

## JOURNEY BAGS

The Christian Education Commission is organizing a project to collect items to make Journey Bags for children in our community that are entering foster care. Children enter foster care after facing situations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment and many arrive at a foster home with no belongings of their own. Foster families often have little notice that a child is coming to their home and may not have supplies on hand to care for a young child. A Journey Bag is designed to help ease the transition for the child and the foster family during this difficult time. This spring, the CE Commission will focus on collecting items to make Journey Bags for children from newborn to age 2. Examples of items that we will be collecting are baby wash and lotion, diapers, wipes, bottles, sippy cups, clothing, blankets, and small toys. A Journey Bag backpack display will be set up in the Greeting Hall with tags showing items to purchase and a receptacle to collect the donations. Simply remove a tag with the items you want to purchase, buy them and return the items with the tag attached to the display before March 10. Monetary donations are also welcome and the money will be used to purchase items needed to complete the bags. For any questions please contact Erin Dalrymple or any member of the Christian Education Commission.

## PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

The Pastor's Book Study this month will continue the discussion of *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today* by John Shelby Spong (2018). Meetings will be 2-3 pm on the first and third Wednesday afternoons – March 6 and 20. We will also meet on April 3, to make up for the cancelled session on February 20. We will discuss parts IV-VII on March 6, parts VIII-X on March 20, and parts XI-XV on April 3.

## BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

On March 14-15, Bridgewater College will present a symposium on "The Status of Brethren Organizations: Demise and Momentum." The event is open to the public. The symposium will present a scholarly consideration of four major Brethren institutions over the previous twenty-five years: Annual Conference, Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Press, and the Mission and Ministry Board. Over the generations, these organizations fostered the Christian faith and Brethren identity of many, but in recent years they have significantly declined in budget, staffing, and participation. Presenters are Ben Barlow (Board); Scott Holland (Brethren Press); Ruthann Knechel Johansen (Bethany), and Carol Scheppard (Annual Conference). Jeff Carter (Bethany), Chris Douglas (Annual Conference), Wendy McFadden (Brethren Press), and David Steele (Board), will respond. Robert P. Jones, author of *The End of White Christian America* (2016), will begin the symposium on Thursday evening, March 14, (Cole Hall) with an Endowed Lecture on his book, and the other presentations, including a Q and A by Jones, will occur on the 15<sup>th</sup> (Boitnott Room). The Lyceum is free; the Friday session has a registration fee of \$20, mostly to cover lunch. The sponsor of the event is the Forum for Brethren Studies. Advance registration is greatly appreciated, but walk-ups are welcome. For information and to register, contact Steve Longenecker [slongene@bridgewater.edu](mailto:slongene@bridgewater.edu).



## NOTES OF THANKS

*The family of Denny Eye wish to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, cards, and love shared with us during Den's illness and in his passing. We treasure our church family. Your love gives us strength. Thank you. Love,*  
**Jeanie, Jason & Debbie, Josh & Erin and  
Macy, Brett, Laney, Shelby, and Maddox**

*Thank you for the prayers, cards, calls and support from our church family during Walter's illness. I would like to thank Jeff Carr for the support he gave me being there in the ER. Don't know what I would have done without him. Thanks Jeff for that extra support you might not have been aware of during those long hours in the ER.*  
**~ Fonda & Walter Erdman**

*We appreciate your support in letting us use your wonderful church for our preschool. It is such a special gift for all the children that couldn't be done without you all! Thank you so much,*  
**Bridgewater Pre-School Staff and Board**

*Thank you to Properties Commission for having a new light installed above the children's wing double doors. It has made a huge difference coming in on those dark mornings.*  
**~ Kathleen Arndt, Administrator  
Bridgewater Child Care Center**

*Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Sadie Rose Foundation. Your support helps us be there for those in our community grieving the death of a child. We are so grateful for your partnership in this mission. God bless you!*  
**~ Regina Barlow**

*On behalf of the Bridgewater Area Inter-Church Food Pantry (BAICFP), we thank you for your 2018 financial contribution. We are so grateful for the ongoing support provided by the congregation and the thoughtfulness with which it is given. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and your financial assistance will no doubt benefit our neighbors in need. Warmly,*

**Clara Metzler**  
*Volunteer & Representative of the BAICFP*

*...With your help, children from 501 families met with Santa and his elves to receive their gifts, cookies, and stocking items [collected by community churches & organizations]. In all, over 1,278 children benefitted from this activity. In addition, there were over 104 elderly or disabled adults who received gifts. For many, this was the majority of, if not their only, holiday celebration. On behalf of the children, families, and adults, we wish to express our appreciation for your assistance helping our community neighbors.*  
**~ Harrisonburg Rockingham Social Services District**

## NOTES OF THANKS CONTINUED

*Thank you so very much for your church's gift in support of the RAM Clinic. Your generosity will help fill critical healthcare needs for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. On their behalf, I'm deeply grateful. Sincerely,*  
**Cory Davies**  
*SRMH Foundation*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

March 3—Transfiguration Sunday  
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*  
Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-45  
Sermon: "After the Cloud"

March 10—First Sunday in Lent  
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*  
Scripture: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Sermon: "Dwelling Places"

March 17—Second Sunday in Lent  
Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*  
Scripture Reading: Psalm 27  
Sermon: "Thin Places of Waiting"  
(Anointing will be offered during the service.)

March 24—Third Sunday in Lent  
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*  
Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8  
Sermon: "All Around"

March 31—Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Preaching: *Donita Keister,*  
2019 Annual Conference Moderator

## BITS AND PEACES

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

Suffering and death may be part of the legacy for those who seek peace and pursue it as he did.  
**~ Gerald O. Pedersen, referring to Christ**

It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.  
**~ Philippians 1:29, NIV**



## THE BENEFITS OF OUR FOUNDATION—Part 1

The Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Foundation has been in existence since 2004, growing from initial small gifts to its current size because of the foresight of church members and their desire to support the future of our congregation.

The official documents, like the *By-Laws* and the *Statement of Investment Policy, Objectives, and Guidelines*, give comprehensive operating guidelines for the work of the Foundation, and copies are available in the church office. It may be good to review some of the other benefits that the Foundation provides our congregation.

In this article (Part 1 of 2), we will look at the benefits from the congregation's perspective. Part 2, in subsequent newsletters, will examine the values of having a Foundation from the perspective of the Donor. Currently, our Foundation has two major funds and several smaller, designated funds. For the purposes of this article, we have used the word "endowment" to represent all of the holdings of the Foundation.

**Creates an ongoing source of income.** Because a permanent endowment is an invested pool of money that provides a reliable source of income in perpetuity, the congregation can look forward to annual distributions for its charitable works. With appropriate investment and allocation policies, the endowment's purchasing power will be preserved. The endowment also grows over time with additional gifts from multiple donors. This cycle becomes the "gift that keeps on giving".

**Enhances stability and prestige.** A well-managed foundation (endowment) sends a message of planned long-term stability, fiscal responsibility, and financial viability.

**Relieves pressure on the annual fund.** Annual fund goals tend to rise right along with the cost of providing services and operating the organization, but the ability of the annual fund to meet increasing demand is not limitless. An endowment can provide annual support for the organization's operating budget. A current example of this effort is the annual funds that are shared back to the congregation to offset unusual or one-time expenses.

**Allows program expansion.** Program expansion can be funded with distributions from endowment funds used for scholarships, unique local outreach, staff positions, facility maintenance, equipment and supplies, and for any other purpose designated by the donor, by the board, or by the directors of the foundation.

**Offers flexibility for management.** Endowments offer options to meet new challenges by providing greater financial flexibility and self-sustaining income streams. Endowments can augment uncertain income sources, broaden the overall revenue mix, improve the income statement, or serve as a line of credit depending on prevailing market conditions. The congregation's current line-of-credit is collateralized by the resources of the Foundation.

**Builds pipeline of future gifts.** A growing endowment builds a pipeline of gifts that will mature in the future, because many endowment gifts are designed to be used at a future date, often upon the death of the donor. An organization that attracts deferred gifts enhances its future financial security and positions itself to enjoy increasingly larger gifts in the future.

**Encourages outright gifts.** Outright gifts and other kinds of planned gifts are encouraged by building an endowment. Donors who have decided to make an endowment gift are likely to make gifts to the annual and capital campaigns as well.

**Attracts gifts that would not ordinarily come to the organization's operating budget.** The endowment can receive illiquid assets (stocks, bonds, real estate, collections, etc.) that annual funds struggle to convert into liquid, or cash, gifts.

## BWCOB MARCH 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.

- 1-3 Youth Roundtable at Bridgewater College
- 3 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room  
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon  
Council – 1 p.m.  
Sr. High Movie & Discussion– 5 p.m. – Zepp Home
- 5 Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
- 6 Pastor's 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.  
Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.  
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.  
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.  
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.
- 7 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11  
Youth Sunday Night Live – TBA
- 11 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 13 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.
- 14 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center  
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Pastor's 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.

- 21 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m.
- 23-24 Sr. Hi. Youth Lock-In
- 24 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
- 26 Child Care Center Board – 6:15 p.m.
- 27 Witness & Nurture Commission – 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11  
Jr. High Youth Fellowship – 5 p.m.  
BSM Leadership Team – 8:30 p.m.

### OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 7 Interfaith Association – Noon – Trinity Presbyterian
- 11 Retired Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace
- 13 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 14-15 BC Symposium on "The Status of Brethren Organizations: Demise and Momentum"
- 19 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.



## LIGHT YOUR WORLD 5K WALK / RUN

The BWCOB Youth are very excited about our 6th Annual Light Your World 5K Walk/Run, happening April 5th, at the Bridgewater Lawn Party Grounds. This has been such a fun event to do each year and we are hoping to make this one the best year yet. Wondering how you can help out? We've got lots of opportunities!

**Display a Light Your World 5K poster to advertise the event** - We want lots of people to attend this event, so if you'd like to grab one of our race posters from the church office, or our race table, that would be great. Then, all you need to do is hang it at your workplace or ask one of your favorite businesses or organizations to hang it up for us! If you are on social media you can also share and like our 5K Facebook page. Just search Light Your World 5K and we're at the top of the list.

**Be a Sponsor** - If you know a business, organization or individual that would like to support a local event and get some good publicity, we would love to have them sponsor our event. Sponsor forms can be found at the church office or Hope Staton ([youth@bwcob.org](mailto:youth@bwcob.org)) will be happy to email you one.

**Volunteer to help on Race Day** - This event can only happen with a lot of help. We will once again need people to help guide our runners along the course and setting up and closing down the event. If you'd like to volunteer there will be a sign-up sheet in the greeting hall starting on March 3rd, or contact Leanne Kreps (209-6887).

**Donate supplies** - Starting March 3rd there will also be a display at the church with items that are needed for the event. If you see something you can contribute, just sign-up.

**Register to run the Race** - We always need runners! Registration forms are in the church office, at our race table or you can register online at [racesonline.com](http://racesonline.com). Search "Light Your World."

Just come out and enjoy an evening of games, music and good company!

**Thanks for all your help and everything you do to support our youth.**

*~ Hope & Clarke Staton*  
Youth Ministry Coordinators

## YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE 2019

Young Adult Conference (YAC) is coming up soon! This year it will be held at Camp Blue Diamond, and as usual, it will happen over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26. The theme is "Enflame Us With Your Love; Empower Us With Your Spirit" taken from Ephesians 3:16-20. YAC is open to all young adults ages 18-35, and full cost is \$150 (includes all food, lodging, and programming), but **BWCOB will pay half** of that cost for any BWCOB Young Adults who request assistance by April 30. To do so, go to [www.brethren.org/yac/](http://www.brethren.org/yac/), register online, and pay your initial \$75 deposit. Then simply send your confirmation e-mail to Pastor Chris and BWCOB will pay the remaining balance on your account before April 30. Full need-based scholarships to YAC are also available by request.

## CENTRAL VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (CVHfH) ANNUAL BANQUET

This year at our annual fund-raising banquet we are exploring the "ripple effect" that providing affordable housing has on communities. We will be placing four families in homes this year, doubling our build average. Join CVHfH at the James Madison University Student Festival and Conference Center, on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 pm. Mike Clark, Bridgewater College football coach, will be the featured speaker. Included this year will be a silent auction and a live auction to help CVHfH build a home for a family. Donations are being sought for the silent auction. Groups are encouraged to do a "theme" basket that will be sold during the silent auction. If you, or a group you are a part of, wish to participate, you may call Anita Beckman, Banquet Committee Chair at 271-0543. We are thankful for your support. Let's help build another house this year.

## For Our Prayers during the Month of March 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...*

- 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
- Yearning to find someone with whom they can share love

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

...Our Nation and World

...our congregation, district, and denomination

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

*Anna Jean Craun*, who died on February 26

*Bill Dove*, brother of Charlotte Myers, who died on February 23

*Mary Jane Myers*, mother of Mary Beth Flory, who died on February 15

*Olive Mae Grove*, mother of Sidney Grove and Joyce Wampler, who died February 12

*John Curlett*, brother of Jeanne Neff, who died January 20

*Otto Grau*, husband of Monika Grau, who died Oct. 16, 2018

*(Otto was pastor of Emmaus Gemeinde Lutheran Church in Cuxhaven Germany, with whom BWCOB began a sister relationship around 1978 and has included several exchange trips throughout years.)*

*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

... 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, specifically ...

**Walter Daggett, Louise Callahan, Allen Clague, Betty Propst, Mike Figgs Sr., Janet Flaten, and Edgar Simmons**

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically...

**in Avante, Bridgewater Home, Harrisonburg Health and Rehab, Sunnyside, & White Birch Estates**

...those taking classes from Bethany Theological Seminary, specifically... **Hope Staton (Staunton VA), Sharon Flaten, (Jos, Nigeria)**

...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 Figgs Family, The Duncan Family, Harvey Leddy and Family, Mattie Barnhartt, a 4 year-old diagnosed with leukemia Hauwa Abdu, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014.**

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