

# The Tower

November 2021



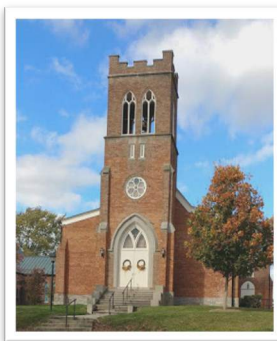
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## As This Elder Sees It & The Monthly Message



### GRACIOUS GRATITUDE

As we move forward with our Gracious Dismissal from the PCUSA, may we all remember 2 things this Thanksgiving season. The first thing to remember is that we are moving toward rebuilding our church on a firm foundation. And the 2nd thing to remember is that we all matter.

### REBUILDING

*Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

There are many of you that have questions and/or thoughts about our dismissal. Some voice them and some sit on them quietly. The session wants every member of the congregation to call upon us for anything, whether it's a concern or just not understanding, we have got to communicate. The whole point of dismissal is to build our family on a solid rock, a firm foundation of faith.

*James 1: 2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

*2 Corinthians 2:14 "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."*

### WE ALL MATTER

The 2nd thing to remember is, no matter what, every single member of our church family matters, their worries, their fears, their happiness and most importantly their faith, it matters! We all have strong feelings about our beloved Bethel and more importantly our precious church family. May we move through the holidays with humbleness and compassion. May we all practice gratitude. May we all remember to forgive anyone that has caused us hurt, may we let go of any bitterness and may we all remember that the love and truth of Jesus Christ is really what matters.

*Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

*2 Corinthians 4:15-16 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."*

*Colossians 2:7 "Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."*

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I challenge each one of us to practice not only gratitude but gracious gratitude. Let us be thankful for everything that is good and let us remember to be grateful in the hard times as well. May we not be sparing with our love and forgiveness but spread it freely. Let us celebrate our church family this season! I am thankful for you all!

Peace and love, Penny Lee, Elder

## Don't Forget Notes & Deadlines for November 2021

The Church Office will be closed Monday, November 8th - Friday, November 12th while Adrienne is on vacation. Need something while the office is closed? Contact the Elder-on-Call or any other member of the Session. They will be happy to assist you.



The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 24th - Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday. 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*

### Presbyterian Women - Thank Offering

Since 1888 Presbyterian Women have funded aid programs through the Thank Offering. This year, we continue that tradition by supporting 12 projects from 29 applications. Nine of the projects serve people in the United States and three are international.

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meeting.

**Calling for Bell Ringers!** Volunteers are needed to help with ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Staunton Kroger on Saturday, December 18th, from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. You will be stationed at the main door. Each shift lasts about two hours. If you can help, please call Mo Kyle at (540) 292-8578 to schedule a shift. It's a great idea to team up with a friend to make the time go by faster in the cooler weather. Help "ring in the holiday season" for those in need in our community!



First Sunday of Advent & Hanging of the Greens  
Special Worship Service  
November 28th, 2021 at 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Service 2021 on  
December 24th at 8:00 pm

### Operation Christmas Child 2021



There is an exciting upcoming mission project that all of us can participate in! Due to the pandemic, our Mission Committee has been unable to hold all of our normal mission events. This project is a way for our entire congregation to give back safely during the holiday season. You can help our Mission Committee support the Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child (OCC). This is a project that asks for shoeboxes that have been filled with toys, personal hygiene items, art supplies and anything a child might enjoy and/or need. They will be delivered around the world to spread joy to children who may not receive anything else for Christmas. The Mission Committee is asking each family to please fill a shoebox (or more) and return it to Memorial Hall **by Sunday, November 14th.**

### GIFT CARDS for THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME of the HIGHLANDS

The Bethel Women will deliver gift cards to the Presbyterian Children's Home in Wytheville, VA. As a ministry of the Presbyterian Church, PCHH is a long-term residential facility that serves more than 90 children annually.

The children will enjoy receiving our gifts 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.



## November Worship Info



### FLOWER SCHEDULE November 2021

November 7th	Cindy Almarode (DST ends)
November 14th	Lee Ann Heizer
November 21st	Tammy Barbour
November 28th	Kay Swisher (1st Sunday in Advent)

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### November 7th, 2021

24th Sunday after Pentecost  
~ *All Saints Sunday Worship Service* ~

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Ruling Elder

#### November 14th, 2021

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Jim Dye, Ruling Elder  
(Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church, ECO)

#### November 21st, 2021

Christ the King Sunday

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder  
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

#### November 28th, 2021

1st Sunday of Advent

~ *Hanging of the Greens Worship Service* ~

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Ruling Elder

## Bethel Prayer List

### PRAYER LIST (updated 10/28/21)

Bethel (our church) - Leaders & Congregation

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Larry Edwards	Dan Gano
Bobby Goodson	Jeff Heizer
Ken LaPorte	Ronnie Liptrap
Sam Leonard	Margaret Liptrap
John Pilson	Alice Wooddell

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Sarah Brownlee	David Law
Matt Koogler	Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey	Gary Rosen
Ruby Rosen	Bill Ross

#### SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Jim Bush  
Family & Friends of Evelyn LaPorte

#### COMMUNITY, COUNTRY & WORLD

Shenandoah Presbytery Administrative Team  
All US military leaders & personnel  
Law enforcement, firefighters, &  
EMS workers & volunteers  
Kidnapped missionaries in Haiti

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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 or the Church Office (540) 886-6041.

To keep the Prayer List as up-to-date as possible names may be removed from the list after six weeks unless Tammy, Ellen or the Church Office has been notified otherwise.

Thank you for your cooperation!



## Bethel October Session News

### NEWS & NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

The Session met Sunday October 17th, 2021, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall in person. We had 8 Elders in attendance with Karen Allamon who opened with short Devotion and Prayer as our appointed Moderator.

- ⇒ The Treasurers distributed financial reports by email.
- ⇒ The paving repair project of the parking lot with lines painted and Manse drive are complete.
- ⇒ The Celebration of 275 Years of Bethel was a huge success with 173 attending Sunday service and lunch.
- ⇒ We will have the Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm.
- ⇒ The weekly Bible study "Fifty-Two Weeks with Jesus" is continuing with great success, you can still join in.
- ⇒ Our Elder-on-Call for the month of November is Cindy Almarode, if you need any assistance, give her a call or text at (540) 490-2121.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SUNDAY!

Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

### Stewardship & Finance Update



### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$14,582.00

Offerings September 2021: \$7,790.00

### November Birthdays

Leona Ware	November 1
Jill Webb	November 11
J.W. Davis	November 13
Penny Cash	November 15
Bayleigh Lee	November 15
Brian Lee	November 17
Marty Simmers	November 17
Kenny Olson	November 22
Sue Whitesell	November 30

### BEGINNING OF DECEMBER

Jimmy Callison	December 2
Guy D. Brooks	December 3

### November Anniversaries

Tom & Lee Ann Heizer	November 1, 1985
Sam & Louanne Leonard	November 1, 1980
Charlie & Rhonda Johnson	November 5, 1983
Alex & Lucy Sproul	November 25, 1972



Thanks to Chris Steinle Jr. (See Genesis 5:27) 02-22-2005  
SINCE THE 900 PLUS BIRTHDAY CAKE  
CANDLES NEARLY TORCHED THE PLACE LAST  
YEAR, WE DECIDED TO GO WITH A CARD  
THIS TIME

# November 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> All Saints Day Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>2</b> Election Day 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (November 7th & 14th)	<b>3</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>4</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal (Moon Phase: New Moon)	<b>5</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends 11:00 - All Saints Sunday Worship Service 12:15 - Deacons Meeting	<b>8</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>9</b> Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation Nov 9th - Nov 12th)	<b>10</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>11</b> Veterans Day Church Office Closed 1:00 - PW Circle 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study (Moon Phase: First Quarter)	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Deadline: OCC Shoeboxes 11:00 - Worship	<b>15</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (November 21st) 9:00 - Deadline: December 2021 Tower	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>18</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (November 28th) 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours (Moon Phase: Full Moon)	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Christ the King Sunday Deadline: PW Gift Cards 11:00 - Worship	<b>22</b> Church Office Closed 6:00 - Session Meeting 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)
<b>28</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Hanging of the Greens Worship Service 12:15 - PWCT Meeting	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours				

## BETHEL CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2022

Jimmy Callison  
Bob Olson  
Dave Schooley  
Tim Turner

### Class of 2023

Tammy Barbour  
Brian Lee  
Dale Thompson  
Jill Webb

### Class of 2024

Cindy Almarode  
Derek Almarode  
Wade Cash  
Penny Lee

### Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

## BETHEL CHURCH DEACONS

### Class of 2022

Ellen Fitzgerald  
Charlie Johnson  
Alex Sproul

### Class of 2023

Tom Heizer  
Mitch Lathrop  
D.W. Miller

### Class of 2024

Harleigh Lee  
Katie McElveen  
Linda Tenney

## BETHEL CHURCH TRUSTEES

### Class of 2022

Bill Brubeck  
James Williams

### Class of 2023

Guy D. Brooks  
Lee Ann Heizer

### Class of 2024

Charlie Johnson  
Billy Wade

## 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 & Organist

Alex Sproul, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians