The Tower



October 2021 & the Weekly News for September 26th, 2021

~563 Bethel Green Road ~ Staunton, Virginia 24401~ ~(540)886-6041 ~ bethelpc@gmail.com~ ~www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org~



A Note on the Tower & Weekly News

The Bethel October 2021 Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly News for September 26th, 2021 are combined in this publication. Blessings to you in the coming weeks!

2 If you no longer wish to receive any communication from the church please let us know at (540) 886-6041 or bethelpcogmail.com and we will remove you from any and all lists. Thank you. &

As This Elder Sees It & The Monthly Message

<u>Jude 1:16-19 ESV</u> - These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

Romans 16:17-18 ESV - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.



Dissemination & discernment = division

In this journey of seeking gracious dismissal from PCUSA, there have been a couple buzzwords that are used constantly. One is "discernment". The word is used redundantly on the PCUSA website, it has been used the same way in sermons from the pastors sent from PCUSA. The word never seems to be used to make choices based on scripture, instead it's often used to introduce ideas or encourage approval of ideas that are rooted in current social issues. Every time we hear the word discernment it leads to division. We keep coming to the wide gate and the choice to choose the narrow path seems to cause much strife amongst ourselves and within our own hearts.

The other buzzword is disseminate. When information is disseminated to us from PCUSA, their own version of information is being spread. The very definition of the word disseminate is the action of spreading something, especially information, widely. The definition does not say that the information being spread is factual. (continued)

While we're defining words, let's look at the word Discernment. Discernment is a noun meaning the ability to judge well; however, in the Bible discernment describes the process of determining God's desire in a situation or for one's life or identifying the true nature of a thing. When ideas have been discerned to us by our denomination's policy, are we supposed to blindly follow or do we question their discernment? The act of questioning alone has caused friction. It seems the discernment has caused division and it is safe to say the dissemination of information from PCUSA has caused divisiveness.

The definition of divisive is tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people.

It would seem to me a church's ultimate mission amongst their church family would be to strive for unity. All recent ideas that have been discerned and/or disseminated from PCUSA have caused the opposite of discernment. The antonyms of discern are confuse, miss, overlook, disregard, doubt, forget, ignore, lose, misunderstand and neglect. I believe that we have all felt like at least one if not all of these words in the past decade or so. If you step back and look at the opposite of the word divisive, lo and behold it is *unifying*.

To my church family, those that I see most every week and those that we all miss seeing, to all of those upset with the church, mad at the church or even angry at God... in all of the work of the Session that I have been privileged to be a part of, all of the work we do is to unite our church family... united in our belief in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and unified in our belief that the Bible is 100% God's Holy word. This is why we seek gracious dismissal. These are our beliefs, but they are not what we believe has been disseminated and/or discerned from PCUSA. We can no longer stand for a denomination that is dividing our church family and tearing down our fundamental belief in the Bible.

Nor can we continue to look backwards, our future is not there. There are old wounds that will take time to heal. There are feelings of resentment and some people that are just angry. Angry at church. Angry at God. Just mad. And that's okay. Sadly, we think anger comforts us when in truth it consumes us. And to that, let me leave you with this: Ephesians 4:26–27 – "Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil" ...folks, the devil preys on angry hearts, verse 31 ends this passage with "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.

As we move forward, may we all be more tenderhearted.

Peace & love, Penny Lee, Elder



WELCOME TO BETHEL!

We are so glad when you choose to join us as we worship the Lord <u>together</u> on Sunday mornings!

It is always an awesome moment when you look at others in worship and see people of all ages worshiping God in their own unique way.

Scripture helps us to understand <u>why worshiping God with other believers is essential</u>. Bible verses let us know that fellowship is the place where believers can love one another (1 John 4:12), obtain spiritual growth, and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." - Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

Sunday Morning Worship Information (September 26th, 2021)

Hello & Howdy to the Newcomers!

ARE YOU NEW TO BETHEL?

If you're new to Bethel Presbyterian Church, and are looking to get more connected, we want to hear



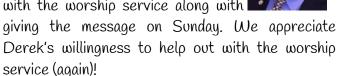
from you! If you haven't had the opportunity to fill out a "Welcome Visitor" card with your contact information please take a moment to do so. Cards are available on the designated table where the copies of the "Order of Worship" are placed.

If you are interested and request it we will gladly send you the "Weekly News" every week and "The Tower" newsletter monthly.* Both are great opportunities to engage more deeply with our community. We look forward to getting to know you!

(*Please make sure to include your email address on the card. If you don't have email please include your full mailing address. Thanks!)

GUEST SPEAKER, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Bethel welcomes our very own Derek Almarode who will be assisting with the worship service along with



Derek is active in the life and ministry of Bethel. He served as a Deacon in the past and is currently serving as an Elder. Derek is the Chair of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and serves as a member of the Continuing Education Loan Fund, and the Youth Committee. He lives in Augusta County with wife Cindy and daughter Ashlyn.

In Derek's spare time he has a passion for farming, operating a small beef cattle operation.

WORSHIP LEADER, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Penny Lee



Five Cents A Meal Offering will be collected on Sunday, September 26th, 2021. A designated basket will be placed outdoors. Feel free to drop a little something for this offering in the basket on your way out. A portion of Five Cents a Meal goes to support the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF).

LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION

Lemonade at the Pavilion (formerly Lemonade on the Lawn) will be held this Sunday, September 26th, following the worship service.

Make sure to stay for some snacks to munch on, lemonade to drink, and time to hang out with your church friends and family!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO JOIN US!

If worship is held indoors due to weather, then this event will be held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall.

FLOWERS, SEPTEMBER 26TH

The beautiful flowers on Sunday, September 26th, 2021 are given by Dan & Ginny Gano in loving memory of Colonel & Mrs. James Bundy and Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gano.

General Church Information

ELDER-ON-CALL OCTOBER 2021

If you have a pastoral need please contact Penny Lee.



(540) 416-8996 (call or text)

brianpennyfamilee@gmail.com

General Church Information

ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2021: 52

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2021: 48

Calendar of Events

(week of September 26th, 2021)

Sunday, September 26th, 2021

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Ruling Elder

(Bethel Presbyterian Church)

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel in the

Woods (Rain Location: Sanctuary)

11:00 am Lemonade at the Pavilion

(aka Lemonade on the Lawn) (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)

Monday, September 27th

Church Office Closed

6:30 pm Cub Scouts

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tvesday, September 28th

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

9:00 am Deadline: Order of Worship \$

Weekly News (October 3rd)

Wednesday, September 29th

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

7:00 pm Handbell Choir

(Moon Phase: Last Quarter)

Thursday, September 30th

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

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study at the

Pavilion

(Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)

Friday, October 1st

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

Sunday, October 3rd, 2021

Guest Speaker: Rev. Bernard Bangley,

Teaching Elder (honorably retired)

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel in the

Woods (Rain Location: Sanctuary)

11:15 am Deacons Meeting

11:15 am PWCT Meeting

Note About Worship, October 3rd

JOIN US OUTSIDE FOR WORSHIP AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

OCTOBER 3RD, 2021 AT 10:00 AM

(This will be the last worship service outdoors of 2021.)

World Communion Sunday Communion to be Received

With respect to Rev. Bangley's health needs and the continuation of the covid virus, the Worship Committee will keep the worship service outdoors for one more Sunday. Please pray for a warm and sunny Sunday morning and dress accordingly – warm!

Bethel will once again make our own disposable (fresh) elements using plastic cups. Please pick up one of each, juice and bread, as you arrive at the worship service. Follow Rev. Bangley's instructions during the "Invitation to the Lord's Table" which will be noted in your Order of Worship. Gluten free elements will also be available, please only take one if you have gluten sensitivities or an allergy.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

The Session met Sunday September 19th, 2021, at 5:00 pm at the Pavilion in the woods in person. We had 10 Elders in attendance with Karen Allamon as our appointed Moderator.

- ⇒ The Treasurers distributed financial reports by email.
- $\Rightarrow~$ The Session approved a motion to accept John Ross as our latest new Member of Bethel.
- ⇒ Work is in process to make repairs on the Organ.
- ⇒ Beginning with October 10th, our morning Worship Services will begin at 11:00 am, and the location will be inside in the Sanctuary, please join us there.
- \Rightarrow The paving repair project of the parking lot and Manse drive will begin September 21st.
- ⇒ The weekly Bible study "Fifty-Two Weeks with Jesus" is continuing with great success, you can still join in.
- \Rightarrow Our Elder on call for the month of October is Penny Lee, if you need any assistance, give her a call or text at (540)-416-8996.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SUNDAY! Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

Church Office News & Notes



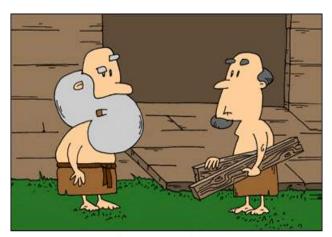
Monday Office Closed
Tuesday—Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm
*lunch *usually* from 12:30 pm—1:00 pm

(540) 886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com

SUBMIT

DEADLINE NOVEMBER TOWER

The deadline for the Order of Worship and Weekly News for October 31st, 2021 <u>along with</u> the November 2021 Tower will be <u>Tuesday</u>, October 26th, 2021, at 9:00 am. You may leave articles and announcements in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com (email is preferred).



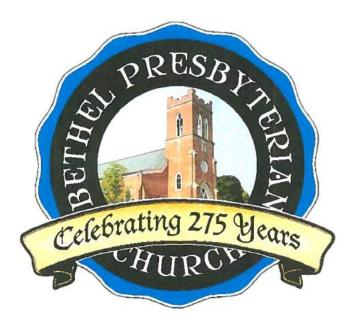
"HAND SANITIZER" AND SOMETHING CALLED

"TOILET PAPER"

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DAY 1 OF OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH 2:00 IN THE AFTERNOON

PROGRAM AND SOCIAL
CELEBRATING BETHEL'S HISTORIC PAST
AND PROMISING FUTURE

FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Congregational Care Committee



PRAYER LIST UPDATES: If you have any changes, additions or updates to the Prayer List please contact Tammy Barbour (540) 471-0450 or Ellen Fitzgerald (540) 292-2914. You may also contact Adrienne in the Church Office. In order to keep the Prayer List up-to-date names

may be removed after 6 weeks if we haven't received an update. (This does not apply to Bethel members.)

BETHEL'S GIFTS TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS

The Bethel Women will deliver gift cards to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, located in Wytheville, VA. As a ministry of the Presbyterian Church, it is a long-term residential facility that accommodates as many as 30 children, age 5 to 17, and serves more than 90 residents annually. The children are offered psychiatric evaluation, life skills training, education, counseling, faith development programs, hope, purpose, and a home in a stable and loving environment overseen by God's love and grace. The children will enjoy receiving our gift cards for Christmas.

The cards that are most popular are from Walmart or McDonald's. Other places where children could use gift cards are Hardees, Wendy's, KFC, Bojangles, and Taco Bell.

If you can participate in this project, please print the purchase amount of the gifts on the cards and deliver them to Stephanie Rivers or Beth Miller before Sunday,

November 21st. Thank you for your help with this effort by Bethel's Presbyterian Women.



Please continue to pray daily for one another. Don't forget to 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!

Congregational Care Committee



Our sympathies & condolences to the family & friends of Evelyn LaPorte who passed away on September 16th, 2021. Evelyn was a tireless and amazing volunteer over the years. We are grateful for her work in helping Bethel to bring glory to God's kingdom!

Stewardship & Finance Committee

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget: \$3,365.00

Weekly Offering September 5th: \$2,515.00

Weekly Offering September 12th: \$1,620.00

Weekly Offering September 19th: \$1,142.00



AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$14,582.00

Offerings August 2021: \$9,448.00

Stewardship & Finance Committee

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

Baskets have been placed on the designated table outdoors. Please feel free to drop your tithe or offering in the basket as you leave the worship service.

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

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE
THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY &
CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME!

Worship Committee

FLOWER SCHEDULE October 2021

October 3rd Lucy Sproul

(World Communion Sunday)

October 10th Meg Haislip (275th celebration)

October 17th Jane Law (Memorial)

October 24th Laura Barmore (Memorial)

October 31st JoAnn Pendley

Worship is at the Chapel in the woods at 10:00 am on October 3rd, 2021.

Worship is in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am starting on October 10th, 2021.



Worship Committee



Worship Committee

OCTOBER LECTIONARY SCHEDULE

October 3rd, 2021 Location: Chapel in the woods

Time: 10:00 am

World Communion Sunday 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Guest Speaker

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

275th Celebration Sunday

Guest Speaker

Dinner Following Worship (catered)

October 17th, 2021 Location: Sanctuary Time: 11:00 am

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder

Job 38:1-7 (34-41), 16-17 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

> Location: Sanctuary Time: 11:00 am October 24th, 2021

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker James Dye (Ruling Elder,

Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church)

Hebrews 7:23-28 Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Mark 10:46-52

<u>October 31st, 2021</u> Location: Sanctuary Time: 11:00 am

Reformation Sunday 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

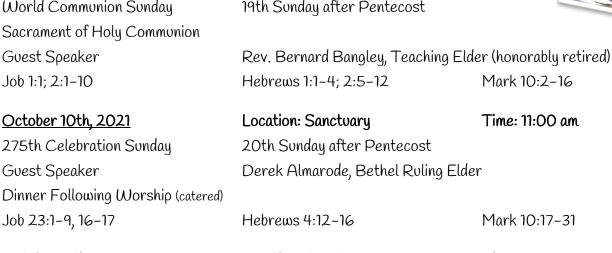
Guest Speaker Scott Dove (Certified Lay Pastor,

Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church)

Ruth 1:1-18 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34



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Worship Committee











October Happy Birthdays!



Bruce Lamond October 1 Isabelle Bosserman October 5 Jane Law October 7 Emily Williams October 7 Adrienne Barker October 8 Pat Quick October 11 October 12 Louise Hou October 14 Dale K. Smith October 17 Dan Gano October 21 Sarah Ralston October 22

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

BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER

Leona Ware November 1

August Happy Anniversary!



Bethany & Larry Fresh
Keedie & Kyle Leonard
October 14
Paige & Andrew Heizer
October 14, 2017
Mary Ann & John Anderson
October 29, 1955
Myra & Roscoe Botkin, Jr.
October 31, 1998

BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER

Lee Ann & Tom Heizer November 1, 1985 Luanne & Sam Leonard November 1, 1980

A Note About Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



October 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	2
3 World Communion Sunday 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods & Communion (Rain Location: Sanctvary) 11:15 - Deacons Meeting 11:15 - PWCT Meeting	4 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	5 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (October 10th)	6 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir (Moon Phase: New Moon)	7 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Bible Study	8 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	9 275TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (Day 1) 2:00 - Program \$ Social Celebration of Bethel's Past \$ Future Refreshments \$ Fellowship to Follow Program
10 275TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (Day 2) 11:00 - Worship (Location: Sanctuary) 12:15 - Celebration Dinner (Catered)	Columbus Day Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (October 17th)	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir (Moon Phase: First Quarter)	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 1:30 - PW Circle 6:30 - Bible Study	15 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	16
17 11:00 – Worship (Location: Sanctuary) 5:00 – Session Meeting	18 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (October 24th)	20 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir (Moon Phase: Full Moon)	21 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Bible Study	22 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	23
24 11:00 - Worship (Location: Sanctuary)	25 Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: November 2021 Tower & Order of Worship & Weekly News (October 31st)	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir	28 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Bible Study (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	30 HAPPS FALLI
Halloween Reformation Sunday 11:00 - Worship (Location: Sanctuary)						The grass withers an the flower fall, but the word of a god endure forever.

BETHEL CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2022 Class of 2023 Class of 2024

Jimmy CallisonTammy BarbourCindy AlmarodeBob OlsonBrian LeeDerek Almarode

Dave SchooleyDale ThompsonWade CashTim TurnerJill WebbPenny Lee

Clerk of Session Dave Schooley

BETHEL CHURCH DEACONS

<u>Class of 2022</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> <u>Class of 2024</u>

Ellen Fitzgerald Tom Heizer Harleigh Lee
Charlie Johnson Mitch Lathrop Katie McElveen
Alex Sproul D.W. Miller Linda Tenney

BETHEL CHURCH TRUSTEES

<u>Class of 2022</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> <u>Class of 2024</u>

Bill Brubeck Guy D. Brooks Charlie Johnson

James Williams Lee Ann Heizer Billy Wade

BETHEL CHURCH STAFF

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

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians