

SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO PERFORM IN WORSHIP

Members of the nationally-recognized Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir (SVCC) will provide special music during the morning worship service on November 17. Led by artistic director, Janet Hostetter with assistant director, Joy Anderson, the elite Concert Choir now offers advanced training for both treble singers and the changing male voice. Musical selections will feature three combinations of singers: the Concert Choir-SSA; the Concert Choir-SATB; and the full Concert Choir singing together. Members of BWCOB will be invited to participate in the mission of SVCC by providing free-will offerings designated for student scholarships. An offering basket will be available in the narthex for any congregation member wishing to support the SVCC. SVCC's mission is to nurture young people by developing excellent musicianship, creating artistic choral performances, and fostering meaningful relationships. Checks may be written out to "SVCC" and are tax-deductible.

FUNDRAISER MEAL FOR BSM AT JALAPEÑOS

On Thursday, November 14, from 4-9 pm, Jalapeños Restaurant in Bridgewater will be hosting another Fundraising Meal for our Brethren Student Movement (BSM). All you need to do for BSM to benefit when you purchase your meal is to drop your receipt in the GroupRaise.com donation box at the restaurant. When you do, 15% of your meal will be donated back to Brethren Student Movement! The more receipts in the box, the more Jalapeños contributes to BSM! Make plans now to support our campus ministry by enjoying a meal there that evening (and no doubt enjoying some good company as well). Thanks in advance!



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Start your Christmas shopping at the Alternative Christmas Fair at our church on Saturday, November 9, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Fair gives you an opportunity to contribute to some of your favorite worthwhile organizations. Representatives from First Step, the Free Clinic, Collins Center, Valley Program for Aging Services, Big Brother Big Sisters, Gemeinschaft, SERRV, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, and the Kline Center will be present to talk to you about their organizations. In addition this year we will have Santa's Attic as something new. Contributed gently used furniture, art, books and miscellaneous household items will be for sale. No clothing will be sold. There will also be a bake sale and lunch available.

Our church will combine the contributions for each organization and forward the total to them.

PASTORS / STAFF SCHEDULES

Pastor Chris will be off taking holiday and comp time from Tuesday, November 26 through Saturday, November 30. He will return to work on Sunday, December 1.



SPECIAL THANKS

*I am a resident of BRC and have been blessed by the closed circuit television broadcast of your church services since I am not able to attend my own church. Jane Mohr arranged for me to receive the bulletin each Sunday, which your volunteer members deliver to me. I also received a hymnal. Thanks to your church leaders and members. God bless each of you. ~ Sue Jones
(A Baptist preacher's wife for 55 years)*

AUTUMN CELEBRATION REPORT

We would like to congratulate those that participated in the Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Autumn Celebration. In Third Place, Brett's pumpkin *Let's Go Hokies*; In Second Place, Cooper's pumpkin *WVU*, and in first place is Tristan with his pumpkin *Luigi's Mansion*. Thanks to all that participated and to those that voted for those pumpkins. A grand total of \$84.68 was raised and will be given to the Food Bank. A big thank you to all!

IT'S TIME TO RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

A little time can go a long way in helping others less fortunate to have a brighter Christmas. One way you can be one of those persons is by signing up to **Ring the Bell** and staff the Salvation Army booth at Bridgewater Foods Supermarket. Our church will staff the booth Wednesday-Friday, December 4-6. Wednesday and Friday hours will be Noon 'til 7 p.m. and Thursday will be 9 a.m.-7 p.m.. There will be sign-up sheets on the greeting hall hospitality desk on Sundays, November 10 & 17 for you to select a time convenient for you. You can staff the booth by yourself for two hours or sign up with a friend and each ring the bell for an hour. Your participation is very much appreciated!

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

This month's book study with Pastor Chris will meet on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 pm, November 6 and 20, and will focus on *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor (2019). *The renowned and beloved New York Times bestselling author of An Altar in the World and Learning to Walk in the Dark recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey begun in Leaving Church of finding out what the world looks like after taking off her clergy collar. In Holy Envy, she contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques.*
If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy. We will discuss chapters 1-6 on November 6.

SHARING CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The Mission and Service Commission invites you to share Christmas gifts with children and adults that the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services District has identified as having little for the holidays. Last year our church joined in helping our community provide gifts to approximately 1280 children from 500 families and 104 adults. This year Social Services is anticipating about 1500 children and 150 adults. Our church will again help with providing 30 gifts for children and 10 gifts for elderly or disabled adults. Gift tags will be available November 10 & 17 in the Greeting Hall. To participate, select a gift tag from the display, purchase gift requested (\$25), and return wrapped gift with tag attached to the Greeting Hall by November 24.

BITS AND PEACES

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

Jesus' way of love implies, therefore, courage to suffer persecution without resentment and retaliation, ...a tolerant and charitable attitude toward our enemies, and nonresistance to evil. To be able to suffer and to sacrifice is the quintessence of Jesus' way of love.

~ Pyarelal Malagar, Mennonite leader, India

Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you.

~ 1 John 3:13, NRSV

FROM PASTOR CHRISTY

It's not a surprise to me that stepping into the interim ministry position at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren is a steep learning curve. There are simple things to learn about how to run the copy machine and find out where the dishes are located in the kitchen; where the various mailboxes are located is helpful along with finding my way to the music practice room. There are much more complicated pieces of the picture to absorb as I study the structure of the congregation and learn "who does what," and how decisions are made. I've been studying the proposed 2020 and past budgets, for I know those financial numbers can tell a story about a congregation's priorities. I've appreciated beginning to learn more about the staff members of the church and their work responsibilities. I even had a very helpful person draw me a map to find my way to a certain room at Brethren Retirement Center. Those kind of learning aids are helpful! I've discovered there's a training for RMH pastoral hospital visits and a computer to locate parishioners that might be hospitalized (once I receive my "official clearance"). And I'm truly longing to learn all of your names! (And you already know that name tags could be a helpful aid for that task for all of us.)

During these first three weeks of "orientation" at the church, I have also been enrolled and engaged in an 8 week, on-line class, offered through the Brethren Academy, Interim/Transitional Ministry: *More than Mere Maintenance*," taught by Tara Hornbacker. The reading selections have been excellent and the exchanges between the class members helpful. It's a new age of interim ministry, for the needs of the church and culture have changed much in the last 30 years since interim ministry first was initiated as a formal practice. In 1976, Loren Mead of the Alban Institute offered his research stating the "in between time" was one of the most fertile times for congregational development. Through the years some developmental tasks have been named as essential to effective interim ministry. I share 3 of those as beginning points for our work together:

- * Tend to the pastoral basics (planning worship, preaching, pastoral work and administration)
- * Help Congregations understand the seismic shifts in American culture that many describe as "the ending of North American Christendom"
- * Do a congregational assessment (reviewing history , looking at demographics and analyzing what's going on in congregational life)

I hope to engage many of you in this work and I believe there may be a learning curve for everyone! What I continue to learn is that God is walking with every one of us on this journey, and always keeps the promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28: 20).

In Christ's love,
Interim Pastor Christy Dowdy

Pastoral Care Needs: Interim Pastor Christy wants to respond to as many pastoral care needs as possible; you will need to let Shannon, Administrative Assistant, Chris or Christy know of needs and hospitalizations by calling the church office, Christy's phone (814 599-6307) or sending an email to: cdowdy@bwcob.org; Monday is Pastor Christy's Sabbath day, when Pastor Chris will receive calls for pastoral care, and Tuesday is Chris' scheduled Sabbath day.

CROP MEAL / CROP WALK

Thursday, October 31: 5-7 p.m., members of local churches are invited to the Bridgewater College CROP Meal, where they can purchase and enjoy meals surrendered by B.C. students in the college's Kline Campus Center Dining Hall, with all proceeds going to Church World Service's hunger education and relief programs in 80 countries around the world.

Sunday, November 3: 2 p.m., the Bridgewater / Dayton area CROP Hunger Walk will bring help and hope to God's hungry children across the street and around the world. Prior to that day, members of area churches and Bridgewater College students will ask others to sponsor them for every kilometer of the 6K (3.7 mile) route they will walk. On that day, they will gather at the Bridgewater Community Center to enjoy good fellowship, good exercise, and the good feeling of knowing they are making a life-saving difference.

If you would like to attend the CROP Meal or participate in the CROP Hunger Walk, please contact the church office (828-3711) or B.C. Chaplain Robbie Miller at 828-5383 or rmiller@bridgewater.edu. Meal tickets may also be purchased at the door.

HELP US PROVIDE "CARE PACKAGES" FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

As the fall progresses toward winter, and our thoughts turn from Halloween to Thanksgiving to Advent and Christmas, our college students have a few extra things on their minds – exams, final papers, exams, heading home for the holidays, and more exams. So to show them a little extra love during this stressful time, we will once again be sending "Care Packages" to our students near and far.

We are inviting you to help us fill them with lots of goodies. Throughout the month of November there will be collection bins in the Greeting Hall for you to make contributions to this effort. Some suggestions:

- Microwave popcorn
- Hot Chocolate Packs
- Bags of individually wrapped snack size candy
- Prepackaged cookies, crackers, granola bars, etc.
- Snack size raisins, peanuts, etc.



We will divvy up all contributions, supplement where necessary, and then ship the packages off to the students. If you wish, you may also contribute \$\$\$ for supplementing and mailing the packages. Donations should be marked "College Care Packages" and can be dropped in the offering plate or given to Pastor Chris no later than November 24.

If you would like to help distribute the goodies, fill the boxes, and prep for delivery, we will be doing so during the Sunday School hour and after worship in the church Lounge. Materials will be ready first thing in the morning and work will continue through the afternoon until they are finished. Feel free to stop in and help out for a little or a lot as you are able!

Finally, if your child / grandchild, etc is currently attending a school other than Bridgewater College, we need a **CURRENT** mailing address to get a package to them! Please contact the church office by Nov. 24 to ensure that we have their most up-to-date mailing address.

Thanks for your help in this ministry of care and hospitality!

BWCOB DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Ann Anderson, Bill Faw, Heather Hartwell, Mike Fike, Pastor Christy Dowdy and Board Chair Rufus Huffman will be attending District Conference November 1-2 at the Antioch COB in Woodstock. Please keep all gathered in your prayer.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bridgewater Christmas Parade – December 7 @ 10 a.m.



VAN DRIVERS SOUGHT FOR OPEN DOORS

BWCOB will be assisting in providing transportation for the Open Doors Thermal Shelter the week of November 18-24, when our neighbors at the Montezuma Church of the Brethren host the shelter. Thus, we are looking for volunteers who are willing and able to drive our church van for some or all of those mornings and/or evenings. No CDL is required, but comfort in handling a fully loaded van is a must, and you will need to be added as a driver on our insurance policy. If you are interested and able, please contact Pastor Chris or the church office no later than Sunday, November 10.



**BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries**

**Rebuild Trip sponsored by the
Bridgewater Church of the Brethren**

**Jacksonville, FL
December 1-7, 2019**

(Dates may extend a day each way
depending on travel arrangements)

Hurricane Irma, a category 4 storm slammed into the Florida Keys, Florida, on Sept. 10th, 2017. By Sept 11, 2017 Hurricane Irma, downgraded to a Category 1, but heavy precipitation, strong winds up to 50 mph and storm surges resulted in significant flooding particularly along the St. Johns River and its tributaries.

In Jacksonville, Florida, the highest storm surge pushed the St. Johns River northward causing major flooding where the river narrowed right at the cities' downtown. Water surges of this magnitude had not been seen since 1846 and were reportedly up to 5 feet in some homes. In the Jacksonville area alone, flooding from Hurricane Irma caused over \$85 million in damages. Flooding affected riverfront homes, downtown Jacksonville business and other neighborhoods. 112,000 FEMA claims were filed for Duval County where the city sits. Over a quarter of a million homes were without power and over 3,000 people found shelter in city shelters.

The flooding also affected rural communities living along the Black Creek and counties south of Jacksonville on the St. John River with the track of the storm. In Clay County, record high crests of the Black River caused over 575 homes to be destroyed or have major or minor damage. Search and rescue teams pulled thousands from their homes.

BDM will partner with the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church to identify cases to work on with volunteer housing located at Camp TEAMeffort. The type of work in Jacksonville & the surrounding areas includes major repairs from hurricane/flood damage such as floors, insulation, drywall, painting, porches etc. Tools, vehicles and leadership are provided.



**14 Volunteers are needed to fill out the trip,
including 2 drivers with CDLs.**

(Volunteers need to be 18 years of age or older.)

**For more information and/or to sign-up to volunteer,
contact Chuck Clouse at 540-828-4059 or chuckc2005@yahoo.com**

BWCOB NOVEMBER 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 BSM Halloween Picnic – 5 p.m. – Zepps

3 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Sr. High Movie Night – 5 p.m. – Zepps

4 Executive Committee – 7 p.m.

5 Childcare Exploration – 7 p.m.

6 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 6 p.m.
Properties Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Yorff Choir Rehearsal – 6:45 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 – 7:30 p.m.

7 BSM – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppets Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

9 Alternative Christmas Fair – 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

10 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Council – 1 p.m.
Youth to Sunday Night Live – 3 p.m.

11 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.

13 Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 6 p.m.
Yorff Choir Rehearsal – 6:45 p.m.

14 BSM Fundraiser @ Jalapeños – 4-9 p.m.
Puppets Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

15 BSM – 6 p.m.

17 Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
B&MHC Service: Part II – 4 p.m.
BSM Leadership Team – 8 p.m.

20 Pastor's Book Study – 2 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 6 p.m.
Yorff Choir Rehearsal – 6:45 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.

21 BSM – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppet Rehearsal – 7 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

24 College Care Package Assembling – 8:30 a.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11

26 Childcare Center Board – 6:15 p.m.

27 Witness & Nurture Commission – 6:30 p.m.

28-29 Church Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

3 CROP Walk – 2 – Bridgewater Community Center

5 Voting – all day
A Matter of Balance – 9 a.m.
Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

6 BRC Auxiliary Luncheon – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

7 Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU

11 Retired Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace

13 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace

19 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.



For Our Prayers during the Month of November 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...

- Starting a new academic year
- Undergoing significant life changes
- Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute
- Seeking employment and who have lost work
- Traveling
- In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss or lack of relationship
- Struggling with mental illness, anxiety, depression and/or thoughts of suicide
- Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings
- Survivors, Victims, Witnesses, and Perpetrators of violence, intolerance, racism and hatred
- Advocating for justice and righteousness
- Wrestling with their faith
- Facing financial hardships
- Finding peace and contentment

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

...*Our Nation and World*

...*For those who will travel this Thanksgiving season*

...*For the thousands of persons fleeing from the country of Syria, as the US withdrew from*

...*For the tens of thousands of migrants applying for asylum in Mexico, because the US will no longer be a possible place of refuge for them*

...*our Congregation, District, and Denomination*

...*Jeff Carr and family as they continue to make adjustments and embrace a new season in their life together*

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

Cindy Kasten, mother of Bart Kasten, who died October 22; Ralph Shively, who died September 19; Carlene Blankenship, sister-in-law of Margaret Thomason, who died August 17; Kenneth "Casey" Day, father of Beth Day-Miller, who died August 15; Elizabeth "Libby" Custer, sister-in-law of Bonnie Lou Wampler, who died August 10; Marietta Jordan, mother of Susan Fowler, who died August 2

... *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 ...*
Pat Compton, Steve Longenecker

... *those receiving treatments for cancer...Lynne Brumbaugh, Betty Wayman, mother of Claire Wayman*

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

Curis of Harrisonburg, Bridgewater Home, Harrisonburg Health & Rehab, & Sunnyside

...*those taking classes from Bethany Theological Seminary, specifically...Clarke & Hope Staton (Staunton VA)*

...*those in Volunteer Service, specifically...Sharon Flaten (Jos, Nigeria), Ben Neher (Greeley, CO)*

...*those in Military Service, specifically...Tyler Hopkins, Kent Hutchinson*

...*those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently*

Hauwa Abdu, 1 of over 200 girls & young women kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014

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

