

## Clinging to God

The prophet's words are pointed. Though life weighs heavy, there is a future, and there is hope. It's not because of our convictions, but the conviction of God, who majors in creating something new. So, don't fixate on the rearview mirror, but look through God's windshield of tomorrow, God's approaching new day (Isaiah 43:18-19).

In August 2016, famed crooner Tony Bennett celebrated his ninetieth birthday. People were in awe of the entertainer's longevity, knowing the travail of his life which included two divorces, a bout with alcohol and drug addiction, and a twenty-year stall in his career. Yet, Bennett kept advancing, peppering his vocabulary with signature words like great, wow, and fantastic.

Such verbiage wells up in Bennett's signature song, "The Best Is Yet to Come," which brings Bennett's audiences to their feet in sustained ovation. His fans are continually astonished by a ninety-year-old who could still be that forward-looking. But he is. As his son Danny observes: "Tony's all about moving forward." Bennett himself concurs: "I still insist that I can get better as I go along."

God insists that we can get better as we go along, too. Thus, God keeps moving life forward. I personally find this hard to believe; so much pulls me back and down. However, the time of my life can become the ride of my life, in Christ. Preacher Arthur John Gossip agrees: "I do not understand this life of ours. But still less can I comprehend how people in trouble and loss and bereavement can fling away peevishly from the Christian faith. In God's name, fling to what? Have we not lost enough without losing that too?"

Despite the doubts, I risk with Isaiah, latching my time and life to a God who is indeed doing "a new thing . . . [and making] a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (v. 19).

—Paul Munday  
Frederick, Maryland

**Text for today:** "Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. *I am about to do a new thing*; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:16-19, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 43:16-21 (19); Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

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# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship April 7, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (11:00) Chorale Prelude: "Lead, Kindly Light" *F.D. Ashdown*

**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 worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

**MOMENT FOR MISSION** Food Pantry Garden

**HAND BELL ANTHEM** (11:00) I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger  
arr. *Tammy Waldrop*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Penny L. Lowes, *adapted*

One: We gather to worship with expectations.

**All: God comes to us in real time.**

One: Sometimes God's presence can be hard to believe.

**All: O God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!**

One: God is present here.

**All: God is working in our midst.**

One: So then our mouths are filled with laughter.

**All: Our tongues shout out with joy! Thanks be to God!**

## PROCLAIMING

**\*HYMN # 86** *Now thank we all our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Janean Fawley  
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 READING** Psalm 126 *NRSV*

**ANTHEM** (11:00) God so Loved the World *John G. Barr*

**SERMON** "Why Thank You" Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**\*HYMN # 521** *Come, thou fount* NETTLETON

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

## OFFERING

### Invitation

### Offertory

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

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

from Partita on NETTLETON *John Eggert*

Var. 5 Paraphrase & Var. 6 Ritornello

### Prayer

**SINGING WITH BRENT** (8:30)

**HAND BELL ANTHEM** (11:00) How Firm a Foundation

arr. *Brian Childers*

## LENTEN LITURGY

### Invitation

**Call to Prayer** *Day by day, dear Lord* (x2) **Hymn # 569**

### Silence

**Prayers of the People** **Hymnal # 721**

... concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN # 118** *Praise God from whom* DEDICATION ANTHEM

## \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) "Praise God, ye Christians, one and all" *J. S. Bach*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

April 7-13, 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>	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	– Agape Room
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Breakfast for Lunch</i>	
	5:00	Sr. Hi. Youth Movie Night – Home of the Zepps	
<b>Mon.</b>	5:00	Retired Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Finance Commission	Lounge
<b>Wed.</b>	8 a.m.	Bridgewater Ministers	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Friendship Circle – Home of Kathy Zimmerman	
	7:00	JOY Circle	Seekers Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	6:00	BSM Love Feast	Carter Center
	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Fri.</b>	7:30	Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Concert – Sanctuary	
<b>Sat.</b>		Youth Go Hiking – TBA	
	2:00	Spring Easter Event	Social Hall

### NEXT SUNDAY– April 14, 2019 – *Palm Sunday*

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

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: “Liturgy of the Lamppoon”

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Children's Worship during Worship at 11

**Bell Choir Rehearsal** – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

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

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Noon – Social Hall

**Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Concert** – 3 p.m. – Sanctuary

**Jr. Hi. Youth Fellowship** – 5 p.m. – 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.bwcob.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** – Heather Barkey, Alice Lee Hopkins,  
Lori Lineweaver, Lev Norford, Dwynn Stovall

**Fellowship Hostess** – Beth Day-Miller

**Deacon Caregiver** – Nikki Watson

**Head Usher** – Don Remnant

**Guitarist** (8:30) – Brent Holl

**Van Driver** – John Flora

**Worship Leader** (11:00) – Ben Neher

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 3/31/19**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 22 11:00 – 206 Sunday School:133**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$12,173.00
Loose Offering	442.00
Rent – Refugee House	650.00
Spring Potted Flowers	170.00
Youth Programs	790.00
Mission Partners	1,500.00
Walter Daggett Memorial Fund	125.00

**TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *John 3:16-17, KJV***

### **THIS WEEK'S LIBRARY DISPLAY**

In honor of National Poetry Month, we highlight several collections of poetry, including Ken Gibble's *A Poetry of the Soul*, which was reviewed in a recent *Messenger*. We also have collections by local authors – Lois M. Wright, Hugh Whitten, Margaret Ruth Sellers Zinn, Robert Lee Byrd, Helen Annan, Kay M. Bowman, and Doris Good.

### **CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT**

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 49<sup>th</sup> annual spring concert titled "Spiritual Songs" on Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 14, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will feature Antonin Dvorak's *Mass in D* in the first half, followed by contemporary and traditional arrangements of African American Spirituals. Tickets are available at the door, Red Front Supermarket (Harrisonburg), Bridgewater Foods, and on-line at [www.singshenandoah.org](http://www.singshenandoah.org). Admission is \$15 for adults/\$12 for seniors and students.

### **AN INVITATION FROM NIKKI WATSON**

Good Morning Friend,

Having helped with the ushers for a while, I find it rewarding and fun. I thought how nice it would be to have all ladies usher for a Sunday or two a year. This would involve handing out bulletins, and collecting the offering on a Sunday morning.

We are planning the first such Sunday on April 14. If you would like be involved please contact me, Nikki Watson, or the church office. Thank you for your consideration. ~ *Nikki*

**Psalm 126**

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.
- <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- <sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.
- <sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.