The Tower



October 2020 & Sunday, September 27th, 2020

*563 Bethel Green Road*Staunton, Virginia 24401*

*(540)886-6041*bethelpc@gmail.com*

www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

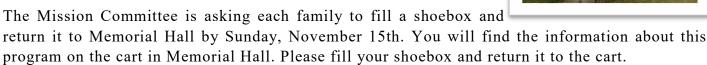
A Note on the Tower & Weekly News . . .

Please note: the Bethel October Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly Message for this Sunday, September 27th were both scheduled for distribution this week, and are combined in this publication. A few printed copies are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Blessings to you in the coming week and month!

As This Elder Sees It & The Weekly Message . . .

This has been a year we could have never imagined. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to participate in most of our normal mission events. Summerlee Mission happened this year locally instead of in West Virginia. Our fundraisers to support the mission work Bethel normally participates in, had to be postponed.

We have an upcoming mission that we can participate in. Samaritan's Purse collects world Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and delivers them to children in need, around the world.





"Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl who may not receive anything else for Christmas, to experience the love of God, in a tangible way and hear the Gospel."

"Every shoebox gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn't forgotten them."

Please help in filling a shoebox and returning it to Memorial Hall by November 15th.

In Christ, Kathy Swisher, Elder





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Dear Bethel Family,

Over the past several years there has been growing concern from members of our congregation about the deeply rooted problems evangelical Presbyterians face in a denomination that has been moving further and further from its biblical roots. As officers of our church, the question has risen on multiple occasions in both leadership bodies (Church Elders and Church Deacons) as to where do we go from here?

Please know that we began to answer that question several years ago. We have been thoughtfully and prayerfully, yet with full awareness of the issues surrounding these matters, trying to answer this question. As leaders within the church, we have tried to be as honest as we can about the serious problems we face in our current denomination. For a very long time, we have erred on the side of caution and tried our best not to overreact. We have acted in the best interest of the church and the church family. We've discussed these matters a lot, but we took a more Christian approach and tried to be optimistic and look on the bright side of things and trust through prayer in the Lord's intervention.

As you know we focused on the vision and the mission of the church and we prayed and we believed that things within the PCUSA will, by God's grace, improve. However, in light of past and present events within the General Assembly, our positive approach seems to be doomed. The modern movement within the PCUSA shows no signs of abating, and, in fact, has gone into hyper acceleration. The actions of the 224th session provide striking illustrations of this acceleration.

As officers of the church who are responsible for the spiritual leadership and growth of "this" congregation, we cannot, and will not, live in denial anymore. There are deep theological cracks within our denomination and the trend we are facing and quite frankly fighting is increasingly negative. We can no longer close our eyes to these happenings and focus on our singular church ignoring these denominational issues because our mission as a church is being impacted and as stated in many previous discussions, our mission is being hampered by our denominational connection.

Thus, with great support from the active congregational membership as well as congregants who have left as a result of this situation and who are anxiously awaiting this decision to return to Bethel, the Session took action. With a tremendous amount of heartfelt prayer and discernment, the Session voted unanimously on September 13, 2020 in its monthly Session meeting, to begin the process to dissolve its relationship with the PCUSA. The Session, by unanimous vote, moved to engage in the gracious dismissal policy established by the Shenandoah Presbytery and the PCUSA.

It is the intent of the Session to meet with the full congregation in the coming weeks to discuss this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any officer to discuss.

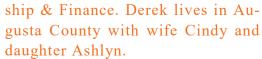
In Christ's Service, Bethel Elders All (Active) Bethel Members should have received a copy of the letter (on page 2) by email or the USPS. Please note that we are just beginning the process and we will be meeting with church members soon to answer all questions and listen to all comments and concerns. In the meantime please feel free to contact (call, text, email) any of the Elders listed below. We'll be happy to listen to your concerns and talk with you. - The Bethel Session

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

GUEST SPEAKER SEPTEMBER 27TH

Bethel welcomes our very own Derek Almarode as the Guest Speaker. We appreciate Derek's willingness to help with the worship service this morning!

Derek is active in the life and ministry of Bethel by serving as an Elder and serving as the Chair or Co-Chair for several committees including Christian Education, Continuing Education Loan, and Steward-





The flowering plants at the chapel are given by Dan & Ginny Gano in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gano, Lt. Col. & Mrs. James Bundy, and Lt. Col. & Mrs. Terrence Shaw.











CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 27th

Derek Almarode, Guest Speaker

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel in the Woods

(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)

Monday, September 28th

7:00 pm **Boy Scouts**

Tuesday, September 29th

12:00 pm Bulletin & Weekly News

Deadline for October 4th &

October 11th

Sunday, October 4th

Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao,

Guest Minister

11:00 am Worship & Communion (please meet in Sanctuary)







Session News & Notes . . .

The Session met on September 13th, 2020, with Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine members present. The meeting was held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall with proper social dis-Wrecham and Denbigh Weekln Iduer tancing observed.

- The minutes of the last meetings were approved.
- The Youth Committee reported they have completed three yard work projects for our members. Great job Bethel Youth!
- The Session reviewed plans for our upcoming Communion service on October 4th, using prepackaged elements. The Cambrian
- · The Session approved a motion unanimously to pursue the gracious dismissal of Bethel Presbyterian Church from the PCUSA. There will be an upcoming meeting of the congregation to review the reasons and layout the future. This will require several meetings and a vote by the congregation. Please pray for us, as we begin the process.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session

ELDER-ON-CALL SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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

ELDER-ON-CALL OCTOBER 2020

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

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

Church Office News & Notes . . .



Please have all information for the October 4th & October 11th Weekly News to the Church Office by this Tuesday (September 29th) at noon.

Due to circumstances from the pandemic the "Daily Family Devotions" Temporarily will not be available for the next quarter. The publishers hope to resume printing in 2021.

Unavailable

The "These Days" for the next quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec) are still available in Memorial Hall & the vestibule.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, October through Thursday, October 8th while Adrienne is on va-



If you have a pastoral need please contact the Elder-on-Call (Tammy Barbour) and she will be happy to assist you.

Adrienne will be back in the office on Monday, October 12th, at 9:00 am. Thanks!

Church Office News & Notes (continued) . . .

Can you help out? If you would be willing to help out in the Bethel Office while I'm on vacation in October please let me know (540/886-6041). Picking up the mail a few times that

(Image used with permissio Creator: pixy.org © CCO Information extracted from IPTC photomedia

week along with checking the phone messages on the answering machine (and passing them on to the appropriate person) is all that is required. Thanks for your consideration! - Adrienne

Many thanks to Jill Webb & Tammy Barbour for helping out with Church Office tasks while I was on vacation in August! And thanks to Alex



Sproul for checking and picking up the mail! Also, thanks to Bob Olson who checked and picked up the mail daily during the shutdown this past spring! You all are the best!

The November Tower Newsletter & October 25th Weekly News deadlines will be Monday, October 19th, at noon. You may leave articles and announcements for VIIIR the Tower in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 19th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?





All information printed in the Weekly News and Tower is subject to editing. Adrienne does not edit the information

but rather has several proofreaders that help with this task weekly with the Weekly News and monthly with the Tower. Please do not be upset if something you wrote is changed. It may have been edited for any number of reasons and is not anything personal against you. Thank you!



Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (as circumstances allow)

(Lunch <u>usually</u> taken 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)



Stewardship & Finance Committee . . .

Weekly Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget: \$4,317.00

Offerings September 6th: \$2,075.00

Offerings September 13th: \$3,431.00

Offerings September 20th: \$1,152.00

August Financial Report

Estimated Expenses for August: \$18,702.00

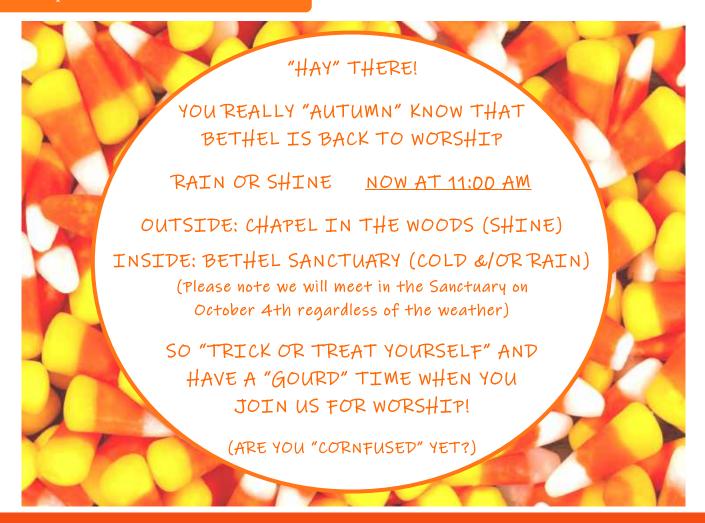
Total August Offerings Received: \$9,773.00











World Communion Sunday
October 4th, 2020 <u>11:00 am</u>
(please meet in the Sanctuary regardless of weather)

On Sunday, October 4th, we will meet in the Sanctuary to celebrate World Communion Sunday.

Please follow the guidelines below for when we worship indoors:

- No greeters
- No bulletins
- No singing
- Social distancing seating (rows are taped off); families may sit together
- Offering plates will be on stands at all doors
- Once inside please <u>stay in</u> and once outside please <u>stay out</u>
- No social gathering in Memorial Hall or other rooms
- "Wearing of face coverings or face shields are strongly suggested for entering and leaving, seating at Social Distancing are required"
 - Motion passed by the Bethel Session on August 9th, 2020

Worship Committee (continued) . . .

Instructions for Holy Communion on October 4th, 2020

Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic will be normal except for how Elders will hand out the elements. Instead of Elders bringing the elements to each person, you will pick up a pre-made communion kit at the door. This kit is pre-packaged with both



bread and juice. Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao will conduct the usual Prayer of Thanksgiving and when it is time to partake of the elements, she will say, "The bread of Life take and eat". Pick up your pre-packaged communion kit, tear off the seal - the bread will be there - and we will take the bread together. (Note that there will be gluten free kits available but there are only six kits total. Please only take one if you have gluten sensitivities or an allergy.) After a moment or two, Rev. Meehan-Yao will say "the cup of salvation ", remove the seal on your cup and we will then drink the juice together. Trash bins will be available at the door for used sets. Elders will be present on each side and in back to help when needed, keeping social distancing guidelines.

October Lectionary Schedule - ALL SERVICES ARE NOW AT 11:00 AM

*October 4th, 2020

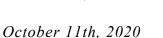
18th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday Sacrament of Holy Communion

Guest Minister: Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao

Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4-14

Matthew 21:33-46

(*Please note we will meet in the Sanctuary on October 4th regardless of the weather)



19th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Melissa Harmon

Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14



October 18th, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Melissa Harmon

Isaiah 45:1-7 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22

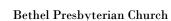
October 25th, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson

Leviticus 19:1-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46



Worship Committee (continued) . . .



Many thanks! ...

Evelyn LaPorte would like to thank her entire church family for the many visits, cards, and prayers during her lengthy stay in the hospital. The thoughtfulness and kind words of so many brought comfort during a difficult time. Evelyn is home now, and she and Kenneth are doing well.



Flower Schedule October 2020

ALL SERVICES START AT 11:00 AM

*October 4th Drury Whitaker

(World Communion Sunday)

*worship will be in the Sanctuary regardless of weather

October 11th Doris True

October 18th Jane Law (Memorial)

October 25th Laura Barmore (Memorial)

Worship Services will be held at the Chapel in the Woods (unless the weather is cold and/or rainy, then in the Sanctuary). Flowers are still the standard to use but flowering plants and ferns are also appropriate and welcome.



Birthdays - October . . .



Bruce Lamond	October 1
Isabelle Bosserman	October 5
Jane Law	October 7
Emily Williams	October 7
Adrienne Barker	October 8
Pat Quick	October 11
Tish Folsom	October 12
Louise Hoy	October 14
Evelyn LaPorte	October 16
Dale K. Smith	October 17
Dan Gano	October 21

Sarah Ralston	October 22	
Debbie Hughes	October 24	
Libby Smith	October 24	
Mark Wade	October 25	
Eloise Moore	October 27	
Diane Wright	October 27	
Dinah Johnston	October 28	
John Pilson	October 31	
Carol Sprouse	October 31	

Leona Ware







November 1

Anniversaries - October . . .



Bethany & Larry Fresh Keedie & Kyle Leonard Paige & Andrew Heizer Mary Ann & John Anderson Myra & Roscoe Botkin, Jr.

Lee Ann & Tom Heizer Luanne & Sam Leonard October 5, 1991

October 14

October 14, 2017

October 29, 1955

October 31, 1998

November 1, 1985

November 1, 1980



October 12th Columbus Day

October 31st Halloween





ctober 2020

SATURDAY	3	10 Afternoon Wedding - Chapel in the Woods	17	24 Afternoon Wedding - Chapel in the Woods	31 Halloween HARP
FRIDAY	2	6	16	23	30
THURSDAY	1	8 Church Office Closed	15	22	29
WEDNESDAY		7 Church Office Closed	14	21	28
TUESDAY		6 Church Office Closed	13 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline (for Sunday the 18th)	20	27 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline (for Sunday, Nov 1st)
MONDAY		\$ *Church Office Closed 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts *Adrienne on vacation October 5th - October 8th	12 Columbus Day 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Columbus	19 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline (for Sunday the 25th) 12:00 pm - November Tower Deadline	26 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts
SUNDAY		4 World Communion Sunday 11:00 am - Worship & Communion (service in Sanctuary) 12:00 pm - Deacons	11 11:00 am - Worship (at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not) 7:00 pm - Session Meeting	18 11:00 am - Worship (at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not)	25 11:00 am - Worship (at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not) Names for All Saints' Service Deadline

Bethel Church Session

<u>Class of 2021</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> <u>Class of 2023</u>

Derek Almarode Jimmy Callison Tamara Barbour

*Bill Brubeck **Bob Olson Brian Lee

Pat Quick Dave Schooley Dale Thompson

Kathy Swisher Tim Turner Jill Webb,

Clerk of Session Dave Schooley

*Serving a one year term **Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Deacons

<u>Class of 2021</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> <u>Class of 2023</u>

Katie McElveenWade CashTom HeizerJoe Moore**Ellen FitzgeraldMitch LathropLinda TenneyCharlie JohnsonD.W. Miller

**Alex Sproul

<u>Co-Chair</u> Wade Cash <u>Co-Chair</u> Charlie Johnson <u>Secretary</u> Linda Tenney

**Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Trustees

Class of 2021Class of 2022Class of 2023Charlie JohnsonBill BrubeckGuy D. BrooksDale C. SmithJames WilliamsLee Ann Heizer

Bethel Church Staff

Adrienne Barker, Office Manager (540) 886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com
Bethel Office Days & Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

JoAnn Pendley, Bell Choir Director Alex Sproul, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer Lori Miller, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians