

Filled with the Spirit

Recently I saw a young man walking away from his car with a gas can in his hand. He had obviously let the tank get too low and run out. I am one who likes to keep my gas tank toward full, especially when traveling in unfamiliar areas. In my mind, to let the tank get too low is to be ill-prepared for what may come—sitting stuck in traffic, navigating detours and bad weather, or simply getting lost. But keeping the tank full is to be open to the possibilities that may come, including new adventures.

This translates to my spiritual life, too. Not tending to the Holy Spirit's work in my life is to be ill-prepared for what God has in store for me. If I run low on the Holy Spirit, I will get stuck along life's road without a way forward, trying to navigate on my own. But if I am filled with the Holy Spirit, then I am full of the gifts and fruits that better enable me to cope with life's challenges and respond to the needs of others. The Spirit helps me, so that I can be an instrument of God's love and peace. The Spirit helps us all, interceding in times of weakness and when words fail.

Holy Spirit, Living God, we thank you for preparing us for what you have in store. You give us gifts for ministry and service, and you shower us with fruits like joy and peace that keep us empowered and lifted up. May this Pentecost Sunday remind us to tend to the spiritual needs in our lives as we focus on your living presence among us. Amen.

—Scott L. Duffey, pastor
Staunton Church of the Brethren
Staunton, Virginia

Text for today: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise *the Spirit helps us* in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:22-27, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 (26) or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

05-20-18, Pentecost. Printed in the USA.
Worship resource © 2018 Brethren Press. www.brethrenpress.com



The Spirit helps us

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship May 27, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

RESPONDING

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
Allegro moderato maestoso

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.

***HYMN # 120** *Holy, holy, holy!* NICAEA

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00)
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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Menuetto *Ludwig van Beethoven*
from Sonata # 18, Opus 31 # 3

Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-17 hymnal #842

ANTHEM (11:00) Set Me as a Seal *John Leavitt*

SERMON "A Birth Story" Jeff Carr

***HYMN # 299** *New earth, heavens new* ALEXANDRA

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN # 592** *Love divine, all loves excelling* BEECHER

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) [Chorale] *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

May 27-June 2, 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 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
Mon. Church Office Closed
Thurs. 7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– June 3, 2018 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Sabbath Work”

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:10-10; Mark 2:23-3:6; Deuteronomy 5:12-14

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Sr. Hi. Movie Night & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Youth Room

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 5/20/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 30 11:00 – 258 Sunday School: 150

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$6,160.87
Loose Offering	571.00
Church User Fees	1,875.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Contributions – Refugee	4,000.00
Youth Programs	280.00
EYN Compassion Fund	50.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	100.00
Roberta Messamer Memorial Fund	50.00

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

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 – Palmer Lee Berry

Pianist (8:30) – Betty Caricofe

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Decorators – Linda Dean & Bea Miller

Deacon Caregiver – Alice Lee Hopkins

Van Driver – Fred Zimmerman

Worship Leader – Joyce Wampler

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,

Set me as a seal upon your heart, for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,

Set me as a seal upon your heart, for love is strong as death.

© 1995 by Hal Leonard Corporation

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717854

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed and Shannon Puffenbarger, Administrative Assistant, will be out and on vacation tomorrow May 28. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday.

YOUTH COLLECTING T-SHIRTS FOR NYC OFFERING

Do you have more t-shirts than you know what to do with? Give them to the BWCOB youth group! From this Sunday through July 1st our Sr. High youth will be collecting old 100% cotton t-shirts to take to NYC to assist with the Midwives for Haiti service project. There, they will re-purpose the old shirts into the necessary pieces for diapers and send them on to be sewn for babies in need in Haiti. There will be blue collection bins for the shirts in the Greeting Hall – just look for the signs. If you have any questions, please contact Hope Staton at youth@bwcob.org.

PDF DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

Anyone who wishes to have a PDF copy of one or more of our congregational directories (Pictorial, Organizational, or Contacts) can contact the church office to obtain the log-in information to download them from our website – www.bwcob.org.

CARPETING BEING CLEANED IN OUR BUILDING

Have you noticed that particularly fresh scent in our building this week? That's because the carpets in our church are being professionally cleaned! The project began this past week and will conclude this coming week with the Preschool hallway and classrooms being cleaned on Thursday, May 31, and the Sanctuary being cleaned on Friday, June 1.

GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you are aware of someone who has, is, or will be completing their course(s) of study during this school year (high school, college, or graduate school), please contact Pastor Chris or the church office with their name(s) and information about their completed program and future plans so that they we can recognize them! We will be recognizing our high school graduates during Sr. High Youth Sunday on May 20 and will publish a spotlight compilation of all of our graduates in a future edition of *Connections*.