



Christ the Savior is born!

On November 29, we enter into a special season of preparation for the advent of the Christ child. Our focus is on Jesus Christ and how his birth points to his redeeming work on the cross. We will celebrate in song and prayer, with scripture reading and special events. On the front and back of this page we have a listing of what will be going on. (Special invitation: If you have visitors for the holidays, bring them along too!)

Nov. 28: Chrismon tree expedition

The annual Chrismon Tree expedition starts with breakfast at Bob-a-Rea's, 305 N. Main St., Bridgewater at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 28. Or, leave with us from Bob-a-Rea's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for the trip to the Ostlund tree farm to pick out this year's tree. The Chrismon tree has ornaments of gold, silver and white, all representing some aspect of the life and ministry of Jesus.

The Chrismon Tree includes a nativity scene low enough to be seen by the children of the congregation.



Nov. 29: Hope!

In morning worship at 11 a.m. November 29, we will light the candle of hope on the Advent wreath, starting the season as we reflect on the years that the world waited in hope and expectation for the promised one, the Messiah, who would reconcile us to God.

Advent Music Minutes

Every Sunday November 29 through December 20, we will have Advent Music Minutes at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All kids through 5th grade are invited to come and sing songs of the season. (Adults are welcome, too!)



Nov. 29: Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, Nov. 29 at 5 p.m., we will gather to decorate the church for Advent. The annual Hanging of the Greens begins with a light meal (bring finger food to share) and continues with decorating tasks allocated out among those present. There will be decorating assignments for all. When the church is decorated, we will sing some songs of the season and have a brief program before having an ornament exchange in the Fellowship Hall. You may also bring fruit basket items, nonperishable food to donate, and child-size mittens, gloves or hats for the Mitten Tree (for children served by area charities). You may also bring a Christmas card for the church bulletin board and a donation representing the amount you might have spent sending Christmas cards to Beaver Creek members and friends.

Dec. 5: Auction

On Saturday, December 5, at 7 p.m. the Women's Fellowship presents its annual benefit Christmas Auction. Food will be available from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Come out for a selection of handicrafts, homemade foods, comforts and other unique items! All proceeds benefit the service and outreach projects of the Women's Fellowship year-round.



Dec. 6: Peace!

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who came to the world to bring reconciliation. In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 6, we light the candle of peace on the Advent wreath. The Cyzick family will be providing special music.

Come join us!

Worship starts at 11 a.m. ♦ Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (30 minutes earlier beginning in June). ♦ Church office 540 828-2767, email secretary@beavercreekchurchva.org, office hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ♦ <http://beavercreekchurchva.org> ♦ Twitter: @beavercreekers ♦ Facebook: **Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren** and **Beaver Creek COB Youth**

**Dec. 13:
Joy!**

On December 13 we focus on the joy of Christ's coming. In morning worship at 11 a.m. we light the joy candle. The focus is on the joy we have in Christ. The adult choir will be singing.



**Dec. 19:
Bell ringing**

Saturday, December 19, we will ring the bells for the Salvation Army at the Dayton Farmer's Market to invite donations to the red kettle for the Salvation Army's many ministries. One-hour blocks run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sign up in the church vestibule.

**Dec.20:
Love!**

In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 20, we light the candle of love and contemplate the mystery of God's love in Christ. Special music and a dramatized reading will be provided by the Music Minute Kids.

**Dec. 21:
Caroling**



The adult choir invites everyone to go caroling starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 21. Bring a dessert to share; choir members will be bringing soup and sandwiches. The plan is to meet at Bob-a-Rea's, 305 N. Main St., Bridgewater, and then carol at the Bridgewater Home and White Birch Estates before returning to Bob-a-Rea's. Then after sharing a meal, we'll carol in the Bridgewater and Spring Creek areas.

**Dec. 24:
Candlelight
Service**

At 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve we will have a special worship service, to include an open communion and candle-lighting. We will sing the songs of the season and have a special service. Then, in closing we will light the Christ candle on the Advent Wreath and use its flame to light individually held candles, passing the flame until the entire sanctuary glows with the symbolized light of Christ.



**Dec. 27:
God with us**



One of the many titles of Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." In morning worship at 11 a.m. on December 27, we rejoice that Christmas has fully arrived and we are reminded that God did not leave us alone, but sent his son that we might have life. Any time after Christmas, all four Advent candles – for hope, peace, joy and love – are lit, followed by the Christ candle.

**Jan. 3:
Bread
and cup**

As we start the New Year, bread and cup communion will be presented by the Deacons near the end of the Jan. 3 11 a.m. worship. This communion serves as a reminder of what the Christmas season is all about – coming as it does, when presents have been opened and decorations have been taken down,

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren-December Calendar

2015 DECEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Scheduled church events in December:

- December 1, 7 p.m. Women's Fellowship Sunset Group
- December 5, 7 p.m., Women's Fellowship Auction (Food available starting at 5:30 p.m.)
- December 17, 7 p.m., Leadership Team
- December 21, Christmas Caroling starting at 5:30 p.m. at Bob-a-Rea's
- December 24, 11 p.m., Candlelight Christmas Eve service

Birthdays in December:

1 Ashley Roby (Plaugher)	24 Ryan Mays
3 Stanley Suter, Lisa Eye	25 Zack Wampler
8 Beth Rhodes	26 Brittany Southerly
13 Candy Hensley	27 Zena Debyan
15 Emmett Grove	28 Amy Jordan
16 Carolyn Wine	29 Dennis Miller, Ceci Dastoli, Brad Eckard
18 Nora Whiteside	30 Frances Cook
22 Cole Wisman	

**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
Leadership Team Meeting
October 15, 2015**

Present: Evy Kaye Sandin, Bill Wood, Jane Cyzick, Candy Hulvey, Sean Dunn, Jeanette Hess, Theresa Eckard. Ex-officio: Glenn Bollinger – Pastor, Donna Miller – Treasurer, Dana Suter – Church Clerk.

Absent: Charles Wright, Deborah Hoover, Bill Eckard.

Evy Kaye called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Glenn led the group in devotions and a prayer. The minutes from last month's meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved. The master calendar was updated.

Focus Teams:

Christian Education and Discipleship: Jane reported that Debbie Bollinger will be the VBS director next year and Theresa Eckard will be the Brethren Woods representative. Following Jane's report, there was a discussion on special Sunday School sessions and the fact that they need to be approved by the Christian Education and Discipleship FT.

Congregational Connection: No report.

Facilities: Glenn shared information regarding the possibility that Beaver Creek has partial ownership of the Spring Creek Town Hall. A representative from Beaver Creek will obtain the deed from the Court House. At this time, the Leadership Team does not feel it is appropriate for Beaver Creek to use the building for events due to a lack of liability insurance and other safety issues in the building.

Finance: No report.

Fellowship: No report.

Outreach: Jeanette reported that the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will be collected on November 22. The First Sunday Offering in November will be going to Operation Christmas Child. Beaver Creek will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at the Dayton Farmer's Market on December 19. There will be a collection box for the Heifer Project in the vestibule until Christmas.

Ministry: No report. Ministry Team is meeting next week.

Worship: Candy reported that the Worship Team is looking for someone to direct the Christmas Eve Service. A candidate for Choir Director was interviewed last week but the candidate declined the position. Glenn is working on a playlist of music to use at different times in the church. The Worship Team continues to work on updating the responsibilities /duties of their team in their booklet.

Deacon's Report: Donna reported that the combined Love Feast with Montezuma COB and Mt. Bethel COB was well attended. The deacons will meet the second week of November.

Pastor's Report: Glenn shared concerns with the need to stay connected with members and friends of the Beaver Creek COB as well as concerns for the District Conference coming up in November.

Unfinished Business: Sean made a motion that the revised church polity be accepted and Candy seconded the motion and the motion passed. The revised polity will be presented at the Fall Congregational Business meeting. Evy Kaye presented only two units for the upcoming 2016 – 2018 term, the LaPrades and the Woods will serve. John Wright has agreed to a second term the Gifts & Calling Team. The results of the Facilities discussions will be included in the packet at the Fall Congregational Business meeting.

The Leadership Team is concerned about the water problem in the basement. Bill Wood made a motion to authorize the Facilities Team to seek an opinion from a qualified contractor on what it would take to solve the water problem. Jeanette seconded the motion and the motion passed. The "Spiritual Life" discussions have been rescheduled for December 6.

New Business: The 2016 budget was reviewed. The Leadership Team accepted the budget to be presented at the Fall Congregational Business meeting. (The agenda for the meeting is included in the official minutes in the church office.)

Evy Kaye led the group in a prayer.

The next Leadership Team meeting is November 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Suter, Church Clerk

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Glenn Bollinger, Pastor
Evelyn Sandin,
Leadership Team Chair

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren is a loving, caring and authentic fellowship of believers empowered by the Holy Spirit and called to be God's church: to worship, humbly serve others and proclaim Jesus Christ.

Steele and Alice bring worship service

Steele and Alice Dunn brought the worship service on November 15, in message, story and song. They updated us about their mission work in Ukraine. After the service, there was a benefit lunch in the Fellowship Hall that generated \$1431 in financial support for their mission. (See steeleandalice.org.)
Photos by Bill and Douglas Wood



Learning about service

The kids of the church learned about service in morning worship on Nov. 22, hearing from Jeanette about Faith the Cow and the founding of the Heifer Project. Behind Jeanette are 115 boxes prepared by church members and friends for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks are due to all who contributed to the effort, including those who gave in the First Sunday offering, the youth who went shopping and Bill Miller, who delivered Beaver Creek's shoeboxes to the collection point.

Spiritual Emphasis Sunday Dec. 6

We're planning to have a church-wide conversation about our spiritual life at the beginning of the Sunday School hour December 6. A representative of the Leadership Team will attend each Sunday School class on Spiritual Emphasis Sunday to ask questions, solicit ideas, and take the results to the October leadership team meeting.

For those who do not regularly attend a Sunday School class, there will be a meeting at the northeast corner of the sanctuary (by the display case) at 10:30 a.m. to gather input.

The theme questions for Spiritual Life Sunday are: *Currently our spiritual life is closely related to regular Sunday School classes and worship services, with some Bible studies at other times. Are these formats fulfilling? What additional formats for spiritual growth should we consider?*

Beaver Creek bits

◆ Giving Tree items (place under the Chrismon Tree each week of Advent): Nov. 29 canned fruit, meats, vegetables, soups and stews; Dec. 6 boxed cereal and peanut butter; Dec. 13 staple items; Dec. 20 paper products. ◆ December's First Sunday Offering goes to the Salvation Army. ◆ To get daily Bible verses from Beaver Creek to your email inbox, contact Bill Wood.
