

Provisions for the Journey

Feeling overwhelmed by daily parental tasks and pastoral responsibilities, I took a solitary lunch break one day to reflect and write. I stared at my journal as the pen in my hand traced the words: "I WANT MY LIFE BACK!" Stunned, I slowly realized that I had for too long denied my spirit the daily nourishment needed for healthy living. It was a wake-up call that caused me to ponder how God's daily gifts of manna in the wilderness were useless unless the people gathered the gifts themselves.

O wilderness—dry and dusty journey called life,
you are filled with wandering and wildness,
empty of direction or rootedness.
You offer a maze of possibility and peril,
intention and risk.

Come, Unknowable One,
open our deepest spirits to your mystery,
that we may find your way in the midst of no way.

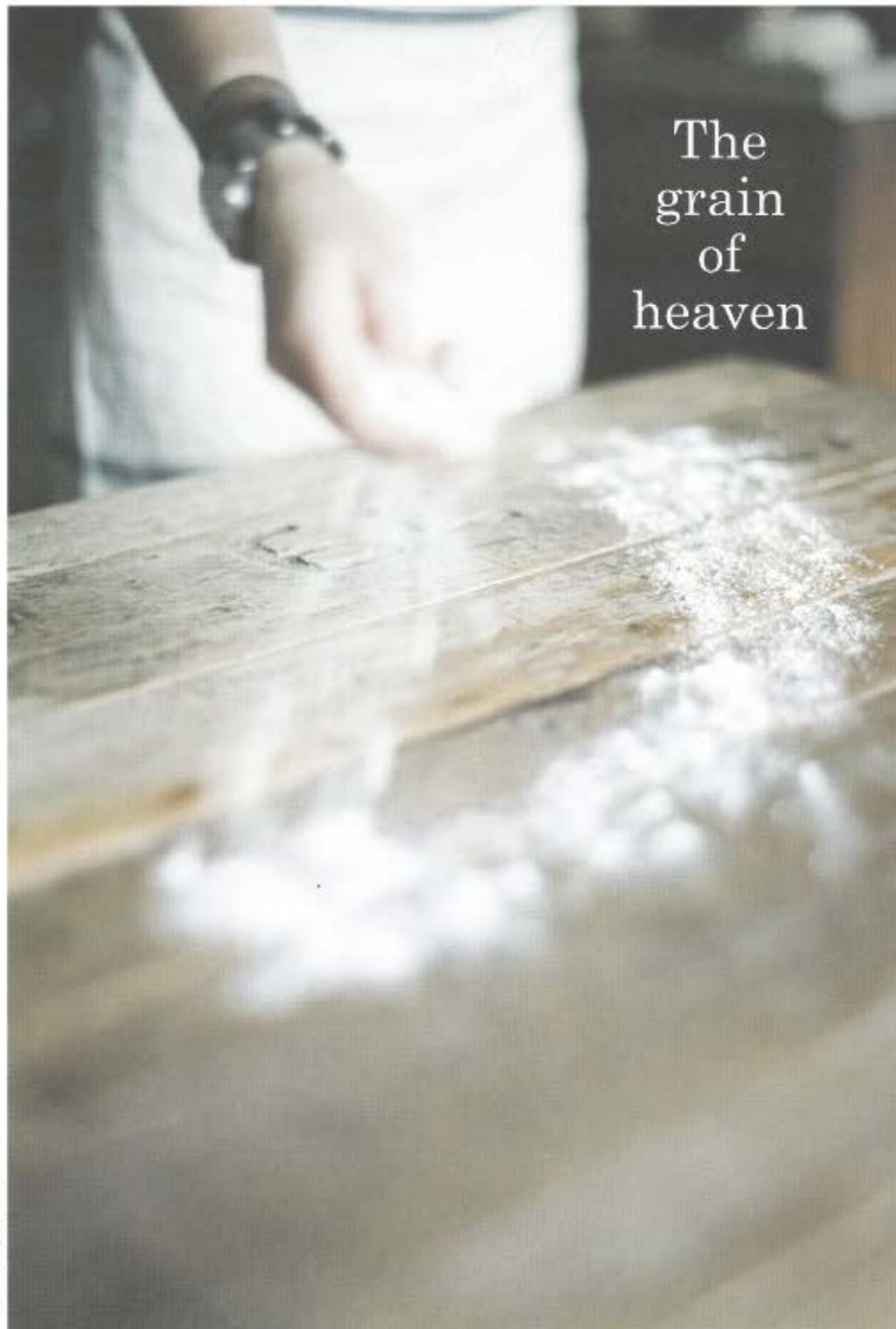
O grain of heaven—gift of grace gathered at each dawn,
you fill not silos but our souls,
not storerooms but our spirits.
Simple and simply amazing,
you save us from starvation.

Come, Miracle of Manna,
nourish us as our faith takes root,
that our trust will bloom through your sustenance
and our actions will grow out of your love.

—Janice Kulp Long, team pastor
Eel River Community Church of the Brethren
Silver Lake, Indiana

Text for today: "Yet [the Lord] commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven; he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them *the grain of heaven*. Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance. He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas; he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings. And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved" (Psalm 78:23-29, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29 (24); Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35.

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship August 19, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Voluntary No. 1 in C Major *John Stanley*

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.

THE BENSANÇON CHIME (11:00)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sisters and Brothers, let us open our hearts to worship God.
All: We gather as followers of Jesus, who proclaimed the good news.
One: We gather to learn from Jesus, who taught.
All: We gather to be touched by Jesus, who cured and healed.
One: We gather to be like Jesus, who had compassion for all people.
All: We gather to answer the call of Jesus, who sent disciples out to do as he did.
One: We gather in this place, as a family of faith, to be salt and light for the world.
All: May we be Christ's blessed people, willing to do what he did and to be his Living Parables.

***HYMN # 8** *Brethren, we have met to worship* HOLY MANNA

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Josh Eye
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.

Meditation from Triptych *John Barr*

Prayer

***HYMN # 118** *Praise God from whom* DEDICATION ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING Selections from Acts 15

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Andrea Nolley
Don Remnant
Elizabeth Nelson

RESPONDING

***HYMN # 323** *Beyond a dying sun* ENGLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Call to prayer
Silence
Spoken Prayer

ANTHEM A Celtic Blessing *Douglas E. Wagner*

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

All: We are the body of Christ...
One: ...hopeful that all who desire to follow Jesus get a seat at the table.
All: We are the body of Christ, together...
One: ...seeking a way forward in the midst of a broken world.
All: We are the body of Christ...
One: ...celebrating the joy of God's grace, the power of Jesus' love, and the hope of the Holy Spirit's comfort.
All: We are the body of Christ...
One: ...may we seek to embody grace, love, and comfort towards one another.
All: We are the body of Christ – hallelujah and amen!

POSTLUDE (11:00) Postludium *Flor Peeters*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

Worship resources being used today
are adapted from the 2018 Annual Conference worship materials

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

August 19-25, 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.

Mon.	11a.m.	Memorial Service for Fred Garst	Sanctuary
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	6:30	Witness & Nurture Commission	Lounge
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.		Youth to DC Zoo & Botanical Gardens	

NEXT SUNDAY– August 26, 2018 – *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “A Problem with Titles”

Scriptures: Psalm 84 & Ephesians 6:10-20

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

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 8/12/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 15 11:00 – 215 Sunday School: 101

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$19,025.66
Loose Offering	595.00
Church User Fees	300.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Miscellaneous	61.00

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

Names tags; 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.

Decorator – Missy Hipps

Deacon Caregivers – Andrea & Curtis Nolley

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Pianist (8:30) – Cindy Fike

Van Driver – Brad Neher

Worship Leader – Bill Faw

THE ROSES today celebrate the adoptions of Alysse and Malachi Houff to parents Erin West & Marianne Houff. Congratulations!

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *Douglas E. Wagner*

May the blessing of light be with you; May the sunshine warm your heart.

May the love of Christ enfold you, and never from you part.

And ever as you wander, wherever you are led,

May the grace of God's protection be always on your head.

May the blessing of rain be with you, as it gently falls to earth.

May it bring to your life, like the flowers, renewal and rebirth.

And ever as you wander, wherever you are led,

May the grace of God's protection be always on your head.

May the blessing of earth be with you, as you tread upon the sod,

And when you rest beneath it, may your soul quickly fly to God.

And ever as you wander, wherever you are led,

May the grace of God's protection be always on your head.

May the blessings of God be with you. Amen.

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NEWCOMER GATHERING

On Sunday evening, August 26, our pastors and deacons will be hosting a dinner and gathering especially for those who are new (or fairly new) to our community. The event will begin with dinner at 5 pm, followed by a time to get to know one another and our congregation a little better. It will conclude at 7 pm. Childcare will be provided. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this gathering (or one at a later time), please be in touch with one of the pastors or the church office.

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

- Task of seeking a 'compelling vision' is begun with conversation among Conference-goers.
- Delegates affirm the ecumenical and interfaith work of the church
- 'Creation Care: Faith into Action' recommendations are adopted
- Conference adopts new vision for a global Church of the Brethren
- 'Vitality and Viability' report focuses on providing resources for renewed vitality
- Changes to the Church of the Brethren bylaws are approved, among other business
- Standing Committee discusses Michigan District situation
- Annual Conference welcomes new projects, fellowships, and congregations
- 'Witness to the Host City' aids women in rehabilitation treatment, and their children

News reports, photo albums, Conference Journal, election results, webcasts, selected sermon texts, worship bulletins, and more a more full report can be found online at www.brethren.org/ac/2018/coverage. Additionally, a wrap-up DVD is available in our church library.