



# Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren

5651 Beaver Creek Rd. | Bridgewater VA 22812 | 540 828-2767

January

2019

## Merry Christmas!

Our holiday wish for all of our friends, members and neighbors is that you will know peace and joy this Christmas. This brief holiday special newsletter is going out in advance of the church office being closed December 22 through January 3. Merry Christmas to all, and we'll see you in the New Year!

JANUARY 2019						
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 January:

January 6, 9:15 a.m., First Sunday breakfast

January 6, Bread and Cup Communion in 11 a.m. worship

January 8, 6:30 p.m., Women's Fellowship Sunset Group

January 13, Freewill offering lunch sponsored by the Women's Fellowship for fuel assistance

January 13, Deacons meet after Women's Fellowship lunch

January 17, 7 p.m., Leadership Team meeting

### Birthdays this month

2 Joe LaPrade

4 Golden Brunk

14 Ava Lynne Wampler

23 Michael LaPrade, Emma Eckard

26 Anna Suter

28 Cole Wheelbarger

31 Stuart Wood

### Emptiness: Here are Pastor Elaine's reflections for January 2019:

The shorter days of the winter season are days in which we are called to go slower, pause, and become more aware of our surroundings. The darkness comes early in the evening. Many folks work inside all through the time of light. We may feel like just "pulling in" for a while and almost hibernating. Many of us experience sickness and pains. We long for the warmth of summer sunshine.

Such times of these we are challenged to remain open to what God is doing in our lives. The temptation is to crawl under the covers and not come out again until later. What discoveries might we make if we look up and out? What changes might occur if we are open to the impossible? What good news might we hear if we are open?

Joyce Rupp writes: "Openness is also about wonder and surprise. . . . openness leads to inner freedom and growth. This freedom usually comes with a price. It requires trusting God more with our lives and having a willingness to meet our resistances head-on. . . . Sometimes we may be open but not have much room to receive, due to the inner clutter that junks up and crowds our mind and heart. . . . Just as our bodies breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, so our spirits need to take in what is life-give and empty out what is not helpful to us."

Use this prayer by Joyce Rupp as you live these days through the Season of Epiphany. (God's coming to the whole world!)

*"Generous God,  
so many times I've come with my empty cup  
a beggar of the heart, devoid of nourishment, depleted of energy  
and You have filled.*

*Generous God,  
so many times I've come afraid of unknowns  
full of negatives and no's, fighting the challenges,  
closed and resistant to growth  
and You have opened.*

*Generous God,  
so many times I've come a stranger to my spirit  
crammed with cultural noise, caught in endless clutter, crowding my inner space,  
and You have emptied.*

*Generous God,  
I come to you again, holding our my waiting cup  
begging that it first be emptied of all that blocks the way  
then asking for its filling with love that tastes like You."*

(The Cup of Our Life, A Guide to Spiritual Growth, 1997, Ave Marie Press, pp. 44-45)

## 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**

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

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Elaine McGann, Interim Pastor  
Chris Dastoli, 2019  
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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## **There's still time!**

**11 a.m. Dec. 23**

**11 p.m. Dec. 24**

If you feel that the joy of this season might have passed you by amid busy schedules in this busy time of year, there's still time to slow down and enjoy the meaning of the season at Beaver Creek. On December 23 we will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent in 11 a.m. worship with a special message and music from the Adult Choir. There will also be a short presentation by the Advent Music Minutes Kids. Then on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 11 p.m. we will have a traditional candle lighting service with open communion. All are welcome!

## **Spread the warmth on January 13**

On January 13 right after the morning worship service, the Women's Fellowship will sponsor a soup and sandwich lunch. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit winter fuel heating for families in need.



*Left, Garry places the star atop the Christmas Tree at the Hanging of the Greens. Right, Chris tells the kids the story behind a Christmas hymn.*

## **Bread and Cup January 6**

Bread and Cup communion will be served in the morning worship service on January 6. If you know someone who is unable to get around and would like to receive communion at home, please let Pastor Elaine or Deacon Chair Bill Wood know.

## **Beaver Creek bits**

◆ Coffee fellowship time with breakfast is at 9:15 a.m. January 6. ◆ With the New Year, Jeanette Hess completes her service as Leadership Team chair and Chris Dastoli takes over. Zach Wampler, as chair-elect, will step up to chair for 2020.

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