

# The Tower



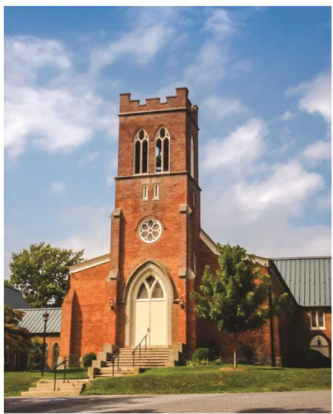
*April 2021 & the week of  
March 28th, 2021*

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\*www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org\*

## A Note on the Tower & Weekly News

Please Note: The Bethel April Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly News for March 28th are combined in this publication. Blessings to you in the coming weeks and month!

## As This Elder Sees It & The Weekly Message



*“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’” - Luke 10:40-42*

Over the course of our lives, we all find ourselves in an overwhelmed state.

Every morning we wake up with a defined agenda, our lives have schedules and responsibilities, everywhere we turn, there are things that need to be done, people we need to respond to, obligations we agreed to take care of not to mention the 100 other things that have popped up before noon.

Living in this busy world we feel like we live in a state of whiplash, always bracing and preparing ourselves for what could happen next. Is it too much? For some reason we believe we are invincible, and we are convinced that if we work just a little bit harder, we can organize the chaos! Friends, this is why we feel so defeated sometimes. We need to quit trying to catch lightning in a bottle.

In our busy lives we can be so caught up in trying to maintain the status quo that we will most likely miss the important opportunities God has placed in front of us.

We see this in our spiritual places of life. Take for instance, if I were to call you and ask for a short-term or long-term commitment to serve the church today would you accept? I already know the answer, and so does our most recent Nominating Committee. Simply put, it is hard to be generous when you are completely spent!

(continued)

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

Over the past week or so, I am sure we all have sat down in exhaustion and thought of our "to do lists" and realized we have failed somewhere in our plan.

- Everyone else can keep a kitchen clean.
- Everyone else has dinner on the table.
- Everyone else has a "budget" and can stay within it.
- Everyone else can manage multiple things at a time.
- Everyone else can be two places simultaneously.
- Everyone else can do everything else that I cannot.

This is mental defeat.

Yesterday was Ashlyn's birthday, Cindy, and I both worked a full schedule, as Ashlyn went to school and finished her day up with cheerleading practice. I had an early day planned so that I could go home, take care of all the farm chores, straighten up the house, pick up the food for dinner and be set to go for a 7:00 pm party time. Let us just say, I was late, finished my to do list at breakneck speed and was still not even close to being on time or ready as everyone was waiting on me to come back with dinner.

Guess what? No one was paying attention to any of the things I held a magnifying glass to. When I arrived home with dinner, late, the spirit of the house was light and humorous. Everyone was enjoying their visit with each other and enjoying being there with Ashlyn on her special day.

The point I am trying to make is I almost missed the important part because I was consumed with the wrong things.

I immediately realized there was no crisis of schedule or physical priorities. It was a gathering of friends and family content in being with each other simply filled with food, furniture, and love. In my state of mind to make things perfect for a lack of a better term I almost missed the gift of Christ. The love and friendship contained in that moment of time, unrepeatable that will never come again because life moves at a lightning speed.

With this said, I guarantee that less than 5% of what we all call "crises" are crises. It is the classic Mary-Martha situation found in our previously mentioned scripture reading:

*“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’”*

(continued)

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

Friends, the long and short of this article is to simply say we can be so consumed with our own lives that we rarely spend our available time in worry and in prayer for the people who are in crisis.

Examples of human crisis:

- The preteen girl on the side of the road, waiting for a stranger to use her body so there will be food for dinner because she is homeless and indigent.
- The baby, curled up and unmoving on a hospital bed, as her unemployed mother helplessly is rocking back and forth and explaining to the doctor that she has had a fever for four solid days and she waited to have her seen because she has no insurance to pay for her care.
- The homeless man living in a cardboard box under a bridge, because he simply cannot read or write and is unable to care for himself.
- A father and mother of three both losing their jobs because of a scheduled employment reduction.
- A family of four in intensive care after being struck head on by another vehicle.
- A newborn baby in a NICU with no family to love them.
- An individual who does not know the Lord and the salvation his love relationship brings.

Have we been so busy and so preoccupied that we have missed it? Yes, we have, more times than we care to count.

Today let us make a change, every time we catch ourselves in a panic, let us remember it is likely not something worth panicking about. We need to remember that there is real human crisis in the world. We can close our eyes and remind ourselves that we can either waste our time complaining that no one is helping us prepare for the events in life, or we can lay these grievances at the feet of Jesus and pray for the kind of heart that breaks for the right things.

I am so grateful for the files of artwork, the photos of new clothes and backpacks and the scribbled words that get better with every letter. What a gift.

Let us refuse to be so busy that we can't remember those less fortunate than us. When we do, there is a shift in our spirit. A realignment that brings a grateful spirit as we are in a relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Lord, let us be the kind of people who love the way You do and push through the chaos to reach what matters. In Jesus name, amen.

In Christ,  
Derek Almarode, Elder

## Weekly Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 28th

### **PALM SUNDAY!**

Special Offering:  
One Great Hour of Sharing

11:00 am      Worship & Communion &  
                         5 Cents A Meal Offering

12:00 pm      Congregational Meeting

Monday, March 29th

Monday of Holy Week

Church Office Closed

7:00 pm      Boy Scouts



Tuesday, March 30th

Tuesday of Holy Week

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

9:00 am      Deadline: Order of Worship  
& Weekly News (*April 4th*)

Wednesday, March 31st

Wednesday of Holy Week

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

Thursday, April 1st

April Fools Day!

Maundy Thursday

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



Friday, April 2nd

Good Friday

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

Saturday, April 3rd

Great Vigil of Easter

4:00 pm      Private Event  
(*Picnic Pavilion*)      (continued)

Sunday, April 4th

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**THE LORD HAS RISEN,  
HE HAS RISEN INDEED!**



7:00 am      Sunrise Service  
                         at the Chapel in the Woods\*

8:00 am      Covered Dish Breakfast at  
                         the Picnic Pavilion\*  
(*following Sunrise Service*)

11:00 am      Worship

*\*Rain Location: Sanctuary & Fellowship  
Hall*

(*Moon Phase: Last Quarter*)

## 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? Or are you more comfortable worshipping indoors with others if they wear a mask too?

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 (& audio) streaming of the service will be offered in the Fellowship Hall soon!

The Session wants to keep everyone healthy and comfortable!

Thanks for your cooperation!



**WELCOME &  
PLEASE JOIN US  
AS WE WORSHIP  
TOGETHER THIS  
PALM SUNDAY!**

## General Church News & Information

**PALM SUNDAY** Palm branches will be available in the vestibule on Palm Sunday (March 28th). If you are comfortable feel free to take one (or a few!) as you are entering or exiting the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday is a celebration for honoring Jesus Christ's victorious entry into Jerusalem where the people took palm branches as they went to meet him. While this was a joyful, special occasion for his followers, this event took place towards the end of his days on earth before being crucified.

In commemoration of this special day in the Christian faith palms are also placed at the front of the sanctuary instead of flowers.

*\*The Worship Committee has chosen for Bethel to use sustainably harvested Eco-Palms today.\**

### GUEST MINISTER - MARCH 28TH, 2021 - PALM SUNDAY

Bethel welcomes the Rev. Malcolm Brownlee as the Guest Minister on March 28th.

Rev. Brownlee grew up in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, and moved back there 10 years ago to retire. He has been pastor of churches in Hazard, Kentucky; Riverdale, Georgia; and Huntersville, North Carolina, and interim pastor of churches in Lexington, North Carolina; Beckley, West Virginia; and Fairfield and Rockbridge Baths, Virginia. From 1973 till 1984 he and his wife Sarah were missionaries in Indonesia. Bethel was one of their supporting churches during that time.

Rev. Brownlee has preached at Bethel many times before and always does a marvelous job! Please let him know how much we appreciate his joining us for worship on March 28th!



COMMUNION WILL BE RECEIVED DURING  
THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2021.



### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION ON MARCH 28TH, 2021

Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic will be normal except for how you receive the elements. Bethel will be making our own disposable (fresh) elements using plastic cups. Please pick up one of each, juice and bread, as you enter the sanctuary and follow Rev. Brownlee's instructions as we normally do. Elders will not be handing out the elements.

Rev. Brownlee will conduct the usual Prayer of Thanksgiving and when it is time to partake of the elements, he will say, "The bread of Life take and eat". We will then take the bread together. (Note that there will be gluten free kits available but there are only a few kits total. Please only take one if you have gluten sensitivities or an allergy.) After a moment or two, Rev. Brownlee will say "the cup of salvation", and we will then drink the juice together.

Trash bins will be available at the door for the used cups. Elders will be present on each side and in back to help if needed, while keeping social distancing guidelines.



## General Church News & Information

Important Notice!

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 28TH, 2021

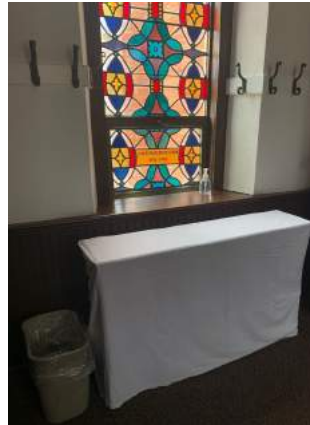
The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 28th, immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the budget for 2021 and to elect church officers for the Class of 2024.\*

All Congregation Members: please make plans to attend this meeting if you are able, on March 28th! Thank you!

\*Please see pages 13-15 for a complete list of Class of 2024 nominees.

Copies of the budget will be available on Sunday morning.



The Communion Table in the vestibule is clean, sanitized and ready to go for Sunday!

*Thanks to Tammy Barbour for getting everything ready for communion!*

The Worship Committee needs your help with providing flowers! There will be a cross outside the front entrance of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 4th). Please bring fresh flowers to church on Easter to place on the cross.



If you can't make it to worship on Easter Sunday but would still like to contribute flowers please drop them off at the church on Friday or Saturday.

**ATTENDANCE, MARCH 21ST: 27**



## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2021 at 7:00 AM**

**CHAPEL & PAVILION IN THE WOODS\***

**COVERED DISH BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW SERVICE**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE & YUMMY BREAKFAST DISH TO SHARE**

**DEREK ALMARODE, SPEAKER    GUEST SINGERS & MUSICIANS**

**\*RAIN LOCATION: BETHEL SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## Session News & Notes

### **ELDER-ON-CALL** **APRIL 2021**

If you have a pastoral need please contact Tammy Barbour.

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



### **UPDATE ON THE PROCESS OF SEPARATION FROM THE PCUSA**

Prior to the stated February Session meeting (Sunday, February 14th, 2021) the Session met with the Shenandoah Presbytery Listening Committee. This Presbytery committee is charged with visiting churches who are considering the option of leaving the PCUSA. They gather information along with listening to the concerns and reasoning of the Session in regard to beginning the dismissal process from the PCUSA.

The Bethel Session spent an hour explaining the feelings of the Elders (and Deacons) of Bethel along with their reasoning as to why they believe leaving the PCUSA is the best option for our church.

In the coming months the Presbytery Listening Committee will also be gathering opinions from you (the active congregation) to understand your feelings and your reasons why you may want to stay or may want to leave the PCUSA. As you answer their questions you are welcome to ask them any questions you may have.

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All congregation members should have received a letter a few weeks ago detailing the reasons why the Session has chosen to separate from the PCUSA denomination. This letter is extremely important for you to read so please contact the Church Office if you did not receive a copy. Thank you!

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.

Derek Almarode (540) 280-4940  
almarodes@verizon.net

Brian Lee (540) 649-3020  
grumpybrian1972@gmail.com

David Schooley (540) 255-6070  
dschooley05@gmail.com

Tim Turner (540) 448-1431  
timturner@lumos.net

Jill Webb (540) 294-5770  
jlwebb320@comcast.net

The Session met Sunday, March 14th, 2021 at 7:00 pm with the Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine Elders present. The meeting was held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall with proper social distancing and in combination with Zoom.

NEWS  
& Notes

- Approval was given for worship to be held at the Chapel in the Woods starting May 2nd - June 27th, weather permitting. The Session will evaluate the plan on worshipping outdoors on a month-to-month basis.
- Approval was given for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 28th, following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be for the election of Church Officers and the presentation of the 2021 budget.
- Cash flow and balance statements were distributed by the Bethel Treasurers.

SEE YOU AT WORSHIP!  
Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

## Church Office News & Notes

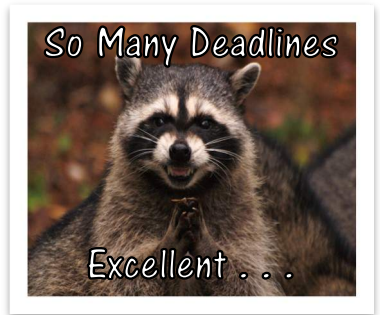
### DEADLINES - WEEKLY NEWS & THE TOWER

The Order of Worship and the Weekly News deadline is *usually* on Tuesday the week before at 9:00 am (unless otherwise stated). For example the deadline for Sunday, April 4th is Tuesday, March 30th, at 9:00 am.

The deadline for the April 25th Order of Worship and Weekly News *along with the* May 2021 Tower is Tuesday, April 20th, at 9:00 am.

You may leave articles and announcements in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto: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 assume Adrienne will understand what you would like your announcement to say unless you write it out. Many thanks for your understanding of this issue!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 5th, Easter Monday and Tuesday, April 6th. If you have a need or pastoral care please contact the Elder-on-Call (Tammy Barbour). The Church Office will be back open bright and early at 9:00 am on Wednesday, April 7th.



All current Bethel Elders will have a mailbox in Memorial Hall starting next week. The mailboxes will be in alphabetical order by your last name. If you had a mailbox last year it may be in a different spot! Please check your mailbox regularly for announcements, news, and mail. Questions? Contact Adrienne in the Church Office.



### 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS & 2021 BUDGET

There are copies of the 2020 Annual Reports available in Memorial Hall. If all copies have been taken there will be additional copies available in a few weeks. Adrienne will be happy to email you a copy too so please let her know if that is your preference.

### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING EASTER LILIES & DONATIONS

Many thanks to all of you who have ordered a lily and/or made an Easter donation to BERF.

The Easter Lilies purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the Weekly News on Easter Sunday (April 4th) in addition to the May 2021 Tower newsletter.

Remember if you purchased a lily to take it home with you following the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

There are always lilies that have been purchased and are left behind in the Sanctuary after Easter. Think about blessing one of our shut-ins or a friend with your beautiful lily instead.

The "These Days" are available for the next quarter (April, May, June). Pick up your copy in the vestibule, Memorial Hall, or on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room.



## Church Office News & Notes

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

(Lunch usually from 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)



Occasionally the Church Office may be closed unexpectedly due to various reasons including inclement weather or illness. If you have a need and no one answers the office phone please leave a message on the answering machine. You will be contacted within one to two business days. If you have an immediate need including pastoral care please call or text the Elder-on-Call.

Copies of the April 2021 Tower & Weekly News on March 28th will be available in the vestibule & Memorial Hall in the weeks following if you need one.

On Sunday (unless otherwise stated) printed copies of the current Order of Worship & Weekly News are in the vestibule along with a few copies in Memorial Hall. You are welcome to pick up a copy if you are comfortable with doing so. IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS PLEASE BRING A PRINTED COPY OF THE ORDER OF WORSHIP FROM HOME. You will need a copy of the Order of Worship for any unison readings. Thank you!



MAILING ISSUES I have had several congregation members contact me about items I have mailed to them taking one to two weeks to be delivered by the USPS. *Normally*, all printed copies of the Weekly News and/or Tower are mailed out on Friday. I will *try* to mail printed out copies of the above items to you earlier but sometimes it's just not possible.

We all wish mail could be delivered faster. The USPS is still handling a higher than normal volume of mail and packages. Thanks for your patience and understanding!

- Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

As postage costs increase we would like to remind you that the Bethel website is available 24/7 with all current copies of the Weekly News and the monthly Tower. So if you have access to the web please give it a try. Let us know if you are able to use the website instead of having printed copies mailed to you. (We can also email ALL church communication to you so please let us know if that is an option you would be willing to use.)



Did you miss worship on Sunday? Audio of the Sunday sermon is posted each week so you can listen to the sermon while you cook dinner, complete housework, fold laundry, etc. It's a great way to keep up with what we are learning and what themes are being illustrated when you can't make it to worship.

Our Communications Committee routinely updates the church Facebook page so you are welcome to check it out and follow the page to get updates when new information is posted.

Website: [www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org](http://www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BethelPresbyterianChurchStauntonVa/](https://www.facebook.com/BethelPresbyterianChurchStauntonVa/)

## Congregational Care Committee



Even though worship has resumed, you are still encouraged to pray for your friends, family, church, and country. Check on each other whether by phone, text messages, cards or email. It takes just a moment and is a great way to show others you care about them!

### PRAYER LIST (updated 3/27/21)

Bethel (our church) - Leaders & Congregation

#### Congregation Members

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

#### Family & Friends of the Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Eleanor Feldon
Matthew Fitzgerald	Joe Fleming
David Law	Roy Pilson
Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey
Carly Pond	Beth Shaw
Bill & Jake Sproul	

#### Sympathies & Condolences

Family & Friends of Paul "Butch" Davis  
Family & Friends of Walter Wade

#### Community, Country, & World

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

## Congregational Care Committee

### **HELP CONGREGATIONAL CARE KEEP THE PRAYER LIST UPDATED!**

Please call or text Tammy Barbour at (540) 471-0450 with any updates or changes to the Prayer List. You can also contact the Church Office at (540) 886-6041 with any updates or changes. Please don't forget to let us know when people have improved enough to be removed.

If you add a name to the list and have not given us an update after six weeks we will do our best to contact you to see if the person is improving or continues to need prayer. If we cannot contact you, the person may be removed from the list. We all want the Prayer List to be up-to-date. We do care, so please let us know how your friend, neighbor or family member is doing!



- The Congregational Care Committee

To my church family at Bethel, I want to thank you for all the cards, prayers and support during the loss of my son.

God bless,

Joyce Davis & Family



Many thanks for the cards, calls, and especially prayers during my recent surgery. Also, thanks for prayers for my son, Jack, who recently had open heart surgery and is having a good recovery. Always remember your prayers are important. - Doris True

## Continuing Education Scholarships & Loan Funds

### **KAREN KOOGLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Karen Koogler's family has established a scholarship in memory of Karen. The family has collectively provided a monetary gift to be utilized as seed money to assist Riverheads (only) graduates who wish to become a full-time educator upon graduation from college.

The scholarship is open ended and can receive additional benevolence into the principle over and above the seed money contributed by Karen's family. Additional contributions can be made at any time by anyone wishing to do so.

Recipients are Riverheads High School students who are seeking a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education. The student(s) will be chosen by the High School's Guidance Department based on their qualifications. At the completion of their application process the school's guidance department will notify the Scholarship Committee and request the available funds to be paid to the appropriate institution of higher learning where the scholarship recipient will be attending.

The Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Endowment Committee and the Stewardship & Finance Committee will serve as oversight. All contributions can be sent to Bethel Presbyterian Church via check. The check can be made out to the church and in the memo portion please indicate Karen Koogler Memorial Scholarship Fund.



## Continuing Education Scholarships & Loan Funds

### BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Bethel Christian Scholarship Fund/Program has been established for members of Bethel and their children who wish to further their education in institutions of higher learning or vocational education and training. The person seeking a scholarship will apply to the church's Scholarship Committee for approval and award authorization.

Once awarded the Scholarship Committee will pay the awarded amount directly to the appropriate institution of higher learning or vocational school where the scholarship recipient will be attending.

Recipients of this scholarship *must be a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church*. The scholarship cannot be awarded outside the membership of Bethel. The applicant must be enrolled as an active member, child of an enrolled active member, or a grandchild of an enrolled active member (whereby legal custody has been granted to the grandparent).

The scholarship is open ended and can receive additional benevolence into the principle over and above the seed money redistributed to establish it. Additional contributions can be made at any time by anyone wishing to do so.

The Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Endowment Committee, and the Stewardship & Finance Committee will serve as oversight. All contributions can be sent to Bethel Presbyterian Church via check. The check can be made out to the church and in the memo, portion please indicate Bethel Christian Scholarship Fund.



### BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION LOAN FUND

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund was established a number of years ago due to the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Financial aid from this fund is disbursed in the form of an *interest-free* loan (that must be paid back once the recipient has left school and/or has finished their education).

Aid from this fund is available to church members for any post-high school education - college or vocational education and training. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members: Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck, or David Schooley. **The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is April 15th, 2021.** Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to any member of the committee.



## Nominating Committee

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MARCH 28TH**

**NOMINEES CLASS OF 2024**

The Congregation of Bethel will meet on Sunday, March 28th to hear the report of the Nominating Committee. The following people have prayerfully been nominated to the Class of 2024. We are grateful to them for the giving of their time and talents and their willingness to serve to bring Glory to God and his kingdom!

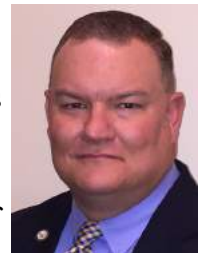


*CINDY ALMARODE (ELDER)*

Cindy is a Family Nurse Practitioner for Middlebrook Family Medicine and Raphine Medical Associates. She is married to Derek Almarode and has a daughter, Ashlyn. She was baptized and has attended Bethel all of her life. Cindy has served on the Youth Committee, Personnel Committee, currently Moderator of the Presbyterian Women, and participates in the Bell Choir. She believes the best thing about Bethel are the people - they are like family! Cindy is passionate about keeping Bethel strong and helping it to grow!

*DEREK ALMARODE (ELDER)*

Derek currently serves as the Superintendent of the Rockbridge Regional Jail where he supervises 45 employees and the day to day operations of the entire facility. In his spare time Derek has a passion for farming. So if he is not at work in his professional capacity you will likely find him at his other full time occupation operating a small beef cattle operation. Derek is the son of the late Danny and Louale Almarode of Greenville, Virginia. Derek married Cindy Whitesell in 1996 at Bethel. Since then both Derek and Cindy have been active in Bethel's ministry. They have two children, a son Nathaniel Lane Almarode, who is deceased and a daughter Ashlyn Layne Almarode who is 15 and a student at Riverheads High School. Ashlyn is also active in the church's ministry and was confirmed in 2019 at Bethel. Derek, Cindy and Ashlyn live on Old Greenville Road just several miles north of Bethel. During his childhood the Almarode's attended Pines Chapel, the last chapel affiliate of Bethel before it was commissioned as a independent church in the early 1990's. Derek accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal savior as a young man, and attended confirmation classes at Bethel Presbyterian Church under the instruction of Reverend Clifford Caldwell in in the mid 1980's. Derek has served as a Deacon at Bethel and currently serves as an Elder, where he serves on multiple committees and remains very active in the church's ministry.



*WADE CASH - ELDER*

Wade is the owner of Wade's Floor Covering and Interiors in Stuarts Draft and is married to Phyllis Jo Cash. He has a daughter Elizabeth Mulcahy and son-in-law Adam, and a son Johnathan and daughter-in-law Helen along with three grandchildren. Wade's ancestors attended Bethel, so his family has been worshipping at Bethel for 125 years and the Bethel congregation continues to be his extended family for worship and fellowship. He has been a member his entire life, from President of the Youth Fellowship, Eagle Scout, Assistant Scout Master, and service along the way to being elected as a Deacon in 2016.

## Nominating Committee

### PENNY LEE (ELDER)

Penny is the Chaos Coordinator at the Casa de Lee. She is also the Records Supervisor at Rockbridge Regional Jail. Penny enjoys doing anything creative – cooking, music, art, entertaining, plants, etc. And most of all she loves being with her family. Dale & Kay Thompson are Penny’s parents and Penny is married to Brian Lee. They have FIVE children: Harleigh, Moose, Bayleigh, Lydia and Trevor. Penny loves her church family. She loves her history here and wants her family to continue to grow here. When they’re her age, they’ll look back and see that their church family loved them when they were young, and once they’ve grown and gone on their own they’ll love them just the same when they come back around – no matter what. Penny has served in many capacities including working as Children’s Church Teacher & Coordinator, a volunteer (and sometimes leader) of the annual Harvest Party, a volunteer for VBS along with the Easter Egg Hunt & Parties, assisted with keeping the kitchen supplied, and has even served as a substitute in the Church Office when Adrienne has been on vacation.



### HARLEIGH LEE (DEACON)



Harleigh works at Mint Spring Equipment. She likes to hang out with her dog, family, and friends. She also thoroughly enjoys food, naps, and good books. Harleigh is the oldest of five, and daughter of Brian and Penny Lee. She loves the closeness of Bethel and the sweet congregants. Harleigh has helped with Children’s Church, she is a member of the Youth Committee, and has volunteered and assisted with many church events at Bethel.

### KATIE MCELVEEN - DEACON

For five years, Katie was a teacher at Craigsville Elementary School, then last year she decided to stay home with her son, Liam. She enjoys cooking, gardening, home renovation projects and traveling. Katie is married to Wes and they have a one-and-a-half-year-old son named Liam. Her parents are Charlie and Rhonda Johnson. Katie’s father has been a Deacon for many years and also serves as a Trustee. Katie’s mom has been an Elder and also served as the Clerk of Session. Her favorite thing about Bethel is the congregation. She loves to worship and have fellowship with her Bethel family. Bethel’s history has always interested her as well. Her involvement at Bethel started with serving on the Pastoral Nominating Committee while she was attending JMU. Then four years ago, she became a Deacon. Katie has served on the Mission Committee as well as helped with their many fundraising events and mission work. Katie and her mother went on a Summerlee Mission Trip to West Virginia where they cleaned and repaired houses. She has also helped with youth events at the church.



## Nominating Committee



### LINDA TENNEY - DEACON

Linda retired in mid-November after working for almost 40 years as a social worker for Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta County. She worked with Adult Protective Services, Adult Services, and Child Protective Services. Child Protective Services was the most challenging and exhausting job. Linda has served on various boards such as the Red Cross and volunteered for several organizations such as Ride with Pride. She has many hobbies such as horses, hiking, biking, and gardening. Linda holds two degrees from JMU; a BSW and an MA in Psychology. She is married to Stacey Baker who works at Once Upon A Time Clock Shop in downtown Staunton. They have two boys named Cameron and Jesse; ages 25 and 27. One lives in Staunton and is working on a master's degree at The University of Maryland and the other lives in Richmond. Linda has 7 nieces and one nephew, and she spends a lot of time with the two youngest nieces and their family. Previously, Linda attended Loch Willow in Churchville as she had family attending there at one time. At Loch Willow, she assisted with Sunday School, the nursery, and the Logos Program. Linda has been a member of Bethel for several years and has already served one term as a Deacon.

### CHARLIE JOHNSON - TRUSTEE

Charlie works for a veneer manufacturer as a log buyer traveling around the state in search of the highest quality in white oak and walnut mainly. In his spare time, he likes to take care of the land by cutting firewood and invasive species, bush hogging, mowing and the like. Also, he will get in a little fishing and hunting from time to time. Charlie has been married to his lovely wife Rhonda going on 38 years and has a daughter Katie, son-in-law Wes, and wide-open grandson Liam. Liam keeps it in high gear at all times! Then, throw in 3 dogs for extra entertainment. Charlie likes being able to worship with many friends and family in such a beautiful historic place and it makes for a great start to every week. Charlie is currently serving as a Deacon and Trustee. He has been on the 21st Century Committee, Stewardship & Finance and Personnel Committees.



### BILLY WADE - TRUSTEE

Billy is retired but spent 35 years as a sheep farmer. He has been married to his wonderful and beautiful wife Margaret for 57 years and they have three sons. Billy enjoys the fellowship with his friends and the Bethel congregation as a whole. He has been a member of Bethel for 25 years and has served as an Elder, Deacon, and Trustee. Before the pandemic he enjoyed singing in the choir, attending Sunday School regularly and attending Men of the Church dinners and events.

## Boy Scout Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

### WAYNE SWISHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bettie Swisher (mother of Wayne Swisher) earmarked a monetary gift within her estate to be utilized as seed money to establish a scholarship in Wayne's memory to assist Bethel and other youth who are actively enrolled in (BSA) - specifically Troop 13 to attend annual summer camp at Camp Shenandoah.

The scholarship is open ended and can receive additional benevolence into the principle over and above the seed money contributed by Bettie's estate. Additional contributions can be made at any time by anyone wishing to do so.

Recipients will be young Boy Scouts who are chosen by their troop as candidates for summer camp. Scout(s) chosen as a recipient must need financial assistance to attend camp. At the request of the Scout Master the fund will provide financial assistance up to full tuition to the identified Scout(s).

The Scholarship Fund will be managed by the Endowment Committee and the Stewardship & Finance Committee will serve as oversight. All contributions can be sent to Bethel Presbyterian Church via check. The check can be made out to the church and in the memo portion please indicate Wayne Swisher Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## Stewardship & Finance Committee

The leadership (& staff!) of Bethel are so grateful for your continued generosity and giving!



Offering plates are on stands next to the doors at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to drop your tithe or offering in the plate as you exit the church following worship.

If you are unable to attend worship but want and can contribute to Bethel's budget please mail your tithe or offering to:

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

**WE CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY & CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00
Weekly Offering March 7th:	\$4,625.00
Weekly Offering March 14th:	\$2,025.00
Weekly Offering March 21st	\$1,890.00

### FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget:	\$18,702.00
Offerings February 2021:	\$9,970.00





# Stewardship & Finance Committee



## SPECIAL OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected during the worship service on Sunday, March 28th, Palm Sunday. Please write OGHS on the memo line of your check if you wish to donate.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have been giving from the heart in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to help those in great need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Collection of the April “Five Cents a Meal” offering will be April 25th.

*\*This PCUSA offering was approved by the Bethel Session\**

# Worship Committee



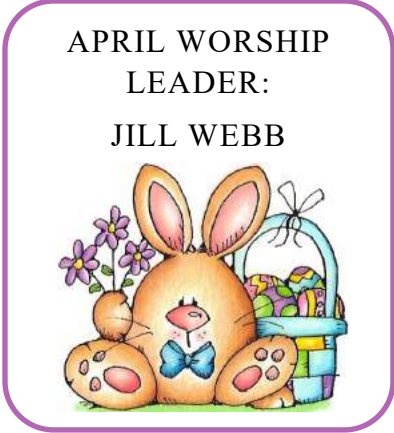
## APRIL LECTIONARY SCHEDULE

April 4th, 2021  
 Guest Speaker: Elder Derek Almarode (7:00 am sunrise service)  
 Guest Minister: Rev. Clayton Rascoe (11:00 am service)  
 Acts 10:34-43      I Corinthians 15:1-11      John 20:1-18

April 11th, 2021      2nd Sunday of Easter  
 Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson  
 Acts 4:32-35      I John 1:1-2:2      John 20:19-31

April 18th, 2021      3rd Sunday of Easter  
 Guest Speaker: Elder Derek Almarode  
 Acts 3:12-19      I John 3:1-7      Luke 24:36b-48

April 25th, 2021      4th Sunday of Easter  
 Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson  
 Acts 4:5-12      I John 3:16-24      John 10:11-18



**SANCTUARY FLOWER SCHEDULE      APRIL 2021**

APRIL 4TH..... EASTER LILIES      APRIL 11TH.....MARTY SIMMERS

APRIL 18TH.....DORIS TRUE      APRIL 25TH.....JOANN PENDLEY

## Worship Committee



### OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

**MAY 2ND, 2021 - JUNE 30TH, 2021 10:00 AM**

Starting May 2nd, 2021, Bethel will return to the Chapel in the Woods for worship services. There will be a service every Sunday, same time - 10:00 am - outside or inside. Rain and foggy conditions will be the only excuse for going inside, if temperatures are cold please wear layers. Inside services will follow state guidelines with masks and social distancing of six feet.

Outside worship services will be evaluated by the Session on a month-to-month basis. Elders are aware that not everyone can navigate walking outside and other health issues that may prevent being outdoors.

### KEEPING HEALTHY WHILE WORSHIPPING

Now that worship services have resumed please keep in mind the following suggestions:

- ◆ There will not be any greeters.
- ◆ There will be copies of the Order of Worship and Weekly News in the vestibule. You are welcome to pick up a copy if you are comfortable with doing so.
- ◆ There will not be any singing.
- ◆ Social distance seating will be observed (rows are taped off) but families may sit together.
- ◆ Please do not gather in Memorial Hall, however, the Keurig will still be available if you would like a cup of coffee/tea/cocoa. Guidelines for use of the Keurig are hung on the wall above the machine.
- ◆ For the safety and consideration of others please consider wearing your mask! Also, please use hand sanitizer when entering the church.

## April's Happy Anniversaries



Eloise and Lynn Moore	April 7, 1956
Marty and Marion Simmers	April 12
Debbie and Scott Hughes	April 14, 1979
Donna and Jon Bush	April 15, 1972
Shirley and Joe Heizer	April 23, 1960

# April's Happy Birthdays

Kyle Leonard	April 3
Julie Turner	April 4
Ken Wilkinson	April 6
Tom Heizer	April 6
Leah Deacon	April 7
Jake Leonard	April 7
Mo Kyle	April 9
Lynn Moore	April 9
Steve Kyle	April 10
Jon Bush	April 10

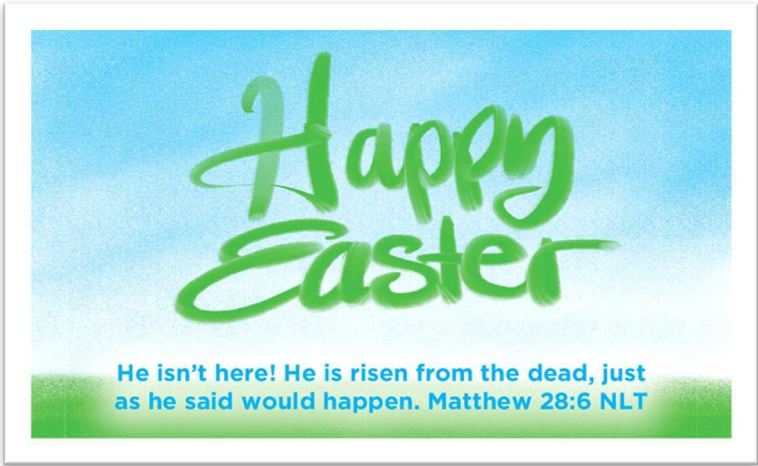
Joe Heizer	April 12
Ben Brown	April 14
Billy Brooks	April 16
Dale Thompson	April 17
Joe Moore	April 20
Lucy Sproul	April 21
Penny Lee	April 22
Kenneth E. Olson	April 25
Elizabeth Mulcahy	April 27
Kenneth LaPorte	April 29
Sally Brubeck	May 1
James Gano	May 5
Tabby Moore	May 7
Caroline Moffett	May 9



If you have an anniversary or birthday that you would like to have appear in the Bethel Tower and we have missed it, please call the Church Office. We can include it in future publications. Thank you!



	April 1st	April Fool's Day
	April 1st	Maundy Thursday
	April 2nd	Good Friday
	April 4th	Easter Sunday
	April 22nd	Earth Day



# April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 April Fools Day!  Maundy Thursday 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	2 Good Friday 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 	3 Great Vigil of Easter 4:00 - Private Event <i>(Picnic Pavilion)</i>
4 <b>HAPPY EASTER!</b> 7:00 - Sunrise Service at Chapel & Pavilion in the Woods 8:00 - Covered Dish Breakfast <i>(following Sunrise Service)</i> 11:00 - Worship  <i>(Last Quarter)</i>	5 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	6 Church Office Closed	7 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News <i>(April 11th)</i>	8 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	9 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	10
11 2nd Sunday of Easter 11:00 - Worship 7:00 - Session Meeting <i>(Fellowship Hall &amp; Zoom)</i>  <i>(New Moon)</i>	12 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	13 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News <i>(April 18th)</i>	14 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 5:00 - 8:00 - Individual Interviews with Presbytery	15 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	16 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	17
18 3rd Sunday of Easter 11:00 - Worship 3:00 - 6:00 - Individual Interviews with Presbytery	19 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	20 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & May 2021 Tower & Weekly News <i>(April 25th)</i>  <i>(Moon Phase First Quarter)</i>	21 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	22 Earth Day 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 	23 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	24
25 4th Sunday of Easter 11:00 - Worship & Five Cents A Meal	26 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts  <i>(Full Moon)</i>	27 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News <i>(May 2nd)</i>	28 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	29 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	30 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	



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

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians