

**Live in harmony
with one another;
be sympathetic,
love as brothers,
be compassionate
and humble.**



1 Peter 3:8, NIV

**First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street, Eden, NC February 2, 2022**



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Day after day, we see tragedies on the news that cause us to wonder what is going on in the world. Those tragedies affect us even more when they hit close to home – both geographically and relationally. When I was a junior in college USAir Flight 427 crashed on its approach to Pittsburgh International Airport. As horrible as plane crashes are, they are usually somewhat distant. This one was different, though. I grew up about an hour and a half from there, so it did make it somewhat local. But that is not what brought it home. A man by the name of Guy Clegg was one of the 127 passengers who died in the crash. Guy was a neighbor of ours – lived about a mile or so down the road, in fact, he had from time to time helped us with work on the farm. His daughter and I were just a couple of years apart in school. Suddenly, something that would otherwise have been distant became personal.

Yesterday, we witnessed a tragedy at Bridgewater University. If you are not aware, Bridgewater is a university connected with the Church of the Brethren. I am not completely sure, but I think we probably have some family connections here at First with people who have studied at Bridgewater. We have seen occurrences of police shootings throughout our nation. But now it has hit close to home. It has become personal.

These tragedies have become all too common and each one hits close to home for some family, some community. Even as I write this, a funeral service is being held for an officer killed in New York City. May we be in prayer for the Bridgewater community. May we be in prayer for the men and women of the police forces all around us who every day put their lives on the line to “Protect and Serve.”

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

John 17:11

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God's love

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
were the whole sky of parchment made;
were every stalk on earth a quill
and every man a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretch'd from sky to sky.



—Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai (adapted modern version)

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

JT Hale

District Prayer Request

Pray for Daniel L. Rudy, pastor of the Ninth Street Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia, who celebrated ten years of service on November 1, 2021. Let us pray that the wideness and breadth of God's work will challenge us to seek wider, greater, and more creative fields of mission and ministry.



In person worship services resume Sunday, but if you would like to worship from home you can watch a live stream of Sunday

Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

Ignite Men's Impact Weekend is taking place March 11th and 12th at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. There will be special speakers, musical performances, and workshops on various topics. The goal of the Ignite Conference is to "help men align their everyday passions with God's eternal purpose". Any gentlemen who may be interested in attending can find more information, and can also register, at www.ignitemen.net.

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The right words for victory in Jesus

My mom tells a story of me as a preschooler, swinging in our backyard and singing loudly (and off key, I'm sure): "Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He *socked* me and *bopped* me with his redeeming blood." Though that isn't an example of how to effectively share Jesus with your neighbors, the mistaken words might contain a nugget of truth.

In 1939, a stroke partially paralyzed hymnwriter Eugene Bartlett. Bedridden and unable to perform anymore, he penned his final, most beloved song, "Victory in Jesus." The actual lyrics read: "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He *sought* me and *bought* me with his redeeming blood." It's beautiful to realize that Jesus did indeed seek me out and pay the ultimate price for me. But sometimes I forget — and that's when he "socks me" and "bops me." Jesus loves me too much to let life's chaos and struggles distract me from him and what he's done. Let's all remember to celebrate our victory in Jesus!

—Janna Firestone

Upcoming Birthdays
February 10: Will Janney

Happy Anniversary
February 9: Jr & Jean Craven

