

## Risking It All

What would it take to know what you really, really want? For what would you give up everything? What could possibly be so important? Can you name it? Is it something here on earth, or beyond?

Jesus tells the disciples two parables comparing God's kingdom to a great treasure, one that is worth great risk. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matt. 13:44). The second parable is about the pearl of great price and the risk in selling everything to buy it.

In the first parable, we assume that the person who bought the field got a great bargain. All that he or she possessed couldn't come close to equaling the true value of the buried treasure. So, the person risked everything, and was probably nervous that someone else would show up with a better offer, or the seller might realize the tremendous value of what they had and stop the deal. If you are poor, great wealth means life, for you and your family.

Just how desperate would you need to be to sell it all? How poor? Poverty comes in many forms. Earlier in Matthew, we hear about God's blessing upon the "poor in spirit" (5:3). What must we strip away in order to become fully alive?

To be true disciples, to be part of that which is most life-giving, we must give it all up to fit with God's grace and love. It won't be easy, Jesus says, but it will bring joy and fulfillment.

—Jeff Neuman-Lee  
Denver, Colorado

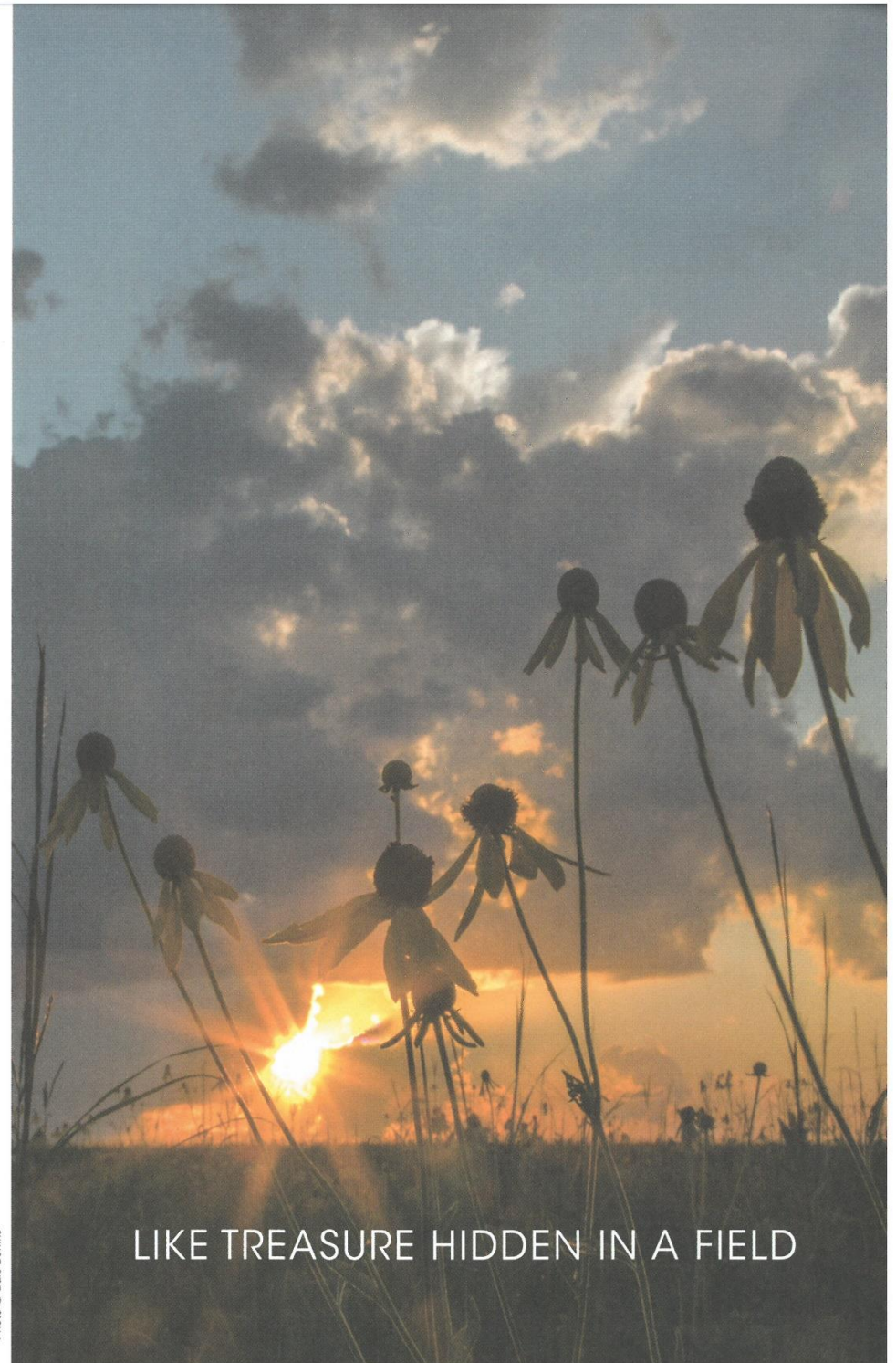
**Text for today:** "The kingdom of heaven is *like treasure hidden in a field*, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 13:44-50, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119: 129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (44).

07-26-20. Printed in the USA  
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LIKE TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD



## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

**June 13-19, 2021** (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>Mon.</b>	7:00	Witness & Nurture Commission	ZOOM
<b>Tues.</b>	4:00	Vocal Chords	Sanctuary
	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
<b>Wed.</b>	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room

## **RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION EVENT FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRIS ZEPP**

Pastor Chris Zepp, who has been serving our congregation since 2007, will conclude his service as our Associate Pastor at the end of June. We are planning an event at the church for Sunday afternoon, June 27, immediately following our 11 a.m. morning worship in the sanctuary. It will be outdoors, weather permitting, or under the porticos otherwise. In addition to the gift of your presence on Sunday, June 27, we are planning two gifts for Pastor Chris and encourage your participation in one or both.

**A love gift:** Please make your gift either online or by check mailed to the church.

**Expressions of thanks:** We welcome and encourage cards and letters expressing your thoughts and thanks for the significant work Pastor Chris has done for our community of faith.

All gifts should be designated "For Pastor Chris." Mailed gifts should be sent to the church at: 420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812  
**NOTE:** Your monetary gifts for Pastor Chris are being received and will be properly credited but will NOT be listed in the weekly giving totals until after the celebratory event on June 27. **Please send all gifts to the church no later than June 21.**

## 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

**Christy Dowdy** – Interim Senior Pastor

**Chris Zepp** – Associate Pastor

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

**Tony Stovall** – Interim 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

**Curtis Nolley** – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

## CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Current office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- Noon, and 1-3 p.m.

## SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

- We ask you wear your mask during in person worship to protect all present.
- Your offering can be placed in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
- Following worship, we encourage you to respect social distance as you fellowship and visit together.

### **HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall**

Large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

### **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.

**Greeters** – Doug & Sally Ruby and Bill Faw

**Hospitality Desk Receptionist** – Sonya Eller

**Worship Leader** – Terry Houff

**Music Leader** – Jim Benedict

**Flautist** – Claire Wayman

**Decorator** – Linda Dean

## **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 6/6/21**

### **Worship Attendance: 11:00 – 166**

\$873.20 in online donations

\$870.00 Envelope Offering

\$3.20 Processing Fees

\$8,422.00 in weekly direct deposit

\$8,422.00 Envelope Offering

Offering from Sunday, June 6

\$12,520.00 in check donations; 39 checks total

\$10,850.00 Envelope Offering

\$870.00 Loose Offering

\$800.00 Improvements Fund

### **REOPENING SCHEDULE**

With the church building now open, current office hours will be Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m. Pastor Christy's office schedule this week: Tuesday & Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**2021 CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORIES** are available at the hospitality desk. A few updates have been made since the first publication, so for the most current information, please feel free to take a new directory.