

# The Tower

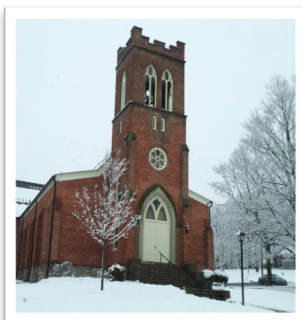
## December 2021



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



### As This Elder Sees It & The Monthly Message



#### A REASON TO CELEBRATE ALL YEAR

As we enter the advent season, we celebrate with excitement the coming of the Lord, our King, Jesus Christ. For most of us, Christmas is a joyful time. We send cards to friends we don't see often; we make special efforts to give to those in need, we buy gifts for family and friends, and we make special meals and treats. Most of all, we recognize and celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's most precious gift to us.

During advent we study God's promises to us of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ. What do we do when Christmas is over? Is Jesus less important on days other than Christmas and Easter? I think we all can agree that Jesus is just as important every day of the year, but do we live in him daily?

#### HOPE

Romans 15:13 <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our faith is based in hope for our salvation which comes from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. God has a plan for us that is full of hope. Living with hope gives us a sense of peace for our future.

#### PEACE

John 14:27 (NIV) <sup>7</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

We all want peace. Peace in our hearts and lives, Peace in the world, Peace for everyone, Jesus gives us peace with God, peace with others, and peace with ourselves. May we continue to pray for peace.

#### JOY

Luke 2:9-10 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Joy is a choice; God is our source of joy. Strive to be joyful every day and live through his teachings, bringing joy to others all year.

(continues on page 2)

## LOVE

John 3:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus has taught us the greatest commandment was "You shall love the Lord your God with all your, soul and mind" (Matthew 22:36) By loving God we are taught how to love one another and how important love is. Don't wait for a special occasion to express love, Love at all times.

## CHRIST

John 1:29 (NIV) <sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Live and learn in Jesus every day. Jesus is the light. His teachings are powerful and can change your life. Celebrate the hope, peace, joy and love he brings to our lives all year. Christ is more than Christmas and Easter. Being a follower of Christ takes work. Learn, live and teach the word and you will be rewarded.

May you celebrate the gift of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ all year.

Cindy Almarode, Elder

### Bethel November Session News

#### NEWS & NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER SESSION MEETING

The Session met Monday, November 22nd, 2021, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We had 9 Elders in attendance; Moderator Karen Allamon was sick and unable to attend.

- ⇒ Christmas Eve plans reviewed, service is Friday, December 24th, at 8:00 pm.
- ⇒ The Treasurers distributed financial reports by email.
- ⇒ Our Elder-on-Call for the month of December is Penny Lee, if you need any assistance, give her a call or text at (540) 416-8996.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

#### Church Office Note – December 2021

The Church Office will be closed Tuesday, December 14th, while Adrienne is on vacation.

The Church Office will be closed Friday, December 24th – Tuesday, January 4th for Christmas and New Year's. The staff of Bethel wishes you a blessed holiday season and a blessed 2022!

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.

#### Stewardship & Finance Update

##### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$14,582.00  
Offerings November 2021: \$8,534.00



December Worship Info

DECEMBER 2021 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 5th, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath: Steve & Mo Kyle
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder at Augusta Stone Presbyterian

December 12th, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath: Irene Elliott and Jill Webb
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder

December 19th, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath: Tim & Julie Turner
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder at Augusta Stone Presbyterian

(Friday) December 24th, 2021 at 8:00 pm

Christmas Eve

~ Christmas Candlelight Service ~

Advent Wreath: The Almarode Family
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder

December 26th, 2021

1st Sunday of Christmas

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder

Bethel Prayer List

DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

(updated 11/30/21)

Bethel (our church) - Leaders & Congregation

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Dan Gano Jeff Heizer
John Pilson at Blue Ridge Christian Home; cards appreciated (85 Beulah Drive; Raphine, VA 24472)

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Matt Koogler Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey

SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Ronnie Liptrap
Family & Friends of Eloise Moore

COMMUNITY, COUNTRY & WORLD

Kidnapped missionaries in Haiti

=====  
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 will be removed from the list after eight weeks unless Tammy, Ellen or the Church Office has been notified otherwise.

Thank you for your cooperation!

December Worship Leader: Brian Lee



OCC Report

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD REPORT

With YOUR help and generosity 27 shoeboxes for OCC were collected this year. Thanks to Tammy Barbour and Katie McElveen for making this important mission project happen (especially at the last minute)!



BETHEL CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS DONATIONS TO BERF

Purchase a Christmas poinsettia at \$10.00 each (only red poinsettias available) and/or make a Christmas donation to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF) of \$10.00 or more.

Poinsettia(s) purchased and donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletins for December 19th & Christmas Eve. Please fill out the form below completely, attach check or cash, place in the offering plate or mail to the church at 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401.

- POINSETTIA - MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHUCH
- BERF DONATION - MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BERF

PLEASE FILL OUT TWO SEPARATE FORMS if you are purchasing a poinsettia(s) AND making a donation to BERF.

**DEADLINE TO RETURN FORMS WITH PAYMENT:**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 9:00 AM**

(if you miss the deadline but would like to order a poinsettia contact Adrienne)

=====

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF POINSETTIA(S) & TOTAL COST \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF DONATION TO BERF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS: CONTACT ADRIENNE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE (540) 886-6041

## CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROJECT - RIVERHEADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



WOW! All the tags for the Christmas Alive project were picked up last Sunday following worship. THAT MUST BE A RECORD!

If you were unable to pick up a tag last Sunday (or even if you were!) and would still like to participate we are asking for donations of food and snacks for the family.

### WE ARE ASKING FOR THE FOLLOWING FOOD ITEMS:

Anything for a Christmas Dinner: Ham/Instant or Boxed Mashed Potatoes/Boxed Mac 'n Cheese or Velveeta Shells & Cheese/Boxed Stuffing/Canned Veggies/Canned Fruit

Any kind of meat would also be appreciated since it's unaffordable for them at this time such as ground beef or chicken tenders

If you can donate the ham for C'mas or some ground beef or chicken tenders please call Katie McElveen 540/292-4442 before purchasing. For example if we have 5 hams donated - that'll be a LOT of ham.

We would also like to donate some snacks for the kiddos. Possible donations might include: microwave popcorn/goldfish crackers/little cups of applesauce or fruit/fruit snacks/hot cocoa mix/cake mixes & frosting/muffin mixes (with liners & no stick spray)/peanut butter/jelly/capri-suns or juice boxes

PLEASE HAVE DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH BY DECEMBER 19, 2021.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SHOWING GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS  
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

## FLOWER SCHEDULE 2022

Mo Kyle is currently working on the Sanctuary Flower Schedule for 2022. If you would like to be removed from the schedule please contact Mo at 540/292-8578 by December 31st, 2021. Likewise, please contact her if you would be willing to supply flowers on a Sunday. We still need people to provide flowers and have several Sundays open so don't be shy! The 2022 schedule will be sent out the beginning of January to all those who have offered to provide flowers.



used with permission [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)



# JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM - 2021

~ A DRIVE THROUGH NATIVITY ~

December 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> from 4pm-6pm

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church - 334 Mt. Tabor Rd - Staunton, VA

(No admission — Free-will offering for WRE)



SPONSORED BY MT. TABOR LUTHERAN,  
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN & REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCHES

## December Birthdays

Jimmy Callison	December 2
Guy D. Brooks	December 3
Puggie Sprouse	December 8
Samuel Williams	December 8
Barbara Gough	December 12
Rhonda Johnson	December 13
Joy Moody	December 15
Frank Shiflett	December 16
Cynthia Williams	December 16
Alice Wooddell	December 17
Sam Goodson	December 19
Bob Hoy	December 20
Luanne Leonard	December 20
Mitch Lathrop	December 24
Lee Ann Heizer	December 29
Shirley Heizer	December 29
James Schooley	December 30

## BEGINNING OF JANUARY

Mac Williams	January 2
Katie McElveen	January 3
D. W. Miller	January 3

## November Anniversaries

Keith & Tish Folsom	December 7, 1985
Bob & Jackie Law	December 11, 1959
Ben & Tessa Williams	December 13, 2014
Dan & Ginny Gano	December 22, 1970
Steve & Mo Kyle	December 27, 1986

## Christmas Concert

### Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concert

"We Need A Little Christmas"

Sunday, December 12, 2021 4:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church (2087 N Augusta; Staunton)

Dr. Craig L. Robertson, Director

Ms. Lisa Stephens, Pianist

Free-will offering to benefit the Staunton Choral Society,  
a 501(c)(3) organization

[www.stauntonchoralsociety.org](http://www.stauntonchoralsociety.org)

[www.facebook.com/StauntonChoralSociety](https://www.facebook.com/StauntonChoralSociety)

# December 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>2</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	<b>3</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	<b>4</b> (Moon Phase: New Moon)
<b>5</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - Advent Workshop & Lunch 12:15 - Deacons Meeting	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>7</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (December 12th) 9:00 - Deadline: C'mas Poinsettia & BERF Donations	<b>8</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>9</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 12:30 - PW Circle 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	<b>11</b> 4:00 - 6:00 - Drive Through Nativity at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church (sponsored by Bethel)  (Moon Phase: First Quarter)
<b>12</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - Session Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 - Drive Through Nativity at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church (sponsored by Bethel)	<b>13</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>14</b> Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation)	<b>15</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (December 19th & December 26th) 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - January 2021 Tower	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00 - Worship (Moon Phase: Full Quarter)	<b>20</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	<b>21</b> Winter Begins 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: C'mas Eve Bulletin	<b>22</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 8:00 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> 11:00 - Worship & 5 Cents A Meal Offering	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation)	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Church Office Closed	

## 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