

Lead Us, God

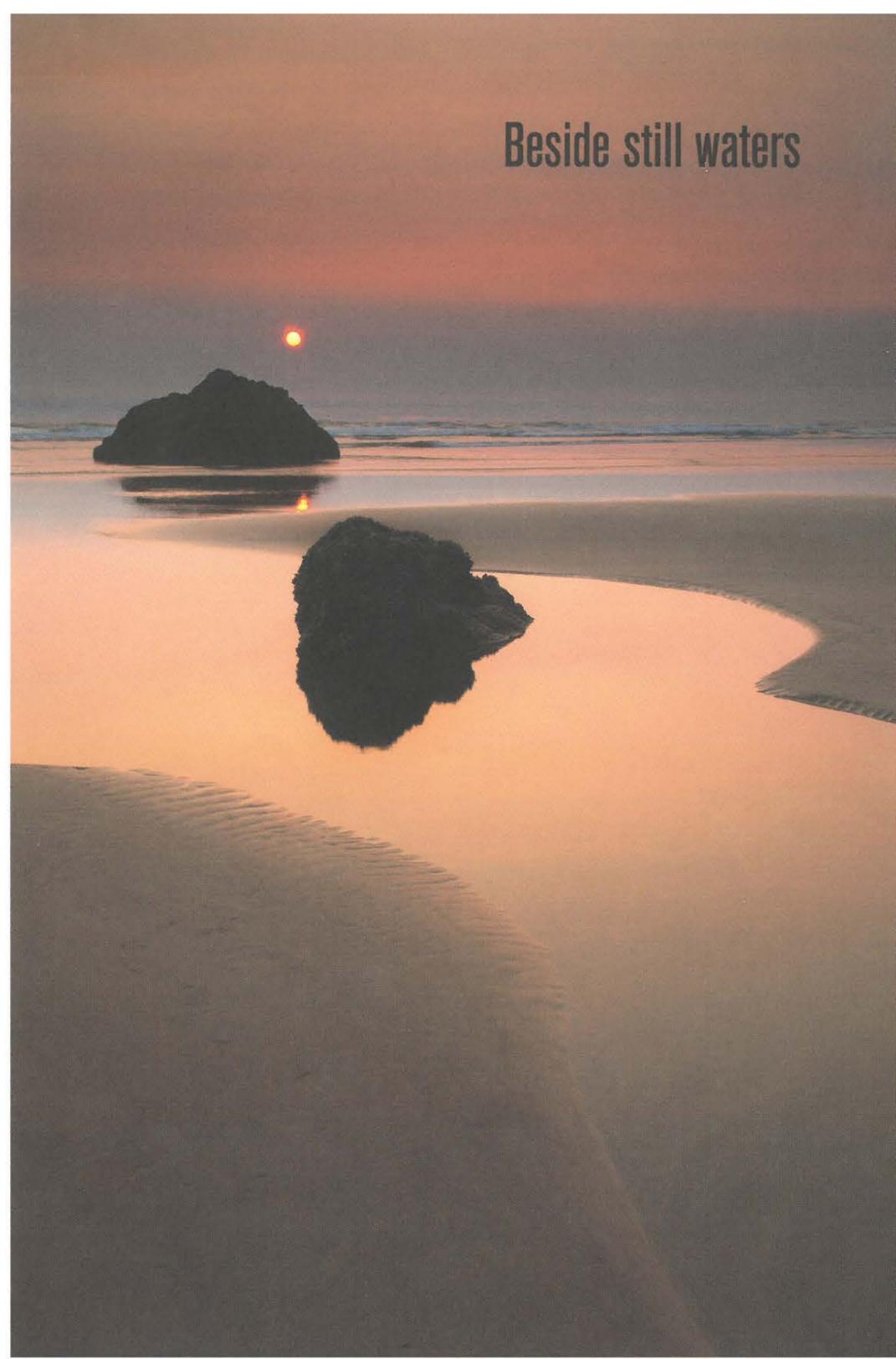
Trials and struggles in life often lead us to turn to God for comfort and direction. Many Sunday school lessons and sermons focus on difficult times and our need to trust God. Through these trials we experience many facets of God's character, such as steadfast love, mercy, and compassion. We receive these gifts in challenging situations to strengthen our faith, revealing God's glory. It's an incredible blessing to see God working in our lives, and to understand that we can turn to him when life's waters are rough, believing that God will be there when we call.

But perhaps there is a greater opportunity to experience God's majesty, power, and glory. Psalm 23:2 reads, "He leads me beside still waters." Like a shepherd, God invites his children to be led when life's waters are calm. Why is this such a special invitation? When waters are still, there's no immediate danger. When waters are still, there's no dire situation driving one to seek deliverance. When waters are still, there's time to rest and remain satisfied in the presence of God.

Brethren, this is a special invitation because turning to God "beside still waters" is turning to God not out of personal need, but simply because of who God is. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (KJV). God's righteousness describes who he is. Let us not limit God's call and our response to times when waters are rough, when situations are life-threatening. Let us embrace this invitation to be led "beside still waters" simply out of our desire to grow closer to God.

—Todd Reed, pastor
Cedar Bluff Church of the Brethren
Boones Mill, Virginia

Text for today: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me *beside still waters*; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long" (Psalm 23, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23 (2); Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.



Beside still waters

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship July 22, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Aria (op. 51) *Flor Peeters*
When In Our Music God Is Glorified *Charles V. Stanford*
arr. *Karrin Ford*

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**

***HYMN # 405** *Where cross the crowded ways* GERMANY

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN’S TIME (11:00) Jeff Carr
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.

VOCAL CHORDS ENSEMBLE (11:00)
Wonderful Grace of Jesus *Haldor Lillenas*
Just a Closer Walk with Thee arr. *Paul Mickelson*

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 6:30-56 *NRSV*

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE see insert

***HYMN # 493** *I heard the voice of Jesus say* KINGSFOLD

SERMON “Flash Mobs” Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

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.

Air (from “Water Music Suite”) *G. F. Handel*
edited *Jack Schrader*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***HYMN # 369** *Lord, whose love in humble service* BEACH SPRING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) Festive Trumpet Tune *David German*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

TODAY’S WORSHIP RESOURCES are adapted from the lectionary based *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

ATTENDING BRETHREN WOODS July 22-27
Cooper Bair, Bryce Driver, Brett Eye, Shelby Eye, Brycen Propst

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 22-28, 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	National Youth Conference continues in Colorado		
7:00	Worship in the Woods	CrossRoads	
	Krista Showalter Ehst with Second Mountain Farm Gospel		
Mon.	7:00	B.C. Alumni Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tues.	6:30	Child Care Center Board	Lounge

NEXT SUNDAY– July 29, 2018 – *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Enough Plus”

Scripture: John 6:1-21

Eucharist Communion will be served at both services.

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

Worship in the Woods – 7 p.m. – VBMHC Amphitheater

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 7/15/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 11:00 – 201 Sunday School: 86

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$4,560.00
Loose Offering	816.05
Church User Fees	240.00
Miscellaneous	18.00
Disaster Relief	200.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	79.00

COUNCIL MEETING

The August 5 council meeting is cancelled due to the absence of an agenda.

The next scheduled meeting will be on November 4.

~Steve Longenecker, Moderator

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.

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.

Guitarist (8:30) – Brent Holl

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwyann Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Erin Dalrymple

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

Worship Leader – Marianne Houff

Vocal Chords Ensemble

Jim Benedict, *tenor*

Wayne Spangler, *tenor*

Fred Swartz, *tenor*

Dave Holl, *baritone*

Richard Phillips, *baritone*

Bob May, *bass*

Merv Wunderlich, *bass*

PLAYGROUND PAINTING PARTY

Everyone is invited to help repaint the playground equipment Saturday, July 28, beginning at 9 a.m. Work will continue until complete. Please (byob/r) bring your own brush or roller. Pizza will be provided for lunch.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (NYC) NEWS AND PHOTOS

Those not at NYC can stay in touch with the week's happenings by visiting www.brethren.org/nyc. Also stay tuned into NYC on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat).

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- One:** One who is merciful and just; kind and compassionate; forever faithful: we pray as your beloved children, some needing care, some needing forgiveness, all deserving dignity, respect, and hospitality.
- All:** **We pray for the world. We pray that you may bless the church, the body of Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit, then send us out to proclaim the good news that in you there is newness of life.**
- One:** We pray for all who are weary from hard labor, especially for those who are not fairly paid, for those who work in dangerous places, for those trapped in slavery. Break yokes of oppression and bonds of bitterness. We pray for the victims of war and violence. We pray for children and others who have been abused by those in positions of trust and power. Empower us that we may be quick to care and build systems of accountability.
- All:** **We pray for all who serve on behalf of others, especially for those who fight fires, enforce just laws, teach and heal. We pray for those who hold public office, those who have been called or elected as leaders, that they may be guided by your voice and by the voices of their people to build up all people in peace.**
- One:** We pray for those who are poor and in need of assistance, and for those who care for the sick, elderly, and dying; and those who are spiritually hungry. We pray for ourselves that we may tenderly care for them, that we may be a sign and source of compassion.
- All:** **We pray for ourselves, that we will be faithful, especially in times of temptation; that our diseases will be healed. Spare others suffering because of our sinfulness. Let us bear witness to your goodness in our words, our actions, and our silences. Build us into a dwelling place for you our God.**
- One:** As the morning dew glistens and songbirds greet the day, awaken our bodies to the wonder of life and fill our spirits with the joy of your presence.
- All:** **One who is merciful and just; kind and compassionate; forever faithful: we pray as your beloved children, some needing care, some needing forgiveness, all deserving dignity, respect, and hospitality. Amen.**