

The Tower



December 2020 &
Sunday, November 22nd, 2020

563 Bethel Green Road Staunton, Virginia 24401*

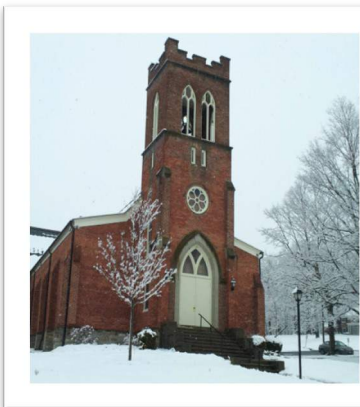
*(540)886-6041 *bethelpc@gmail.com*

www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

A Note on the Tower & Weekly News . . .

Please Note: The Bethel December Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly Message for Sunday, November 22nd are both scheduled for distribution this week, and are combined in this publication. Blessings to you in the coming weeks and month!

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



"Blessing not Stressing"

Let's face it, friends: this year has been one for the record books. To say that this has been a stressful time is an understatement. Simply put, this year has been overwhelming on many different fronts and it appears that the hits just keep on coming. In these times we tend to forget the blessings in our lives.

There are many different distractions, such as juggling work and personal time, managing finances, caring for our children and grandchildren, and dealing with our relationship issues. The last thing on our mind when we are stressed is our ability to feel blessed. However, when we let this stress rule over our lives, we forget to appreciate the small things. We might forget to say thank you to those who go above and beyond to help and assist us every day.

We have likely dropped the ball in our communication with God. Over time, we lose the gratitude and appreciation we have for the blessings we share. The smallest things in our life are usually the most important. There is no reason to stress out because the blessings the Lord has given you triumph over all the worries. 2nd Corinthians teaches us that in Christ the old is done and the new reigns.

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

The biggest and most amazing blessing that God gave the world was His one and only son Jesus Christ. God gave us Jesus to rid us of our sins and allow us a way to spend eternity in heaven. The Lord replaces our infected heart with a new spiritual heart which gives us a fresh start so that we can receive the gift of salvation.

(continued on page 2)

As This Elder Sees It & The Weekly Message *(continued)* . . .

. . .As Christians we have already accepted the Lord into our hearts, so take a moment to pause and remember how the blessings flow in our lives. Set aside your stress and your anxiety and remember to celebrate the Lord and His blessings! Remember: in your prayers thank God every day for giving you this opportunity.

In Christ's Service,
Derek Almarode, Elder

General Church News & Information . . .



Do you have risk factors that make you more vulnerable in contracting the coronavirus and you can only be around those wearing a mask when indoors?

The Worship Committee has set things up so the worship service (& audio) is streaming on the TV in Memorial Hall. Audio of the service is also available in the Church Kitchen. (TV streaming of the service will also be offered in the Church Kitchen soon!)

The Session wants to keep everyone comfortable but also safe by considering the needs of those with higher risk factors.

Thanks for your cooperation!

GUEST
speaker

GUEST SPEAKER
NOVEMBER 22ND

Bethel welcomes Mr. Mark Wilson as the Guest Speaker on Sunday, November 22nd.

Mark is from Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Ft. Defiance where he is an Elder and Trustee. He has done pulpit supply for a number of local Presbyterian churches, most recently from Hebron Presbyterian Church.



Please let Mark know how much we appreciate his joining us for worship again!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday, November 22nd

Christ the King Sunday

Mark Wilson, Guest Speaker

11:00 am Worship

12:00 pm Youth Committee Meeting

Monday, November 23rd

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office Hours

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 24th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office Hours

Wednesday, November 25th



Church Office Closed for
Thanksgiving holiday
(November 25th - 27th)

Thursday, November 26th

Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Office Closed



Friday, November 27th

Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 28th



10:00 am Decorating the
Church for Advent
& Christmas

(calendar continues on page 3)

General Church News & Information (continued) . . .

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (continued)

Sunday, November 29th



1st Sunday of Advent

Derek Almarode, Guest Speaker

11:00 am Worship & Hanging of the Greens

Deadline: Nominating Committee Forms - Officer Suggestions



The flowers on November 22nd are given by Tom & Tammy Barbour in loving memory of Tammy's parents, Dick & Betty Townsend.

**DO YOU KNOW?
WHAT IS CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY?**



Sunday, November 22nd, is Christ the King Sunday. At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

This festival was established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI. Originally it took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins.

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADER:
DAVID SCHOOLEY**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE
NOVEMBER 15TH: 30**

Session News & Notes . . .

Bethel has undergone many changes over the past few years and will continue to do so in the coming months and next year. Do you have any opinions or concerns about past and/or future changes and events that have occurred or will occur at Bethel? If so, feel free to reach out to any of the Elders listed below. They would be happy to discuss any questions or worries you may have.

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
Pat Quick	(540) 337-4259	quickp@comcast.net
David Schooley	(540) 255-6070	dschooley05@gmail.com
Kathy Swisher	(540) 885-7397	kswisher@gmail.com
Tim Turner	(540) 448-1431	timturner@lumos.net
Jill Webb	(540) 294-5770	jlwebb320@comcast.net

November Session Report

The Session met Sunday, November 8th, 2020, with Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and eight Elders present. Our meeting was held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall with proper social distancing. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Reviewed and approved the Congregational Meeting to nominate and elect five members from the congregation. They are to serve on the Nominating Committee for the nomination of church officers for the upcoming year (Class of 2024). The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6th, 2020, following worship. Members of the congregation will be needed to volunteer for this important committee.

The PCUSA Joy Gift Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 13th, 2020. This offering will be distributed by the PCUSA to Board of Pensions assistance programs.

Following a church-wide survey it was determined by majority to keep the Christmas Eve service at 9:00 pm.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee reported that they have found a new Disbursing Treasurer who will takeover the position on January 1st, 2021.

On the subject of the Gracious Dismissal Policy from the PCUSA, the Session has not heard from the committee in charge of the procedure from Shenandoah Presbytery. Presbytery is having trouble with scheduling meetings and finding committee members due to COVID. Information from Shenandoah Presbytery will be forthcoming soon, but no specific date has been given.

David Schooley,
Clerk of Session



Congregational Meeting - Sunday, December 6th

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 6th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect five members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. Be thinking and praying about whom God may be calling to serve on this committee - could it even be you?

ELDER-ON-CALL NOVEMBER 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month of November please contact **Bill Brubeck**.

(540) 885-5871 (home)
(540) 290-1172 (cell - call or text)
brubeck@mgwnet.com

ELDER-ON-CALL DECEMBER 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month of December please contact **Kathy Swisher**.

(540) 885-7397 (call or text)
kswisher@gmail.com

Church Office News & Notes . . .

The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 25th - November 27th, 2020. The staff of Bethel wishes you a blessed Thanksgiving!

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

(Due to the Thanksgiving holiday Adrienne will be in the office on Monday, November 23rd.)



NEW BETHEL OFFICE HOURS!

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

*(Lunch usually taken
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)*

Keep an eye on the Weekly News for any changes with office days and/or hours. The Church Office will be closed for both the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. Thanks!



The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 7th - Friday, December 11th while Adrienne is on vacation. Volunteers will be

checking the answering machine for phone messages daily along with checking the church mailbox a few times that week. If you have an immediate need or need pastoral care please contact the Elder-on-Call for the month of December, Kathy Swisher at (540) 885-7397 (call or text) or kwswisher@gmail.com. Thanks!



The Church Office will be closed Thursday, December 24th through Tuesday, December 29th for the Christmas holiday, and then on Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st for the New Year.

The staff of Bethel wishes God's blessings to you and your family during the Christmas season and in the coming year!

DEADLINES - WEEKLY NEWS & JANUARY 2021 TOWER



The deadline for the Order of Worship & Weekly News *for both* Sunday, December 6th & Sunday, December 13th is 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 1st.

The deadline for the January Tower Newsletter along with the Order of Worship & Weekly News for Sunday, December 20th is 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 15th.

The deadline for the Order of Worship & Weekly News *for both* Sunday, December 27th & Sunday, January 3rd is 9:00 am on Monday, December 21st.

You may leave articles and announcements in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com (*email is preferred*).

As always we welcome and appreciate early submissions before the stated deadlines! All announcements should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why? All announcements should also be fully written out in a concise and understandable format with ALL details included. Please don't send Adrienne a list of words, assuming she will understand what you would like your announcement to say and then expect her to write it out as well. Many thanks for your understanding on this issue!

Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or Christmas 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 worship packet on Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve. Please fill out (COMPLETELY) 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 Sunday, December 6th.

*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). Additional forms will be available with your worship packet in the coming weeks. Only red poinsettias are available for order. Thank you!



Christmas Poinsettias and BERF Donations Form

Please fill out the form below, attach the check or cash and place in the offering plate or in Adrienne’s mailbox in Memorial Hall 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 Sunday, December 6th.

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: _____

*Poinsettias will be on display in the church on
December 13th, December 20th, Christmas Eve, December 27th
**Remember to pick- up Poinsettia(s) following the worship service
on December 27th or following the Christmas Eve Service.***

Church Office News & Notes *(continued)* . . .

What's Happening

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!



Updated directories (text only) will be available within the next few weeks. Printed copies will be available on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room through the Christmas holiday. Please let Adrienne know if you need her to snail mail or email a copy to you. Also, she'll be happy to make you a copy anytime throughout the year.

If you have a mailbox in Memorial Hall please check it and clean it out periodically. Many of the mailboxes in Memorial Hall are starting to pile up with mail again. Time sensitive information along with bills may be placed in your mailbox for approval and/or your reply may be needed. Thanks!



Congregational Care Committee . . .

Bethel Prayer List (updated 11/20/20)

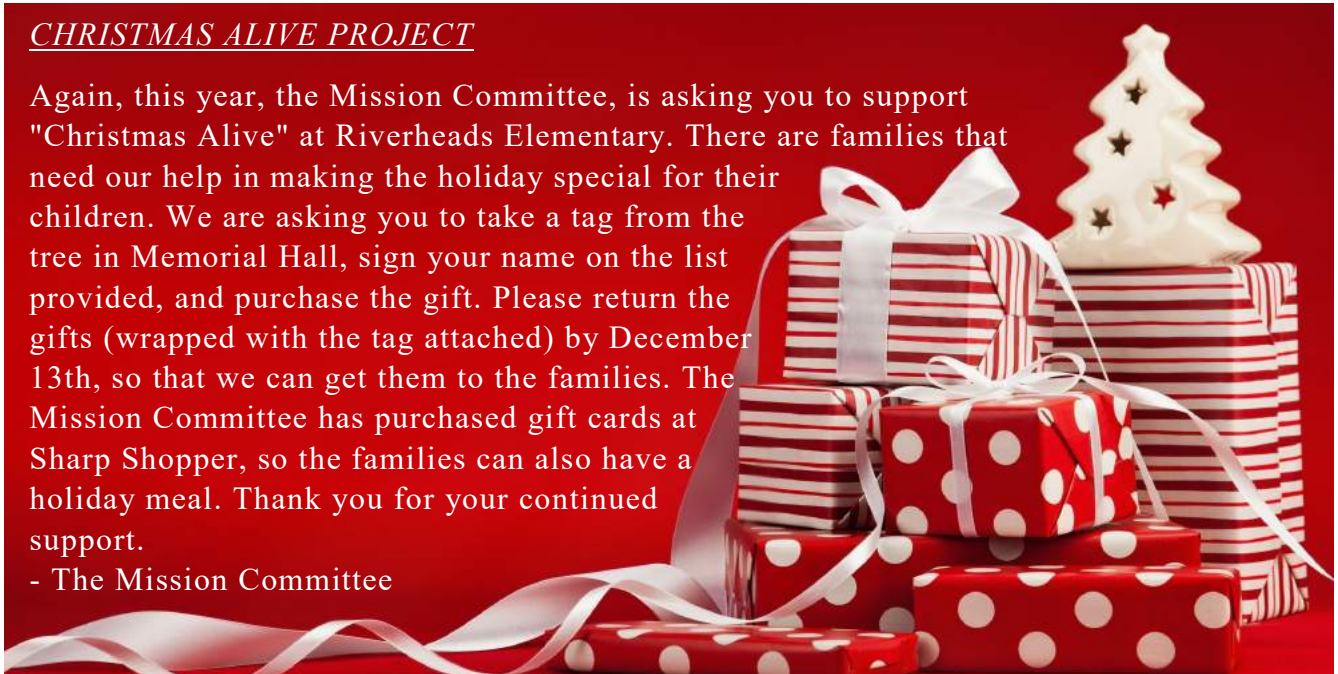
<u>New Additions</u>	Eleanor Feldon	Davis Williams <i>(daughter of Ben & Tessa Williams)</i>
<u>Congregation Members</u>	Jarod Davis & Family	Dan & Ginny Gano
Bobby Goodson	Karen Koogler	Ken & Evelyn LaPorte
Sam Leonard	Margaret Liptrap	John Pilson
Doris True	Alice Wooddell	
<u>Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation</u>		Sarah Brownlee
Joe Fleming	David Law	Roy Pilson
Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey	Barbara Shaner
Beth Shaw	Walter Wade	
<u>Sympathies & Condolences</u>	Family & Friends of Dr. & Mrs. John Forbes	
Family of Maegan A. Hoy	Family & Friends of Allen Quick	
Family of Mark Sawyer	Family of Rob Schnurr	
<u>Community, Country, & World</u>		
Doctors, nurses, & those who work in healthcare including volunteers		
All Military Leaders & Personnel		
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers		
Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia		

Missions Committee . . .

CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROJECT

Again, this year, the Mission Committee, is asking you to support "Christmas Alive" at Riverheads Elementary. There are families that need our help in making the holiday special for their children. We are asking you to take a tag from the tree in Memorial Hall, sign your name on the list provided, and purchase the gift. Please return the gifts (wrapped with the tag attached) by December 13th, so that we can get them to the families. The Mission Committee has purchased gift cards at Sharp Shopper, so the families can also have a holiday meal. Thank you for your continued support.

- The Mission Committee



Thanks to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year! Fourteen shoeboxes were collected for children who may not get to celebrate Christmas without your help.

Thanks! - The Mission Committee



Presbyterian Women . . .

GIFT CARDS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS

a ministry of the Presbyterian Church

The Bethel Women plan to deliver gift cards to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, known as PCHH, in Wytheville, VA. It is a long-term residential facility that accommodates up to 30 children from ages 5 to 18 and serves more than 90 residents annually. The children are offered life skills training, psychiatric evaluation, education, counseling, faith development programs, hope, purpose, and a home in a stable and loving environment that is overseen by God's love and grace. PCHH will appreciate donations to the children for Christmas.

The staff at PCHH has suggested our gifts should include cards from Walmart, McDonald's, Wendy's, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, or Family Dollar.

If you can participate in this project, please print the purchase amount of the gifts on the cards and deliver them to Stephanie Rivers, Barbara Gough, or Joyce Miller before Sunday, December 6th, 2020. (You may also contact them if you have any questions.) Thank you for your help with this effort by Bethel's Presbyterian Women.



Presbyterian Women (continued) . . .

Presbyterian Women Community Outreach Projects - Valley Mission



DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED AT THE VALLEY MISSION THRIFT STORES

THEY ARE SEEKING: CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD WARES, & FURNITURE

There is a box in Memorial Hall for clothing donations (only). Please place any gently used or new clothing in the box by next Sunday, November 29th, at noon. You can also drop off donations of clothing and/or the other items listed above at the thrift stores.

Monday - Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm/Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm/Sunday Closed

Staunton Store (604 N Coalter Street; 540/885-7227)

Waynesboro Store (2800 B West Main Street; 540/946-4395)

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR THOSE IN NEED



Help the Valley Mission provide Christmas this year to homeless individuals of all ages. Please consider donating a gift card (Walmart preferred) so that the Valley Mission Case Management Team may shop for specific items and sizes that are most needed by those in their care. Gift cards must be dropped off at the Valley Mission by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2020.

THANK YOU for helping this Christmas be special for those in need!



The updated Presbyterian Women Yearbook for 2020-2021 will be available soon. Copies will be placed in Memorial Hall and on the table in the Bumgardner Classroom. Please let Adrienne know if you would like her to mail you a copy! Thanks!

Stewardship & Finance . . .

Christmas Joy Offering 2020

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received during the worship service on Sunday, December 13th, 2020. Special envelopes will be included with your worship packet that Sunday specifically for "Christmas Joy". There will be inserts included in your worship packet in the next few weeks with more information about the Christmas Joy Offering.



What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for over eighty years, the Christmas Joy 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 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.



Bethel Presbyterian Church

Nomination of Church Officers

It is time to start the process of electing officers for the Class of 2024, so they can attend training in February and be ready for ordination/installation in March. The Session & Nominating Committee is requesting that EVERY member of the congregation participate in this process! Help identify potential officers with your suggestions to the Nominating Committee. Do not worry that they may have already been suggested!

When thinking and praying about those congregation members to nominate, ask yourselves if they faithfully try to live their lives demonstrating the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”? Ask God who also might best be able to aid and assist in leading Bethel during this time of transition.

After receiving your advice and after much prayer, the Nominating Committee will meet and nominate four elders, three deacons, and two trustees for a three-year term to fill positions that will be vacant at the end of February. After the nominees are announced, the congregation will meet in January to elect church officers for the Class of 2024.

Support the Nominating Committee by praying for them as they work to discern those who God is calling to service and leadership at Bethel.

You have a few options in submitting a nominating form: (1) You may print off the form on page 11 (if communication is by email) and complete the information and return it to one of two “Nominations Boxes” located in the vestibule or Memorial Hall (beginning November 15th) or mail to the Church Office (2) Fill out the printed copy of the form (on page 11) & return to one of the available boxes in the vestibule or Memorial Hall (beginning November 15th) (3) You may email your suggestions to Adrienne in the Church Office at bethelpc@gmail.com.

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, NO MATTER HOW THEY ARE SUBMITTED. Please note that ALL suggestions remain confidential and will not be discussed except within the Nominating Committee. Thank you for your suggestions, support, and prayers!

<u>SESSION</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u> Derek Almarode *Bill Brubeck Pat Quick **Kathy Swisher	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u> Jimmy Callison Bob Olson Dave Schooley Tim Turner	<u>CLASS OF 2023</u> Tamara Barbour Brian Lee Dale Thompson Jill Webb
<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u> Katie McElveen Joe Moore Linda Tenney	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u> Wade Cash Ellen Fitzgerald Charlie Johnson Alex Sproul	<u>CLASS OF 2023</u> Tom Heizer Mitch Lathrop D. W. Miller
<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u> Charlie Johnson **Dale C. Smith	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u> Bill Brubeck James Williams	<u>CLASS OF 2023</u> Guy D. Brooks Lee Ann Heizer

***Designates those ineligible for re-election to the same office but may be eligible for any other office.*

**Will be rotating off the Session after this year.*

Suggestions for the Nominating Committee for the Class of 2024.

Please complete both #1 and #2 for each nominee.

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

You may contact me for more information or if you have any questions. *(optional)*

Name _____ Phone _____

Stewardship & Finance (continued) . . .

October Financial Report

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$18,702.00

Offerings October 2020: \$7,341.00

Weekly Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget: \$4,317.00

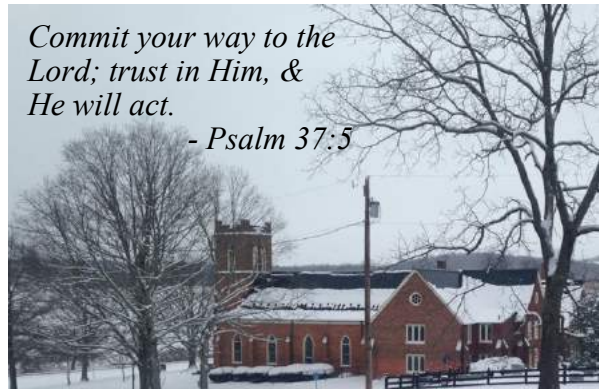
Offerings November 1st: \$2,095.00

Offerings November 8th: \$1,810.00

Offerings November 15th: \$2,299.00

*Commit your way to the
Lord; trust in Him, &
He will act.*

- Psalm 37:5



Worship Committee . . .

Worship & Lectionary Schedule ALL SERVICES ARE AT 11:00 AM

November 29th, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens

Advent Wreath “Candle of Hope”

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode

Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

December 6th, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent Advent Wreath “Candle of Peace”

Guest Speaker: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

(Congregational Meeting following worship)

December 13th, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent Joy Gift Offering Advent Wreath “Candle of Joy”

Guest Speaker: Rev. Melissa Harmon

Isaiah 61:1-4 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20th, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent Advent Wreath “Candle of Love”

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

(schedule continues on page 13)



Worship Committee (continued) . . .

December 24th, 2020

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00 pm

Advent Wreath “Christ Candle”

Guest Speaker: TBA

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)



December 27th, 2020

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Guest Speaker

Mark Wilson

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



1st Sunday of Advent Make sure to join us on Sunday, November 29th, 2020, as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season! Derek Almarode will be the Guest Speaker and worship will be a special Advent service. The symbols of Advent will be explained and we will light our Christmas tree for the first time this season! Join us for this traditional holiday service!

Candles of Advent Advent means “arrival,” and during this season, we prepare for the arrival of the Christ child. We will light a candle on the Advent wreath each week. Shaped in a perfect circle of evergreens, it symbolizes God’s eternity. These four Sundays preceding Christmas are recognized for four virtues. The candles symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. The fifth and final candle is the Christ candle which will be lit on Christmas Eve to remind us of the light Jesus Christ brings to the world.



ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE

November 29th Shirley Heizer & Betty Heizer

December 6th Steve & Mo Kyle

December 13th Bill & Sally Brubeck

December 20th David & Betty Schooley

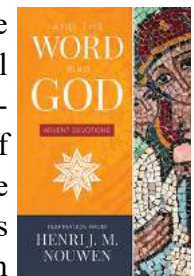
Christmas Eve (December 24th) TBA

THE VOTES ARE IN!

After receiving several responses from the congregation the decision has been made that the Christmas Eve service will remain at 9:00 pm. Thanks to EVERYONE who took the time to respond to the survey. It is hoped that the Worship Committee will still see all of you on Christmas Eve!



In the vestibule there are currently Advent devotional books provided by the Worship Committee free of charge. The book “And The Word Was God” provides devotions that will help with having a more focused and prayerful Advent season. Each day during Advent has a scripture along with writings of Henri J.M Nouwen, a master theologian. These devotions will guide you through this Advent season with hope, faith, joy and peace.



Make sure to pick up your free copy of this Advent resource today! Please let Adrienne know if you would like her to mail you a copy and she will be happy to do so.

Worship Committee (continued) . . .



REMINDER - INDOOR WORSHIP GUIDELINES FOR COVID

Please follow the guidelines below for when we worship indoors:

- ◆ No greeters
- ◆ 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 stay in and once outside please stay out
- ◆ No social gathering in Memorial Hall or other rooms
- ◆ Wearing of face coverings or face shields is strongly suggested for entering and leaving, social distancing seating is required.

- passed by the Bethel Session on August 9th, 2020

**December
Worship
Leader:**

Jill Webb



Inclement Weather Policy . . .

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.



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. If the Church Office is closed due to inclement weather and you have a need please contact Adrienne during normal office hours. She will still be available by phone, text, and email even if she is unable to be in the Church Office. Thank you!

Flower Schedule & Notes . . .

Flower Schedule
December 2020

December 6th Kay Swisher

December 13th -
December 27th
Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to be removed from the schedule to provide flowers in the Sanctuary please contact the Church Office by December 31st, 2020. Otherwise you will remain on the schedule for 2021. Thanks to all those who have provided flowers in the past!



Flower Schedule & Notes (continued) . . .



FLOWER COORDINATOR NEEDED!

From Drury Whitaker . . .

As the year of 2020 comes to an end I find myself no longer able to continue as Flower Coordinator for Bethel. Being able to help with this task for several years has been a blessing and a joy! I appreciate all of you that have shared your time and talents in providing flower arrangements not only for worship but for special occasions & events. Many thanks to you all!

If you are interested in taking on this rewarding role please contact the Bethel PWCT. Cindy Almarode is Moderator & Stephanie Rivers is Secretary and either one would be happy to talk with you about what the role of Flower Coordinator entails.

December's Happy Birthdays . . .



William Rivers	December 1	Alice Wooddell	December 17
Jimmy Callison	December 2	Sam Goodson	December 19
Guy Brooks	December 3	Bob Hoy	December 20
Paul Thompson	December 4	Luanne Leonard	December 20
Jackson LaPorte	December 7	Mitch Lathrop	December 24
Georgeanne Ludt	December 8	Sydney Smith	December 25
Puggie Sprouse	December 8	Lee Ann Heizer	December 29
Samuel Williams	December 8	Shirley Heizer	December 29
Barbara Gough	December 12	James Schooley	December 30
Kay Agee	December 13		
Rhonda Johnson	December 13		
Joy Moody	December 15	Mac Williams	January 2
Austin Johnston	December 16	Katie McElveen	January 3
Cynthia Williams	December 16	D. W. Miller	January 3
Pamela Prickett	December 17	Hayley Morris	January 8

December's Happy Anniversaries . . .



Tish and Keith Folsom	December 7, 1985
Jackie and Bob Law	December 11, 1959
Tessa and Ben Williams	December 13, 2014
Ginny and Dan Gano	December 22, 1970
Margaret and Steve Kyle	December 27, 1986
Myran and Douglas Moore	January 5, 1992

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

Congratulations to Ben & Tessa Williams on the birth of their daughter Davis Elizabeth Williams. Davis was born on November 10th, 2020 and weighed 3 lbs, 9 oz. She is the granddaughter of James & Cynthia Williams and has a big brother, John Carr.



Cards can be sent to 831 McClures Mill Road, Greenville, VA 24440.
God's blessings to the Williams family and especially to little Davis!



November 29th 1st Sunday in Advent
December 21st Happy Winter! (Winter Begins)
December 24th Christmas Eve
December 25th Merry Christmas! (Christmas Day)
December 31st New Year's Eve



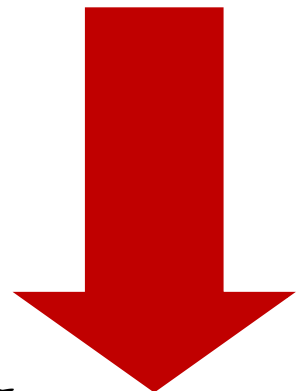
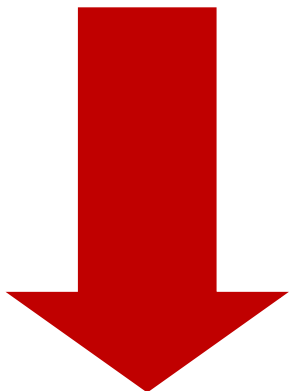
A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A FACE MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.






Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray.
Amen.

-- written by Rev. Richard Bott



DECEMBER CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE

December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 12:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News	2 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	3 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	4 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Worship 12:00 - Congregational Meeting 12:30 - Deacons Meeting Deadline: Poinsettia Orders Deadline: Gift Cards for PCHH	7 Church Office Closed <i>(Adrienne on vacation December 7th - 11th)</i> 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts	8 Church Office Closed	9 Church Office Closed	10 Church Office Closed	11 Church Office Closed Deadline: Gift Cards for Valley Mission	12 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Private Event <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering 11:00 - Worship 7:00 - Session Meeting Deadline: "Christmas Alive" Gifts	14 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	15 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 9:00 - Deadline: January 2021 Tower 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (December 20th)	16 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	17 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	18 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Worship	21 Happy Winter! - Winter Begins Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (December 27th, 2020 & January 3rd, 2021)	22 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	23 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed <i>(Christmas Holiday - December 24th - 29th)</i> 9:00 - Christmas Eve Service 	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed 	26
27 11:00 am - Worship	28	29	30 Church Office Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (2020 year end tasks)	31 New Year's Eve 		

Bethel Church Session

Class of 2021

Derek Almarode
*Bill Brubeck
Pat Quick
Kathy Swisher

Class of 2022

Jimmy Callison
**Bob Olson
Dave Schooley
Tim Turner

Class of 2023

Tamara Barbour
Brian Lee
Dale Thompson
Jill Webb

Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

*Serving a one year term

**Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Deacons

Class of 2021

Katie McElveen
Joe Moore
Linda Tenney

Class of 2022

Wade Cash
**Ellen Fitzgerald
Charlie Johnson
**Alex Sproul

Class of 2023

Tom Heizer
Mitch Lathrop
D.W. Miller

Co-Chair Wade Cash

Co-Chair Charlie Johnson Secretary Linda Tenney

**Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Trustees

Class of 2021

Charlie Johnson
Dale C. Smith

Class of 2022

Bill Brubeck
James Williams

Class of 2023

Guy D. Brooks
Lee Ann Heizer

Bethel Church Staff

Adrienne Barker, Office Manager
Bethel Office Days & Hours:

(540) 886-6041
Tuesday - Friday

bethelpc@gmail.com
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