

# Parish News



## Union Bridge Church of the Brethren

Issue 10 Volume 36

November 2021

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### Parental Leave Hebrews 4:9-11

*<sup>9</sup> So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.*

It is no secret. We left in June as a family of three and in October we all returned to worship, with all of you, as a family of four. My fish also decided to have babies while I was gone so a lot of new life was coming into this congregation. Along with actual new life, our time away allowed for us to take a deep breath. Yes, we were taking care of a newborn, but we had a chance to just step away and be present with each other and our new life together. I had no idea how much this “sabbath” time was needed.

As I did a quick google search to find a passage on sabbath, so many of them referenced that sabbath was being in the worship place. Then I came across this passage in Hebrews which affirms the need for sabbath, but does not place a particular day or location on sabbath. I found this passage to be so fitting for the past three months because, while I was taking care of a newborn and toddler, I found myself in a time of sabbath.

Before I left in June, I felt we had experienced an entire year of rest. We spent more time at home, church ministry was relatively limited to worship and phone calls. We were rarely going out with friends to different places because it was important to us to make conscious healthy decisions for our family and congregation. What seemed like a time of rest, was actually a time of extreme emotional and mental drain. I had no idea this was how I was feeling until a month into parental leave.

The morning I went into labor, between contractions I was writing up newsletter entries, getting last minute power points made for June/July worship services, making phone calls, and quickly doing all the things needed before the baby came just seven hours later. Literally, one hour before the baby came, I was sending an email to Audrey and Audrey about music for the coming Sunday. Folks, I was in hyper drive and very nervous about stepping away for three months. Being the best pastor I could be during a time of the unknown was all I thought about since that first announcement went out that we would not be gathering in the building. It took one month of “rest” before I finally deleted my work email from my phone and allowed myself to just be present with my family and my own mental state. Then one weekend, as I was traveling to Hagerstown, I thought I should finally stop and see my grandfather at his new apartment. My grandparents moved into their new place during quarantine. My grandmother passed away before I was able to visit them both at the apartment. When it came time to stop and see him, I could not bring myself to go visit knowing that my grandmother would not be there. My grandmother passed in January and it hit me in August, when I could not bring myself to visit my grandfather, that I had not allowed myself to truly accept her death. It took me three months of sabbath to finally work through and process the emotional rollercoaster that was 2020/2021.

*“Continuing the work of Jesus Christ by inviting people to...  
discover...grow...share...live...God's Word...God's Love...God's Grace.”*

I share this story with you for multiple reasons. The first, I thank you for allowing me this time for my family and for myself. Who would have thought that giving birth to a newborn would provide the time to re-group and re-focus. In most cases it's one of the most exhausting times of your life. The second, I continue to hear more and more stories of pastors leaving their congregations because their time during covid with their congregants was awful. Thank you for your continued support and love through this time. The third reason I share this story, is to remind you to take your rest. And not just on Sundays, but whatever day it is necessary for you. Life is picking up again and we are all on the go and many of us are worrying about loved ones. Take your sabbath. Take time to grieve. Take time to sleep. Take time to sit on your porch and admire the changing leaves. Life is constantly changing and if we move too fast we lose sight of what is going on in the moment. Don't drag your feet, don't avoid what you know is necessary, but instead take a deep breath, look around you, and take one step at a time.

I was blessed with three months to stop and breath. It is rare to have an opportunity like that so remember to take the time when it is needed to stop and rest. When you do, you will see God's glory and peace around you!

Pastor Britnee

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### **Remembrance Sunday**

We will have our annual remembrance Sunday service on Sunday, November 7th. If you would like your loved one recognized during this service, please give your list of names to Stacy by Sunday, October 31st. This year we will light candles a little differently. Instead of lighting one candle for each person you have listed, you will light one candle for your entire list. Each name will still be read, but only one candle will be lit for them.

This past year we have lost some dear loved ones in our congregation and were not able to gather with others to remember their life with us. For that, we are going to dedicate this service to the members of our congregation who we lost during the quarantine period:

Naomi Dotterer  
Terry Grable  
Mary Louise Dotterer  
Selby Black  
Jake Altvater  
Wayne Barnett  
Ray Stover  
Imogene Gosnell  
Donna Straub  
Ira Albaugh

### **Coffee With the Pastors**



Starting in November, we will gather in the narthex for coffee with the Pastors. This will be an opportunity to gather and socialize, drink coffee, and talk about whatever comes up. This will take place the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10:00am! We hope you can join us! Also, Nurture is supplying coffee, tea and hot chocolate to be enjoyed in the narthex every Sunday before worship. Please enjoy!

Blessings,  
The Pastors

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Our Thanksgiving Dinner is being planned for Sunday November 14. It will be served after the worship service. Please bring a dessert to share or a can of green beans or sauerkraut. If you are donating a canned good, please have all cans in the kitchen by Nov 7. We look forward to this day of thanks and fellowship.



## November Scripture Passages

### November 7

Remembrance Sunday

### November 14

1 Samuel 2:1-10  
"The Prayer of Hannah"

### November 21

2nd Corinthians 4:13-18  
"I believed therefore I have spoken"

### November 28

Luke 1:5-25  
"Do Not Be Afraid, Zechariah"

## Church Contacts

### Church Office

410-775-2717                      unbrb@verizon.net

### Pastor's office hours

Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon  
Email address unionbridgepastors@gmail.com

### Stacy Rettig's office hours

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to noon

## WE ARE PRAYING FOR...

*Family of Ira Albaugh, Sue Albaugh,  
Shirley Altvater, Ruth Aukerman,  
Eleanor & Roy Black, Sara Black, Emmert Claar,  
Shirley Furry, Melissa & Rick Greene,  
Marilyn Havrilla, Donna Healey, Joe Hughes,  
Amanda Lowe, Thurston Myers, Janet Reister,  
Paul & Shirley Soper, Lyle & June Stutzman,  
Ruth Thomas, Sharon Weeks, and Dot Hess-Zepp*

## M & M Meeting

The M & M Meeting will be held Thursday, November 11, 2021. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Come join us for a time of fellowship, food and fun. If you plan to attend, please sign on the pad in the church office or call 410-775-2717.



## November Birthdays

- 1 John Buffington
- 3 Justin Bowman  
Jacob Morsberger
- 4 Carissa Adams
- 5 Paul Dotterer  
Carole Doody  
Jacob Lamb  
Autumn Lippy
- 6 Jack Cradlin
- 13 Sharon Weeks
- 14 Gabriel Munoz
- 15 Tammy Thomas  
Barb Dickason
- 16 Rich Brooks  
Jeffrey Miller
- 19 Naomi McClelland
- 20 Bethany House
- 21 William Zentz
- 22 Betsy Donahue
- 23 Kathy Benedict  
Joshua Mosholder
- 25 June Stutzman  
Tammy Stultz
- 27 Linda Eyer  
Rachel Winter
- 29 Stacey Musil



## November Anniversaries

- 15 – 1969 Larry & Linda Eyer
- 16 – 1963 Ronald & Linda Hook
- 20 – 1982 Steve & Barbara Minnick

## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Auction

November 13, 2021 – beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
Carroll County Agricultural Ctr., Shipley Arena,  
Westminster, MD

## Job Opening

The Early Learning Center (ELC) is looking for an aide to assist with the 4-year-olds. The days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from approximately 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you know of anyone who might be interested, have them contact Martha Domer (410-775-7254). Job applications are also available on the ELC website:

<https://ubcob.org/early-learning-center/>.

### Collecting for St. James Food Pantry in November

In this season of Thanksgiving you can show gratitude by helping others! **2 million Marylanders face food insecurity** according to Maryland Food Bank statistics. During November we will be collecting non-perishable food for the St. James Food Pantry in Union Bridge. Items that provide protein are always good like tuna, canned chicken, dried beans and peanut butter along with canned fruits, cereal and spaghetti sauce are always needed. **Currently they have an abundance of canned vegetables.** Other ideas are, sugar, flour, tea bags, coffee, cooking oil, cake/ brownie mixes and frosting. Please place donations in the narthex. You may always donate money through the offering by making the check payable to Union Bridge CoB with "Food Pantry" on the memo line. If you have any questions, contact a member of the Witness Team: Sara Black, Karen Dargavel, Kaye Horr, Rhonda Smith and Pam Tressler. Give with a generous heart that reflects God's love for you.

### Christmas Gifts for Children at Union Bridge Food Pantry

Do some Christmas shopping for families in Union Bridge. The St. James Food Pantry will again have a Santa's Workshop where parents will be able to shop for gifts for their children. Families currently being served have children: 1 boy - 6 months; 2 girls, 18 months & 2 years old; 5 girls, 7 & 8 years old and 2 teenage girls, ages 14 & 15. Suggested donations are new toys, books, games, clothing, and Walmart gift cards. There will also be an area for children to select gifts for their parent(s) (mostly Moms) such as gloves, scarves, socks, pocketbooks or wallets, jewelry, toiletries, hair care items. Rolls of wrapping paper are also requested. Please place your **unwrapped donations in the narthex by December 12.** If questions, see a member of the Witness Team. We show love when we help others!

### Giving Progress as of October 15,, 2021

	2021	2020
Budget-to-date	\$153,075.96	\$149,281.82
Actual Giving	\$129,463.00	\$143,806.00
Ahead/(Behind)	\$(23,612.96)	\$ (5,475.82)
Actual Expenses	\$141,397.00	\$130,868.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(11,934.00)	\$ 12,938.00

### College Students Awarded the Joanne Grossnickle Scholarship in 2021

The Joanne Grossnickle Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce three scholarship recipients for 2021. Please take an opportunity to congratulate these accomplished college students for their hard work and dedication to serving others.

**Jessica Mosholder** is a member of the Union Bridge Church of the Brethren and a 2019 graduate of Century High School. She is studying Graphic Design at Full Sail University in Florida and is a freelance graphic designer. Her goal is to use her design skills to communicate positive, hopeful messages on the theme of mental wellness. One way she has reached people through her art this year is by designing materials through the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for a Mental Health Summit. Another was for Conservation Made Simple, a non-profit that educates on protecting the environment. We wish Jessica all the best as she pursues her education and her life goals!

**Hannah Ratchford** is a 2020 graduate of Linganore High School studying nursing at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. She has a long history of community service in Girl Scouts, her church and at Carroll Hospital Center. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic inspired her to work toward earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her goal is to work as an ER nurse on the front line helping those who are sick. Specifically, she wants to serve in an impoverished area so as to bring her patients the top level compassionate care that they deserve. She hopes to care not only for their physical wellbeing but help improve their lives as well. Congratulations Hannah!

**Myles Roberts** graduated from Walkersville High School in 2019 and is now a junior at Bridgewater College in VA studying Health and Physical Education. As a scholar-athlete he honed his leadership skills throughout high school as captain of the basketball and football teams, and member of the National Honors Society. His goal is to enrich the lives of children by educating them on all aspects of a healthy lifestyle: exercise, nutrition and healthy relationships. He understands the importance of PE, how it impacts mental health and relieves stress. He will begin student teaching this coming year and have the opportunity to put his various skills to use. Best of luck to you Myles!

# THINK ADVENT!

Poinsettias, wreaths, and trees are needed for the sanctuary and our church as we celebrate advent. If you would like to share in this way, the Altar Committee welcomes your order.

## POINSETTIA ORDER:

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) at \$8.00 each – (7 inch pot).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_

## WREATH ORDER

*We only need 2-24 inch wreaths, 4-20 inch wreaths and 8-12 inch wreaths*

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ 24" wreath(s) at \$35.00 each

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ 20" wreath(s) at \$30.00 each

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ 12" wreath(s) at \$16.00 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_



## TREE ORDER

*We also need one tree for the outside church balcony.*

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Tree at \$65.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_

Please give order form and money to Alice Houck by November 7, 2021.

Make checks payable to Union Bridge Church of the Brethren.

