



Advent 2019: Beaver Creek prepares

Beaver Creek is gearing up for the season of Advent as this newsletter arrives around Thanksgiving time. For this special season, 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 our events. Visitors are welcome at Beaver Creek, especially this month!

Tree getting, men's meeting Nov. 30

The Men's Fellowship will have a breakfast meeting at 7:15 a.m. Saturday, November 30 at Thomas House Restaurant, Dayton. 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



Dec. 1: Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, Dec. 1 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 December 1 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 youth and children to sing with the Instant Choir on December 22 in the worship service.

Right, the kids acted out "asleep on the hay" last year. Photo by Douglas Wood



Dec. 1: "Make Room for Peace"

We'll start off Dec. 1 with coffee fellowship and breakfast foods at 9:15 a.m. In morning worship at 11 a.m., we will light the candle of peace on the Advent wreath. Pastor Ryan's message, continuing the "Make Room" series, will be "Make Room for Peace," drawing from Luke 1:26-38. Each Sunday of Advent we collect a category of food item under the tree for distribution to the hungry locally. The item for Dec. 1 is canned food.

Dec. 7: Annual auction



On Saturday, December 7, at 7 p.m. the Women's Fellowship presents its annual benefit Christmas Auction. Food will be available for purchase from 5:30 to 7 p.m., provided by the Outreach Sunday School Class. 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.

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, 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. 8:
“Make Room
for Hope”**

Jesus Christ is the hope of all nations. In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 8, we light the candle of hope on the Advent wreath. Pastor Ryan’s message, “Make Room for Hope,” is based on Luke 1:39-56. The food item to bring for the giving tree is cereal.



**Dec. 15:
“Make Room
for Joy”**

“On December 15 we focus on the joy of Christ’s coming. In morning worship at 11 a.m. we light the joy candle. Pastor Ryan’s message, “Make Room for Joy,” is based on Luke 1:57-66. For the giving tree, the item to bring is staples.

**Dec. 16:
Caroling**



Monday, December 16 we will meet at Bob-A-Rea’s, 305 N. Main St., Bridgewater, at 5:30 p.m. Alternatively, you may meet the group in the lobby of White Birch Estates, our first caroling stop, at 5:45 p.m. Choir members will furnish soup, sandwiches, and drinks. Others may share Christmas sweets for dessert. We’ll be caroling at White Birch Estates, the Bridgewater Home, in-town Bridgewater and then Spring Creek.

**Dec.22:
“Make Room
for Love”**

In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 22, we light the candle of love and contemplate the mystery of God’s love in Christ. Pastor Ryan’s message, “Make Room for Love,” is from Matthew 1:18-25. The Instant Choir, including children and youth, will bring special music. 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. Pastor Ryan’s message, based on Luke 2:1-21, will be “Is There Room for Jesus?”

**Dec. 29:
“Make Room
for All People”**

On December 29 Pastor Ryan’s Christmas message will be “Make Room for All People,” drawing from Luke 2:25-38. Any time Christmas Eve or afterward, all four Advent candles – for hope, peace, joy and love – are lit, followed by the Christ candle.

**Jan. 5:
“Who Is on
Your Throne?”**

Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas, celebrates the visit of the Magi and the revealing of Jesus to the world. Pastor Ryan’s message is “Who Is on Your Throne?” from Matthew 2:1-12 and it will conclude the “Make Room” series. 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.)

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren-Monthly Calendar

| DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 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, 9:15 a.m., Coffee fellowship, breakfast food
 December 7, 7 p.m., Women’s Fellowship Christmas Auction
 (Food available at 5:30 p.m.)
 December 16, 5:30 p.m. Caroling (starting at Bob-a-Rea’s)
 December 19, 7 p.m. 2019 Leadership Team followed by 7:30 p.m. 2020 Leadership Team
 December 24, 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service
 December 29, Un-Hanging of the Greens immediately after 11 a.m. service

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

**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
Leadership Team Meeting
October 17, 2018**

Present: Chris Dastoli, Joe LaPrade, Amy Saum, Marlin Simmons, Zack Wampler, Kenny Wheelbarger, Bill Wood. Ex-Officio: Darlene LaPrade - Church Clerk, Tess Southerly. Absent: Theresa Eckard, Deborah Hoover.

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Calendar Roundtable: October 26 (4:30 a.m.) - Men's Fellowship Chicken BBQ, November 3 – First Sunday Breakfast, November 3 – First Sunday Offering - Operation Christmas Child shipping costs, November 15-16 – Beaver Creek Cares Weekend (shoe boxes will be packed on Friday night), November 19-20 – Open Doors, November 26 - Newsletter deadline, November 30 – Men's Fellowship Meeting (Thomas House) and getting the Chrismon Tree, December 12 – Jan. newsletter deadline.

Pulpit Supply for October 20 and 27 – Ron Wyrick, November 3 – Karl Magenhofer, November 10 – Regina Harlow (Stewardship Sunday), November 17 – Installation of New Pastor

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved. The Leadership Team discussed moving the church bank accounts from Wells Fargo to Park View Credit Union. Under their Church Account Set-up, most services would be free of charge.

Matters for Leadership Team: The timing for switching banks before our new Pastor starts seems appropriate.

Amy reported that the Kindergarten, First and Second grade Sunday School classes will be combined.

Bill reported that the newsletter draft will be sent out for proofing and will include Advent activities. The following activities were discussed: November 30 – Men's Fellowship meeting (Thomas House @7:15) followed by getting the Chrismon Tree, Advent music minutes for children and youth starting December 1, December 1 – Hanging of the Greens, December 7 – Women's Fellowship Christmas Auction, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 p.m. There was some discussion about changing the time of the service in the future.

A walk-through of the parsonage will be conducted after the renters leave. Rooms will also be painted before the Cooper's move in.

The ballot/slate was presented for approval (see attached ballot). A motion was made to accept the ballot. The motion was seconded and was approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: After a discussion about changing banks, a motion was made to move forward in changing banks from Wells Fargo to Park View Credit Union with Linda Rhodes and Evy Kaye Sandin's names on the accounts. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to liquidate Wells Fargo accounts and keep \$100,000 in the new Park View checking account. Other funds from Well Fargo will go into the Vanguard Life Strategy Income Fund. The motion was seconded and was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Next Meeting – November 21, 2019

Devotions – Theresa Eckard

Darlene LaPrade – Church Clerk

Beaver Creek Cares

Our annual Beaver Creek Cares weekend of service brought us together November 15-16 to serve others. Right, the youth and advisers shopped for Operation Christmas Child Friday night. On Saturday, volunteers packed shoeboxes filled with gifts for the Operation Christmas Child recipients around the world. Beaver Creek also gathered supplies for the Strength in Peers homeless outreach in Harrisonburg. Thanks are due to all who helped!



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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Permit No. 50

Ryan Cooper, Pastor
Chris Dastoli, 2019
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.

Pastor's Ponderings



I grew up in Syracuse, the fourth largest city in New York. Like many cities, there was always a glow in the night time sky. It was never truly dark. Yet I was fascinated with the stars. I studied the constellations, learned all of the myth stories behind the naming of the stars, and even regularly visited the planetarium. I would search the night time sky for the constellations and see if I could find the planets. And I was proud of how much I was able to identify. I believed myself to be a master of the sky.

Then one day my paradigm shifted! Our family went on a weekend vacation to a cabin in Canada, far away from any city. Both evenings were as clear as clear could be. Yet when I looked up to the heavens, I saw the sky in a way I had never seen before! Before I could see constellations; at that moment, I could see the depth of the galaxy! I didn't just see Orion, but I saw all of the intricate stars that wove in and out of the magnificent arrangement. The sky didn't change; those stars were always there! But the place where I had seen the stars had changed. No longer were the stars being drowned out by city lights; I was seeing the stars as they were meant to be seen!

I wonder if the same is true of Christ's coming. The Jewish people were long anticipating the Messiah. They read the promised the words in Micah, that a king would be born in Bethlehem. Yet, on that first Christmas night, they were so preoccupied by the "lights" around them (Roman occupation, unrealistic expectations) that they missed the birth of the king! The shepherds, out in the fields, away from it all, where the only ones to see. They missed the true depth of that night because it did not come big and bright, with pomp and circumstance, but in the simplicity of a manger.

The true beauty of Christmas, that God chose to dwell with us, has never departed and has always remained.

Today, it is hard to see the true meaning of Christmas. Between all of the busyness of the holiday season, the shopping, the traffic, the parties, the time off, the parades, concerts, and more, it is sometimes really hard to see what Christmas is all about. We are surrounded by the lights around us, and all the expectations of the season, that we don't simply see the beauty of what God has done. To see it, we need to get away from the lights and intentionally make room for gazing into the same heavens that brought the Magi from afar. We need to stop the hustle and bustle long enough to make room in the inn of our hearts. The true beauty of Christmas, that God chose to dwell with us, has never departed and has always remained. But like the stars of the sky, it will only been seen if you get away from the lights which distract. Will you take the time this Advent season to see and behold the Christ?

--Pastor Ryan

Beaver Creek bits

◆ Coffee fellowship time with breakfast is at 9:15 a.m. December 1. ◆ December's first Sunday offering will go to support the ministries of the Salvation Army. ◆ Beaver Creek will host a Shenandoah District youth activity, Sunday Night Live, on March 8. ◆ Interior painting and fixup are in progress at the parsonage. The Coopers expect a mid-December move-in date. Thanks are due to the members of the Facilities Focus Team for their service during the parsonage's time as a temporary rental property. Proceeds of the rental will support the interior work. ◆ The church Leadership Team will meet December 19, with outgoing members convening at 7 p.m. and all 2020 focus team members reorganizing at 7:30 p.m.
