



Bridgewater College

Fall 2022

Ashamed? - a Devotion

What does it mean to be unashamed when it comes to Christ? Romans 1:16 reads, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” As believers, we are blessed to have an identity found in the word of God. However, with great power comes great responsibility (I’m a big Spider-Man guy). We are called to spread God’s love and show His character through our actions. We all have a light within us, and keeping it to ourselves is pretty silly. This internal brightness is something the entire world should be able to see. When we act as Christ did, or at least try our darndest to do so, that light becomes a beacon for others. We have an excellent opportunity to show others great love just as Jesus did when we died for our sins. Therefore, I challenge you to use the power that God’s word gives you for good and to build up His kingdom. There is no shame in showing joy, kindness, and love. ~ Ben Riddle

Roundtable 2023

It’s time to start getting excited for Roundtable 2023! IYC is excited to announce that this year's theme will be “Unashamed”. When February 24th rolls around, Bridgewater College will become home to a fantastic community of believers, and we want YOU to be a part of it. It will be a weekend full of fun and fellowship led by ourselves and our fantastic speaker, Michaela Alphonse! We’ll have more information on our great speaker soon, but there is something new this year! As some of you who have been to Roundtable know, IYC always likes to show a video or 2 over the weekend. This year, we’re giving YOU a chance to debut on the silver screen. If you wish to submit a short, unique video, we’ll have an option in registration for you to do so! We might show them in worship or in the Variety Show! In the meantime, all you have to do is let those creative juices flow and keep your eyes open for registration info. We can’t wait to see you all and worship our God together!

Roundtable is a Regional Youth Conference, and is a weekend of worship, music, a great speaker, workshops, small groups, Bible study, recreation, vespers, variety show, and more fun than should be allowed. Make plans for Roundtable 2023 February 24-26!

ROMANS 1:16

NYC – A Foundational Experience

I had the good fortune to attend National Youth Conference this year, as did many youth across the country; however, I was under the unique circumstance of being a returning participant. One does not often have the opportunity to experience a life-changing event twice, but I was lucky enough to be old enough to attend in 2018 and young enough to attend in 2022. As a returner and as a relatively old person, I noticed some fantastic and amazing things that I believe bode really well for the Church of the Brethren in its entirety.

Even from the beginning, I could feel that the youth attending this NYC were going to be special. The Virlina District, from which I hail, has sent their youth to Colorado on a charter bus for decades. Church youth groups are combined, kids mingle, and advisors readjust their pillows as our two, later three, buses began the week-long journey across the country. We crossed through many states along the way, from West Virginia to Wyoming, stopping at such sights as Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial, both located in South Dakota. While the rolling plains of Wyoming and the terracing, colorful canyons of the Badlands were stunningly beautiful, the most beautiful factor of the bus trip was watching the friendships form between all the different youth in such a short amount of time. For some kids, the only things they had in common was their faith, their denominational background. Yet, over the week of being crammed in buses together, playing games in hotels, and breaking bread together, some truly special relationships arose. I expected to play a bigger role in getting younger participants to interact with each other, but there was no need: they all came into the journey with the mindset of positivity and connection. I can tell that the friendships made on this trip and at the Conference itself will last for the lifetimes of all who attended.

National Youth Conference was truly a week to remember. For a Brethren, there was just about everything one could hope for. “Peacefully, simply together” shirts, pickup 4-square games, food in the cafeteria akin to a potluck in size, and enough familiar faces to keep the conversations flowing. Whether participating in small groups, workshops, a late-night activity, or a service project, there was never a dull moment. Yet, the best part of the entire conference were the worship services. Moby Arena would fill with excited youth and advisors alike as the countdown began, with fantastic music soon to follow. Youths were even invited to lead worship, play music, and read scripture, giving a level of immersion and ownership over the Conference that is unique to NYC. The speakers were beyond amazing. The theme of this NYC was Foundational, and these speakers really touched the heart of what is foundational to the faith journey of the youth attending. Whether encouraging the youth to do what God calls them to do today, every day, to stating that God keeps our lives from simply going in circles, allowing us to go beyond what we think ourselves capable of.

Foundational served well as the theme of National Youth Conference because the Conference itself will serve as the foundation for the spiritual journeys of hundreds of youth for years to come. This event was only the beginning for a much greater potential, not just for the participants, but for the entire Church of the Brethren. I was fortunate to have a sort of eagle-eyed view of this conference: I was young enough to truly participate but old enough to look past the experience as it was. What I saw for two weeks, whether on a bus or at the conference, was a group of kids who are going to change the world. I had never met more friendly, more kind, more spiritual, more loving people in my life, and every second of it was unconditional and unprovoked. They wanted to be with each other, they wanted to come closer to God, they wanted to make the absolute best of their time together. Once they realize the power God has given them in their love, there will be nothing they cannot accomplish. If this is the future of the Brethren church, then the future shines bright like the Sun

- Ewan Benjamin

Continue your NYC experience by reuniting at Roundtable 2023...

Roundtable Offering

The Church of the Brethren is often synonymous to giving. As an organization, we often give our time, our money, and our hands to helping a variety of groups and individuals, those who greatly benefit and need our assistance. This year's offering will go to **World Vision**, an organization that dedicates itself to assisting people in need around the world, focusing on children. World Vision puts their efforts into providing emergency relief to those affected by conflict or disaster through community-based and sustainable methods and giving Jesus Christ all the credit for being the sole reason for their humanitarian efforts. We will be focusing on their **clean water initiative**, which aims to provide strategies to bring clean water, hygiene, and sanitation to communities across the world. Whether wells, taps, or purifiers, we can help World Vision make water flow like God's love for all of us. Let's help make the world a little safer.



Retreats

IYC is incredibly excited to travel around to multiple districts and congregations this year to lead retreats. We hope that we will visit your district this year!



Our retreat theme this year will focus on "What Next, What Now?" We will be leading 3 sessions focusing on where we developed our faith, what is currently engaging us in our faith, and finally, what we will do to further our faith in the future! We will learn more about ourselves in relation to our faith and how we can spread it onto others.

Retreats are one of IYC's highlights each year. We love working with youth on a deeper level and having the ability to form connections with you all! You will find many activities at retreats. We play games, make friends, and have a ton of fun! Last year, IYC was able to host two retreats and we had an amazing group to work with. We hope that we are able to continue building connections by hosting more retreats this year. If your church or district is interested in hosting IYC this fall, winter, or spring, contact IYC via email or social media. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to our retreat coordinator Mandie Hamilton at mhamilton2@eagles.bridgewater.edu. Be sure to visit our social media pages on Instagram and Facebook for amazing IYC adventures and additional retreat information!

Want to hear more about Roundtable, retreats, IYC, and a lot more?

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram!

We also have a website for Roundtable info and updates, as well as an email address.

Instagram: @interdistrictyouthcabinet

Facebook: Interdistrict Youth Cabinet

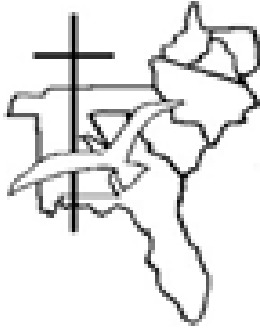
Website: <http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>

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*Continuing the Work of Jesus
Peacefully, Simply, Together.*

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2022 Fall Bridge

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Find the following words in the puzzle.
 Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

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|--------------|--------|
| BEN | JACOB |
| BRETHREN | JESUS |
| BRIDGEWATER | JOY |
| DUNKARD | MANDIE |
| EWAN | PEACE |
| HOPE | PIPER |
| RETREATS | |
| ROUNDTABLE | |
| STEVE | |
| UNASHAMED | |
| WORLD VISION | |