

Tugging at Our Hearts

Our cover photo reminds us that there's nothing campers and school children like much more than a good tug-of-war. All are smiling, positioned, and pulling in opposite directions. Prevailing requires the concentration, commitment, and strength of all to overcome the threat of a mud bath, courtesy of the other side.

While "tug-of-war" is not my favorite metaphor, there is a sense in which it's spot-on when relating to 1 Timothy 6. Rather than stashing goods, building bigger barns, and troubling over thieves, moths, and rust, we're encouraged "to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share" (v. 18). Serious discernment paired with spontaneous, thrilling abandon is called for as we determine the cords—literal and figurative—which we will grab and hang on to for dear life. We probably should not take hold lightly because "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil," full of self-serving promises and possibilities (v. 10).

What we often fail to acknowledge is that we've all played both sides of the mud pit when it comes to the tests of Timothy. We might as well expect rope burns in the pulling and tugging for the prize of our hearts. There will also be dirt. And bruises and scrapes. And victory and defeat mingled so closely it will require reflection to figure out which was which.

Sooner or later we'll have to admit it. Kids on opposing teams, and individuals torn between the two loves inherent in verse 10, can't expect to walk away from a tug-of-war clean and dry. Facing off and facing down most always guarantees a coating of mud and a persistent hope that a hot shower, forgiveness, and the new day coming will restore life that is really life.

—Sandy Bosserman
Peace Valley, Missouri

Text for today: "As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may *take hold of the life that really is life*" (1 Tim. 6:17-19, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (19); Luke 16:19-31.

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Take hold of the life that really is life

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship September 8, 2019 11:00 a.m.

*“We are created for community,
fashioned for fellowship,
and formed for a family,
and none of us can fulfill God’s purposes by ourselves.”*

~Rick Warren

GATHERING

PRELUDE A Child of the King with I’d Rather Have Jesus
arr. Marilyn Ham

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

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.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~Sing the Story, #190, adapted

One: People of God,
look about and see the faces of those we know and love –

**All: neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers –
a community of kindred hearts.**

One: People of God,
look about and see the faces of those we hardly know –

**All: strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,
and the ones who could use an outstretched hand.**

One: People of God,
look about you and see all the images of God assembled here!

All: In me, in you, in each of us, God’s Spirit shines for all to see.

One: People of God, come – let us worship together!

***HYMN # 14** *Come, we that love the Lord* WE’RE MARCHING TO ZION


***INVOCATION PRAYER** ~Homiletics, adapted

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN’S TIME 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.

ANTHEM Jesus, Lover of My Soul arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

SCRIPTURE READING Philemon NRSV

HOMILY “\$ + O +  + A” Chris Zepp

***HYMN INSERT** *Fresh as the Morning*

RESPONDING

OFFERING

Invitation ~Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, adapted
Offertory Johann Christian Schultze
Sonata for Two Flutes the Adagio Movement
Pam Mason & Andrea Nolley

Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Kyle Remnant
Hymn Insert *Peace before us* PRAYER OF PEACE
Spoken Prayer

***HYMN # 421** *Bless’d be the tie that binds* DENNIS

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING FOR THE MEAL**

POSTLUDE Festival Postlude *Domenico Zipoli*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

Peace before us
PRAYER OF PEACE

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
Called Council Meeting
September 8, 2019, 10:30 A.M.
Steve Longenecker, Moderator

1,6 Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,
2 Love be - fore us, love be - hind us,
3 Light be - fore us, light be - hind us,
4 Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us,
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

1,6 peace un - der our feet.
2 love un - der our feet.
3 light un - der our feet.
4 Christ un - der our feet.
5 al - le - lu - ia.

1,6 Peace with - in us, peace o - ver us,
2 Love with - in us, love o - ver us,
3 Light with - in us, light o - ver us,
4 Christ with - in us, Christ o - ver us,
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

1,6 let all a - round us be peace.
2 let all a - round us be love.
3 let all a - round us be light.
4 let all a - round us be Christ.
5 al - le - lu - ia.

Agenda

Opening.

Prayer.

New Business:

1. Call of Interim Senior Pastor.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Board of Administration to hire Christy Dowdy as Interim Senior Pastor.

2. Compensation for Interim Senior Pastor.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding the financial package for Pastor Dowdy.

Salary	\$72,070.00
Pension (11%)	7,927.70
CWAP (1%)	<u>720.70</u>
Total	\$80,718.40

Adjournment.

GOD OF THE BIBLE (FRESH AS THE MORNING)

D A/C# G/B D Bm D/F#

1 God of the Bi - ble, God in the Gos - pel, hope seen in Je - sus,
 2 God in our strug - gles, God in our hun - ger, suf - fer - ing with us,
 3 Those with - out sta - tus, those who are noth - ing, you have made roy - al,
 4 Not by your fin - ger, not by your an - ger will our world or - der
 5 Hope we must car - ry, shin - ing and cer - tain through all our tur - moil,

Em A Bm D/A G D

hope yet to come, you are our cen - ter, day - light or dark - ness,
 tak - ing our part, still you em - pow'r us, moth - er - ing Spir - it,
 gift - ed with rights, cho - sen as part - ners, mid - wives of jus - tice,
 change in a day, but by your peo - ple, fear - less and faith - ful,
 ter - ror and loss, bond - ing us glad - ly one to the oth - er,

Em D/F# G Asus A

free - dom or pris - on, you are our home.
 feed - ing, sus - tain - ing, from your own heart.
 birth - ing new sys - tems, light - ing new lights.
 small pa - per lan - terns, light - ing the way.
 till our world chang - es fac - ing the cross.

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Refrain D A/D G/D D Em D/F#

Soprano (Melody)

Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise, God al - ways faith - ful,

Alto

Fresh as the sun - rise, al - ways faith - ful,

Tenor/Bass

Em A D A/D G/D D

you do not change. Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,

you do not change. Fresh as the sun - rise,

Em D/F# G/A D A/D

God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

G/D D A/D G/D D

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

September 8-14, 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.	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	10:30	Called Council	Sanctuary
	Noon	All-Church Picnic	Social Hall
Mon.	Noon	Retired Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	4:00	Financial Leaders	Lounge
	7:00	Finance Commission	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Executive Committee	Lounge
Wed.	8 a.m.	Bridgewater Ministers	Maple Terrace
	5:30	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Menu: Pizza, Chips, Fruit & Veggies</i>	
		<i>Suggested Donation: \$8 adults / \$5 kids</i>	
	6:00	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:45	Yorff Choir Rehearsal	Room # 35
Thurs.	7:00	Gifts Discernment Committee	Lounge
	7:00	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.-Sun.		BSM Retreat @ Brethren Woods	

NEXT SUNDAY– September 15, 2019 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Preaching: Hope Staton

Sermon: “Discovering Resurrection in the Compost Heap”

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 12:1-13

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

Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Lounge

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

Jr. High Putt-Putt – 1 p.m.

BMHC Series on Service – 4 p.m. – Sanctuary

Sr. High Movie Night – 5 p.m. – Home of the Zepps

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

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

Kasey Carns – Ministry Intern

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 – Lori Lineweaver & Andrea Nolley

Deacon Caregiver – Bea Miller

Fellowship Host – Beth Day-Miller

Organist – Mary Beth Flory

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Song Leaders – Josh Layton & Kyle Remnant

Van Driver – Rod Miller

Worship Leaders – Kasey Carns, Christy Dowdy,
& Kyle Remnant

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 9/1/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 24 11:00 – 334 Sunday School: 121

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$23,224.30
Loose Offering	931.00
Church User Fees	100.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	30.00
Rent – Refugee House	2,400.00
Nigeria EYN	700.00
Mission Partners	500.00

BHA FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Mission of Bridgewater Home Auxiliary is to raise funds to enrich the quality of life for the residents of assisted living and nursing households in Bridgewater Home. The Auxiliary is an all-volunteer organization. If you are currently not a member, you are urged to consider joining and supporting its many efforts. Membership is just \$5.00 per year. Forms are available at a table in the back of the greeting hall this morning.

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Wesley / Gesangbuch

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.
Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and Mary's Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.
Plenteous grace with thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound, Make me and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, Beautiful Savior let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

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ON DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY

On the **book mobile** located in the Greeting Hall, you can find back-to-school books, Brethren people in history, and some fun chapter and picture books. On **display in the library** this week are mysteries for adults and young adults.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

Once again, Pastor Chris will be facilitating a series of book studies during this school year. Generally, these studies will meet 2-3 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from October through May (though there will, of course, be exceptions). The first book we will be studying (October 2 & 16) will be *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* (2017) by pastor, writer, and activist John Pavlovitz. Order your copy through our office TODAY at an estimated cost of \$12-\$15 OR obtain your own copy. We will discuss Parts 1 & 2 (thru page 102) on October 2.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Wednesday Night Meals are starting back up for the 2019-2020 School Year beginning this Wednesday, September 11. Everyone is welcome to join in these meals, served in the Social Hall most Wednesday Nights 5:30-6:45 pm through mid-May. A free-will offering supports the cost of these meals, with a suggested donation based on the catering/menu, posted in the bulletin, mid-week updates, and the church website. Volunteers are always needed to help with set-up, clean-up, and dishes. Contact the church office with any questions (or to suggest menu options!)

Philemon

(NRSV)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a

slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

²² One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.