

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821A Green Valley Road
Monrovia, Maryland 21770
Address Service Requested



**What's Happening at Bush Creek
"The Bridge"**



**Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821A Green Valley Road
Monrovia, Maryland 21770
301-663-3025**

**office@bushcreekchurch.org – Church office
<http://bushcreekchurch.org/> - website**

**Sunday School – 9:30 – 10:15 am
Worship – 10:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Pastors:
Leo and Melissa Barnes**

***The Bridge – March* Volume 51, Number 3**

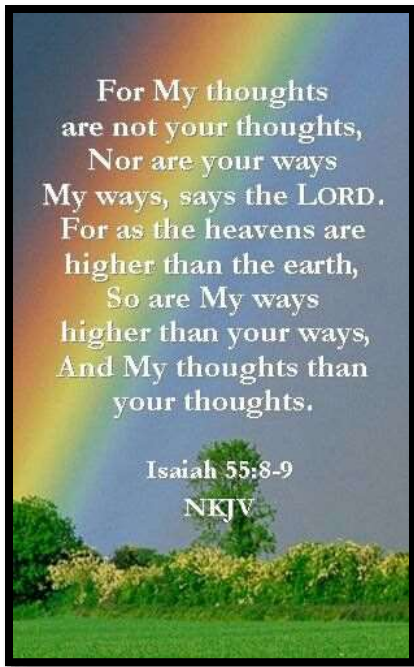


**CENTRAL VISION FOR BUSH CREEK
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

***Because of our commitment to Jesus Christ,
we are a spiritual family who loves all people.***

Ponderings by Pastor Melissa

God of our Uncertainties



Even when we don't understand, God is still God! He is the God of our uncertainties. He is the God of our times of confusion. He is the God of our questions. He is the God of those times when we don't even KNOW the question to ask!

Whenever I hit those times where I just don't understand – and trust me, those times are pretty frequent – I go back to Isaiah 55:8-9:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

I remember times when I was a kid – and maybe you do, too – when a parent would say, “Someday, you'll understand!” Or worse yet, “Someday, you'll have kids and THEN you'll understand!” As we look back on those times from the vantage point of our (relatively) more mature years, maybe we actually DO understand.

But God doesn't offer us that promise. He gives us many other promises... “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” (Jeremiah 31:3). “*I have engraved you on the palms of my hands*” (Isaiah 49:16). “*I will never leave you nor forsake you*” (Joshua 1:5 and Hebrews 13:5). “*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever*” (John 14:16). “*I will come back and take you to be with me*” (John 14:3). “*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 1:6). But He does not promise us that we will understand. In fact, we can be pretty well assured that in many things, we simply will NOT understand – EVER – because our ways are not His ways. PERIOD. We do not think the way He does.

If we totally understood everything about God – all of His ways, all of His plans – and if we could see how everything was going to play out, where would the faith be? Even though we read the words of Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (another of His promises) sometimes we cannot see HOW God will work for our good in the midst of some circumstances. But as the writer to the Hebrews reminds us, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Sometimes, we cannot see WHY God allowed someone to be sick, or to have ongoing health issues. We cannot see WHY God has allowed family troubles. We cannot see WHY God has allowed job difficulties. We cannot see WHY God has allowed social injustice, in our country or in neighboring countries. We cannot see WHY God has allowed even more horrific abortion procedures to be legal. But even when we do not understand, He is STILL GOD! It is not our job to understand. But it is our job to continue to trust, to continue to walk faithfully. And having done all, our job is to stand firm and to wait patiently for Him to bring about those things which we cannot see.

Even though we may feel like we're treading water, in our uncertainty about present circumstances or things of the future, there is one thing in which we CAN be sure – God is God. God reigns in heaven. God is in control. And God's love FOR YOU is so deep and wide that He gave His Son – His only, beloved Son – as an atonement for your sin. You can bank on that!

What's Happening



Wednesday, March 6 is the beginning of Lent. A combined worship service will be held @ 7:30 pm at Bush Creek along with the Locust Grove Church of the Brethren. Pastor Greg Quintrell will bring the message “The Beginning of Repentance”. Special music will be provided by Locust Grove and Bush Creek. Plan now to attend this special opportunity to open our hearts and receive His Word as we enter into the Season of Lent.

***Lenten Devotionals** are available on the program table provided by the Bush Creek Deacons. Please take one and share with family and friends.

***Commission meetings Monday, March 4 @ 7 pm.**

***Roof Fund:** A fund has been established to set aside money toward ultimately replacing all the roofing on our facilities. If you are interested in making a monetary donation to this fund, please make check payable to Bush Creek Church and mark in memo line “roof fund”. **Donations to date - \$35,326.** – Thank you – Trustee Commission

***Annual Conference Delegates are needed:** Please pray about and consider volunteering to serve as an Annual Conference Delegate (need 2). 2019 Annual Conference is scheduled for July 3-7 in Greensboro, NC. Travel and lodging expenses will be paid. **Registration for Annual Conf. starts March 4.** If interested in serving as a delegate or need further detail, please see Board Chair– Beth Green.

***Another “Prayer and Worship Summit” is planned for this spring.** The event will focus on “Praying for the Vision” and will be held on March 29-30 in Harrisonburg, Va. This is an informal gathering inviting Church of the Brethren members to “devote time for worship and prayer over the visioning process,” said an announcement. Annual Conference moderator Donita Keister and moderator-elect Paul Munday are among the speakers. Special music will be shared by the **Locust Grove Praise Team** and the Mill Creek Praise Team. The event is free but registration is required. For more information go to www.brethrenprayersummit.com . A detailed flyer is located on the program table.



March 10



NEWS FROM MISSIONS & SERVICE COMMISSION



Head Start is designated for the month of March for Food Bank donations: Back packs big enough for large Kindergarten library books, black and white composition books, pencils, yellow and sharpener, crayons - box of 24, red pocket folders with prongs, yellow pocket folders with prongs, rectangular pink erasers, large glue sticks, blunt tip scissors, 8-pack of fine tip dry erase markers, tissues and gallon zip-lock bags. Please place items in the coat room collection container. Thank you – Missions and Service Comm.



Mid-Atlantic District Relief Auction Dinner – Sat., April 6 @ 6 pm @ Bush Creek (co-hosted by Bush Creek & Union Bridge). Baked Chicken – Ham Loaf – Shrimp. Homemade breads, rolls & dessert. Tickets by reservation \$30 per person. Contact

Alice Houck 240-750-4307 or abhuck1@gmail.com to provide specialty food items (cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) Contact Jeff McKee @ 443-547-5958 or jamckee26@msn.com for tickets.



39th Annual Disaster Response Auction, Sat., May 4, 2019. Carroll County Ag. Center, 700 Agricultural Center Drive, Westminster, MD. Plan now to donate and/or attend. See detailed flyer on bulletin board. All proceeds benefit Brethren Disaster Response. Baked items will be needed.

NEWS FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

***Women's Fellowship Quarterly Lunch and meeting March 13.** Everyone is welcomed to attend. Bring a dish and dessert to share.

***Apple Butter** is still available to purchase. Half pint - \$2.50 – Pint - \$4 and Quart - \$7. **Please pick up apple butter in lower level kitchen and put money in Anna Mae Poole's mailbox in middle narthex.** Make checks payable to Women's Fellowship please.







MARCH

Preparing for Worship

Sunday School: 9:30 am – 10:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Date	Message and Scripture	Preaching	Other Notes	Greeters
3 Special Board Meeting Love of Jesus Banquet	A Gift? For Me?? 1 Corinthians 12:1-13, 27-31	Message: Pastor Melissa	Worship Assistant: Jane Musselman Nursery: Diana Frank	Ron Harshman
10  1 st Sunday of Lent	Am I Missing Something? Luke 4:1-13	Message: Pastor Leo	Worship Assistant: Beth Green Nursery: Jessica Dixon	Debbie, Nick & Kelly Brown
17  2 nd Sunday in Lent	Walk the Walk John 14:23-27	Message: Pastor Melissa	Worship Assistant: Art Frank Special Music: Dwayne Booth Nursery: Jean & Elwood Hipkins	Joy Culver
24  3 rd Sunday in Lent	Bearing Fruit Luke 13:1-9	Message: Pastor Leo	Worship Assistant: Nancy Pastor Nursery: Scott & Jeni Hipkins	Kerry & Kameron Trout
31  4 th Sunday in Lent	Forgiving and Forgiven Luke 15:11-32	Message: Pastor Melissa	Worship Assistant: Anna Mae Poole Nursery: Crystal Herbert	Jennifer, Ben & Claire Smith



March 2019						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 03/01 – Deacon meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 03/03 – Special Board meeting after worship in sanctuary
- 03/03 – Love of Jesus Banquet after worship
- 03/04 – Commission meetings @ 7 pm
- 03/06 – Lenten Worship Service @ Bush Creek with Locust Grove COB
- 03/11 – GSA leader meeting fellowship hall @ 6:30 pm
- 03/13 – Women’s Fellowship Quarterly lunch and meeting noon
- 03/16 – Gladys Holsinger’s 100th Birthday Celebration fellowship hall 1 – 4 pm
- 03/17 – Area 5 Lenten Service @ Union Bridge COB 6:45 pm
- 03/18 – 03/22 – dinner set up in fellowship hall
- 03/18 – GSA leader meeting fellowship hall @ 6:30 pm
- 03/23 – Turkey, Oyster & Ham Dinner 12 noon – 5 pm
- 03/24 – Area 5 Lenten Service @ Sam’s Creek COB @ 6:45 pm
- 03/24 – Youth Coffee House during worship – Chip & Jan Stitley speakers
- 03/31 – Area 5 Youth Lenten Service @ Meadow Branch COB @ 6:45 pm

- Bible Study @ Hipkins home -Tues. Sept. thru June 6:00 pm
- Bible Study every Tuesday 10 am at church - sanctuary
- Bible Study @ 10 every Wed. September thru April
- Quilting every Wed. @ 8:30 pm
- Bible Study every Thursday 6 pm @ Fullmer home
- BSA meetings every Wed. August – June @ 6:30 pm
- Choir Rehearsal schedule to be announced
- Wheat Gatherers Youth ministry – Schedule TBD
- Youth Coffee House during worship – schedule TBD

Save the Date – District-wide Day of Worship & Prayer!

June 1, 10 am – noon, Frederick CoB

Find our Passion: Peacefully, Simply, Together

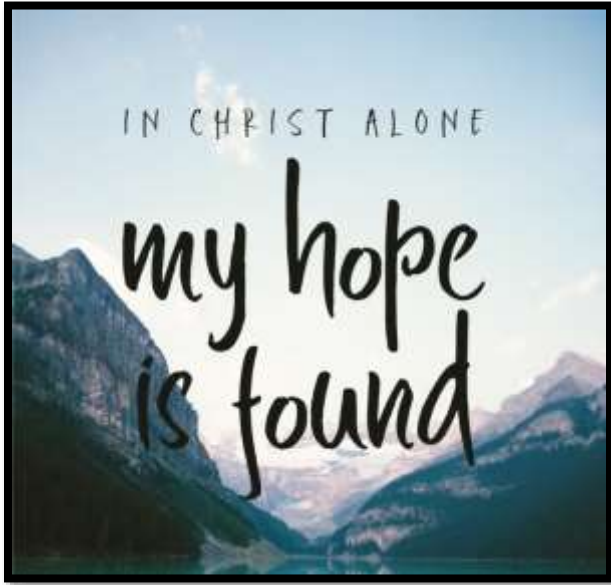
Speakers: Brother Dylan Rinehart (and youth),

Rev. Steve Lowe, Rev. Karen Grossnickle

Music: Praise & Worship led by Touchdown Sunset;

Traditional hymns accompanied by organ/piano

Offering to benefit: District Church Extension Fund, Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, and Camp Mardela. Lunch to follow the service. More details to come!



“In Christ Alone”

2019 Lenten Services Area 5 Church of the Brethren

Congregational Hymn Sing @ 6:45 pm
Worship Service Starts @ 7:00 pm

Date:

Host Church:

Service Agenda:

Mar. 17, 2019

Union Bridge COB

Speaker: Rev. Greg Quintrell,
Pastor, Locust Grove COB

Mar. 24, 2019

Sam's Creek COB

Speaker: Rev. Dawn Weller,
Member of Pipe Creek COB

Mar. 31, 2019

Meadow Branch COB

YOUTH SERVICE (*)

Speaker: Mr. Jeb Cliber
Member of Bush Creek COB

Apr. 7, 2019

Bush Creek COB

Speaker: Rev. Tracy Wiser,
Pastor, Monocacy (Rocky Ridge) COB

Child Care will be provided by the Host Church at each service.
Refreshments & Fellowship will follow each service.

(*) Youth and families are to gather at 5:00 pm for practice and a pizza party.
Offerings designated to Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center.

In Christ Alone my hope is found.....

Come join us to find your hope in Christ!

Turkey, FRIED Oyster & Country Ham Dinner

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821A Green Valley Road
Monrovia, Maryland 21770
Rt. 75 Between Rt. 80 and Monrovia
301-663-3025
www.bushcreekchurch.org

Saturday, March 23, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Menu includes mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, cranberry sauce, dressing, cole slaw, rolls, butter, ice tea, hot tea and coffee.



Adults - \$20

Children 6 – 12 - \$8 Under 6 – Free

Carry-Out - \$1.00 extra

**Tell your friends and neighbors –
Come on out...**



What's Happenin' with the Bush Creek Youth Group:

Coffee House Schedule: (held during worship)

March 24 – Chip & Jan Stitley

*Anyone interested in speaking to the Youth during a Coffee House meeting please see one of the youth, Jennifer Smith or Debbie Brown (Youth Advisors).

Wheat Gatherers Schedule:

March 23 – Help with Turkey, Ham, and Oyster Dinner as able

March 24 – Attend the Area 5 Lenten Service

March 31 – Participate in the Area 5 Youth Lenten Service at Meadow Branch COB

May 5 – National Youth Sunday – Bush Creek Youth will lead worship

May 5 – 1:30 – 3 pm @ Bush Creek

Salt and Light Ministry:

(Area Wide Youth rotating meeting locations at area COB churches):

March 10; April 14; May 19; June 9 -1:30-4 Locations TBA

March 31 – Participate in the Youth Lenten Service at Meadow Branch COB

Prayer for our Youth: Dear heavenly Father, how we thank and praise you for the young men and women who have trusted in the Lord Jesus as their Savior and we ask that You would work in the lives of all young people who have stepped out in faith in the Son of God.

Draw ever closer to those who have made a commitment to You and we pray that they would grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus in the days that lie ahead. May they learn to walk in spirit and truth and to trust in Your word, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for all their needs and requirements. Keep them we pray from being influenced by the tempting things of the world and the desires of the sin nature and protect them from the wiles of the enemy who would seek to disrupt their walk with You and fellowship with the Father.

Give them grace and wisdom as they face the challenges of life, and keep them humble in heart and teachable in spirit and may they learn to look to Jesus day by day knowing that without Him they can do nothing but in His strength He will lead and guide in all things. Amen

Youth Advisors – Jennifer Smith, Debbie Brown & Dylan Rinehart