



## Preparation for rejoicing: *Advent at Beaver Creek*

As this newsletter hits mailboxes around Thanksgiving, Beaver Creek is gearing up for the season of Advent. As always, our focus is on Jesus Christ and how his birth points to his redeeming work on the cross. We will be celebrating 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. Note also: Visitors are especially welcome at this time of the year!

### Tree getting

**Late note: Because of a bad weather forecast, volunteers are getting the tree Friday. There will be no meeting Saturday.**

The Men's Fellowship will have a breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, November 24 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, about 9 a.m., 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.

*Below right, by tradition the Chrismon tree has a Nativity scene placed so low that the youngest child can easily see it.*  
*Photo by Bill Wood*



### Nov. 25: Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, Nov. 25 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.



### Advent Music Minutes

Beginning November 25 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 getting ready for the kids to sing December 23 in the worship service.



### Dec. 1: Annual auction



On Saturday, December 1, 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. 2: Hope!

We'll start off Dec. 2 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. 2's item is canned food.

### Come join us!

Worship starts at 11 a.m. ♦ Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (30 minutes earlier June through 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. 9:  
Peace!**

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who came to the world to bring reconciliation. In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 9, 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. 16:  
Joy!**

On December 16 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. For the giving tree, the item to bring is staples.

**Dec. 17:  
Caroling**



Here's an invitation from Ann Healy: "Monday, December 17 we will meet at Bob-A-Rea's (305 N. Main St., Bridgewater) at 5:30. All are invited to share in the spirit of Christmas fellowship. The choir will furnish soup, sandwiches, and drinks. Those joining us may share Christmas sweets for dessert! Come one, come all to carol and bring Christmas joy to our older adults." We'll be caroling at Bridgewater Home, White Birch Estates, in-town Bridgewater and then Spring Creek.

**Dec.23:  
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. 6:  
Bread  
and cup**

By January 6 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-Monthly Calendar**

DECEMBER 2018						
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 1, 7 p.m., Women's Fellowship Christmas Auction**  
 (Food available at 5:30 p.m.)  
**December 2, 9:15 a.m., Coffee fellowship, breakfast food**  
**December 17, 5:30 p.m. Caroling (starting at Bob-a-Rea's)**  
**December 20, 7 p.m. 2018 Leadership Team followed by 7:30 p.m. 2019 Leadership Team**  
**December 24, 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service**

<b>Birthdays this month</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 18, 2018**

Present: Chris Dastoli, Theresa Eckard, Candy Hensley, Jeanette Hess, John Hoover, Reba Kline, Joe LaPrade, Amy Saum, Kenny Wheelbarger. Ex-Officio: Bill Wood - Deacon Chair, Elaine McGann – Interim Pastor, Darlene LaPrade – Church Clerk. Absent: Donna Miller – Treasurer.

Jeanette called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Kenny opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

**Calendar Roundtable:** October 27 – Men’s Fellowship Chicken BBQ, November 4 – First Sunday Breakfast, First Sunday offering – Ottobine Backpack Program, January 6, 2019 – Bread and Cup Communion

The Treasurer’s report was approved.

**Matters for Leadership Team:**

Due to the recent theft at Beaver Creek, John reminded members of the importance of locking the church when leaving.

Reba reported that the Advent booklets have been ordered.

A suggestion was made to check into Comcast services for the church. Bill will get more information and a quote from Comcast to compare their services to our current provider.

**Pastor’s Report:** Elaine will be on vacation starting October 25 – 29. She will also be leaving on November 4 and will tentatively be returning on November 21. Guest speakers will be Karl Magenhofer on November 11 and Ed Bontrager on November 18.

**Search Committee Report:** There have been zero referrals to consider.

**Old Business:** No old business. Everything is set for the Congregational Business Meeting on October 21.

**New Business:** Deacons continue to look for new members.

Focus Team end of year reports are due in December.

Bill requested that items for the November newsletter be submitted by October 30. He would like to have items for the December newsletter submitted by November 20. Bill would also like to have all Advent activities in the December newsletter. He will send out a draft to be proofed by Leadership Team members.

A question was raised pertaining to the use of the Good Samaritan Fund to help a local family in need. After discussion, Candy made a motion to donate \$1000.00 to the family. John seconded the motion and it was approved. Jeanette will check on the best way to give the money to meet their immediate daily needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

**Next meeting: November 15, 2018**

**Devotions: Amy Saum**

Darlene LaPrade – Church Clerk



*Above, the third annual “Beaver Creek Cares” weekend included trimming and cleaning at Sadie Rose House, as well as a variety of other service and fellowship activities.*

**Note of thanks**

*Thanks so much for everything everyone has done for us over this long journey. We couldn't have made it this far without your support and help. It's been a long rough road with lots of bumps and hurdles, but have found a small blessing in each day to keep me strong and positive, and can feel the love around me in so many ways. Please continue to pray for us as we travel down the unknown road.*

Crystal & Ruth Smith

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Church of the Brethren  
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Elaine McGann, Interim Pastor  
Jeanette Hess, 2018  
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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## Keeping Awake



*Here is Pastor Elaine's reflection for December:*

We are waiting for the coming birth of Jesus. We claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, as our Friend and Brother. As an Advent hymn, Arthur G. Clyde [1993] wrote:

*"Keep awake, be always ready, God's time approaches sure and steady,  
God's strength will keep your heart from blame,  
Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing, disperse, God's purest light revealing;  
Creation will its Sovereign name.  
Dry branches burst forth green, God's advent signs are seen: Hallelujah!  
Christ's judgment won, God's will be done; God's new dominion thus begun.*

*Rise and shine for One is coming  
Whose love will quench all nature's thirsting to be made whole forever more.  
On that day to end all weeping, death's swords transformed to tools of reaping,  
The God of might will mercy pour.  
Incarnate, God appears embracing all our tears: Hallelujah!  
God's majesty eternally revealed to set the cosmos free."*

Keep awake. Keep awake!

How shall we keep awake? How shall we stay alert? How shall we watch? During this Advent season as we anticipate the coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem, think of the ways that you can stay awake. Will you see Jesus in another's face? Will you notice God at work in your own life? How?

Take the time during the coming days to notice how God is coming into your life. Do you see someone "blooming" in a new and different way? Are you entertaining strangers? Can you be gentle and patient in the midst of our world's hurried pace?

Keep awake. List how you will keep awake and watch for Jesus' coming. Keep the list going through the Advent Season.

In Jesus' Name and for Jesus' Sake, be God's mercy now. Be God's hands and feet and voice in these days. Keep awake to how God wants you to be God's ambassador to others.

—Elaine Hartman McGann  
December 2018

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*During this Advent season, think of the ways that you can stay awake.*

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## Beaver Creek bits

◆ Coffee fellowship time with breakfast is at 9:15 a.m. December 2. ◆ A check for \$1,807.01 was sent in November to Brethren Disaster Ministries for hurricane relief, representing what was earned by the Men's Fellowship Steak Dinner at Mt. Crawford this fall.

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