

## Asking Difficult Questions

There are two stories in Acts 16:16-34: Paul's exorcism of a spirit of divination, followed by Paul and Silas' imprisonment and the conversion of the jailer. The first begins: "One day, as *we* were going to the place of prayer, *we* met a slave-girl . . ." (v. 16, *NRSV*). These first-person passages have mystified scholars for years. The most plausible explanation is that Luke, the author, wrote them while traveling with Paul. The second story is told in third person.

Another difference between these two stories is that the exorcism does not prescribe what the reader is to do with the story, what right course of action to take or behavior to emulate. We are simply left with a depiction of Paul that is not very flattering.

The first story invites us to imagine the all-too-human response of Paul, and the cultural conditions that made this story believable. We may ask some difficult questions of the text, and of ourselves:

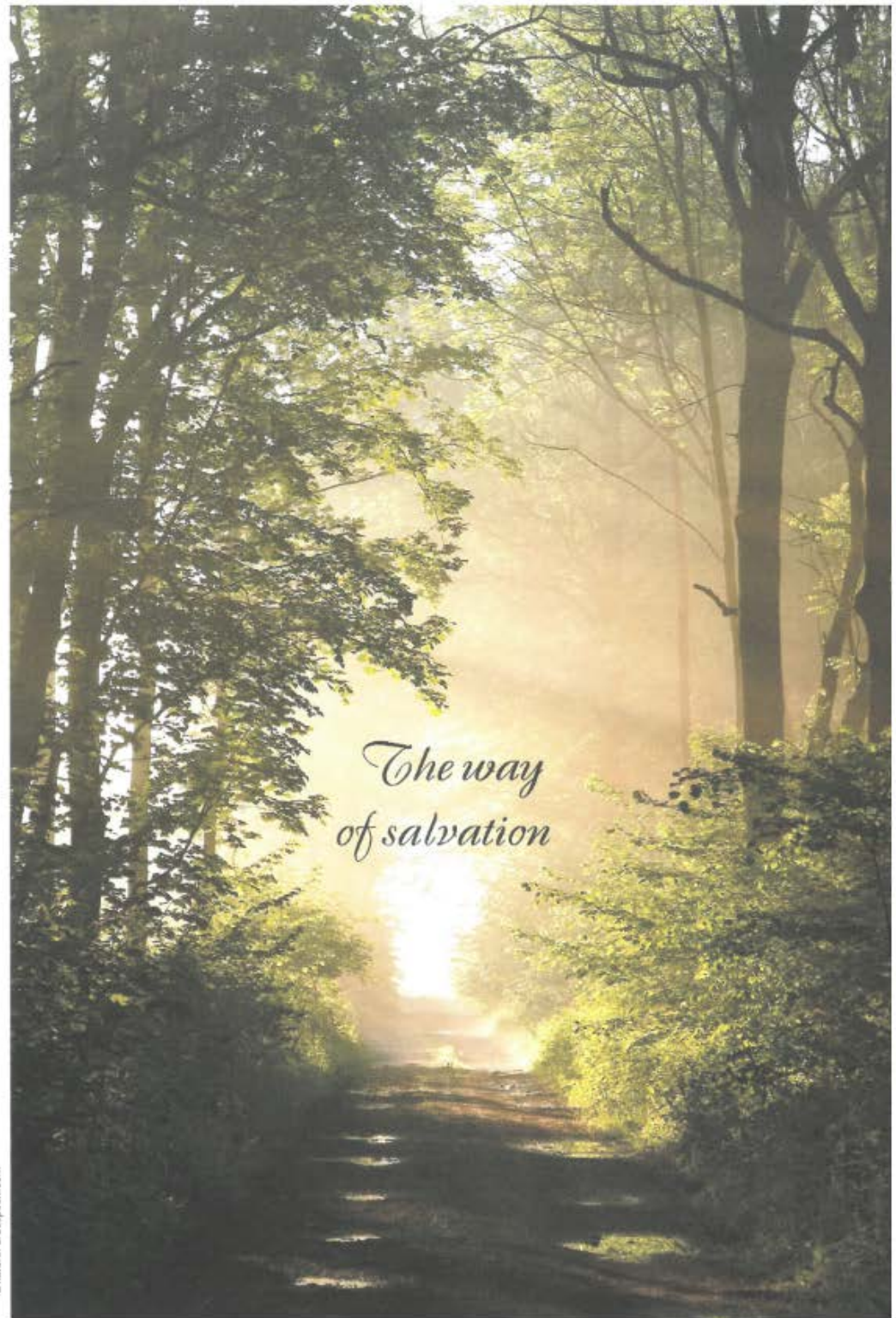
- We don't know what became of the slave-girl. Did it matter to her that Paul's motives had more to do with alleviating annoyance than showing compassion?
- Why does the *NRSV* translation refer to her as a "girl" rather than a "woman"? Was she very young, or did she not deserve enough consideration and respect in the culture?
- The girl's owners held great power over her. What are we to make of a system that, without regard to another's well-being, accepts using others for personal gain? In today's world, where do men exercise power or control over women primarily for their own benefit?
- The owners complained to the magistrates: "These men . . . are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt" (vv. 20-21). What do we do when following Jesus conflicts with prevailing cultural and political values?

It is valuable to explore such questions together, even though this passage does not give answers. We must go elsewhere in the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to find truth for our lives.

—Mike Hosletter  
Bridgewater Church of the Brethren  
Bridgewater, Virginia

**Text for today:** "A certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us *the way of salvation*" (Acts 16:16b-17, *KJV*). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 16:16-34 (17); Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26.

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# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship June 2, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** (11:00) ST. ANNE harmonized by *R. Vaughan Williams*  
Fugue in E-flat (St. Anne) *J. S. Bach*

**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.

## PROCLAIMING

**HAND BELL ANTHEM** (11:00) You are My All in All *Jernigan/art. Ingram*  
Libby Kreps, *flute*  
Ben Neher, *director*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** (11:00)  
Libby Kreps, Ben Neher, Jasmine Reitze

**\*HYMN # 486** *God of our life* SANDON

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY APPRECIATION**

**SUMMER FAITH FORMATION BLESSING** (11:00)

Congregational Blessing:

*You have our love.*

*You can count on our prayers.*

*May you be blessed,*

*And may you be a blessing*

*As you journey and serve and grow in faith this summer.*

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (11:00) Mike Fike

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.

**ANTHEM** (11:00) Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love arr. *Steven Strite*

## OFFERING

**Invitation**

*~June Christine Goudey, adapted*

**Offertory**

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

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

Prelude on RHOSYMEDRE *R. Vaughan Williams*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HAND BELL ANTHEM** (11:00) Exultation *Compton*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 *NRSV*

**\*HYMN # 640** *This is a day of new beginnings* NEW BEGINNINGS

**SERMON** "The End" Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**REFLECTIONS** (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

**\*HYMN # 540** *Strong, righteous man of Galilee* MELITA

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** (11:00) Prelude on MELITA *J. Barr*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

**TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Tom Colvin**

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,

Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,

Master as a slave to them.

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,

Neighbors are near us and far away.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,

Neighbors to us and you, Jesu.

Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet:

This is the way we should live with you.

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## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**June 2-8, 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
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch	Social Hall
	5:00	Sr. High Movie Night & Discussion	TBD
	7:00	Annual Conference Delegate Briefing	Emmanuel COB
<b>Mon.</b>	4:00	Financial Leaders	Lounge
	6:30	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
<b>Tues.</b>	7:00	Executive Committee	Lounge
	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
<b>Wed.</b>	11-1	BRC Auxiliary Luncheon	Social Hall
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:45	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	Noon	Interfaith Association	
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Sat.-Thurs.</b>		Jr. High Youth Workcamp (Michigan)	

**PASTOR CHRIS** will be off most of this week supporting his family through Amanda's surgery before leaving for workcamp and NJHC.

**ATTENDING JUNIOR HIGH WORKCAMP** *Rodney, MI, June 8-13*  
Brett Eye, Darah Kraenbring, Andie Neher, Brycen Propst, Shylah Zepp  
Heather Driver (advisor), Chris Zepp (advisor), Lauren Flora (coordinator)

### NEXT SUNDAY– June 9, 2019 – *Day of Pentecost*

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

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: "Filled" Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

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

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 5/26/19**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 29 11:00 – 201 Sunday School: 99**

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$3,825.00
Loose Offering	428.00
Food Pantry Garden	3,000.00

## 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** – 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.

**Decorator** – Lori Lineweaver

**Deacon Caregivers** – Curtis & Andrea Nolley

**Head Usher** – Don Remnant

**Pianist** (8:30) – Kathy Shrader

**Van Drivers** – Wayne Angleberger & Melvin Wampler

**Worship Leader** – (11:00) Libby Kreps

The floral altar arrangement is in honor of Esther & Emmert Bittinger's 72nd wedding anniversary on June 8; shared by their family.

### **OUR CURRENT DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY**

On display in the library are books to make you think, including:

- 14 Cows for America. This picture book tells the story of Kenyan tribe that makes a gift to the United States in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.
- The Sacrifice. A teenage girl accused of being a witch in 1692 faces a devastating dilemma when offered a chance to obtain her freedom.
- The Bad Habits of Jesus. Len Sweet presents Jesus, the "rebellious rabbi."
- March. This three-volume series, written by Congressman and Civil Rights icon, John Lewis, tells in graphic novel format the remarkable story of the 1963 March on Washington.

And there's more...

## THANK YOU

We are grateful to all teachers, assistants, child care providers, librarians, substitutes, Children's Worship planners & assistants, Sunday School Committee members and Commission members who have worked in our Christian Education program for the 2018-19 school year. Each of you is a blessing to our church and we greatly appreciate you!

Mary Ann Angleberger

Mac Bair

Melanie Bair

Eric Barkey

Heather Barkey

Eleanor Bowman

Wendy Carr

June Craun

Erin Dalrymple

Alan Diehl

Julie Diehl

Heather Driver

Jeremy Driver

Brett Eye

Erin Eye

Jeanie Eye

Josh Eye

Janean Fawley

Rick Fawley

Kathleen Gardner

Hayden Glendye

Janna Glendye

Mandi Glendye

Christy Hartman

Brent Holl

Jesse Hopkins

Marianne Houff

Bart Kasten

Francis Kasten

Jennifer Kasten

Tim Kreps

Lori Lineweaver

Peggy Lineweaver

Ada Longenecker

B. Prince Makhubo

Claire Martindale

Beth Michael

Andrea Miracle

Bill Miracle

Dianne Murray

Jeanne Neff

Carl Nelson

Elizabeth Nelson

Shannon Puffenbarger

Sarah Rees

Gladys Remnant

Clarke Staton

Hope Staton

Dwynn Stovall

Tony Stovall

Sarah Teklay

Sofia Teshome

Roma Jo Thompson

Jeannie Turner

Joyce Wampler

Nikki Watson

Steve Watson

Karen Wyrick

Amanda Zepp

Chris Zepp

Shylah Zepp

A gift of appreciation for each of you may be  
picked up from the Greeting Hall.

**Revelation 22:12-14 (NRSV)**

<sup>12</sup>“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” <sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. <sup>16</sup>“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” <sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.