



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of January 10th, 2021

THE WEEKLY MESSAGE

“Then he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.’” - Matthew 13:3-8

Here we are back in church closure but we can not let this stop us from our purpose as Christians. I chose the parable above because while reading the book of Matthew it struck a cord with me. Having a church full of farmers and gardeners, we should know how to make things grow. So the questions I have for you are:

- ⇒ Are you planting seeds?
- ⇒ Are you protecting the seeds you already planted?
- ⇒ Can you get the soil and water of Jesus on the seeds that fell in the path, in the rocks, the thorns before the crows eat them?

So while we are being forced to be apart again, remember what our purpose is; sharing and protecting the seeds of our church through the love of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! You might have to throw some dirt or water on people to help them with their seeds.

Hope to fellowship again soon!

In Christian Love,
Elder Brian Lee

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS & INFORMATION

With worship and church activities suspended, you are encouraged to continue praying for your friends, family, church, and country. Check on each other whether by phone calls, cards, text messages and/or emails. Likewise, if you need help with anything or need someone to talk with please feel free to reach out and contact the Elder-on-Call or one of the Elders listed on page 2. Until we can return to worship together on March 7th, maintaining unity within the church is the priority.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 10th

Baptism of the Lord

7:00 pm Session Meeting
(Fellowship Hall & Zoom)



Monday, January 11th

Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 12th

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

12:00 pm Deadline: Weekly News
(January 17th)



Wednesday, January 13th

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

Thursday, January 14th

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

Friday, January 15th

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



CHURCH OFFICE NEWS & NOTES

DEADLINES

The deadline for the Weekly News for Sunday, January 17th is Tuesday, January 12th at noon.

The deadline for the Weekly News for January 24th along with the February 2021 Tower is Tuesday, January 19th, at 9:00 am.

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

ELDER-ON-CALL *JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021*

If you have a pastoral need please contact Derek Almarode.

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

If you need help with anything or need someone to talk with please feel free to contact the Elder-on-Call or any of the Elders listed below.

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

BETHEL OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Lunch usually taken 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)

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CHURCH OFFICE NEWS & NOTES

(continued)

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

The deadline for the 2020 Annual Reports is Friday, January 15th. This date was chosen by the Session to give Adrienne a chance to organize and publish the reports for distribution in February. If you were a chair of a committee or a committee or church treasurer in 2020 please have your report to the Church Office by the 15th!

ALL reports must be submitted by email (preferably in Microsoft Word or PDF).

THEY HAVE ARRIVED!

The "These Days" devotional books for this quarter (*January, February, March*) have arrived. Copies are available in Memorial Hall, the vestibule and on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room. Please contact Adrienne if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.



The publisher of the Daily Family Devotions has resumed printing! Copies are available in Memorial Hall, the vestibule and on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room. The weekly devotions will be put out the Wednesday before. For example the devotions for the week of the 11th were put out on Wednesday, January 6th. Please contact Adrienne if you would like to have a copy mailed to you each week.

COMMUNICATONS

EMAIL ISSUES: There has been a problem with emails sent out from our congregational email account being returned and/or marked as spam. Please add our domain name bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org to your address book and/or safe sender list. Also, please add the office email address bethelpc@gmail.com. Please let Adrienne know if you have any questions or no longer wish to receive email from the church.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PRAYER LIST (updated 1/7/21)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family	Dan & Ginny Gano
Bobby Goodson	Ken & Evelyn LaPorte
Sam Leonard	Margaret Liptrap
John Pilson	Doris True
Alice Wooddell	

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Eleanor Feldon
Matthew Fitzgerald	Joe Fleming
David Law	Cathy Miller
Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey	Richard Ritchie
Barbara Shaner	Beth Shaw
Jack True	Walter Wade

Sympathies & Condolences

Family & Friends of Karen Kooger
Family & Friends of Allen Quick

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, nurses, & healthcare professionals including volunteers
All military leaders & personnel
Law enforcement, firefighters, & EMS workers & volunteers

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STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

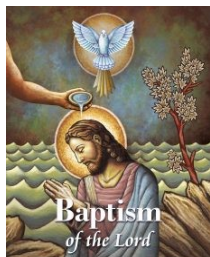
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget:	\$18,702.00
Offerings December 2020:	\$28,630.00

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

BAPTISM OF THE LORD IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2021

Even though we will not be worshipping together on January 10th, Christians around the world will be observing Baptism of the Lord. What does this special Sunday mean?



At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. Jesus' ministry to bring in God's rule was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus and a sign of God's approval was heard. On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus' baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and with all the baptized we are called to share in Jesus' ministry. In the waters of baptism, we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us and we are declared the children of God. This Sunday also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.

Information obtained from

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/baptism-lord/>

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00
Offerings December 6th:	\$20,480.00
Offerings December 13th:	\$1,705.00
Offerings December 20th:	\$3,910.00
Offerings December 27th: (updated)	\$2,535.00
Offerings January 3rd:	\$1,820.00

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Now that winter is finally here, Session has changed how we send out church notifications to members that church has been cancelled. The robocall system with emails, text or phone calls has been canceled. We are back to using Harrisonburg WHSV TV3 (along with Facebook). Elders and Deacons are asked to check their Shepherding List to see who needs a phone call.



THANK YOU! The following people helped make the Christmas season merry & bright at Bethel!

Thanks to Bill Francisco for donating the gorgeous Christmas tree!

Thanks to Wade & Phyllis Cash for decorating and setting up the Christmas tree!

Thanks to the Worship Committee elves who assisted in decorating the Sanctuary! And Alex Sproul and Mo Kyle who helped with taking all the decorations down!

We wanted to take a moment and thank the Swisher family who spent many years decorating the tree & making the Chrismon ornaments that we still use each year on the tree!