

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



*"The Bridge"*

*What's Happening at Bush Creek*



***Bush Creek Church of the Brethren***

*4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
301-865-3013*

*Pastor Dawn Weller*

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

*Sunday School – 9:30 – 10:15 am*

*Worship – 10:30 am – 11:30 am*

*The Bridge – February 2023 Volume 55, Number 2*

***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.***



## The Bride of Christ By Danette Kettwich

All I want to do is to fall  
into Your arms, Where  
There is no more  
suffering And there is no  
more harm.

Looking down upon the  
world Through the starry  
sky about, Surrounded  
by Your mercy And Your  
everlasting love.

Holding me and  
protecting me Mostly  
from myself And from  
this temporary life I have  
Put upon a shelf.

I yearn for the time  
When you will carry me  
Across the pearly  
threshold into promised  
eternity.

As Your beautiful bride I  
will then stand Holding  
tightly into Your nail  
Scarred hands.

Lifting my veil of sin  
Never again to behold  
Standing side by side On  
the glorious streets of  
gold.

I will then serve You  
With undying humility  
Not more to fall into This  
plot of humanity.

Embraced with a love So  
incredibly divine No  
more tears, no pain, No  
more fear to find.

For in heaven Your glory  
All we in Christ will  
share Dressed in white,  
for purity We will all then  
wear.

Together with all  
believers We will finally  
end our fight Together  
in the richness of  
Heaven, The bride's of  
Jesus Christ.

*If we continue to search for the Lord with  
an open heart, one day we'll all be joined  
together in the richness of Heaven, and we  
all will find eternal hope in Jesus Christ.  
May you see the divine spirit of Christ in all  
you receive, and share His love, grace and  
mercy to all around you. Amen*

*Pastor Dawn Weller*



**In the event of inclement weather, a decision will be made and communicated by 7 am for a Sunday morning worship service. The Bush Creek Deacons will call all those in their care groups, plus a posting on our website, Face Book and an email will be sent.**

**Board Meeting Mon., Feb. 6 @ 6 pm.**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive Dates: Feb. 28, March 28.** Please mark your calendars.

**Bible Studies: Wed. mornings @ 10 am in the fellowship hall. (Jean Hipkins/teacher). Thurs. evening. (Gary White/teacher). All are welcome to both Bible Studies.**

**Card Collection –** A box is located under the program table by the mailboxes for all greeting cards you would like to recycle. Please do not cut the cards apart. The cards are used for craft projects by Phyllis Clarke. Thank you.

**Patron Ads for 2023 Disaster Response Auction Booklet: Please see sign-up on program table for patron ads for disaster response auction. Ads are due Feb. 5.**

**Prayer Requests to Those Without Email:** It has been recently discussed by the Deacons that congregational members who do not have email are not receiving and becoming aware of prayer request information in a timely manner, and maybe not at all. We are attempting to find a way to resolve this issue. However, before we come up with a solution, we would like to find out how many members, who do not have email, would like to be notified by phone of prayer requests. Therefore, those who would be interested in receiving a phone call, each time an email prayer request is sent out, to contact Anna Mae Poole, Deacon Chairperson, by March 1, letting her know of your interest. Depending upon interest expressed, the results will be discussed at the next Deacon meeting in March to determine the next steps. Thank you.

**District & Annual Conference Delegate Volunteers are needed.** District Conf. will be in Manassas, Va. (Date to be determined in October). Annual Conf. date is July 4-8, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Please see Randy Toms (Board Chair) or Pastor Dawn if interested.



**Apple butter** is for sale @ \$7 for a quart and \$4 for a pint. We still have some “no added” sugar available for the same prices. The next quarterly meeting will be held on Wed., March 15. – Jean Hipkins



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Young Adult and Elementary Sunday School classes are meeting weekly.** Jane Musselman and Jimmy Weller will alternate teaching the elementary class. Mike and Kathie Tucker will teach the Young Adult class.

**Christian Ed. News: Help Wanted!** Children's Church Worship leaders to claim 1+ Sundays a month. We have materials, snack and some fun kids ready to learn and play! Thank you - Crystal Herbert

**Children's Church Worship will be held each Sunday during the worship hour.** Please contact the Christian Education Commission if you'd like to volunteer for a Sunday.

**Adult Sunday School – Beginning in January,** the Sunday morning (9:30 am) Bible class which meets in the fellowship hall, will begin a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, study of the Old Testament Book of Joshua. We will be examining the history and the faith lessons applicable to us. Please join Anna Mae Poole, Jean Hipkins, Sam Weinberg and Art Frank as they present this God inspired astounding portion of the Holy astonishing God inspired Book.

**Nursery** will be available during the worship hour from 10:15 until 11:30 am for children from 0-4 y/o. The nursery is located to the right at top of the stairs at the end of the hall.

### *Marked by love*



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father. — Francis Schaeffer





## MISSIONS AND SERVICE COMMISSION NEWS

**The CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) has one vision:** "A world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home." Beginning in 1946 the CWS, with a post-war vision, sought to feed the hungry here and abroad and help those in need. As part of their global ministry each February and March money donations are requested to support the '**BLANKET FUND**' project. Contributions will go to the CWS and be applied to obtaining blankets for needy individuals and families. A representative blanket, the kind distributed by the CWS, will be displayed draped over the back pew throughout **February and March**. Donations can be submitted during the collection and designated **BLANKET FUND**. Bush Creek is pleased to be an on-going participant of this program and we join in the vision of CWS to ensure basic needs are met. Art Frank, Missions and Service.

During the month of **February 2023, the Greater Urbana Food Bank Special Project is concentrating on BABY NEEDS**. Necessities sought are: diapers, unscented baby wipes, baby clothes, baby foods and cereal, toys (infant & up). Also needed is baby equipment: walkers, car seats, pack-n-play and bouncy seats. There is a handwritten poster listing these and other items in the coat room where contributions can be placed. Money donations can be placed in the collection plate and designated Food Bank. The Greater Urbana chapter expresses their gratitude to Bush Creek for their generosity during the January 'Soup Fixin' drive. And, as always, any type of food donations at any time are welcome. Art Frank, Missions and Service Chair.

**WORKING TOGETHER:** With our food and money donations to the Greater Urbana Food Bank, we are improving the lives of many in our community by making sure everyone has access to nutritious food. The Greater Urbana Food Bank which started 30 years ago in a church in Ijamsville, now serves Urbana, Adamstown, Buckeystown, Ijamsville, Monrovia, Green Valley, New Market and Mt. Airy. Over the Thanksgiving holidays the Urbana Food Bank provided approximately 150 complete meals to Food Bank families. They also provided over a thousand Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers to families. **Your donations of food and money this past year was exceptional.** Please consider donating throughout this new year. Food supplies can be placed in the coat area. Money donations can be placed in your offering envelope and designated 'Food Bank'. Contributing to the Food Bank not only reduces hunger, but provides jobs and helps lower income families free up money to meet other basic needs. **Thank you again for your support in 2022 and for your help and generosity this new year.** Art Frank. Missions and Service.

**Storage Room – Fellowship Hall.** An expansion of the storage in the fellowship hall has been approved by our Church Board of Admin. The new storage area will be located on the south side of the fellowship hall wall and used to store tables, chairs and kitchen equipment. The storage room measurements will be 11 ft. x 33 ft. An estimate on this project is \$50 - \$60,000. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make checks payable to Bush Creek COB and mark it "storage room". (*Thank you for all donations received so far*).



**Preaching:**

February 05 – Pastor Dawn  
February 12 – Pastor Dawn  
February 19 – Pastor Dawn  
February 26 – Boe Smith

**Worship Assistant:**

Jimmy Weller  
Jane Musselman  
Bob Farmer  
Art Frank

**Greeter(s):**

Warren & Darlene Brunner  
Tammy Main & Erick Madrid  
Randy Toms & Jennifer Smith  
Evelyn Mossburg & Jo Ann Schulze

**February Dates to Remember:**

02/02 – Groundhog Day ☺  
02/05 – Scout Sunday  
02/06 – Board meeting @ 6 pm  
02/09 – Mailing of Dinner flyer – 9 am  
02/13 – GSA meeting in fellowship hall 6 pm  
02/19 – Love of God Banquet after worship  
02/22 – Ash Wednesday  
02/26 – First Sunday of Lent  
02/28 – Blood Drive

**Boy Scout Troop 268** will meet in the fellowship hall @ 6:30 pm. every Wed. except when Frederick County Public Schools are not in session.

**Amazing love:** If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself. -

Charles Spurgeon

### The Greatest Love Letter of All Time



**Valentine's Day is Mon., February 14.** Be thinking now about Valentine greeting cards you can send to those unable to attend worship and are home bound. The first Valentine cards were created and published in 1850. Except for Christmas, more cards are exchanged on Valentine's Day than any other time of year.

A Valentine expresses your love for someone, usually in a few sentimental sentences. The Bible has been described as God's love letter to us. Like a Valentine, verse after verse tells us how much God loves us. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," He tells us through the pen of the prophet Jeremiah (31:3 KJV). The apostle Paul was persuaded "that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39 KJV). Theologian Karl Barth was once asked, "What is the greatest thought you ever had?" He replied, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." God is love and it is no secret how much He loves you and me. **Just open your Bible and read the greatest love letter of all time. Remember your loved ones and sisters and brothers in Christ by sending a Valentine.**



**The first Sunday of Lent will be February 26.** The Bush Creek Deacons will present dramatic readings in the morning worship services each week with the theme – *Reflections by Candlelight*. Love Feast and Communion will be held on Thurs., April 6 @ 6:30 pm. The Sunrise Service will be held @ 8 am on April 9 (Easter Sunday) with Brother Art Frank bringing the message followed by breakfast. Join us on Easter Sunday for a glorious worship experience as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior @ 10:30 am with message by Pastor Dawn. The children will celebrate Easter in the fellowship hall with an Easter party.

## Lenten signals

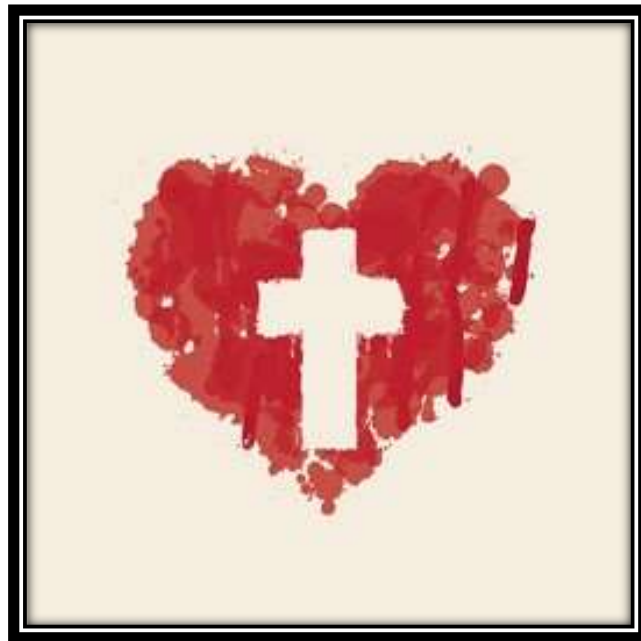


Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us **STOP**, **LOOK** and **LISTEN**. We observe Lent because it tells us to **STOP** and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to **LOOK** inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to **LISTEN** — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit. **STOP, LOOK and LISTEN!** These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

## What's in it for me?

Communion takes on new meaning for me when Jesus calls himself the bread of life. The day after feeding the 5,000, Jesus explains, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (John 6:54, NIV). Many people stop following him after that, finding the teaching too difficult. Maybe Jesus is challenging people who claim to be his disciples but are in it just for the miracles.

When I hear the Words of Institution, I ask myself if I’m a “What’s in it for me?” follower. Do I expect Jesus to merely impress me with answered prayers? Or do I trust him completely and serve him wholeheartedly? Am I like Peter, who, when asked whether I’ll leave too, replies, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v. 68). —Julie Lee



**LOVE OF GOD BANQUET**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Menu will include fried chicken, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, beets, jello salad, rolls and dessert.

Price \$ 15/adults & \$6/children 7 – 12. 6 & under free.

Plan to attend this great opportunity for good food, fellowship and entertainment by Jack Green.

Sign-up on program table by mailboxes or email  
[office@bushcreekchurch.org](mailto:office@bushcreekchurch.org).

Deadline to sign up will be February 12.



# *“Be Thou My Vision”*

## **2023 Lenten Services Area 5 Church of the Brethren**

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

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Host Church:</u>	<u>Service Agenda:</u>
Mar. 5, 2023	Bush Creek COB	Speaker: Rev. Amy Bell, Pastor, Meadow Branch COB
Mar. 12, 2023	Locust Grove COB <b>(YOUTH SERVICE*)</b>	Speaker: Rev. Dylan Rinehart, Member, Frederick COB
Mar. 19, 2023	Meadow Branch COB	Speaker: Rev. Stan Diehl, Pastor, Piney Creek COB
Mar. 26, 2023	Sam’s Creek COB	Speaker: Rev. Glenn McCrickard, Pastor, Westminster COB

Child Care will be provided.

Refreshments & Fellowship after each service, depending on COVID status.

(\*) Youth and families are to gather at 5:00 pm for practice and a pizza party.

Offerings collected go to Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministry Center.



# 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  
301-865-3013  
[www.bushcreekchurch.org](http://www.bushcreekchurch.org)

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**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 - \$30 \***

**Children 6 – 12 - \$8      Under 6 – Free**

**Carry-Out - \$1.00 extra**

**\*Subject to change depending upon market price of oysters**



## **BRETHREN Disaster Ministries**

**Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Relief Dinner  
Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 6 p.m.  
At Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821 Green Valley Road (Rt. 75) Monrovia, MD**

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship,  
and auction of specialty food items co-hosted by  
Union Bridge Church of the Brethren  
Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

**Tickets are \$35 per person**

**Contact Jeff McKee before March 26, 2023 at  
443-547-5958 or [jamckee26@msn.com](mailto:jamckee26@msn.com)**

**Menu:** Fruit Cup, Ham Loaf, Fried Shrimp, Pasta  
Casserole, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Corn, Oven  
Roasted Vegetables, Homemade Breads, Rolls &  
Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or  
[abhuck1@gmail.com](mailto:abhuck1@gmail.com) to provide specialty food  
items (cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.)