil War history relating to loyal citizens of the Shenandoah Valley who held to their non-resistant principles during the Civil War, titled *Unionists and the Civil War Experience in the Shenandoah Valley*.
- Bridgewater College Softball Team head coach **Donnie Fulk** earned his 500th career victory in a doubleheader sweep over Randolph College.

RELAY FOR LIFE

We are again this year working to raise money for the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life event. Each of us knows someone who has been touched by cancer, directly or indirectly, and often wondered what we could do to help. Relay is a great way to raise support, not only for larger research, but for those in our local community as well. If you would like to support the BWCOP Agape Love team, there are a variety of ways to help.

Walk! – The Relay this year is on Friday May 6th from 6pm to 6am. Wow! That’s a long time you say? Well, even if you can only make it for part of the event we’d still love to have you as part of the team. It’s a great experience and a lot of fun too.

Luminaries – One important aspect of the Relay for Life is the opportunity for people to come together to remember loved ones lost to cancer and honor those who have won their battle. One of the most moving parts of the event is the Luminaria Ceremony. If you would like to honor, support or remember someone special in your life, you can do so with a luminary in honor of that person for a \$10 donation to Relay. You can decorate your own luminary or someone from the team can decorate it for you.

Relay Coffeehouse – This year’s coffeehouse fundraiser will be on Saturday April 16th. Always a good time, the coffeehouse is a chance to show off your talents and enjoy others (maybe Pastor Jeff will serenade us again with his version of Sweet Caroline). And don’t forget the chance to try out some of the best baking and sweets the church has to offer. Mmmm...

Donations – Not everyone has the time to commit to a particular event, but they still want to support the cause. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be given to any member of the Relay team, or our co-captains Hope Staton & Brenna Layne. Checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society.

So if you’d like to help our Relay team in any way, you can see Hope or Brenna after Sunday service at our Relay for Life table in the greeting hall, or call 540-290-8624.

2010 FOOD PANTRY report is located on the large bulletin board in the greeting hall for anyone interested.

CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of **Curtis Nolley**, and the Massanutten Brass Band, directed by Kevin Stees, will join in an American premier of the brass band/organ setting of Karl Jenkins’ poignant *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. This unique setting captures the tragedy of war and the promise of peace in a moving musical presentation you will not want to miss.

The first half of the program will feature the Massanutten Brass Band playing the exciting and artistic brass band music that has inspired a loyal following throughout the Valley.

Concerts will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, **April 15**, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, **April 17**, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available from Choral Society members, Family Christian Book Store, Red Front Supermarket, Ruth’s Books, on-line at www.singshenandoah.org, and at the door. Admission is \$12 for adults/\$10 for seniors and students.

CPS / BVS LUNCH

All those who were in CPS, BVS (past & present), and alternative service are invited to a luncheon on Thursday, **April 7**, at Maple Terrace. Lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. at a cost of \$7.50. Call Fonda Erdman at 828-3883 or email fhherdman@verizon.net by April 4 if you plan to attend. **Wendell Smith** will be guest speaker.

BOOKS, VIDEOS, DVDS IN OUR LIBRARY

DVDs & Videos for Children:

- Madeline – “Two Thumbs Up”
- If I Only Had A Green Nose
- Shirley Temple – “Sing and Dance Along”
- Babe – “A Little Pig Goes A Long Way”
- Elmo in Grouchland

DVD for Adults:

- The Passion of the Christ

Books:

- The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger – An interesting story for youth, 5th-8th grade
- The Cat Next Door by Betty Ren White – This book was given in memory of Claire Ulrich. It concerns the death of a Grandma.
- They Thought for Themselves by Sid Roth – “Ten Amazing Jews”
- Have you read The Twists and Turns in the Life of an Ordinary Woman? Autobiography of Naoma Clague – a good read.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

April 3 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: “Prophets, Sinners, and Mud”

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.

April 10 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Pastor Chris preaching

Sermon: “Battles, Bones, and Bridges”

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:1-45

Children’s Worship – Worship @ 11

C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.

April 17 – Palm Sunday

Pastor Jeff preaching

Sermon: “What You Mean Is...?”

Gospel Readings: John 26:14-36 & John 27:27-31

Children’s Worship – Worship @ 11

C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.

April 24 – Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast & Devotion – 8:30 a.m.

(No Worship @ 8:30 a.m.)

Pastor Jeff preaching – Worship @ 11

Sermon: “Missing Again”

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

APRIL WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Decorator: Mary Miller

Sound/Light Operator: Ellsworth Neff

Ushers: Devin Bowman, ldr

Harold Jennings

Palmer Lee Berry

David Evick

Rick Fawley

Leroy Harsh

Missy Hipps

Chuck Horn

Harold Jennings

Jim Lane

Michael Mason, Sr.

Stephen Miller

Bill Miracle

Brad Neher

Jonathan Nicholas

Fred Showalter

PASTA WITH THE PASTORS, Bridgewater Home Auxiliary’s Spring Supper, will take place Friday, **April 8**, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Houff Community Center. Choose your pasta & sauce; salad, rolls, drinks, and angel food cake with strawberries also provided. Meal will be followed by a Rockingham Male Chorus Concert at 7 p.m. in Lantz Chapel. All donations will benefit the Employee Scholarship Fund. Concert is free and open to the public.

LENTEN LECTIONARY

Since Advent, our worship services have incorporated most of the lectionary readings each week. For the period of Lent the Gospel readings will be the primary focus. Individuals have expressed appreciation for the multiple readings. You will find the lectionary readings for Lent below; you may wish to use theses for devotional reading or preparation for Sunday worship opportunities.

Fourth Sunday in Lent, April 3

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 10

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday, April 17

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday, April 21

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 22

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday, April 24

Acts 10:34-43

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10

APRIL CALENDAR

All events take place at the church unless otherwise noted.

- 1** Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m.
- 2** Memorial Service for Norman Wagenschein – 2 p.m.
- 3** Simpler Life Network – 8:30 a.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Inquirers Class – Noon
Challenger Baseball – 6:30 p.m.
C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.
- 5** Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
Women's Fellowship Cabinet – 7 p.m.
- 6** Children's Choir Rehearsal – 4 p.m.
Puppet Practice – 4 p.m.
YORFFs Rehearsal – 4:45 p.m.
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
Witness & Renewal Commission – 7 p.m.
- 7** Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 8** Pasta with the Pastors – 4:30 p.m. – Maple Terrace
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Memorial Service for Hazel Garber – 3 p.m.
- 10** Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship – Worship @ 11
C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.
- 11** Retired Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace
- 13** Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
Character Builders Circle – Noon – Maple Terrace
Jubilee Circle – 2 pm. (Program: Skyline Literacy)
Children's Choir Rehearsal – 4 p.m.
Puppet Practice – 4 p.m.
YORFFs Rehearsal – 4:45 p.m.
Brethren Student Movement Love Feast – 6:30 p.m. –
Carter Center
Friendship Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Sharon Kiracofe
JOY Circle – 7 p.m. – Home of Linda Alley
- 14** Cub Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 15** Choral Society Concert – 7:30 p.m.
- 16** Men's Fellowship – 7:30 a.m.
Relay for Life Coffeehouse

17 Palm Sunday

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship – Worship @ 11
Easter Egg Hunt – Noon
Choral Society Concert – 3 p.m.
C4 Lenten Worship – 6:30 p.m.

19 May Newsletter Article Submission Deadline – Noon

Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
Gifts Discernment Committee – 7 p.m.
Stewardship Commission – 7 p.m.

20 Children's Choir Rehearsal – 4 p.m.

Puppet Practice – 4 p.m.
YORFFs Rehearsal – 4:45 p.m.
Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m. – Carter Center

21 Love Feast – 6:30 p.m.

22 Bridgewater Ministers Cross Walk – Noon

24 Easter Sunday

Easter Morning Breakfast & Devotion – 8:30 a.m.

25 Church Offices Closed – Easter Holiday

Book Club – 7 p.m.

26 Child Care Center Board – 7 p.m.

Finance Commission – 7 p.m.

27 Children's Choir Rehearsal – 4 p.m.

Puppet Practice – 4 p.m.
YORFFs Rehearsal – 4:45 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
B.C. Senior Recital – 8 p.m.

28 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

29 Brethren Student Movement – 6:30 p.m.

Connections is published by Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
Collating/Mailing:

Clayton & Jackie Towers, Harold Jennings
Doris Metzler, Jeanne Neff
Next Newsletter – May 2011

Information is due by noon on Monday, April 18.

Church Staff: Senior Pastor, Jeff Carr
Associate Pastor, Chris Zepp
Christian Education Director, Jeanie Eye
Administrative Assistant, Shannon Puffenbarger
Business Manager, Glenna Wampler
Custodian, Fortunato Correa
Sr. Hi. Youth Directors, Josh & Erin Eye
Jr. Hi. Youth Directors, Kenny & Heather Galang-Ellebee
Child Care Center Administrator, Kathleen Arndt
