



## ***Advent at Beaver Creek! Prepare the way of the Lord***

We will soon be in 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. 25: Tree hunt, men's fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship will have a breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, November 25 at Bob-a-Rea's, 305 N. Main St., Bridgewater. All guys who are members or friends of Beaver Creek Church are welcome. After breakfast we will leave to pick out this year's Chrismon tree. The 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 at a kid-friendly height to teach the children about the birth of Jesus.*



### **Nov. 26: Hanging of the Greens**

On Sunday, Nov. 26 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 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). If you wish, 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.

### **Play practice and Advent Music Minutes**

Beginning November 26 and continuing through the season, all children and youth will gather at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for ten minutes, right at the start of Sunday School. We'll be preparing for the December 17 Christmas play and singing songs of the season. Special note: This year, the script calls for children **and** youth to participate – so we'll be asking all children and youth classes to start Sunday School downstairs.



### **Dec. 2: Annual auction**



On Saturday, December 2, 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 3: Hope!**

We'll start off Dec. 3 with coffee fellowship and breakfast foods at 9:15 a.m. In morning worship at 11 a.m, 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. Each Sunday of Advent we collect a category of food item under the tree for distribution to the hungry locally. Dec. 3's item is canned food.



### **Come join us!**

Worship starts at 11 a.m. ♦ Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (30 minutes later earlier in June-July-August). ♦ Church office 540 828-2767, email [secretary@beavercreekchurchva.org](mailto: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. 10:  
Peace!**

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who came to the world to bring reconciliation. In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 10, we light the candle of peace on the Advent wreath. There will be special music by the Adult Choir. The food item to bring for the giving tree is cereal.

**Dec. 17:  
Joy! and  
a drama**

On December 17 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. Highlighting our worship will be the presentation of a drama, "Bells of Christmas: The Best Gift," by the children and youth combined. For the giving tree, the item to bring is staples.

**Dec. 18:  
Caroling**



The adult choir invites everyone to go caroling starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 18. 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 in Dayton and the north end of Bridgewater. Next, after sharing a meal, we'll carol at several more homes in Bridgewater and then Spring Creek. (The rumor is that there may be candy at one stop.)

**Dec. 24:  
Love!**

In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 18, we light the candle of love and contemplate the mystery of God's love in Christ. Our final item for the giving tree is paper products to be distributed through area food pantries.

**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. 25:  
Christmas  
at home**

On December 25 we will observe Christmas with our families, remembering that one of the many titles of Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." On December 25, 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. 7:  
Bread  
and cup**

By January 7 the gifts will have been opened and most of the decorations will be down – what better time could there be to come to the Lord's table in worship? On the first Sunday of the New Year, bread and cup communion will be presented by the Deacons near the end of the 11 a.m. worship. This communion serves as a reminder of what the Christmas season is all about.

**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren-December Calendar**

December 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					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 2, 7 p.m., Women's Fellowship Auction (Food available starting at 5:30 p.m.)  
 December 3, 9:15 a.m., coffee fellowship with breakfast food  
 December 5, 7 p.m. Women's Fellowship Sunset Group  
 December 21, 7 p.m., Leadership Team  
 December 18, Christmas Caroling starting at 5:30 p.m. at Bob-a-Rea's  
 December 24, 11 p.m., Candlelight Christmas Eve service

<b>Birthdays in December</b>	<b>18 Nora Whiteside</b>
<b>1 Ashley Roby (Plaugher)</b>	<b>22 Cole Wisman</b>
<b>3 Stanley Suter, Lisa Eye</b>	<b>24 Ryan Mays</b>
<b>8 Beth Rhodes</b>	<b>25 Zack Wampler</b>
<b>13 Candy Hensley</b>	<b>26 Brittany Southerly</b>
<b>15 Emmett Grove</b>	<b>27 Zena Debyan</b>
<b>16 Carolyn Wine</b>	<b>29 Dennis Miller, Ceci Dastoli, Brad Eckard</b>

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren  
Leadership Team Meeting  
October 19, 2017

Present: Brad Eckard, Bill Eckard, Ann Healy, Diane Miller, Joe LaPrade, Darlene LaPrade, Reba Kline, Jeanette Hess, Elaine McGann – Interim Pastor, Dana Suter – Church Clerk. Absent: Theresa Eckard, Deborah Hoover, and Donna Miller – Treasurer.

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Ann Healy led the group in devotions and a prayer.

The minutes from last month's meeting and the treasurer's report were accepted.

Calendar Update: Oct. 28 – Men's Fellowship Chicken Barbecue, Nov. 5 – First Sunday Offering designated for Ottobine School Backpack Program, Pulpit Supply – Mark Steury, Daylight Savings Time ends, Nov. 12 – Pulpit Supply – Teresa Simmons, Dec. 17 – Children's Program during worship, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 11 pm.

Focus Team Reports:

Facilities – Bill reported that the light outside over the front door is going to be replaced to allow for better lighting. The Facilities Team got an estimate from Clint Curry to paint the outside window frames, doors, and repair the roof around the chimney for \$1400. They will use money from their budget for the work.

Outreach – Diane reported that volunteers are needed for the Beaver Creek Cares Weekend Nov. 3 and 4. There will be some different outreach opportunities this year.

Pastor's Report: Elaine prepared the pastor's report that is included with the packets for the Congregational Business meeting which includes how she has spent her time at Beaver Creek since June 1 when she became the interim pastor.

New Business: Brad went over the agenda for the Congregational Business Meeting.

The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for November 16 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Suter – Church Clerk

## ***The Wonder of Angels and the Holy Spirit***

*Evergreen trees form guarded spaces  
Filled with their soft smell  
No noise of human making  
Mechanized or otherwise  
Can overwhelm  
The shape and smell of gifts from God*

*Eucharist shared  
Joy and grace and gratitude  
Spread out among strangers  
Day after day  
Endless kinds of bread and a tablespoon of wine  
Reminding us of the generosity of God's creation*

*Euphoria longed for  
And felt within our hearts  
Even as we stand in the midst of  
Our world's pain and violence*

*Evidence given  
Of God's immanent presence  
At the deepest and most beautiful time  
Blackened winter night  
Making possible the seeing of  
Star-signs in canopy overhead*

*Ever-present holiness  
Poured mysteriously over heart and head  
Freeing us of every fear  
Lightening our loads  
So that we might join the flight  
Of those Winged Wisdom Bearers*

Elaine Hartman McGann  
December 2017

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Beaver Creek  
Church of the Brethren  
5651 Beaver Creek Rd.  
Bridgewater, VA 22812-3378

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Permit No. 50

Elaine McGann, Interim Pastor  
Brad Eckard, 2017  
Leadership Team Chair

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*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.*

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## Call for deacons and helpers

Beaver Creek Church is looking for individuals and couples to serve as deacons. The two main duties of deacons are preparation for communion and visiting those who are not able to get around well (traditionally referred to as "shut-ins.") Deacons must be full members of the church but there are no age requirements.

The deacons occasionally put out calls for help, as in baking communion bread. There are no minimum requirements to be a deacon helper – all are welcome! In recent years, our number of deacons has been falling as individuals rotate off at the end of their three-year terms without replacements being available. Currently we are below half strength, and without some change it will not be possible to keep up the regular schedule of visitation.

If you are willing to be considered as a deacon, let Brad Eckard or Jeanette Hess know. If you'd like to know more about deacon work, see Bill Wood (2018 chair of the deacons).

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### ***"Beaver Creek Cares" highlights***

*Our "Beaver Creek Cares" weekend of service included a moonlit campfire, youth playing bingo with White Birch Estates residents, and many other projects.*



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## Beaver Creek bits

- ◆ Don't forget coffee fellowship time with breakfast foods, set for 9:15 a.m. (before Sunday School) December 3.
  - ◆ The first Sunday offering of December goes to the Salvation Army.
  - ◆ The Facilities Team reports that the church windows and doors were painted, a rusty place on the roof was power washed and a new exterior light above the front door of the church was installed.
  - ◆ The church Leadership Team will meet December 21 at 7 p.m. to reorganize for the coming year under incoming chair Jeanette Hess. All focus team members are asked to attend. Each team will need to choose a chair, a secretary and a representative to the monthly Leadership Team meetings.
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