

Where Is God in That?

Here are two definitions to consider. Once you review them, take a couple of minutes to answer the questions that follow.

Love: 1) an intense feeling of deep affection; 2) a great interest and pleasure in something.

Tolerate: to allow the existence, occurrence, or practice of something (that one does not necessarily like or agree with) without interference.

What are foods that you love? Which do you tolerate?
What are activities that you love? Which do you tolerate?
What music do you love? Which kinds do you tolerate?
What colors do you love? Which do you tolerate?
Who do you love? Who do you tolerate?

We don't get the luxury to *tolerate* people; we are called to *love*. Tolerating someone is easy. Loving someone whom you can hardly tolerate is much harder. It takes faith, a deep belief that God is love and that by loving our sisters and brothers we honor the image of God in them. This is how we love God in return.

Every time we find differences within a person, we can also find things we have in common. No matter how hard it may be, the foundation is the same. God created that person in God's image. We may not love or even tolerate the life decisions or choices someone makes, but God asks us to love that person regardless.

If we came upon a stranger who had fallen, before we go to assist them to their feet, should we stop and ask them about their political affiliations? What their faith background is? Or what their beliefs are? No. We go, extend a hand, and help them up. No questions asked. Maybe even with a smiling face and a reassuring voice. We do this without knowledge of who they are.

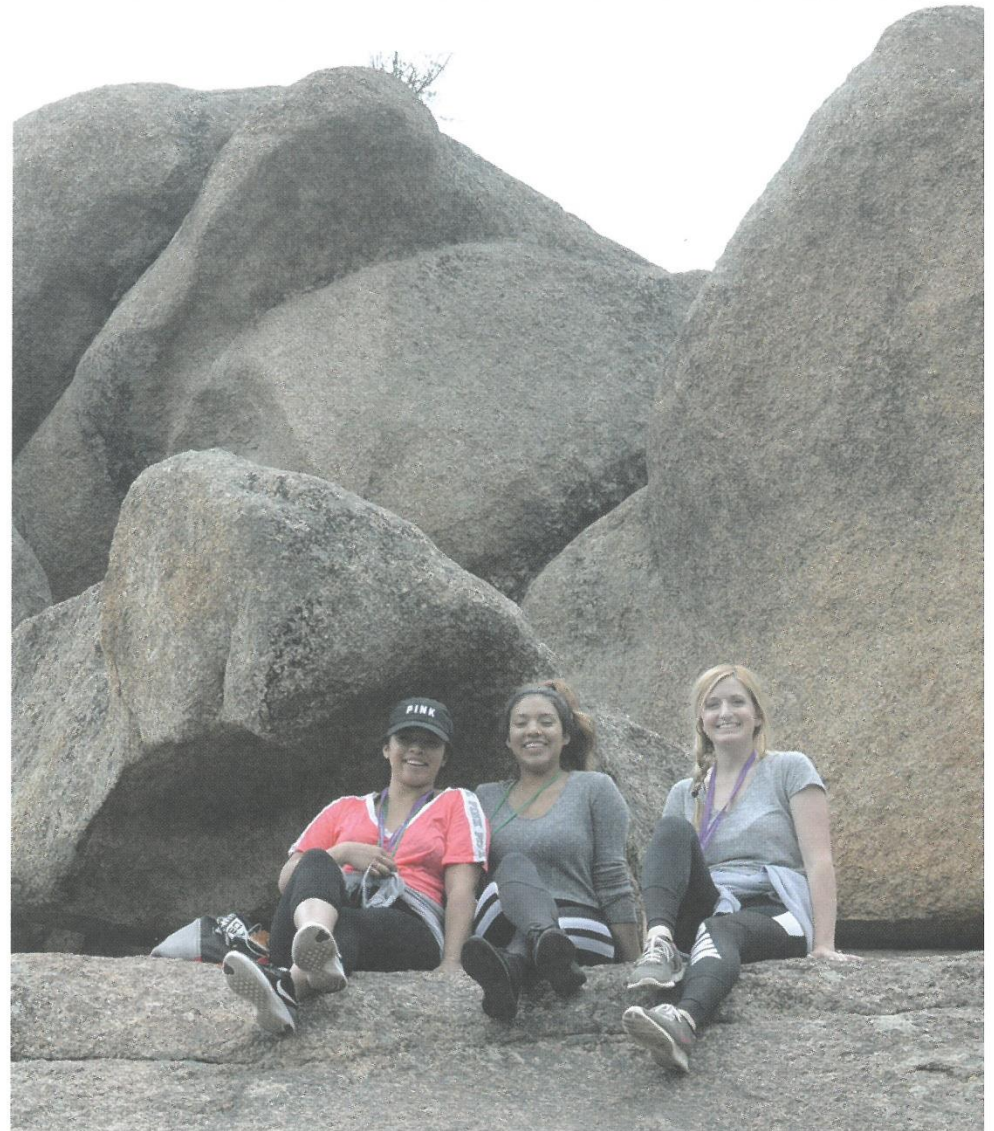
Then I ask you this: Why would our actions change if we knew the answers to those questions? Where is God in that?

—Logan J.P. Schrag
McPherson, Kansas

Text for today: "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we *love one another*, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4:11-12, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21 (12); John 15:1-8.

Photo by Nevin Dulabaum; © 2021 Church of the Brethren
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LOVE
ONE ANOTHER



BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship July 11, 2021

Live and Streaming on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.

"We're at the point of the church's life, I think, where we now need to trust God and each other a lot more. We've spent four years deciding to be Jesus in the neighborhood and that's essential to our life together [referring to the compelling vision statement that was affirmed by this Conference]. We can't lose sight of that. But while we're doing that it wouldn't hurt to start being Jesus to each other."

~ David Sollenberger, in his remarks following his consecration as Annual Conference moderator for 2022.

PRELUDE from The Well-Tempered Clavier: *J. S. Bach*
Praeludium and Fugue I in C Major, Bk. 1
Praeludium in F Minor, Bk. 2

WELCOME & SHARING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH Christy Dowdy

ORGAN MEDITATION Prelude on ST. PETER *Healey Willan*

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN # 306** *In Christ there is no East or West* ST. PETER

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

One: We read these familiar words from 1 Corinthians:

All: Love is patient and kind

One: Patient and kind

All: Love is not Jealous

One: Love is not Jealous or boastful or proud or due.

All: Love does not Demand its own way.

One: Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.

All: It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

One: Love never gives up

All: Never gives up

One: Love never loses faith.

All: Love is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

***HYMN # 420** *Heart with loving heart united* O DO LIEBE MEINER LIEBE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18: 21-22

CHILDREN'S STORY Janean Fawley

GIFT OF MUSIC Sonata no. 12 *Joseph Bodin de Boismortier*
II. Adagio
I. Allegro
Kyle Remnant & Jon Wilson, *trombones*

PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 4: 7-11

MESSAGE Loving one Another Ron Wyrick

***HYMN # 580** *My life flows on* HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*
VII Allegro moderato maestoso
From The Berlin-Kraków Manuscripts

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 11-17, 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.

Sun.	4:00	Children's Event	Wildwood Park
	6:30	Youth Hangout	Youth Room
	7:00	Worship in the Woods – Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center George Bowers, speaker; Sam Showalter, special music	
Tues.	4:00	Vocal Chords	Choir Room
Wed.	6:30	Properties Commission	Seekers Room

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 7/4/21

Worship Attendance: 11:00 – 106

\$410.00 in weekly direct deposit
\$410.00 Envelope Offering

Offering from Sunday, July 4
\$7,535.00 in check and cash donations; 26 checks totaling \$7,515.00 and cash totaling \$20.00

\$6,090.00	Envelope Offering
\$445.00	Loose Offering
\$800.00	Improvements Fund
\$200.00	Rent – Refugee House

SEMI-ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS are available to be picked up this morning. Any that you can deliver to family / neighbors, we kindly ask that you please do.

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

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.

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Music Directors – Kyle Remnant & Jon Wilson

Decorator – Peggy Lineweaver