



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of April 26th, 2020

Message of the Week . . .

As you all know, the elders for some time had plans for communion with our loved ones of Bethel. As you also know, unforeseen circumstances have fought us at every turn, especially with social distancing. Our first option was drive-thru communion, which was dampened by our governor's stay-at-home order and limited the number in groups. Therefore, sending doubt that this option also was not going to materialize, but God presented us with another option to ponder, delivering communion to our congregation.

With a lot of prayer and planning, we were able to draw up the logistics of this venture which included:

- *preordering a token or remembrance, in this case a cross made from a palm leaf.*
- *cards, that that our youth and young adults spent hours and hours coloring and personalizing for each of you.*
- *the bread (which tradition was carried on as the Williams Family made it)*
- *Juice*
- *disposable cups ordered*
- *PPE (gloves)*
- *All the items were ordered weeks before Easter Sunday with regards to safety.*

The devil tried very hard to stonewall us from completing this task, but as always, the Lord prevailed and conquered!

Galatians 6:10

"Therefore, as have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

With consideration of our congregation, Derek and I chose to take on the duty of distribution of the sacraments. We met at 7:00 am Easter Sunday and prayed for a successful venture. This prayer was answered exponentially at every door with tears of joy, hope and love. To see the sight of relief and excitement in each and every one of your eyes was well worth it. Derek and I were amazed and overtaken with the joy and the love felt between each and every one of you, and the love you have for our Lord and Savior.

Luke 24:25-32

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if they were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. (continued)

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(Luke 24:25-32 continued)

. . .When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other “were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?”

We completed our mission with prayer at 8:30 pm. We both agreed that when this chapter of our lives is all over, we will forgo any handshakes, hellos and even the infamous head nods and give everyone heart felt hugs!

Thank the Lord for love and family like you. With love and prayer,
Brian Lee, Bethel Elder

Love Through a Screen Door - by: *Brian Lee*

The arrival

The walk

The anticipation

That's love through a screen door

The butterflies

The knock

The wait

That's love through a screen door

The first glance

The connection

The vision of hope

That's love through a screen door

The hello

The first words

The cordials

That's love through a screen door

The acceptance

The reception

The laughter

That's love through a screen door

The tears

The joy

The laughter

That's love through a screen door

The prayer

The goodbye

The relief

That's love through a screen door

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If you need help, are feeling discouraged, or need someone to talk with please feel free to contact any of the Elders listed below.

Derek Almarode	(540) 280-4940 (call or text)	almarodes@verizon.net
Tammy Barbour	(540) 471-0450 (call or text)	barbour.tamara@yahoo.com
Bill Brubeck	(540) 290-1172 (call or text)	brubeck@mgwnet.com
Brian Lee	(540) 649-3020 (call or text)	grumpybrian1972@gmail.com
David Schooley	(540) 255-6070 (call or text)	dschooley05@gmail.com
Kathy Swisher	(540) 885-7397 (call or text)	kswisher@gmail.com
Tim Turner	(540) 448-1431 (call or text)	timturner@lumos.net
Jill Webb	(540) 294-5770 (call or text)	jlwebb320@comcast.net

Church Office News & Notes . . .

- ◇ Printed copies of the current “Bethel Weekly News” and the April Tower are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Please note that there will not be a May Tower published - May birthdays, anniversaries, and a May calendar are available starting on page 9 of this issue of the Bethel Weekly News.
- ◇ The “Daily Family Devotions” are left out each week in the vestibule and the hallway next to the Choir Room.
- ◇ The “These Days” devotionals for this quarter are available in the vestibule, Memorial Hall and the hallway next to the Choir Room.
- ◇ Please let Adrienne know if you would like to be added to the list to have a printed copy of the “Bethel Weekly News” mailed to you.
- ◇ At this time, Adrienne is usually in the office on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, if you have a need. (email: bethelpc@gmail.com; phone: (540) 886-6041)

Elder-on Call April 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of April please contact
Derek Almarode.

(540) 280-4940 (call or text)
almarodes@verizon.net

Elder-on Call May 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of May please contact
Tammy Barbour.

(540) 471-0450 (call or text)
barbour.tamara@yahoo.com

Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

As we are all trying to protect ourselves and each other through social distancing and staying at home as much as possible, we are thankful for those who are working hard to keep us safe.

Our Sunday morning worship time provides each of us a time to share our faith with each other. The absence of this opportunity underscores our need to remain in contact. Our Bethel church Elders and Deacons have a Shepherding list by which they attempt to keep in touch with members of our congregation. Please pass on to our church officers anyone needing assistance. I will try to keep our Tuesday prayer group and Adrienne updated with prayer needs.

Our beloved Sara Ann is in the care of her daughter, other family members and the hospice nurse. Care is necessary around the clock. She has been at Hospice House since last Thursday (April 16th), and will be returning home today, April 21st. Her confusion continues and help is needed for her to use her walker. Her concern today was who would be taking her home. Last week Pines Chapel brought evening meals on Monday and Wednesday. Pines Chapel will resume that pattern this past Wednesday, April 22nd and Friday, April 24th. Bethel already has volunteers for April 27th, 29th and May 1st. Pines will deliver on May 4th, 6th and 8th. Congregational Care would like volunteers to provide meals *as needed* for the week of May 11th, 13th and 15th. Please let Tammy Barbour, Marty Simmers or Barb Gough know if you are willing to take a turn. Food may be ordered and delivered or just dropped off at the door.

Doris True updated her prayer needs as she will be starting medication to slow/shrink her new cancer. Because of the COVID-19, her elective surgery has been delayed.

Extra prayers for Pat & Allen Quick are requested as Allen's condition continues to weaken. He remains at King's Daughter's Nursing and Rehab. It is especially difficult for all families and residents of nursing facilities currently with COVID-19 lockdowns, preventing visitation at this difficult time.

The prayer group shares prayer needs by e-mail. We pray for all those working to keep us safe and healthy during these difficult times. That means we are praying for all of you, as our lives are disrupted by the virus. I ask you all to pray for each other, our church, our officers, our country, and the world.

Blessings,
Barb Gough, Congregational Care Committee Chair

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PRAYER LIST

New Additions

Edna Bays & Family

(Adrienne's grandmother - in hospice)

Bernice English *(Eli's grandmother)*

Cecil Layman

(recovering from a broken hip)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family

Dan Gano

Bobby Goodson

Karen Koogler

*Sara Ann Lamb

Evelyn LaPorte

Kenneth LaPorte

Sam Leonard

Margaret Liptrap

John Pilson

*Allen Quick

Lucy Sproul

*Doris True

Alice Wooddell

Family & Friends of the Church &

Congregation

Sarah Brownlee

John Cordle

Ann Ellinger

Joe Fleming

Paul Harper

Matt Koogler

David Law

John Michael

Roy Pilson

Jamie Pirkey

Van Pirkey

Gwen Stevenson

Walter Wade

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, Nurses, & those in healthcare including volunteers who are working with COVID-19 patients

All Military Leaders & Personnel
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers
& volunteers

Michael & Rachel Weller,
Missionaries in Ethiopia

**Please see the Congregational Care News & Notes on page 4 for more details about their condition.*

Continuing Education News & Notes . . .

Continuing Education Loan Fund

Reminder: The deadline for the return of the completed Continuing Education Loan applications together with attachments is June 15th, 2020.

Applications are available by email through the Church Office. Please turn in all required documents to one of the Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members:

Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck or David Schooley. You may also contact any of the committee members if you have questions.



Mission Committee News & Notes . . .



The Augusta County schools continue to provide breakfast and lunch to any student that requests them. If parents are unable to pick up meals at school, they are delivered to homes Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The Food on Friday's program that Bethel supports is continuing to supply food. They also, have provided laundry detergent and other hygiene items to students. These are given out when the families, that signed up for this program, get their school meals.

Please continue to check on your family and friends. We hope to get back to our regular mission projects soon. We plan on rescheduling the pork loin meal and our other projects as soon as possible.

Prayers,
Kathy Swisher
Mission Committee

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Personnel Committee News & Notes . . .

Adrienne continues to work in the office and at times from home. Please call before going to the office. Phone messages and emails will be returned ASAP. Deacons and Elders are checking the property daily. Eli will be leaving us in August to continue his study of voice. We are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have suggestions, contact Bill Brubeck, Dale Thompson or Jill Webb.



Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Ladies Night Out Dinner Canceled

After speaking with several members of the PWCT, we feel it is best to cancel the Ladies Night Out Dinner scheduled in July. With the present concerns and social restrictions regarding COVID-19 it is difficult for us to plan catering and commit to have the necessary number of people attend to break even on this event. We continue to pray for a quick end to this epidemic and return to normalcy when we can all meet again and return to worship. Until then, stay safe.

Blessings,
Cindy Almarode, Bethel PWCT Moderator

Stewardship & Finance News & Notes . . .

We so appreciate and are grateful for your continued giving, as it's more important now than ever. As time goes on with services and activities suspended, our bills continue to come in and must be paid. If you are able to continue to contribute to Bethel's budget in the coming weeks, please mail checks to:

*Bethel Presbyterian Church
Attn: Kay Thompson
563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, VA 24401*

Please stay healthy!

- Bethel Stewardship & Finance Committee

Shenandoah Presbytery News & Notes . . .

The Massanetta Rocks Fund-raiser through the Great Community Give has been rescheduled for June 24th. More information will be published about this event soon!



Worship Committee News & Notes . . .

From the Worship Committee & Bethel Choir Director

Today, as a form of worship through storytelling, I want to share with you all a story about my own life and God's faithfulness. Some of you may be aware of the circumstances surrounding my arrival at Bethel in 2018, but I believe many of you do not know the whole tale. I want to take you back to several years before my arrival in Staunton.

When I was a young child of around seven or eight, I remember sitting in a children's bible study at my home church in Raleigh, NC. We had been talking about "God's Plan for You," and I decided that day to grow up to be a church choir director. I loved music, I admired my church choir director, and it seemed the most logical way to use the gifts I had been given. Of course, as children we want to grow up to be not just *anything* but *EVERYthing*. So, my dream of choir directing quickly passed into a desire to be a chef, followed by a quick stint as a wannabe radiology technician (interesting choice for an eight-year-old, I know). Years and many new dreams later, I found myself inspired by my high school choir teacher to love vocal music once again. So, I set off on a path towards a degree in music education. However, at this point, the decision I made in that childhood Sunday school room was all but forgotten.

Years later, I make it through school and set out on my own as a new teacher. My first job is two-in-one; I was the new choir teacher for two middle schools! I was scared, but prepared. I struggled and learned as I went, and after the first semester at one school, I felt fairly confident in my abilities. However, as the second semester began and I was set to begin at my second placement, I began to have doubts that this was the path meant for me. I will spare the details of my soul-searching that went on that semester, but I will say that through a difficult time in my emotional journey, I realized that teaching public school was not my true passion. There was something missing. I had been inspired by my own public school choir teacher to love vocal music, and I thought the only way I could share that love with other people was by becoming a choir teacher myself. Finally realizing that I had pigeon-holed myself into a single career option, I chose to take a step back and evaluate where I had come from. It was during this time that my wife was accepted into Mary Baldwin's graduate program for Shakespeare, and Staunton was on our radar. August came and it was time to move to a new town. I was jobless and lost, without a career direction.

It was at this time that I began to look back more closely over my life to see what things had inspired and influenced my upbringing. The memory of child-me sitting in a Sunday school room popped into my head. I realized that I had spent my entire childhood and young adult life preparing for something. Church choir, handbells, youth praise band, mission trips, vacation bible school, worship leading... These were all cornerstones of the man I had become without even realizing it. I cut my teeth in the church, became a leader through volunteering my time there, and decided that this was the direction I needed to go next. But I had no connections in my new town and did not know where to start.

(continued)

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(Worship Committee News & Notes continued)

So, I prayed. I prayed for wisdom in my decision-making, I prayed for patience with God's timeline, I prayed for the strength to make tough decisions, and I prayed for God to help reveal the next right thing for me to do. (Sidebar, I have learned over the years that, for me, prayer works more efficiently when we pray for "changes of heart, not changes of situation." God works through his people, after all)

I sent emails to every church in Staunton that I could find with a Google search, and was met with a harmonized and resounding "No, thank you." I was devastated. But in one email, after the "No, thank you," there was something else. "I hear that Bethel Presbyterian may be in need of a new music director. You should reach out to them."

And the rest is as you know it. God's plan does not take the shape we expect it to. I am grateful that God pointed me in this direction, even though it took years of questioning, wondering, and soul-searching. I was prepared from birth to fulfill a childhood promise to God and myself that I would lead God's people in music. And my life has yet to finish, so there will no doubt be new directions and new paths to take to fulfill that goal. But, if you trust in the path laid out before you, God will surprise you. God is faithful, always.

Selah,
Eli

HE **BREATHED** ON THEM?
IS THAT EVEN **SAFE**?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT IS... IF IT'S
THE **BREATH OF GOD!**



JOHN 20:19-31

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Jesus Appears to the Disciples When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

- John 20:19-31 NRSV

The Bethel May 2020 Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .

May Birthdays



Sally Brubeck	May 1	Lindsey Wright	May 25
Jessica Surface	May 4	Lee Ann Whitesell	May 26
James Gano	May 5	Summer Barmore	May 27
Kim Wiseman	May 6	Willow Bosserman	May 27
Tabby Moore	May 7	Will Sproul	May 28
Caroline Moffett	May 9	Jonah Williams	May 29
David Bussard	May 10		
David Schooley	May 11		
Janice Goodson	May 14		
Keith Folsom	May 15	Moose Lee	June 1
Andrew Folsom	May 16	Matthew Rivers	June 1
Benjamin Folsom	May 16	Jarod Davis	June 2
Rosalee Miller	May 18	Susan Smith	June 2
Alexander Strausbaugh	May 21	Karen Koogler	June 4
Chad Shomo	May 22	May Potter	June 4
Eddie Surface	May 24	Katie Wimer	June 4






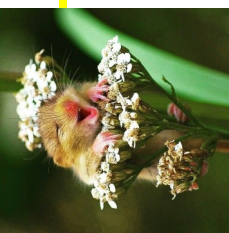
<i>Mac & Emily Williams</i>	<i>May 17, 2008</i>
<i>Jimmy & Debbie Callison</i>	<i>May 19, 1984</i>
<i>Bill & Sally Brubeck</i>	<i>May 21, 1955</i>
<i>D.W. & Beth Miller</i>	<i>May 23, 2005</i>
<i>Kay & Warren Agee</i>	<i>June 3, 1995</i>
<i>Katie & Wes McElveen</i>	<i>June 6, 2015</i>



May 1st	May Friendship Day
May 7th	National Day of Prayer
May 10th	Mother's Day
May 16th	Armed Forces Day
May 21st	Ascension of the Lord
May 25th	Memorial Day
May 31st	Pentecost Sunday



May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>May Friendship Day</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> HAPPY MOTHERS DAY 	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
17	18	19	20	21 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	26	27	28	29	30 
31 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>						