

THE Tower

FEBRUARY 2022

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—AS THIS— ELDER SEES IT

PSALM 98:8

*Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains
sing together for joy.*

Growing up here at Bethel, I accepted things at face value and questioned things to myself, those of you that know me probably find that hard to believe. But these days, young folks don't keep their questions to themselves. Now that I am serving on Session, I know that the things I questioned as a teen are the same things young people question now. There are questions I've been afraid to ask now, because some people are so strong in their convictions that I fear rocking the boat. Many of the folks I worried about asking questions have gone on before us. **And here our boat sits, 35 or so years later. And our boat is floating.**

So we should be happy. Or should we?

Growing up, I wondered why rarely there was applause. I attended services with my friends at their home churches and many of them were such lively worship celebrations, except for my visits to Temple. I must admit, I didn't understand anything going on, except for the fact that wine poured freely.

Being confirmed in church was very ceremonious. Or I felt like it was. I felt very intimidated and judged, which is the last thing we should feel at church. And when you talk to young people, of any generation, they will always bring up music.

Fast forward to a pandemic and all pomp and circumstance went out the window for our youth that were confirmed. When we receive a new member, do we hug them or do we welcome them in from a safe distance, however far away that may be. When we worship God in song, do we sing traditional hymns? Do we welcome in some contemporary music? For those that don't like new music, our new hymnals are full of new hymns that we do not know. Do we ever tap our toes, do we ever clap? Do we ever blurt out Amen so loud you startle your neighbor?

I bring up these points because all of these are things that everyone in the congregation should be able to discuss freely and share their thoughts about. We cannot effectively make decisions on Session without knowing how you feel.

Psalm 47

- ¹ *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*
- ² *For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.*
- ³ *He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.*
- ⁴ *He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah*
- ⁵ *God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.*
- ⁶ *Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*
- ⁷ *For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!*
- ⁸ *God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.*
- ⁹ *The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!*

A boat that's just floating is good. But is it good enough?

Or is a boat that is full of life, picking up new passengers and fishing in all the lakes and seas better? Of course it is. May God bless us with open hearts that seek new waters.

Peace & Love, Penny Lee, Elder

THE THOUGHTS IN THIS ARTICLE ARE MY OPINIONS, THEY ARE MEANT TO ENCOURAGE HONEST AND OPEN CONVERSATION – PENNY

PSALM 66:1

Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE JANUARY 2022 SESSION MEETING

- ♦ The Session met Sunday, January 9, 2022, in the Fellowship Hall. We had 11 Elders in attendance and Moderator, Rev. Karen Allamon.
- ♦ A meeting was held to update and review the process of Gracious Dismissal with the congregation following worship on January 9, 2022. The Session has agreed to continue having a meeting every month, the 2nd Sunday after worship, to keep the congregation informed.
- ♦ A letter of resignation was read and accepted from Lee Ann Heizer as Trustee of Bethel Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2021. The Session thanks her for her service.
- ♦ The Elder-on-Call for the month of February will be Tammy Barbour. If you need anything including pastoral care she can be reached at (540) 471-0450 (call or text) and barbour.tamara@yahoo.com.

See you at church on Sunday!
Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PRAYER LIST

February 6, 2022 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

(updated 1/26/22)
Bethel (*our* church)
Leaders & Congregation

February 13, 2022 6th Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,
Bethel Ruling Elder

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS
Betty Heizer Louise Hoy
Margaret Liptrap John Pilson

February 20, 2022 7th Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
CONGREGATION
Dave Brooks Matt Koogler

February 27, 2022 Transfiguration of the Lord
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,
Bethel Ruling Elder

Jamie Pirkey Van Pirkey
Bill Ross

WORSHIP LEADER Cindy Almarode
(Substitute: Penny Lee)

Copies of Prayer List in
vestibule if needed.

BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 2022

James TateFebruary 1
John DavisFebruary 2
Steve Hord February 3
Nancy ReichardFebruary 8
Debra CallisonFebruary 10
Jackie LawFebruary 10
Lydia LeeFebruary 10
Doug BrubeckFebruary 11
Kathy Swisher February 11
R.W. Ware, Jr. February 11
Yvonne Goodson February 13
Dustin MooreFebruary 15
Jean Callison February 17
Molly Smith February 19

Myran MooreFebruary 26
Kay SwisherFebruary 27
Maggie RiversFebruary 28

BEGINNING OF MARCH

Patrick HordMarch 2
Bobby GoodsonMarch 3
Jim StoutMarch 7
Heather ClemMarch 8
Harris MoffettMarch 10

February 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(February 6th)</i> (Moon Phase: New Moon)	2 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:30 - Young Life: Club	3 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	4 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	5
6 11:00 - Worship	7 Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	8 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(February 13th)</i> (Moon Phase: First Quarter)	9 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:30 - Young Life: Club	10 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	11 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	12
13 11:00 - Worship 12:45 - Session Meeting	14 St. Valentine's Day Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	15 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(February 20th)</i>	16 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:30 - Young Life: Club (Moon Phase: Full Moon)	17 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 1:00 - PW Circle 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	18 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: March 2022 Tower	19
20 11:00 - Worship	21 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	22 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(January 27th)</i>	23 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:30 - Young Life: Club (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)	24 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	25 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	26 9:30 - Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting (via Zoom)
27 Transfiguration of the Lord 11:00 - Worship & Four Cents A Meal Offering 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	28 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners					