

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 20th - December 26th

- Today:** 4th Sunday of Advent
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
12:00 - Lunch and Christmas Caroling
12:15 - Stewardship/Finance Meeting
12:15 - Trustees Meeting
12:15 - Worship Committee Meeting
- Monday:** Winter Begins
Church Office Closed
7:00 - Boy Scouts
7:00 - Session Meeting
- Tuesday:** 6:30 - Dinner at St. John's Reformed
7:00 - Advent Worship Service at St. John's Reformed
- Thursday:** Christmas Eve
Church Office Closed
8:30 - Christmas Eve Service Prelude
9:00 - Christmas Eve Service
- Friday:** Christmas Day

Next Sunday, December 27th:

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Worship/Four Cents A Meal Offering

12:00 - Fellowship Time

Greeters: Joe and Tabby Moore

*The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the congregation and friends of Bethel.

*Good morning and welcome to Bethel! Whether you are a member, a friend or a visitor please take a moment to fill out the friendship pad at the end of your pew. Don't forget to give the friendship pad to others to sign when you are done. Thank you!

*CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Everyone "Let's Go Christmas Caroling" today! Following the worship service we will have lunch and then carpool to the homes of our members who are homebound. Let's join together to make the Christmas holidays more special for our homebound members!

*The Stewardship/Finance Committee will meet today following the worship service.

*The Trustees will meet today following the worship service.

*The Worship Committee will meet today following the worship service.

*The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, December 21st. Adrienne will be in the office this week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Thank you!

*Please have all announcements for the December 27th bulletin to the Church Office by 3 pm this Tuesday, December 22nd. You can leave them in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to her at: bethelpc@gmail.com. Thank you!

*Mid-Week Advent Services Our mid-week Advent Worship service will be this Tuesday evening, December 22nd, at St. John's Reformed. Soup will be served at 6:30 pm at St. John's followed by worship and discussion at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

*The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday season this Thursday, December 24th through Monday, December 28th and on Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st for New Year's. Thank you!

*Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 9 pm. (The prelude will be played beginning at 8:30 pm.) The service is always a moving and beautiful experience as we hear the Good News both read and sung. Come and take part as we sing, pray, and praise God for the birth of our Savior!

*If you have a mailbox in Memorial Hall, please check it and clean it out by January 3rd, 2016. Remember to check your mailbox in Memorial Hall periodically for updates, church information, etc. Thanks!

*We will be having our Officer's Joint Training and Meeting on Saturday, January 9th, 2016, beginning at 9:00 am. This is a time for the Elders, Deacons, and Trustees to come together and share their vision for Bethel. It is also a refresher course on the specific duties and responsibilities of each body. If you are a currently serving Elder, Deacon or Trustee, especially if you are just rotating onto the board, please make every effort to attend.

*The Diaconate will meet on January 9th, following the joint meeting with the Session.

*On January 10th, Bethel will be ordaining and installing our newly elected officers in a special Sunday morning worship service. Come and be a part of this important and moving moment in the life of the church. If you are an officer and will be unable to be at the service please let Pastor David or the Church Office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

*Attention! We have begun sending out Congregational Emails from a new email address. The Church Office has been notified that some members of the church and friends have found the church emails in either their spam or junk folders. If you have not received any email from the church recently please check your spam or junk folders to see if the church emails are in there. Please make sure to add bethelpc.fb@gmail.com to your contact list so you will continue to get important congregational news, updates, prayer requests, and more! Thank you!

*Evergreen wreaths represent the unending cycle of life and have been the symbols of victory and honor. As early as 1444, evergreen boughs were used as Christmas decorations in London. In 16th century Germany, evergreen branches were intertwined in a circular shape to symbolize God's love, which has no beginning and no end and remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus. Isaiah 60:13 says, "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn my sanctuary." Thank you to Betty and Jim Crosby for, again, donating the wreaths that adorn the doors of the church during Advent and Christmas. Our thanks to all who helped decorate the church over the Thanksgiving weekend; to Bill Francisco for donating the beautiful tree and to Justin Swisher, Laura Swisher and Jesse Resnick for decorating it; to Bill and Sally Brubeck for hanging the garland and wreaths. To Keedie and Isabelle Leonard for decorating the windows and adding live greenery to the garland and to all who provided the greenery. Another special thank you to all the children and youth who took part in the Hanging of the Greens service, Isabelle, Cole, Maggie, Bayleigh, Ashlyn, Samantha, Cate, James, Moose, Lydia and Will.

***Church Inclement Weather Information** In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV-TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website (www.whsv.com) for information on whether church has been cancelled. If church is cancelled a congregational email will also be sent out to all active members. For weekday activities please follow the Augusta County Schools. If school is cancelled, all events for that evening at the church are cancelled. The Church Office may also be closed due to inclement weather if Augusta County Schools are closed (Monday through Thursday). If the Church Office is closed due to inclement weather and you have a need please email bethelpc@gmail.com. Adrienne will be checking email messages throughout the day even if she is not in the Church Office. Thank you!

*If you would like to join Bethel Presbyterian Church, please feel free to contact Pastor David or a Session member. We would love to hear from you!

December 13th Attendance: 94
Weekly Budget: \$3,589.00 Received: \$7,163.00
Joy Gift Offering: \$465.00

Estimated Budget through December 1st, 2015: \$172,272.00
Receipts: \$142,980.00 Expenses: \$154,358.00

Financial Stewardship Report

Offerings 2015: It is requested that offerings for 2015 be made no later than Sunday, December 27th. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2016: 27 pledges for a total of \$73,124 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2016 - it is never too late! Pledge cards are available in Memorial Hall and the vestibule. Send completed cards to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), or put in the Receiving Treasurer mailbox in Memorial Hall or in the offering plate any Sunday.

Offering Envelopes for 2016: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – some users will have their envelope number changed due to a reduction in the total offering envelope packs available. Numbered offering envelopes are now available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2015. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to or have been using them but no longer want them, please contact the Church Office with your request.