

THIS WEEK AT
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 3rd - December 9th

Today 1st Sunday of Advent
Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship/Hanging of the Greens
12:00 Advent Workshop
12:15 PWCT Meeting

Monday Church Office Closed
7:00 Boy Scouts
7:30 Young Life Meeting

Tuesday Church Office Closed

Wednesday Church Office Closed
6:30 Cub Scouts
7:00 The Bells of Bethel
7:00 Adult Choir
7:30 Young Life Meeting

Thursday Church Office Closed
2:15 Prayer Fellowship Group

*Next Sunday, December 10th: 2nd Sunday of Advent
Joy Gift Sunday*

*Deadline: Poinsettia Order & BERF
Christmas Donations*

*9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship/Joy Gift Offering/
Children's Christmas Program
12:00 Covered Dish Luncheon
7:00 Session Meeting*

CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3rd - December 9th



•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!

•We welcome Rev. Bernard Bangley who will be assisting Pastor Roy during the worship service this morning. Rev. Bangley is a retired Presbyterian Minister living in Rockbridge County. He was pastor of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Rockbridge Baths for eleven years, and then served churches in Lynchburg and Sarasota, Florida. He and Anna, his wife of 59 years, have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. He is the author of a number of religious books. Please let Rev. Bangley know how much we appreciate him joining us this morning!

•The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by Bettie Swisher in memory of Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Swisher and Don B. Swisher.

•Today is Bethel's traditional Hanging of the Greens service. Thanks to everyone who will be participating in today's worship service and to those who helped plan the worship service!

•The Advent Workshop will be today in the Bethel Fellowship Hall following worship. All ages are welcome! We will have a light lunch provided by the Bethel Women and then do crafts and activities to take home to celebrate the Advent season. Hope to see you there!

•Please remember that all Salvation Army gifts are due today! Gifts should be wrapped and have the tag attached. If you have any questions please contact Doris True. Thanks for your generosity with this annual project!

•Adrienne will be on vacation tomorrow, Monday, December 4th through Thursday, December 7th. Pastor Roy will be in the office Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm if you have a need. You may also contact Bill Brubeck, Rhonda Johnson, or Kathy Swisher. Thank you!

•Come support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and prepare for the holiday season! Local musicians will spread holiday cheer at the 21st annual “Christmas at Augusta Stone Church” in Fort Defiance. The concert will be tomorrow, December 4th, at 7:00 pm. A freewill offering will go directly to the Food Bank. \$1.00 = 4 meals. For more information please see: facebook.com/FoodBankChristmasConcert/.

•“The Joy of Sharing Christmas”

Join us on a walking journey of Christmas through Covenant Presbyterian Church, featuring music, drama & storytelling. Excellent for all ages and free of charge. Saturday, December 9th, come anytime between 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 10th, come anytime between 3:00 & 5:00 pm. The church address is: 2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton.

•Children’s Christmas Program - Next Sunday, December 10th

The Children’s Christmas Program is scheduled as part of the 11:00 am worship service next Sunday, December 10th. Also, during this time the congregation will sing beautiful and traditional Christmas hymns. Invite grandparents, neighbors, and friends to share in this Advent season.

•Joy Gift Sunday & Fellowship Meal - Next Sunday, December 10th

The Joy Gift Offering will be collected next Sunday, December 10th. A covered dish meal will be held immediately following morning worship, so bring your favorite dish to share!

What Is the Christmas Joy Gift Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost eighty years, the Christmas Joy Gift Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts for the Joy Gift Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. More information about the Joy Gift Offering is included on the insert in your bulletin.

•The Stonewall Brigade Band is having its annual Christmas Concert on Monday, December 11th, at 7:30 pm at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 2000 Shutterlee Mill Road in Staunton. Admission is free. The Flute Choir will perform from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm and the band will start at 7:30 pm.

•There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) on Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). The concert will be at Memorial Baptist Church (224 Taylor Street; Staunton) and local musical artists will be featured. Come join us for a time of music, fellowship and an offering to SACRA. A “Meet and Greet the Artists” time with refreshments will follow the concert.

•The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 12th, at 12:30 pm (*note the time change!*). The meeting will be at the home of Libby Smith and there will be a light lunch served. Please contact Libby if you have any questions.

•The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12th, at 6:30 pm (*note the time change!*) at the church. We will eat dinner together and exchange gifts. Please bring a dish to share and a small gift. If you have any questions, please contact Irene Elliott or Louise Hoy.

•The January Tower Deadline will be Thursday, December 14th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the January Tower can be left in Adrienne’s mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to her at bethelpc@gmail.com. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W’s: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Answer all of these in your announcement and you can be sure that your news will be communicated well. Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. Thank you!

•It’s time to place your order for Christmas poinsettias and/or make a special Christmas donation to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF)! Poinsettias will be \$10.00 each (tax included). The Poinsettias purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 17th and Christmas Eve. For more information please see the “Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or Donations to BERF” form in your announcements. The deadline for Poinsettia orders and Christmas BERF donations is next Sunday, December 10th.

•CHRISTMAS CAROLING - December 17th, 2017

EVERYONE “Let’s go Christmas Caroling”, on Sunday, December 17th! Following the worship service we will have a light 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!

•Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve at Bethel will start at 8:30 pm with special music. The Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 9:00 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, as we pray, and as we praise God for the birth of our Savior!

•Loch Willow Presbyterian Church is searching for a part-time Administrative Assistant/Secretary, beginning January 2nd, 2018. Ten to twelve hours per week; some flexibility in schedule. Good command of the English language and office skills required. Please contact Reed Hopkins, Pastor, at (540) 337-8543, or email at lochwillowpastor@comcast.net.

•Monthly “Fellowship Following Worship”

The Congregational Care Committee is still looking for someone who would be willing to provide refreshments for “Fellowship Following Worship” one Sunday in January (*you choose which Sunday*). Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you can help out in January or any month in 2018. Thank you!

•Volunteers Needed! Many of you know long-time Bethel members Jon & Donna Bush. Not only are they the Bethel Custodians, they also volunteer at many church events, and Donna teaches the Children’s Sunday School Class. They would like to attend worship one Sunday a month and are looking for someone who would be willing to stay with Donna's mother, Margaret Liptrap at their home. If you would be willing to stay with Margaret so Jon & Donna can attend worship please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall. Circle the Sunday you would be willing to serve along with your name and phone number. Donna will contact you with more details before you are scheduled to serve. Thank you for your consideration in volunteering!

•Are you looking for a birthday gift? A Christmas gift? Don’t forget that Shenandoah Awards and Apparel in Staunton has the Bethel logo and can put it on a hat, shirt, or anything you might want. You can walk in and order on your own without a group order. Help yourself and get Bethel’s name out there!

•Note from the Bethel Diaconate . . .

Feels like winter is already here, doesn’t it? Cold mornings, frost on the ground, chill in the sanctuary at church. The deacons are working hard to make sure everyone at Bethel feels warm and welcome when they settle in to worship at Bethel and hear the words of the gospel. We plan to have the wall units set at a constant temperature to stabilize the humidity and optimize moisture content for the care of our beautiful organ. In conjunction with the wall units we will have the church boiler set on a thermostat and you should feel warmth from the radiators along the sides of the sanctuary. As we all know, warm air flows upward, so we will have the ceiling fans circulating the warm air downward at a low speed. We ask that the fans be left on, the thermostat be left as set and any requests for change be directed to a deacon. There are vents on the wall units that can be redirected if a church member finds that they are sitting in the direct line of an uncomfortable air flow. Your serving deacon’s names are on the back of your bulletin. We are here to help you, please help us keep Bethel comfortable this winter.

•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 afternoon and 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!

•Many thanks to Bill Francisco for donating the lovely tree for the Sanctuary. Also, thanks to Rhonda Johnson and Kathy Swisher for decorating it. The Chrismon tree has added beauty to the Bethel Sanctuary during the Advent season for about 50 years.

•Our sympathies & condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Dr. Thomas Pinner who passed away on Saturday, November 25th. Dr. Pinner was the Supply Minister at Bethel from June 1956-July 1957. He was also the speaker at several Homecoming Sundays in the years following. If you would like to send a card to his wife Elenora and his family the address is: 15107 Nighthawk Drive; Tampa, FL 33625.

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

November 26th
 Attendance: 90
 Weekly Budget: \$3,327.00 Received: \$2,966.00
 Four Cents A Meal Offering: \$354.00

Financial Stewardship Information

Offerings 2017: It is requested that offerings for 2017 be made no later than Sunday, December 24th. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2018: 15 pledges for a total of \$53,700.00 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2018 - it is never too late! Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. 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 2018: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – Beginning Sunday, December 17th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2017. 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.



Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or
 Donations To BERF Form

You may order Poinsettias at a cost of \$10.00 (tax included) each or you may make a monetary donation to BERF (Bethel Emergency Relief Fund). The Poinsettias purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 17th and Christmas Eve. Please fill out the form below, attach the check or cash and place in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office: Attn: Church Office; 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401. If you are purchasing a poinsettia please make checks payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church. If you are making a donation to BERF please make the check payable to Bethel Emergency Relief Fund. The deadline is next Sunday, December 10th.

**Note: Please fill out the form completely. Sometimes forms come back not completely filled out and it can make things difficult when compiling them for the bulletins. Also, if you would like to order a poinsettia and make a donation please use two forms (one for the poinsettia and one for the donation). Thank you!*

Number of Poinsettias _____ Check or Cash Total _____

or

Donation to BERF _____ Check or Cash Total _____

In Honor Of : _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

****Remember to pick- up Poinsettia(s) following the regular worship service on Christmas Eve or at the Christmas Eve Service that evening.****