

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS AND PROGRAM

Wednesday Night Meals will be back in 2019! Plans are being made to resume having these congregational fellowship meals beginning January 16, so mark your calendars to join us. Watch the bulletin and mid-week emails for more information in the New Year. If you would like to volunteer in any way to help out with organizing or making these meals possible, please contact Shannon or Pastor Chris.

CHURCH OFFICE INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Rockingham County Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the church office will be closed.



WINTER WEATHER WATCH

If there is inclement weather on Sunday morning (or beginning Saturday evening), please check for church cancellations / closings on:
WSVA radio 550 am
WHSV TV channel 3
Church Website (www.bwcob.org)
Church Facebook page



CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed January 1. If you have pastoral needs please contact Pastor Jeff by leaving a message at the office or calling him at home. He will be checking messages.



NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to all those who volunteered to staff the Salvation Army booth at Bridgewater Foods Market last month. Your time was a gift from you and from our congregation to those less fortunate. The participation in this project was excellent and appreciated very much. Many thanks.

~Laura Mapp

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our effort to fill and send care packages to our college students near and far at the end of last semester. With your help, we sent 64 packages this season!

~Pastor Chris

Thank you so much for the care package. It was much needed!

~Dillon Rusmiser

Thanks for the care packages...we appreciate them so much!

~Phoebe Hart

Thanks for the care package...Tell everyone I said hi and thank you!

~Jake Capasso

Thank you for my care package. It has certainly helped with study and to know that the church is thinking of us as we prepare for exams.

~Taylor Hilliard

Many thanks for all the letters, cards, and gifts shared with our families during the holiday season. It is truly a blessing to serve and share life with such a caring family of faith. Here's to another year of life and ministry together!

~Pastors Jeff and Chris and families

Thank you for sponsoring me through BVS so I could begin my year of volunteering debt-free. I am so blessed to be able to serve and spend a year in Elgin and I am grateful to know BWCOB is supporting me. I owe a lot of my faith formation and growth in the church to the people who surrounded me as I grew up in Bridgewater, and I would not be here today if it wasn't for that. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

~Lauren Flora

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

January 6—Epiphany

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: *"Holly Day, Epiphany, Betsy & a Birthday"*

January 13—First Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon: *"When...With...For..."*

January 20—Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

Sermon: *"Whatever"*

January 27—Third Sunday after the Epiphany

BSM Sunday: Worship planned & led by our campus

ministry – Brethren Student Movement

CROP UPDATE

The 2018 Bridgewater College CROP Meal on November 1 and Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk on November 4 raised a total of \$4,423 for Church World Service's hunger relief, education, and development programs in 80 countries around the world, with 25% of that amount coming back to fight hunger in our own communities through the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry. A heartfelt thanks to all the churches and individuals who helped make our CROP events such a blessing for God's children across the street and around the world.



2018 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Statements will be available on January 13 & 20. Your help in delivering statements to family and neighbors will be greatly appreciated. Those not picked up will be mailed.



2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are now available to be picked up. Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2019 but has not had them in the past should notify our Interim Financial Secretary, Karissa Hunt. Weekly and monthly envelopes are available. Also, if you're interested in having your contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office or you may speak with Karissa.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDIES

This month's book study with Pastor Chris will meet 2-3 pm on Wednesday afternoon, January 16 (one meeting only!) and will focus on and will focus on *In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History* by Mitch Landrieu (2018).

There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence for it. When Mitch Landrieu addressed the people of New Orleans in May 2017 about his decision to take down four Confederate monuments, including the statue of Robert E. Lee, he struck a nerve nationally, and his speech has now been heard or seen by millions across the country. In his first book, Mayor Landrieu discusses his personal journey on race as well as the path he took to making the decision to remove the monuments, tackles the broader history of slavery, race and institutional inequities that still bedevil America, and traces his personal relationship to this history.... Equal parts unblinking memoir, history, and prescription for finally confronting America's most painful legacy, In the Shadow of Statues will contribute strongly to the national conversation...at a time when racism is resurgent with seemingly tacit approval from the highest levels of government and when too many Americans have a misplaced nostalgia for a time and place that never existed.

If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy. We will discuss the entire book on January 16.

Looking Ahead – The next book study will meet over two months – February 6 & 20 and March 6 & 20 – and will focus on *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today* by John Shelby Spong (2018). *“Five hundred years after Martin Luther and his Ninety-Five Theses ushered in the Reformation, bestselling author and controversial bishop and teacher John Shelby Spong delivers twelve forward-thinking theses to spark a new reformation to reinvigorate Christianity and ensure its future. ...Spong contends that there is mounting pressure among Christians for a radically new kind of Christianity—a faith deeply connected to the human experience instead of outdated dogma. To keep Christianity vital, he urges modern Christians to update their faith in light of these advances in our knowledge, and to challenge the rigid and problematic Church teachings that emerged with the Reformation. There is a disconnect, he argues, between the language of traditional worship and the language of the twenty-first century. Bridging this divide requires us to rethink and reformulate our basic understanding of God.”* Order your copy through our office at a cost of \$20 or less (if ordered by Jan.16) OR obtain your own copy.

BITS AND PEACES

[brought to you by Peace Committee and Mission & Service Commission]

We believe that...God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance even in the face of violence and warfare.

~ Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

~ 1 Corinthians 3:11, NRSV

BWCOB JANUARY 2019 **EVENTS PROGRAM CALENDAR**

This is a church-related program calendar and does not include all building use. Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS and building use through the church office. All events are at BWCOB unless otherwise indicated.

- 2 Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Properties Commission – 7 p.m.
- 3 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Un-decorating from Christmas – 9 a.m.
- 6 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Youth Inquirers' Class – 2 p.m.
Sr. Hi. Movie & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Zepp Home
- 9 Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 10 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Inquirers' Class – 2 p.m.
Youth Sunday Night Live – 6 p.m.
- 15 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 16 Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 17 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m.
- 20 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Youth Inquirers' Class – 2 p.m.
- 22 Child Care Center Board – 6:15 p.m.

- 23 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Witness & Nurture Commission – 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Youth Snow Tubing
- 27 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Youth Inquirers' Class – 2 p.m.
Jr. Hi. Youth Fellowship – 5 p.m.
- 30 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 2 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 3 Interfaith Association – Noon
- 9 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 14 Retired Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace
- 15 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.



For Our Prayers during the Month of January 2019

Each month a prayer list with opportunities for directed prayer is included with our newsletter. In addition to highlighting specific prayer requests, we are invited to pray with particular mindfulness of the persons connected with our congregation and community. Additionally, focusing thoughts and prayers around the following may be helpful as a guide:

Our Congregation and its Ministries, Vision and Mission

Those who are...

- Hopeful for and anticipating fresh starts and new opportunities in 2019
- Recovering, rebuilding and grieving from natural disasters
- Undergoing significant life changes
- Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute
- Finding peace and contentment
- In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss of relationship
- Struggling with mental illness, anxiety, depression and or thoughts of suicide
- Survivors, Victims, Witnesses, and Perpetrators of violence, intolerance, racism and hatred
- Wrestling with their faith
- Facing financial hardships

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...Our Nation and World

...those in Nigeria... facing violence, kidnappings, and deep unrest...and for those committing these atrocities
We continue to pray specifically for **Hauwa Abdu**, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in April 2014.

...our congregation, district, and denomination

...those who recently welcomed a child into their lives. especially

Alexandra Isabella Coronado, daughter of **Carlos Coronado & Julia Stutzman Coronado**, who was born Nov. 20

David Atticus Diehl, son of **Alan & Julie Diehl**, who was born Dec. 4

Brayden Lee Kiracofe, son of **Leigh Ann & Todd Kiracofe**, who was born Dec.5

...those who grieve, especially the families and friends of...

Denny Eye, husband of **Jeanie** and father of **Jason** and **Josh**, who died Dec. 5

Karen Glick Hedrick, daughter of **Becky** and **J.D. Glick**, who died Dec. 1

Cliff Keplinger, father of **Donna Miller**, **Karen Hess**, **Julie Huffman**, & **Kevin Keplinger**, who died Nov. 18;

John Sayre, who died Nov. 8; **David Flora**, father of **Steve Flora** and brother of **Sam Flora** who died Nov.5;

Kay Rittenhouse, wife of **Wilbur Rittenhouse** and sister of **Karen Wyrick**, who died Oct. 25;

Emma Nicholas, daughter of **Kajsa Svarfvar & David Nicholas**, sister of **Jonathan Nicholas**, who died Oct. 24;

Ronald Mathias, father of **Kathy Shrader**, who died Oct. 21; **Robert Zimmerman**, brother of **Fred Zimmerman**, who died Oct. 14;

... those under the care of Hospice, Palliative Care and Comfort Care

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, receiving treatments, recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation... **Ermina Petcher**,
Jackie Towers, **Rick Wampler**, **Edgar Flora**, **Fred Bowman**, **Mike Galang**, **Mike Fike**, **Allen Clague**

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically... in **Avante**, **Bridgewater Home**, **Sunnyside**, & **White Birch Estates**

...those in Volunteer Service, specifically... **Lauren Capasso** (Houston, TX), **Lauren Flora** (Elgin, IL) **Stephen Miller** (Japan)

...those in Military Service, specifically... **Tyler Hopkins**, **Kent Hutchinson**

...those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently...

The Duncan Family, **Mattie Barnhartt**, a four-year-old girl recently diagnosed with leukemia

For these and all God's Children we pray...

