

Moments that Interrupt

It was a simple question: “If today was a food, what food would it be?” And what seemed like a typical daily debriefing for our youth on a mission trip ended with weeping.

Nehemiah 8 records a similar instance. After hearing the book of the law read and interpreted for hours, the people began to grieve.

Weeping, especially openly, is often uncomfortable for many of us. Sure, it brings uncertainty. But these moments can also point to something miraculous and wonderful interrupting our lives. So, how should we respond to these moments?

Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites respond by telling the people *not* to grieve. They say, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep” (v. 9). The Hebrew word translated as “holy” here is *qadosh*, set apart for a special purpose.

It is easy to get caught up in trying to understand *why* this day is holy, and then try to replicate it (see also Leviticus 23:24). But I think it is more helpful to look at the Israelites’ response to these miraculous and wonderful tears interrupting their lives.

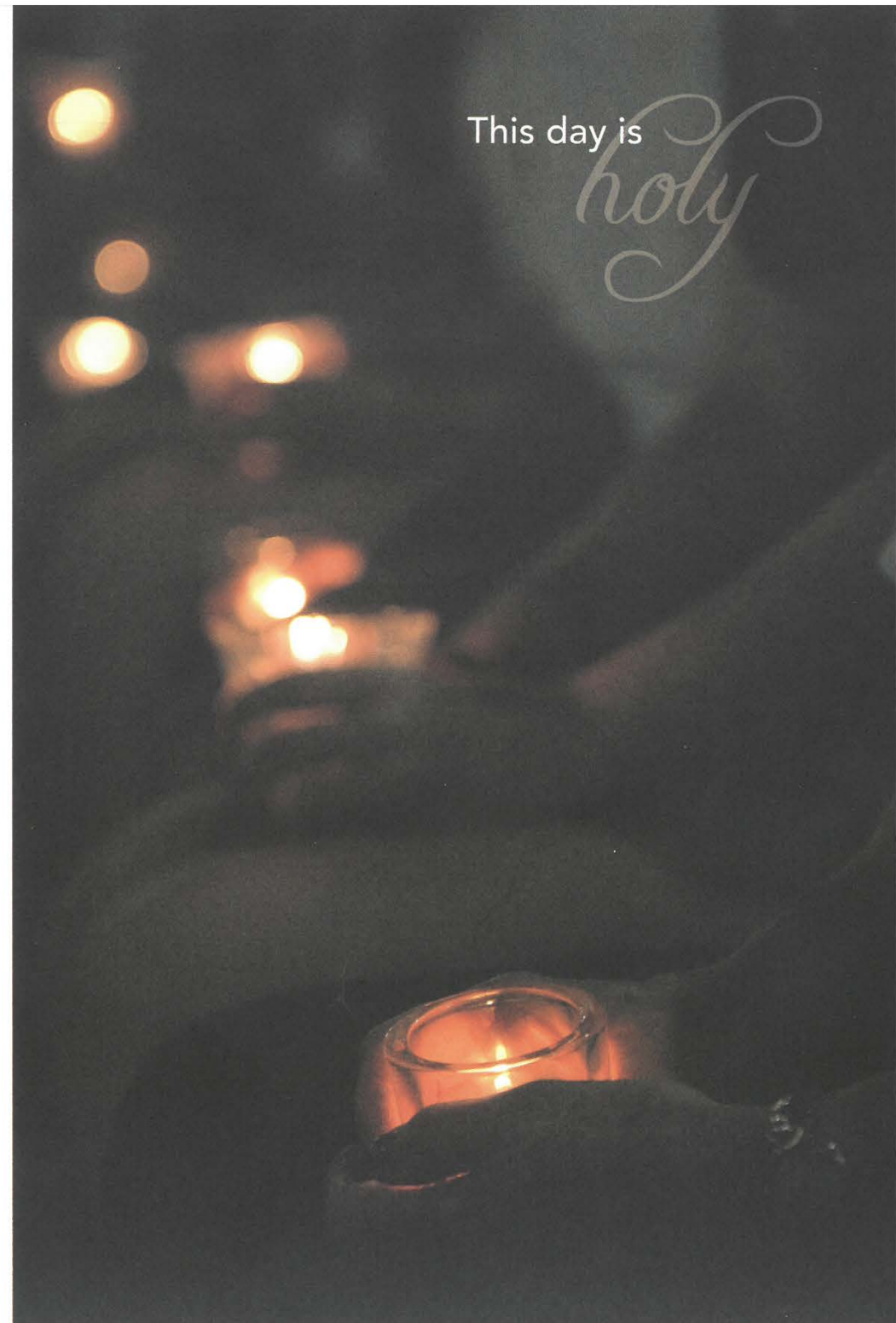
“This day is holy” is repeated three times in this passage, along with several instructions: “do not mourn or weep,” “go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared,” and “be quiet.”

We may not understand why holy moments come to us. But we can lean into them by not mourning in fear of the unknown, the mystery. We can rejoice with others by sharing good food and drink, especially with those in need. And we can remember to take time to sit quietly in reflection—just *be* in each moment and enjoy the holy, instead of trying to rush and explain it.

—Eric Kauffman
Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania

Text for today: “Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. . . . He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. . . . So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. . . . Then [Nehemiah] said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for *this day is holy* to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength’” (Neh. 8:2a, 3, 8, 10, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (10); Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship January 27, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

BRETHREN STUDENT MOVEMENT SUNDAY

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

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.

HANDBELL PRELUDE (11:00) When Morning Gilds the Skies
arr. *John Behnke*

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 133*) Kasey Carns

One: Though we may be inclined to brag, let us come together with humility.

All: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though we may be tempted to use harsh words, let us come together with gentleness.

All: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though we may want everything to happen quickly, let us come together with patience.

All: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: Though the world around often encourages hate, let us come together in love.

All: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

One: In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity -

All: Let us worship the God who has called us together!

HANDBELL ANTHEM (11:00) Climbing Jacob's Ladder arr. *Sondra Tucker*

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Erika Clary
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.

***HYMN INSERT** *I Surrender All* SURRENDER

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

SKIT Josh Layton & Daniel Naff

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:37-42 Josh Layton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Daniel Naff

SCRIPTURE READINGS John 8:1-11 Erika Clary

***HYMN # 545** *Be thou my vision* SLANE

SERMON "Sit Down...Be Humble" Phoebe Hart

RESPONDING

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

***HYMN INSERT** *Will you let me be your servant* THE SERVANT SONG

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

Today's worship is planned and led by the Leadership Team of our campus ministry, the Bridgewater Brethren Student Movement. Members of the 2018-2019 Leadership Team are Kasey Carns, Erika Clary, Phoebe Hart, Josh Layton, Ben McCrickard (abroad in Germany), and Daniel Naff.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 27-February 2, 2019 (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.

Sun.	2:00	Youth Inquirers' Class	Youth Room
	5:00	Youth Fellowship / Meal	Youth Room
	6:00	Youth Sunday Night Live	Social Hall
	8:30	BSM Leadership Team	Lounge
Mon.	7:45	Staffing Task Team	Lounge
Wed.		<i>No Meal or rehearsals for children's music ensembles</i>	
Thurs.	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.-Sat.		BSM Lock-In	Youth Room; Kitchen; Social Hall

NEXT SUNDAY– February 3, 2019 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "The Greatest of These"

Scriptures: Luke 4:21-30 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Children's Worship during Worship at 11 – Agape Room

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

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Menu: Taco Bar

Youth Super Bowl Party – 6 p.m. – Home of the Zepps

2019 CONTACT DIRECTORY DRAFTS are available in the Greeting Hall today for you to review your listing (and the listings of those in your family who aren't able to check) and to add or correct your contact information. Edits or additions need be made in only ONE of the drafts. You may also contact the church office to review or amend your listing at any time.

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 – Dwynn Stovall

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Van Driver – Rick Fawley

Handbells -- Advanced Handbell Ensemble

Worship Leaders – BSM Leadership Team

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 1/20/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 22 11:00 – 205 Children's – 21

Sunday School: 109

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$18,583.87
Loose Offering	858.00
Church User Fees	650.00
Food Pantry	700.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	29.50
Books	37.00
Oak Lawn Cemetery	200.00
Wednesday Night Meals	275.00
Youth Programs	965.00
Altruistic Sunday School Class	148.00
Denny Eye Memorial Fund	75.00

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Next Wednesday, February 6, Pastor Chris will begin another study focusing on the latest release by John Shelby Spong: *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today* (2018). This is an excerpt from the promotional release:

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.

Such ideas should give us plenty to discuss as we meet 2-3 pm on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of the next two months – February 6 & 20 and March 6 & 20. If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy (though you are certainly welcome to attend even if you have not read the book). We will discuss parts I-III (thru page 76) on February 6.

COMPELLING VISION SESSIONS CONTINUE

Help to shape the "Compelling Vision" being formulated for the Church of the Brethren by participating in one or more of these district sessions, being held across the denomination to hear from Brethren what they envision for the Church of the Brethren of the future. The Rev. Kevin Daggett, pastor of the Dayton Church of the Brethren and a member of the Compelling Vision Process Team, will lead the sessions, all on Sunday afternoons, 3-5 p.m.

Feb. 3 - Cedar Grove (616 Cedar Grove Road, Ruckersville)

Feb. 17 - Bridgewater Retirement Community's

Huffman Healthcare Center 3rd floor multi-purpose room
(302 N. Second Street, Bridgewater)

Feb. 24 - New Hope (12768 Frost Road, Dunmore, W.Va.)

Attendance is not restricted to those in each section – you are encouraged to choose a session (or more than one) that is conveniently located and aligns with your schedule.

I Surrender All

SURRENDER

D^b
A^{b7}
D^b
A^{b7}
D^b

1 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, all to him I free-ly give;
 2 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly thine;
 3 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to thee;

A^{b7}
D^b
A^{b7}
D^b

I will ev-er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai-ly live.
 let me feel thy Ho-ly Spir-it, tru-ly know that thou art mine.
 fill me with thy love and pow-er, let thy bless-ing fall on me.

Refrain
D^b
A^{b7}
D^b

I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all;
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.

G^b
D^{b/A^b}
A^{b7}
D^b

all to thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all.

Text: Judson VanDeVenter
 Music: Winifred Weeden
 Public Domain

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

D
A
G
A
Bm
Em
A

Will you let me be your se-r-vant let me be as Christ to you?
 Pray that I may have the gra-ce to let you be my se-r-vant
 too Will you let me, will you let me
 will you let me be your se-r-vant? Will you let me, will you let me
 will you let me be your se-r-vant too?

v.2 We are pilgrims on a journey
 We are travelers on the road
 We are here to help each other
 Walk the mile and bear the load
 v.3 I will hold the Christ light for you
 In the nighttime of your fear
 I will hold my hand out to you
 Speak the peace you long to hear

v.4 I will weep when you are weeping
 When you laugh I'll laugh with you
 I will share your joy and sorrow
 Till we've seen this journey through
 v.5 When we sing to God in heaven
 We shall find such harmony
 Born of all we've know together
 Of Christ's love and agony

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