

## WOMEN'S EVENT FOR 2019

**Wednesday, May 8: 6:00 p.m. – Appetizers / 6:30 p.m. – Dinner**

This year's theme for Women's Event is "Let's Play Dress Up." Remember when you played "dress up" and got all "fancy?" Let's have fun and "dress up" for the Women's Event! If you don't have "dress up" accessories at home, don't worry! We will have a "Glamour Corner" where you can add some fancy accessories to your outfit. Come join the fun, food, and fellowship! Contact Dwyann & Tony Stovall if you'd like to attend but haven't registered yet.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM AND FELLOWSHIP MEALS ENDING FOR THE SEASON

The last Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal for the 2018-2019 school year season will be held on May 1. Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with set-up, clean-up, dishes, and organizing catering and meal preparation. We expect that these meals will resume again in mid-September. Until then...

## GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you are aware of someone who has, is, or will be completing their course(s) of study during this school year (high school, college, or graduate school), please contact Pastor Chris or the church office with their name and info so that they can be recognized in a future edition of *Connections*.

## PASTOR'S BOOK STUDIES

Our final book study for this program year will meet on May 1 and 15 (Wednesdays at 2 pm) and will focus on Wesley Granberg-Michaelson's *Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2018). Named "Book of the Year" by *Ecumenical News* and recently featured in the March issue of *Messenger* magazine, this book identifies today's major shift in world Christianity and focuses on how US congregations are challenged to change at this watershed moment in history. If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy. We will discuss challenges 1-5 (through p. 106) on May 1.

## THANK YOU NOTES

*Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our first Remote Area Medical clinic offered in Harrisonburg! We were able to serve 601 individuals with 856 services totaling \$304,882 in free medical, dental, and vision care....We could not have done this without the wealth of generosity from our community.*  
~ Laura Skull  
RAM Harrisonburg Clinic Host Group

*The family of Walter Daggett thank you for the cards, the hugs, your attendance at the service, your visits and the many expressions of love, concern, and care expressed during his illness and death. Pastors Jeff and Chris, the deacons, the caring hands and all of our congregation are truly a blessing in times of need and sorrow.*  
~ Ann Daggett and Family

*How do we say Thank You when my vocabulary and the English language cannot express our feelings adequately? First, I want to say thank you to all the generations of our forefathers and mothers that have believed and practiced Christianity. And, the phrase "Our Church Family" has now taken new meaning. My wife, Charlotte, was diagnosed with a seriously faulty aortic heart valve. A new valve was placed over the faulty valve by the TAVR procedure and her recovery has been a miracle. Pastor Jeff Carr provided Charlotte with an anointing service the morning of the operation and stayed with me until she was returned to the critical care unit within the hospital. Anointing is traditionally sacred to many of us Brethren. The simple act of Pastor Jeff staying with me for the few hours during the operation was mentally stabilizing and a blessing for me. And, the many acts of support from "Our church family" give us a feeling of belonging. A simple "Thank You" is so inadequate and it reminds me of many times when appropriate words don't come, I just say "Thank You Lord."*  
~ Dan Myers

## BOARD AND COUNCIL MINUTES AVAILABLE

Starting this year, minutes from Board of Administration and Council meetings will be posted to the BWCOB website in the members' only section upon their completion.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

May 5—Third Sunday of Easter  
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*  
Scripture Reading: John 21:1-19  
Sermon: "The Third Time"

May 12—Fourth Sunday of Easter  
**Children's Ministry Sunday**  
Worship featuring the music and ministry with and for our children.

May 19—Fifth Sunday of Easter  
**Sr. High Youth Sunday**  
Worship planned and led by our Senior High Youth

May 26—Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*  
Scripture: John 5:1-9  
Sermon: "38 Years"

## SPECIAL THANKS

*Please accept my deepest gratitude for recognizing my 25 years of service with this congregation. The card was so much fun to read and I appreciate each of the "Thank You's," as well as the extra thoughts some shared. As for the Love Offering, all I can say is THANK YOU for your great love shown through monetary contributions. What a blessing to receive such a gift! It is a true joy for me to know each of you, and I always enjoy when I can visit with you on the phone and / or in the office—or other places outside church. God blessed me when he placed me in this position 25 years ago...and I continue to be blessed as we begin the next 25. Lovingly, Shannon*

## BITS AND PEACES

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

We need to rediscover that the daily resources of forgiveness and mercy from God are essential ingredients for the task of struggling for human justice and peace against odds that, without such help, would seem impossible to overcome.

~ Robert McAfee Brown

I will sing of your strength, O Lord,  
in the morning I will sing of your love;  
for you are my fortress,  
my refuge in times of trouble.

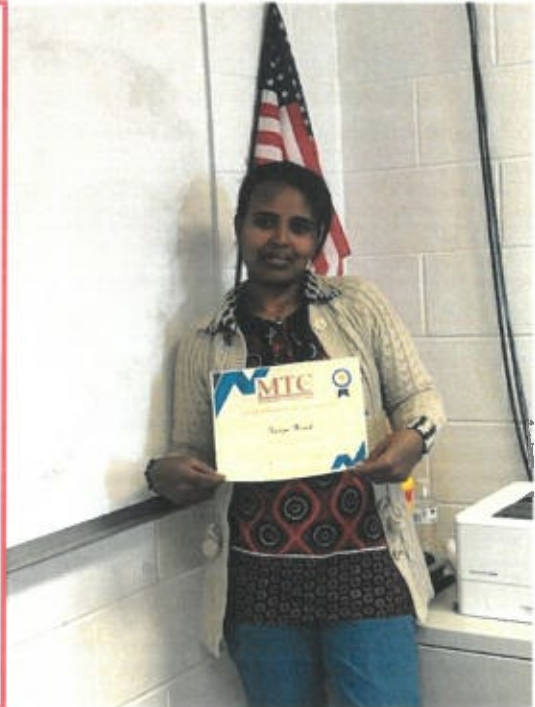
~ Psalm 59:16, NIV, adapted

## MTC ADULT STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the Massanutten Technical Center Adult Student of the Month for March, Haregu Mirach. Haregu and her family are refugees that we are sponsoring and they live in our Hospitality House. Haregu's Adult English Language Learner teachers say that she has missed only one day of classes since starting in the fall. She is never late for class but is usually 10 minutes early, and she is ready to learn when class starts. Haregu is willing to participate in class discussion, does her work well, and is willing to help others if she can. Haregu is not only a role model in class but an inspiration to all those around her.

*~ Taken from an MTC Post*

**Congratulations, Haregu!**



## JOURNEY BAG PROJECT UPDATE

Children enter foster care after facing situations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Many arrive at their new home with no personal belongings. Foster families often have little notice that a child is coming and may not have necessary supplies or clothing on hand. A Journey Bag is designed to ease the transition during this emotionally challenging time by providing for basic needs.

Twenty-two journey bags for children birth-age 2 were compiled with the generous gifts collected in recent weeks. They have been delivered to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Family Services office. Monetary donations have also funded the purchase of additional diapers for toddlers and toiletries for older children and teens who will be moving into foster care.

Your generosity has enabled the establishment of an ongoing relationship with the Family Services office. There will be monthly communication to determine the need for additional journey bags or supplies. One caseworker asked that gratitude be expressed to the congregation and added, "It's so wonderful to be part of a community who really cares about children."

## TASK TEAM UPDATE

In the fall of 2018, a task team was formed by the Board of Administration (BOA) in response to a proposal for a team ministry model for our congregation. The task team started in the fall, however, due to a variety of scheduling reasons the team began meeting frequently in early 2019. As a result of their work the task team has decided in conversation with our pastors not to pursue a team ministry model at this time. In April, The Task Team shared a report to that effect with the BOA, along with a suggestion to hire a "third full-time member of the pastoral staff." The action of the Board was to direct the task team to meet with the executive committee to discuss this further and to address options of coverage of different personnel positions, such as Christian Education, Youth Ministry Coordinator and the interim status of the Financial Secretary and bring more information back to the BOA for future consideration.



**Join us June 23-26 at the Bridgewater Lawn Party Grounds as we travel back in time to The Marketplace!**

**Be a part of one of 12 tribes to explore activities centered around Jesus and stories from the Bible.**

**Scan QR Code for Registration**



**Bridgewater Lawn Party Grounds. 300 Green Street,  
Bridgewater, Virginia**

For more information please visit us at:

<https://bridgewatervbs.weebly.com/>

## LIVING PEACE AWARD BANQUET

The Living Peace Award banquet, a.k.a. "Peace Feast," will be held at Brethren Woods (4896 Armentrout Path, Keezletown) in the Pine Grove building at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 9. Lucile Vaughn, a member of our congregation, will be recognized. Guest Speaker will be David Radcliff, executive director of New Community Project. Cindy and Doug Phillips will provide special music. Cost: \$17 for adults and \$10 for students. Register by contacting the District office by May 1.

## TURNER ASHBY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS TO PERFORM

The Turner Ashby Choirs, under the direction of Wes Dunlap, will present a concert in our sanctuary Sunday evening, May 5, at 7:30 pm. Several of our youth are members of the TA choir and would love to see a robust audience for their performance. Please come and enjoy an evening of beautiful choral music by students of Turner Ashby High School (TAHS). Admission is free and open to all.

## 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. 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. ~Anita

## DISASTER RESPONSE GOLF TOURNAMENT AND AUCTION

The Shenandoah District Disaster Ministries Auction (SDDMA) is sponsoring their 21st Annual Golf Classic tournament. The tournament will have a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. on May 17 with a rain date on May 24. Entry fee is \$85 per person or \$340 per 4 person team if paid by May 14. After May 15 the entry fee is \$100 and \$400, respectively. Space may be limited to 30 teams so get your team together. Registration forms are available in the church office. The Auction and other events will take place at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds May 17 & 18. Booklets with more information are available in the literature rack.

## 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 will be "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.

## **BWCOB MAY 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 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.  
Properties Commission – 6:30 p.m.  
Witness & Nurture Commission – 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.  
Ministerial Services Commission – 7:45 p.m.
- 2 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Children's Worship during Worship at 11  
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
- 7 Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
- 8 Cherub, Carol, & Yorffs Rehearsal – TBA  
May Women's Event – 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Memorial Service for Janet Flaten – 11 a.m.
- 13 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 15 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.  
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.
- 16 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
- 19 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 23 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.  
Jr. Hi. Youth Fellowship – 5 p.m.
- 28 Child Care Center Board – 6:15 p.m.
- 30 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- 2 Interfaith Association – Noon – Bridgewater College
- 3 BC Baccalaureate – 6 p.m.
- 4 BC Graduation – 10 a.m.
- 5 TAHS Choirs Spring Concert – 7 p.m.
- 7 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 8 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 9 Living Peace Award Banquet – 6:30 p.m.  
– Brethren Woods
- 13 Retired Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace  
CVHfH Banquet – 6 p.m. – JMU
- 17 & 18 SDDMA Auction – Fairgrounds  
Blue Ridge Christian School Spring Drama
- 19 Shenandoah Christian Music Camp Concert – 7 p.m.
- 20 BRCS Instrumental Concert – 6:30
- 21 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 22 Bridgewater Pre-School Graduation – 5 p.m.
- 28 BRCS Vocal Concert – 6:30 p.m.
- 29 TAHS Baccalaureate – 7 p.m.



## For Our Prayers during the Month of May 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 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  
Eager for the promises of new life  
Struggling to find meaning and purpose

#### *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...

*Annabelle B. Whitacre*, sister of Emmert Bittinger & Ginny Whitten, who died April 17;

*Ivan Mason*, husband of Peggy Mason, and brother of Miriam Holl, who died on April 13;

*Janet Flaten*, husband of Dale Flaten, mother of Leroy Flaten & Sharon Flaten, sister of Ted Flory & Phil Flory who died on April 11;

*Louise Mansuetto*, sister of Walter Erdman, who died April 3;

*Walter Daggett* who died on March 10; *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;

... those under the care of Hospice, Palliative Care and Comfort Care

...those who recently have had surgery, been hospitalized, are receiving treatments, are recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation, specifically ...

Alexandra Coronado and Lisa Anderson

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

Avante, Bridgewater Home, Harrisonburg Health & Rehab, & Sunnyside

...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...

Al Clague, son of Allen Clague who underwent successful bypass surgery;

A co-worker of Beth Michael who was severely injured in a snow-boarding accident

Betty Wayman, mother of Claire Wayman, & Carolyn Beckwith, mother of Amanda Zepp, undergoing cancer treatments

The Figgs Family, The Duncan Family, Hauwa Abdu, 1 of over 200 girls & young women kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014.

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