



Advent and Christmas at Beaver Creek

The season of preparation for the coming of the Christ child is a special time at Beaver Creek. While there's plenty of food and fun in all of this, our focus is on Jesus Christ and his redeeming work on the cross. On the front and back of this page is a listing of what we'll be doing, with a special invitation to all to attend. (If you have visitors for the holidays, bring them along too!)

Nov. 23: Shoe boxes

Beaver Creek is again participating in Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. On Nov. 23 we will collect and dedicate packed shoeboxes that will go to needy kids around the world to share God's love. The youth will be making a special contribution, using funds from the November First Sunday Offering to purchase materials and pack additional boxes.

Nov. 29: The tree

Chrismon Tree expedition! Meet at Thomas House Restaurant, 222 Main St, Dayton, at 8:30 a.m. for the trip to the tree farm to pick out this year's tree. Or come early and join the Men's Fellowship for breakfast at 7:15. Special note, ladies and girls: You don't have to be a guy to join us for breakfast or to help get the tree!

The Chrismon tree has ornaments of gold, silver and white, all representing some aspect of the birth of Jesus. It includes a nativity scene low enough to be seen by the youngest child in the congregation.



Advent Music Minutes

Every Sunday November 30 through December 21, we will have Advent Music Minutes at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All kids through 5th grade are invited to come and sing songs of the season. (Adults are welcome, too!) The kids will be preparing to sing for the congregation in morning worship December 21.

Nov. 30: Hope!

In morning worship at 11 a.m. November 30, we 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.

Nov. 30: Hanging of the Greens



Come at 5 p.m. on Sunday the 30th as we decorate the church building for the season. Here's what to bring: ♦ Finger food to share for a light supper ♦ Canned food to donate to the Food Pantry ♦ Fruit to be put together in fruit baskets for those who can't get out very well ♦ A Christmas tree ornament for our ornament exchange ♦ A Christmas card for the bulletin board, and a donation representing what you would have spent on Christmas cards to others in the congregation ♦ (Optional: hats or mittens for kids)

Dec. 6: Auction

On Saturday, December 6, at 7 p.m. the Women's Fellowship presents its annual benefit Christmas Auction. Food will be available beginning at 5:30 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. 7: Peace!

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who came to the world to bring reconciliation. In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 7, we light the candle of peace on the Advent wreath. The Adult Choir will be bringing special music.

Dec. 14: Joy!

On December 14 we focus on the joy of Christ's coming. In morning worship at 11 a.m. we light the joy candle. We will focus on the joy we have in Christ, whatever our worldly circumstances. Morgan Coffman Dakin will be sharing special music of the season.

Come join us!

Worship starts at 11 a.m. ♦ Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (30 minutes earlier in June-July-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. 20:
Bell ringing**

Saturday, December 20, we will ring the bells for the Salvation Army at the Dayton Farmer's Market to invite donations to the red kettle for the Salvation Army's many ministries. One-hour blocks run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



**Dec. 21:
Love!**

In morning worship at 11 a.m. December 21, we light the candle of love and contemplate the mystery of God's love in Christ. Special music will be provided by the Music Minute Kids (in lieu of having a separate children's Christmas program). Special music will also include a solo from Charles Wright.

**Dec. 22:
Caroling**



The adult choir invites everyone to go caroling starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22. Bring sandwiches to share! The plan is to meet at Bob-a-Rea's, 305 N. Main St., Bridgewater, and then carol at the Bridgewater Home before returning to Bob-a-Rea's. Then after sharing a meal, we'll carol in the Bridgewater and Spring Creek areas.

**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 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. 28:
God with us**



One of the many titles of Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." In 11 a.m. morning worship on December 28, 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. 4:
Communion**

As we start the New Year, bread and cup communion will be presented by the Deacons near the end of the Jan. 4 11 a.m. worship. Occurring at a time when presents have been opened and decorations have been taken down, this communion serves as a reminder of what the Christmas season is all about.

**Harmony
4 Him**



Special music was provided on November 16 by Harmony 4 Him. With piano accompaniment provided by Greg Riddle, the group sang "In the Garden" and "God Speaking."

Problem and solution

At left, Beaver Creekers wrap up with sweaters, parkas and lap robes in the unheated church in November. At right, the successfully installed new furnace that went into service on November 12. Thanks are due to the Facilities Team for working through to this solution.

(Photos by Douglas Wood)



Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren December Calendar

DECEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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 2, 7 p.m., Women’s Fellowship Sunset Group
 December 6, 7 p.m. Women’s Fellowship auction (food @ 5:30)
 December 9, 10 a.m., Mixed Bible Study
 December 9, 3:30 p.m., Ministry focus team
 December 14, monthly newsletter deadline
 December 18, 7 p.m., Leadership team
 December 20, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Bell ringing, Dayton Farmers Mkt.
 December 22, 5:30 p.m., caroling (Meet at Bob-a-Rea’s)
 December 23, 10 a.m., Mixed Bible Study
 December 24, 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Birthdays in December:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Ashley (Plaughter) Marie
 3 Stanley Suter, Lisa Eye
 8 Megan Liskey, Beth Rhodes
 13 Candy Hensley
 15 Emmett Grove
 16 Carolyn Wine
 22 Cole Wisman</p> | <p>24 Ryan Mays
 25 Zach Wampler
 26 Brittany Southerly, David Healy
 27 Zena, Debyan
 28 Amy Jordan
 29 Dennis Miller, Ceci Dastoli, Brad Eckard
 30 Frances Cook</p> |
|---|--|

Regina Harlow reaches milestone



Beaver Creek’s own Regina Harlow, left, was recognized at the Shenandoah District Conference in November as a graduate of the Christian Growth Institute. The CGI provides the educational component for those seeking ordination in the ministry, as an alternative to studying full-time at a seminary. Regina took classes for three years, fitting in her study and assignment time with being a full-time mother, head of the Sadie Rose Foundation, and – beginning in 2014 – interim pastor of the Dayton Church of the Brethren. Regina reports being thankful for all the support she has received during her CGI studies, and looks forward to having free time again on multiple Saturdays throughout the year.

Oyster Supper hits the road

At right, long-time Beaver Creek member Ruth Smith is not able to get out and about the way she used to, but still enjoys the twice-annual Oyster Supper, thanks to the availability of takeout. Below, Faye and Reba get the pieces of pie ready.

(Photos by Crystal Smith and Douglas Wood)



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

Glenn Bollinger, Pastor
Donna Miller,
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.

Stewardship Sunday skit

At right, Josh and Joe illustrate stewardship concepts with a skit, "Risky Giving," that used the example of restaurant tipping to generate thought about giving to support church ministries. Pledge cards for 2015 were collected and dedicated. The fall council meeting adopted a 2015 budget of \$172,726.92.



Beaver Creek bits

"Awake," a devotional booklet for Advent, will be available starting at the Hanging of the Greens, one to a family. This booklet provides daily devotions from Brethren Press. ♦ The Fidelis Class is offering "Cakes for the Holiday" for a minimum suggested donation of \$20. Varieties include coconut, red velvet, chocolate curl, and others by request. Contact Darlene LaPrade if you are interested. ♦ Because of the holiday publication schedule, this newsletter went to press before the latest Leadership Team minutes were available. They will be posted when approved at the church website, beavercreekchurchva.org, and will also be available in the vestibule as printed copies.

Food Pantry update

From Sharon Moore:

Thanks to ALL of you that have helped so far this year with the food pantry at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren!

Please contact Sharon Moore, mooresm5@comcast.net or 540-421-8800 should you be able to volunteer on the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at 6:50 at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren in the social hall. Four people (youth, parents and others welcome) are needed to help push shopping carts to and from cars in the parking lot, sometimes helping load grocery bags into cars. This is not a real time consuming event. Upcoming dates are Dec. 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16.

Thanks for serving those in our community!

Squirrel, and squirrel



Crystal Smith snapped this photo of a real squirrel next to an engraved picture of a squirrel on a gravestone in the Beaver Creek cemetery.