

Impossible Catches

Sometimes it seems impossible. Jesus asks all of us to do really big things: forgive enemies, spread justice, speak with others about God's love, fish empty water. But impossible is a lie. "The problem is too big" is a story we tell when we are afraid or overwhelmed or just plain tired. When Jesus asked the disciples to lower their nets into deep water, they hesitated but followed through. Impossible disappeared in the face of teamwork and the power of God in Jesus.

On Sunday morning, Paradise Church of the Brethren has about twenty-five people, many of whom are above seventy. Our small size might tell us it is impossible to do justice. We are doing the best we can to just pay the heating bills and keep the yard mowed.

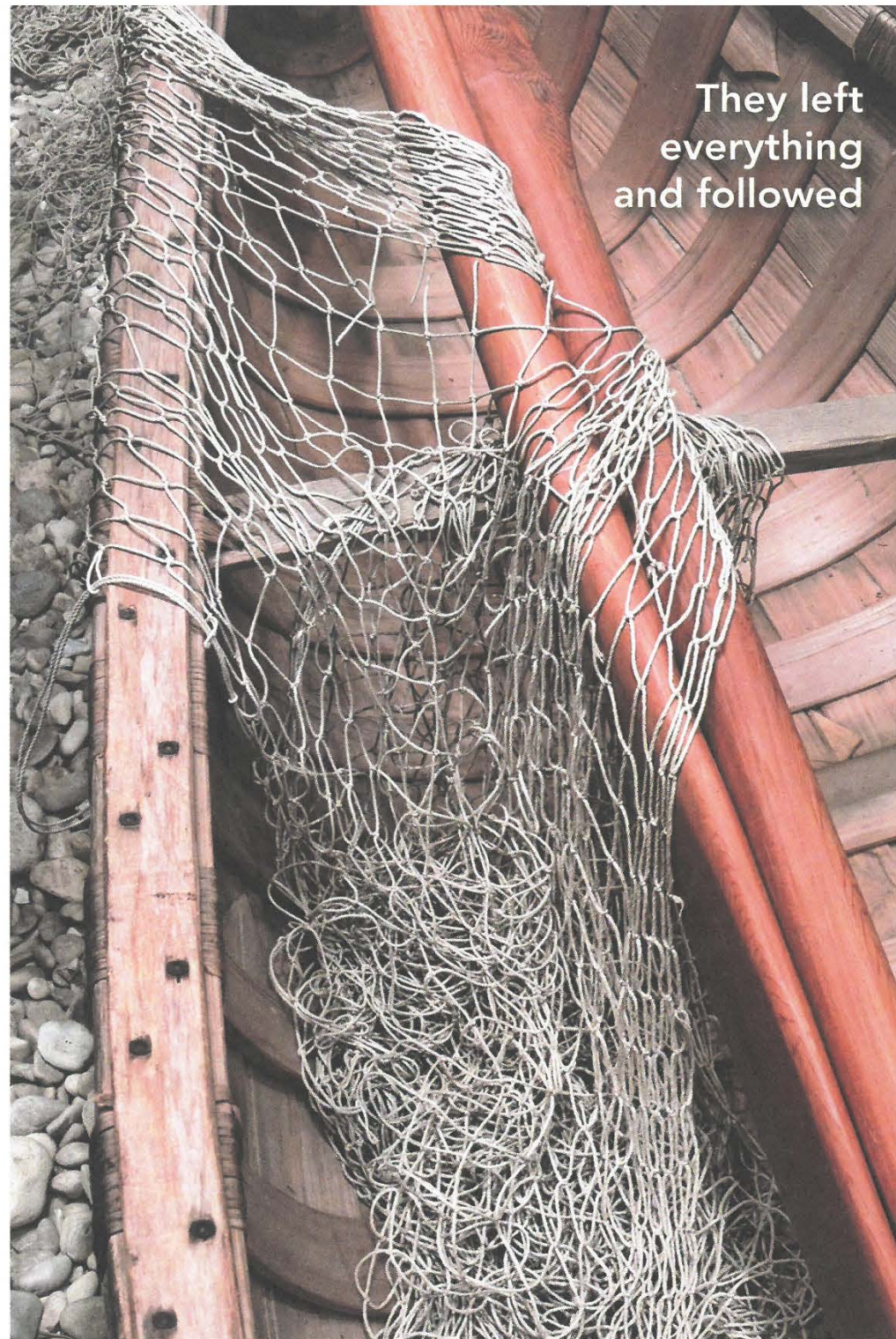
But Paradise has found a little slice of justice to share. We are starting a diaper ministry—making diapers bought in bulk available to folks at the per-diaper cost. That means parents can buy diapers in smaller quantities but still get the cheaper price. It is a small effort to bring economic justice to an area that is vastly unjust. Low-income families spend way more on diapers than more financially stable ones do. And helping that is not impossible!

Sure, it's a risky move, for we don't know if it will work. But we do believe we are following Christ. Our slice of justice looks like affordable diapers in a rural county. And we are excited to see the next impossible thing God does with us. We want to be the ones on those nets, sinking the boat with fish. We want to be calling to our friends, "Come help us with this catch!" May God bless you and your congregation with big, impossible catches, too.

— Sherry Reese Vaught
Paradise Church of the Brethren
Smithville, Ohio

Text for today: "When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon [Peter], 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, **they left everything and followed him**" (Luke 5:4-11, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11 (11).

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship February 10, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Andante alla Marcia *F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
Meditation on BEECHER *John Barr*
("Love Divine, all loves excelling")

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.

* WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

***HYMN # 305** *Where charity and love prevail* CHESHIRE

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Scouting Ben Neher

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Mark Dowdy & the Puppets

"Rich in Stuff, Poor in Spirit" ~Mark Dowdy
Lilly Day-Miller, Andie Neher, Sara Teklay, & Sofia Teshome, *Puppeteers*

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 5:1-11 *NRSV*

ANTHEM (11:00) It Is Well with My Soul arr. *Eric Nelson*

SERMON "Digging Deep" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

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

***HYMN # 227** *Two Fishermen* LEAVE ALL THINGS BEHIND

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

"How lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" *Johannes Brahms*
(from A German Requiem, Opus 45) (arr. *J. B.*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~Feasting on the Word, *Worship Companion*, adapted

***HYMN # 523** *Dear Lord, thou life of humankind* REST

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00) [Chorale in A-Flat] *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

We are grateful to the Scouts of BSA Troop 38 and Girl Scouts of the USA Troops 424 and 750 for participating in worship today. A special thanks to scouts Lilly Day-Miller, Andie Neher, and Eliana Teshome for serving as our worship leaders.

The flowers on the worship center are in loving memory of Ann Barr, shared by her husband John.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

February 10-16, 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.** Youth Chillax Afternoon – Youth Room & Social Hall
- Mon.** Noon Retired Ministers & Spouses Maple Terrace
7:00 Finance Commission Open Door Room
7:45 Staffing Task Team Lounge
- Wed.** 8 a.m. Bridgewater Ministers Maple Terrace
5:15 Cherub Choir Rehearsal Agape Room
5:30 Wednesday Night Meal Social Hall
Catered by: Subway Restaurant
Menu: Choice of Ham/Cheese Sub, Turkey/Cheese Sub,
Cheese Sub, Veggie Topping Trays, Chips,
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Suggested Donation: \$8 adults / \$4 kids
- 5:45 Carol Choir Rehearsal Agape Room
6:30 JOY Circle Hotel Madison
6:30 Yorffs Rehearsal Room # 35
7:00 Friendship Circle – Home of Judy Galang
- Thurs.** Youth to TAHS Musical
- 6:30 Puppets Rehearsal Agape Room
7:30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
- Fri.** 6:00 Brethren Student Movement Social Hall
- Fri.-Sat.** Jr Hi. Youth Lock-In – Youth Room & Social Hall

NEXT SUNDAY– February 17, 2019 – *Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

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

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: “Plain Words”

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11 – Agape Room

Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Office Receptionist Area

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

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 Caregivers – Alice Lee & Jesse Hopkins

Fellowship Host – Tim Kreps

Head Usher – Don Remnant

Hymn Leader – Jesse Hopkins

Guitarist (8:30) – Brent Holl

Van Driver – Brad Neher

Worship Leaders – Scouts

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 2/3/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 224 Children's – 25

Sunday School: 118

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$15,018.60
Loose Offering	541.25
Church User Fees	310.00
Books	20.00
Nigeria EYN	100.00
Youth Programs	711.00
Mission Partners	60.00

PASTOR CHRIS is away this weekend to attend the dedication of his niece in Maryland. He will return to his regular work schedule on Monday, February 11.

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. If you reserved a copy last week, simply take your copy from the "reserved" box and cross your name(s) off the list. 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.

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, all on Sunday afternoons, 3-5 p.m..

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.

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *H. G. Spafford, 1828-1888*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.
He lives, oh, the bliss of that glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross,
And I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall resound,
And the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

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