

## Hope to the Least of These

I was recently at a funeral for Dick Via, a longtime, beloved volunteer and coordinator for Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). As we celebrated his life, it was clear that service was part of his daily living and this affected not only those he served, but also those who saw him serving. He inspired others to do the same in Jesus' name at home, on BDM rebuilding sites, and beyond.

Pastor Burton Wolf, Southern Ohio District Disaster Coordinator, spoke at the funeral. He referenced Matthew 25 where Jesus spoke of how serving the "least of these" was serving the Lord himself. Burton included a fitting addition to this familiar passage: "I survived a natural disaster, and you traveled many miles to help me rebuild my home and life."

Service with the Church of the Brethren provides many opportunities to lift up this important theme. Read these other examples and think of whose stories you might add:

- I was a child, scared from the storm that destroyed my town, and you comforted me and created a place to feel safe.
- I was an older adult, and you and other young people traveled to spend time and have fellowship with me.
- My home flooded, and your church provided an emergency cleanup bucket for us to clean our home and belongings.
- I fled the attacks of an extremist group, and you came to my country, helped rebuild my church, and walked with me as brothers and sisters.
- My island was hit with a hurricane, and you made a donation that provided food and tools and necessary building materials.
- I was hungry, and you committed a year of your time to volunteer at the food bank in my town.
- My life was turned upside down, leaving me in despair, and you brought me friendship, love, and hope.

—Jenn Dorsch-Messler, director  
Brethren Disaster Ministries

**Text for today:** "I've taken refuge in you, LORD. Don't let me ever be put to shame! Deliver me and rescue me by your righteousness! Bend your ear toward me and save me! . . . My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked; rescue me from the grip of the wrongdoer and the oppressor because *you are my hope*, Lord. You, LORD, are the one I've trusted since childhood" (Psalm 71:1-2, 4-5, CEB). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 (5); 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30.

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**BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
at Worship February 3, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**RESPONDING**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** (11:00) from The Brethren Hymnal (1951) # 580-588  
Hymns of the Changing Year

**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.

**MOMENT FOR MISSION AND SERVICE** Ada Longenecker

**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. Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Luke 4:21-30 NRSV

**\*HYMN # 542** *Holy Spirit, gracious Guest* ANDERSON

**OFFERING**  
**Invitation** ~Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, adapted

**Offertory**

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

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

“O God, Our Help...” *Margaretha Christina de Jong*  
[ST. ANNE]

**Prayer** ~Roger and Kathy Edmark, adapted

**ANTHEM** (11:00) O God, Our Help in Ages Past *Alan Hovhaness*

**SCRIPTURE READING** I Corinthians 13:1-13 NRSV

**SERMON** “The Greatest of These” Jeff Carr

**\*HYMN # 369** *Lord, whose love in humble service* BEACH SPRING

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN # 307** *Will you let me be your servant* THE SERVANT SONG

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) [Festival Postlude] *D. Zipoli*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

**TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Isaak Watts, 1719**

Please refer to page 328 in Hymnal: A Worship Book.

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## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**February 3-9, 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.

<b>Sun.</b>	Children's Worship during Worship @ 11	Agape Room
	Noon Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
	6:00 Youth Super Bowl Party – Home of the Zepps	
<b>Mon.</b>	7:00 Gifts Discernment Committee	Lounge
<b>Tues.</b>	7:00 Executive Committee	Lounge
	7:00 Foundation Board	Open Door
	7:00 Food Pantry	Social Hall
<b>Wed.</b>	2:00 Book Study	Lounge
	5:15 Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30 Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
	<i>Catered by: Francesco's Italian Restaurant</i>	
	<i>Menu: Lasagna, Cheese Ravioli, Fettuccini Alfredo, Salad, Rolls</i>	
	<i>Suggested Donation: \$10 adults / \$5 kids</i>	
	5:45 Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30 Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	6:30 Yorffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00 Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
7:00 Mission & Service Commission	Lounge	
7:00 Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room	
7:30 Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Noon Interfaith Association	EMU
	6:00 Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	6:30 Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

### **NEXT SUNDAY**– February 10 – *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Digging Deep"

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

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

**Youth Chillax Afternoon** – Noon – Youth Room & Social Hall

## 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.

**Decorators** – Dwyann & Tony Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Alice Lee & Jesse Hopkins

**Head Usher** – Don Remnant

**Pianist** (8:30) – Kathy Shrader

**Van Driver** – Brad Neher

**Worship Leader** – Ada Longenecker

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 1/27/19**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 24 11:00 – 209 Sunday School:128**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$8,075.00
Loose Offering	498.00
Church User Fees	300.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	30.00
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Wednesday Night Meals	260.00
Youth Programs	100.00

## **2019 DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE**

Copies of the newest Congregational Contacts and Organizational Directories are now available! Hard copies may be picked up in the Greeting Hall. These directories are now printed in-house, so if they run out, simply write down your name on the tablet provided indicating which of the directories you would like, and come back to pick them up next week (or stop by the office). Large-print editions are also available by request. Mobile-friendly E-versions are also available on the members section of our website (bwcob.org) or by contacting the church office. A pictorial update will also be released in the coming months.

## **PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY**

This Wednesday 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.*

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. 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. Kevin Daggett, pastor of 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. 17 - Bridgewater Retirement Community's  
Huffman Healthcare Center 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Luke 4:21-30

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

### 1 Corinthians 13

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.