

Waiting for Jesus

I have an embarrassing confession to make: I can never keep the Advent candles straight! You'd think that someone who has spent her entire life in church, is a seminary graduate, and has pastored for over twenty years would have the system down. Instead, every year I must double-check to make sure we light them in order:

"Let's see now. Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherds, Angels . . . what about the magi? Don't the wise men deserve a candle? Let me check another source . . . *what!*? This writer says the candles represent Hope, Preparation, Joy, and Peace. So, shouldn't there be candles for Truth, Light, and Mercy as well? Those are good biblical themes. And what about Liberty and Justice for all? Isn't that in there somewhere? Wait—no, no, no—wrong script."

I mean no disrespect at all. But I have a sneaking suspicion that I'm not the only one who wrestles with the sequence and specific symbolism of the Advent candles.

One year while lamenting this perennial dilemma, a church member chuckled and said: "As long as we remember that the last one is the Christ candle, we'll be okay."

How right you are, dear brother! Sometimes we may have challenges keeping the candles straight. Sometimes we may have trouble remembering the "correct" way of doing things. Sometimes we may find it difficult distinguishing the subtle nuances of the faith or the shades of meaning in symbols.

But as long as we remember that the waiting, preparing, and hoping will culminate with the fulfillment of the promise in Jesus, we'll be okay.

—Robin Wentworth Mayer, pastor
Marion Church of the Brethren
Marion, Indiana

Text for today: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will *fulfill the promise* I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness' " (Jer. 33:14-16, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (14); Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship November 25, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

RESPONDING

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) from The Little Organ Book *J. S. Bach*
“Jesus, My Joy”
“Lord Jesus Christ, Turn to Us”

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.

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.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION (11:00)

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

“O How Blest Are Ye Whose Lives Were Faithful”

Johannes Brahms

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM (11:00) O Love *Elaine Hagenberg*

SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 1:4b-8 *NRSV*

***HYMN # 48** *All creatures of our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

SERMON “Endings and Beginnings” Jeff Carr

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

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

*** HYMN # 395** *Here I am, Lord*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) “New Earth, Heavens New” *Harris J. Loewen*
(ALEXANDRA)

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

November 25-December 1, 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 |
| | Noon | Retirement Reception for Jeanie Eye | Social Hall |
| | Noon | Sr. Hi. NYC Reunion Lunch | |
| | 5:00 | Jr. Hi. Youth Fellowship | Youth Room |
| Tues. | 6:15 | Child Care Center Board | Lounge |
| Wed. | 3:00 → | Care Package Assembly | Lounge |
| | 5:15 | Cherub Choir Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 5:30 | Wednesday Night Meal | Social Hall |
| | | <i>Catered by Nikki Watson. Menu: Pork Loin, etc.</i> | |
| | 5:45 | Carol Choir Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 6:00 | Witness & Nurture Commission | Open Door Room |
| | 6:30 | Yorffs Rehearsal | Room # 35 |
| | 7:00 | Board of Administration | Seekers Room |
| Thurs.-Sat. | | Salvation Army Bell Ringing – Bridgewater Foods | |
| Thurs. | 6:30 | Puppets Rehearsal | Agape Room |
| | 7:30 | Sanctus Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| Fri. | 6:00 | Brethren Student Movement – Social Hall, Youth Room | |
| Sat. | 10 a.m. | Christmas Parade | Bridgewater |
| | 4:00 | Advent Celebration | Social Hall |

NEXT SUNDAY– December 2, 2018

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

First Sunday of Advent – Preparing the Way... of Hope

Scripture Reading: Psalm 25:1-10

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Children's Worship during Worship at 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Menu: Sweet & Savory Crepe Bar

InMotion Dance Recital – 3 p.m. – Sanctuary

Sr. Hi. Youth Movie Night & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Home of the Zepps

BRC Lovelight Service – 7 p.m. – Lantz Chapel

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

Josh Eye – Interim 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.bwco.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.

Decorator – Heather Barkey & Becky Replogle

Fellowship Hostess – Beth Day-Miller

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Pianist (8:30) – Betty Caricofe

Van Driver – Wayne Angleberger

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: See Hymnal #577

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROJECT

Gifts (Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services gift-giving program) are due back today. If any questions, please see Jeannie Turner in the Greeting Hall.

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 11/18/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 20 11:00 – 260 Children's – 18

Sunday School: 141

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pledges & Envelope Giving | \$7,969.87 |
| Loose Offering | 947.00 |
| <i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions | 58.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 30.00 |
| Wednesday Night Meals | 365.00 |
| Brethren Student Movement | 104.00 |
| Youth Programs | 830.00 |
| Altruistic Sunday School Class | 89.00 |
| Friendship Circle | 470.00 |
| Journey Bags | 50.00 |

CHRISTMAS DANCE RECITAL

InMotion School of Dance invites you to "The Heart of Christmas," a new original production featuring "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" today at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Admission is free; dancers will take a Love Offering to support New Community Project's "Give a Girl a Chance" program.

SHENANDOAH CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 49th annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert entitled "Welcome All Wonders" will feature a variety of new and traditional carol settings accompanied by brass, percussion, organ, and piano. \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors & students.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Today is the final day for collecting donations (both items and financial) for our annual end-of semester care packages. Please contact Pastor Chris to report current mailing addresses if you have not already done so. Assembly will occur this Wednesday, Nov. 28, starting at 3 pm in the Lounge – feel free to come and help for a little or a lot as you are able!

CALLED USHERS MEETING

The ushers will meet in the Seekers classroom immediately following worship on December 2 to discuss the usher organization for 2019. We also need more persons to consider serving our congregation as ushers. If you would feel called to serve in this capacity, please join the meeting to learn more about the usher duties and contribution to services and duties.

INVITATION TO HELP DECORATE FOR ADVENT

Help in preparing for our Advent is needed in many ways and times! Is there a slot that you can fill in this busy season?

Mon., Nov. 26, 6:30 pm - Strong arms needed to put up four trees

Wed., Nov. 28, 5:15 pm - decorating trees in the Greeting Hall & Children's wing. MANY hands of all ages are needed!

Cherub, Carol & YOrff Choir parents and siblings, and all Wed. Night dinner attendees are invited to help decorate.

Fri., Nov. 30, 9:30 am - noon - Sanctuary decorating, wreaths, garlands & Crèche - both manual and artistic help is appreciated!

Sat., Dec. 1, 9 am - noon - Finish preparations for the First Sunday of Advent, sanctuary, doors, and tables.

Revelation 1:4-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.