

Getting in Sync

We have a dysfunctional Sunday morning preparation ritual at our house. It begins with the fact that it takes me longer to get ready than it does my husband. What can I say? I'm a woman—it just does. And the older I get, the longer it takes! However, once I've finished and gathered my things, I walk downstairs and say to my husband (who is usually focused on his iPad): "Okay, I'm ready—time to go!" Like clockwork, he jumps up and says: "Alright! I just have to brush my teeth, put on my shoes, get my wallet, and find my keys." Obviously, our preparation timing is not in sync.

The Jewish people had been preparing for centuries for the coming Messiah—the Passover, the sacrifices, the law, the prophets. Eventually they got a not-so-subtle heads-up from Jesus' rough-and-ready, locust-eating cousin, John. Yet throughout these early episodes—and later when Jesus embarked on his ministry—many of those who were *waiting* were still too busy *looking* to notice he'd arrived. Obviously, their preparation timing was not in sync.

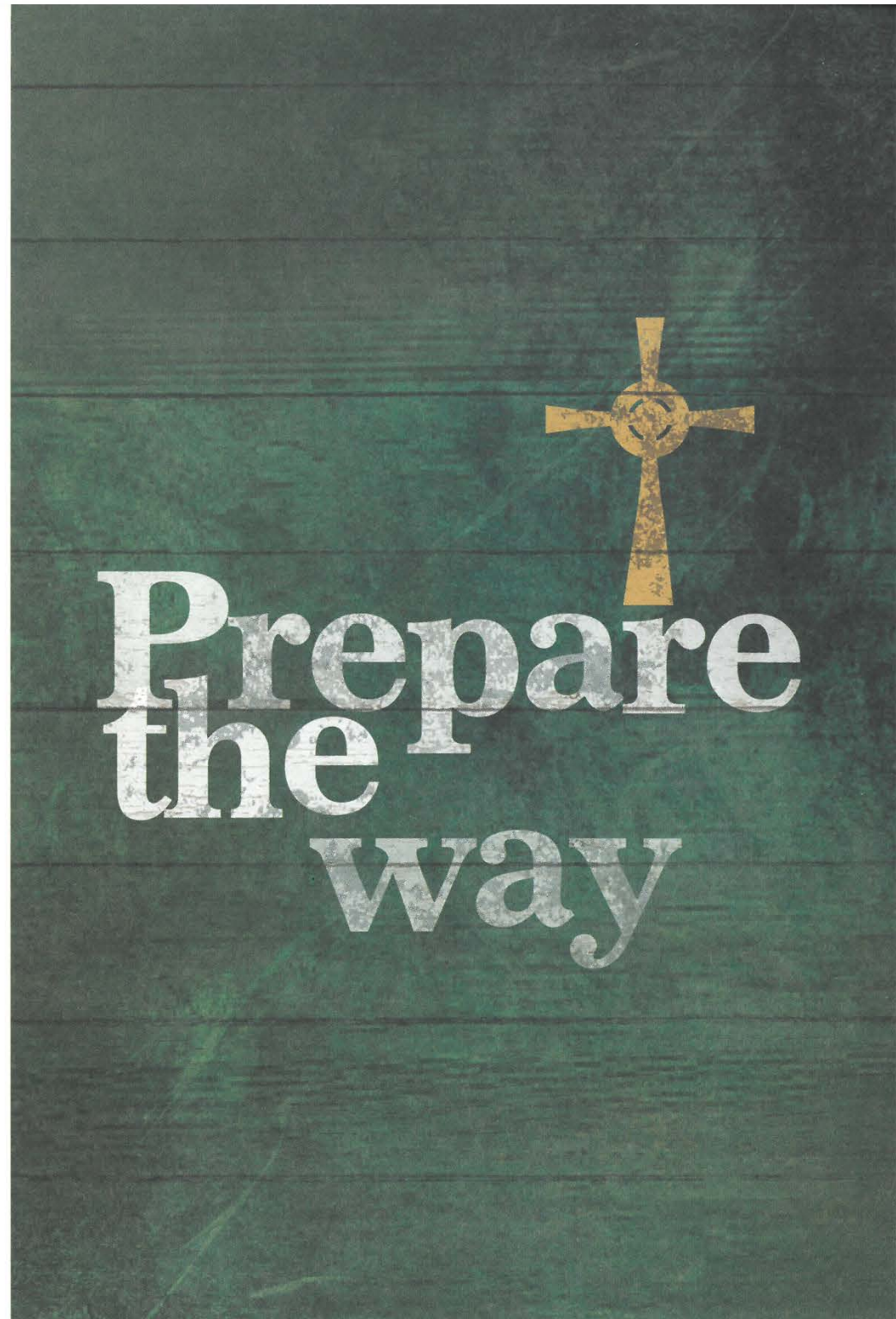
We are busy preparing for Christmas—decorating, shopping, baking, wrapping, celebrating. There are church activities and family gatherings to juggle, programs and practices to attend. And throughout the season there are countless hours of sleep lost to the demands of such preparation. If we're not careful and intentional, we'll neglect to prepare our hearts and minds for the ever-new arrival of the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Let's make sure that our preparation timing is in sync.

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

Text for today: "See, I am sending my messenger to *prepare the way* before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years" (Mal. 3:1-4, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Malachi 3:1-4 (1); Luke 1:68-79; Philipppians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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12-09-18, Second Sunday of Advent. Printed in the USA
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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship December 2, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Wake, Arise, the Voice Calls Us” *J. S. Bach*
(from The Schübler Chorales)

CALL TO WORSHIP

HAND BELL ANTHEM (11:00) My Lord What a Morning *arr. S. Eithun*

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

INTROIT Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord *Stephen Schwartz*

ADVENT LITURGY

Story of Hope *The Kreps Family*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Scripture Reading Psalm 25:1-10 *NRSV*

***HYMN # 193** *Silent night, holy night* *STILLE NACHT*

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. Following the Children’s Story, all children preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend Children’s Worship in the Agape Room.

ANTHEM (11:00) Of The Father’s Love *arr. John Helgen*

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *Wilbur Held*
(from Six Carol Settings)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN # 183** *On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry* WINCHESTER NEW

SERMON “Preparing the Way...of Hope” *Jeff Carr*

RESPONDING

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

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

HAND BELL ANTHEM (11:00) Carol of the Bells *M. Leontovich*
arr. W. Witherup

RESPONSIVE LITANY

One: Eternal God, through the generations you have prepared a way.

All: Your spirit still brings light to our paths.

One: Renew us in faith. Renew us in hope

All: That we may welcome Christ to lead our thoughts as we make our way, in your way.

***HYMN INSERT** *Still, still, still* *STILL, STILL, STILL*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00) “Savior of the Nations Come” *J. S. Bach*
(from The Little Organ Book) *HWB 173*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 2-8, 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
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	Agape Room
	Noon	Ushers Meeting	Seekers Room
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
	3:00	InMotion Dance Recital	Sanctuary
	5:00	Sr. Hi. Youth Movie Night – Home of the Zepps	
	7:00	Children's Choirs sing at BRC Lovelight	Lantz Chapel
8:30	BSM Leadership Team	Lounge	
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15	"The Unfriendly Beasts" Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Francesco's – Cheese Ravioli, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna, Rolls, Salad</i> <i>Suggested Donation: \$10 adults / \$5 children</i>	
6:45	Yorffs Rehearsal	Room # 35	
Thurs.	Noon	Interfaith Association	EMU
	6:00	Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.	3:15	Children's Choirs sing at VBMHC	

NEXT SUNDAY– December 9, 2018 – *Second Sunday in Advent*

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

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: "Preparing the Way...of Peace"

Scripture: Luke 1:68-79

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

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

Jr. Hi. Youth Fellowship – 5 p.m. – Youth Room

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.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 – Lori Lineweaver & Dwyann Stovall, et. al.

Fellowship Hostess – Beth Day-Miller

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Guitarist (8:30) – Brent Holl

Van Drivers – Teshome Molalenge

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 11/25/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 20 11:00 – 223 Sunday School: 115

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$5,365.00
Loose Offering	355.07
Food Pantry	75.00
Books	39.00
Tree Lights of Love	150.00
Brethren Student Movement	100.00
Youth Programs	380.00
College Care Packages	40.00
Backpack Program	50.00
Friendship Circle	250.00
Journey Bags	150.00
Cliff & Valley Keplinger Memorial Fund	100.00

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *M. Prudentius*, 348-413

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Ev'ry voice in every concert ring evermore and evermore.

He is Alpha and Omega, the source, the ending he,
Evermore and evermore.

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UP COMING CHILDREN'S MUSIC EVENTS

Tonight at 7:00 p.m., our children's choirs will perform a preview of their Christmas musical as part of the Love Light Vespers program in Lantz Chapel at Bridgewater Retirement Community. On Saturday, December 8, YOrff, Carol, and Cherub choirs will perform at 3:15 p.m. in the 1829 Log House for Christmas at Crossroads. Come support the children's ensembles for these community events as we get into the Christmas spirit!

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. Tickets are available at the door, locally from Red Front Supermarket, Bridgewater Foods, and on-line at singshenandoah.org. Admission is \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students.

USHER GATHERING TODAY

Immediately following worship at 11, the ushers will meet in the Seekers classroom to discuss organization for 2019. Additional persons are invited to join this vital ministry. If you feel called or would like to serve as an usher, please come to the gathering to hear more about usher duties and their often unseen contributions to our worship life.

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

Chords: Eb Ebmaj7 Cm Cm7 Fm Bb7

1 Still, still, still, one can hear the fall - ing
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Sav - ior's
3 Dream, dream, dream, of the joy - ous day to

Chords: Eb Bb Bb7 Eb

snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleep - ing,
birth. The night is peace - ful all a - round you.
come. While guard - ian an - gels with - out num - ber

Chords: Bb Bb7 Eb Eb Ebmaj7

ho - ly star its vi - gil keep - ing. Still, still,
Close your eyes, let sleep sur - round you. Sleep, sleep,
watch you as you sweet - ly slum - ber. Dream, dream,

Chords: Cm Cm7 Fm Bb7 Eb

still, one can hear the fall - ing snow.
sleep, 'tis the eve of our Sav - ior's birth.
dream, of the joy - ous day to come.

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Christmas Tenebrae

*Longing for Light...
Waiting in Darkness*



December 15, 7 p.m.

*A time of worship for those who find
it difficult to relate to the joyful and
festive mood of the Christmas season.*