

# THE Tower

MAY 2022

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## —AS THIS— ELDER SEES IT

*Old Habits, Won't Open New Doors\**

We all own a few, some good - others questionable, some are old but we develop new ones all the time, extremely hard to break, and sometimes we don't even know we own one until a well meaning friend or spouse points it out to us. Groups, businesses and churches can claim ownership to a few as well. You've guessed by now that I'm talking about habits. Webster's dictionary defines a habit as "a way of acting that has become fixed through repetition." Church on Sunday is a good habit, staying home can become an easy habit.

The Pandemic created and broke habits. Wearing a face mask was a habit I easily broke. Churches have both traditions and habits. The habit of attending church in-person changed into a habit of watching church services online, in the comfort of our homes. Only time will tell how hard this habit will be to break. Bethel's traditional 11:00 am service changed to a 10:00 am outside service held at the Chapel in the Woods. Two reasons for this change were Bethel's long time organist, Sara Ann Lamb, passed away and large gatherings were considered safer outside. Bethel's internet will not support live streaming of our services.

Will our outside summer service become a habit.....or a tradition? It's too soon to know; but, one I hope could be an option in the future.

As Bethel stands on the edge of a new beginning, let us take this time to consider what we will bring with us on this new journey. Will our old habits keep us from exploring new ideas? Can we adapt to a new time of worshiping, not only at 11:00? We wore a mask to go shopping, kept social distance while standing in line, used drive-thru rather than go inside for meals; developed new habits for a new decade and we survived.

*Matthew 9:17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wine skins. If they do, the skin will burst, the wine will run out and the wine skin will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wine skin, and both are preserved.*

And from our Lent 2022 devotional:

Monday, March 7th

Luke 1:78-79

Brian McLaren writes in *We Make the Road by Walking*, (Faith) was to be a road, a way out of old destructive patterns into new creative ones."

Wednesday, March 9th

Luke 9:57-62

We long to walk the new road with Christ, but people, places and memories to which we are emotionally attached can keep us looking back. *(continues)*

We cling to beliefs, ideologies and world views taught to us by family or handed down with authority, but that can keep us from new ideas and discoveries.

We are a part of a living Christian tradition.

We can honor our past while remaining open to the new road Christ's Spirit leads us along.

I believe in Bethel and the people of Bethel who have kept Bethel strong and active for 275+ years. Bethel's Mission Statement says it all; "As a worshipping community with a rich Christian history, we belong to God, to the church, to the community, to the world, and to one another." We will continue to provide time, talent, and financial resources to support programs that improve and enrich our community and world. We will spread the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, music, prayer, fellowship and outreach, leading Bethel to grow spiritually, economically, and in membership for a healthy future.

Tamara Barbour,  
Worship Committee

*\*The inspiration for this article was taken from Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao, Associate Presbyterian of Shenandoah Presbytery, in her July 2020 article for the Presbytery Newsletter.*

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## SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

11:00 am Chapel in the Woods

May 15th, 2022 - October 2022 *(weather permitting)*  
*(Rain Location: Sanctuary)*

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Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Comfort Care Bottle Campaign. We received a thank you letter from Comfort Care along with the news that we raised a grand total of \$749.19. Way to go Bethel!

## PRAYER LIST

*(updated 4/22/22)*

Bethel (*our* church)

Leaders & Congregation

### CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Debbie Hughes Jane Law

Margaret Liptrap John Pilson

Jill Webb

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Kimberleigh Bush Matt Koogler

Jamie Pirkey Van Pirkey

Bill Ross

### SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Betty Heizer

Family & Friends of Louise Caldwell

### COMMUNITY & WORLD

Bridgewater College & Bridgewater  
Community

Ukraine & the Ukrainian People

Copies of Prayer List in vestibule.

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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.

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.

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## **NEWS & NOTES FROM THE SESSION**

The Session met April 10th, 2022, in the Fellowship Hall, with nine members present.

A meeting was held to update and review the process of Gracious Dismissal with the congregation on April 10th, 2022. A Congregational Meeting was also held to review the Annual Reports for 2021 and the new 2022 budget.

The Elder-on-Call for the month of May is Penny Lee. Penny can be reached at (540) 416-8996 (text or call) and email at brianpennyfamilee@gmail.com.

The Session approved a motion to have Derek Almarode as the full-time Supply in the pulpit beginning May 29th, 2022, until a full-time Pastor can be secured. Derek will serve as a Congregational Shepherd to include sick calls, funerals, weddings upon congregation/family requests.

With these extra duties for Derek, David Schooley and Brian Lee will be Co-Chairs of the Stewardship & Finance Committee. Derek will continue to serve on the S & F Committee.

A motion was approved to have Dominion Power run electricity to the Pavilion in the woods.

A motion was approved to write a check to pay for the digitizing of all Session Minutes and the history of Bethel Church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Karen Allamon.

David Schooley, Clerk

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## **DONATIONS FOR THE VALLEY MISSION NEEDED**

The Valley Mission in Staunton, Virginia is in need of donations of the following items:

sandwich bags and lunch bags	Lysol wipes and spray
Windex	bathroom cleaner
laundry detergent	aluminum foil
umbrellas/ponchos	work gloves

Please leave all donations in the designated box next to the Church Office.

Contact Beth Miller if you have any questions. Thank you!

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- May 1, 2022 3rd Sunday of Easter  
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder  
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)
- May 8, 2022 4th Sunday of Easter  
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder  
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)
- May 15, 2022 5th Sunday of Easter  
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,  
Bethel Ruling Elder
- May 22, 2022 6th Sunday of Easter  
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder  
(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)
- May 29, 2022 7th Sunday of Easter  
Memorial Day weekend  
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,  
Bethel Ruling Elder

MAY WORSHIP LEADER Wade Cash  
(Substitute Brian Lee)

## "A NIGHT OF PRAISE"

The Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) program is sponsoring "A Night of Praise" on Sunday, May 15th, at 6:00 pm, at Raphine Christian Church.

There will be local churches, community groups, and individuals performing all types of musical arrangements.

A free-will offering will be taken for the Riverheads WRE program so even if you don't plan to sing make sure to attend and mention the event to your friends and neighbors too! We want to make sure everyone in the community knows about it!



**BIRTHDAYS MAY 2022**

Sally Brubeck.....May 1  
James Gano .....May 5  
Tabby Moore .....May 7  
Caroline Moffett .....May 9  
David Schooley .....May 11  
Janice Goodson .....May 14  
Keith Folsom .....May 15  
Andrew Folsom .....May 16  
Benjamin Folsom .....May 16  
Rosalee Miller .....May 18  
Alexander Strausbaugh .....May 21  
Chad Shomo .....May 22

Lee Ann Whitesell .....May 26  
Summer Barmore .....May 27  
Willow Bosserman .....May 27  
Will Sproul .....May 28  
Jonah Williams .....May 29

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**BEGINNING OF JUNE**

Moose Lee .....June 1  
Jarod Davis .....June 2  
Susan McCutchen-Smith .....June 2  
Katie Leonard Wimer .....June 4

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**ANNIVERSARIES MAY 2022**

Jimmy & Debbie Callison  
May 19, 1984

Bill & Sally Brubeck  
May 21, 1955

D.W. & Beth Miller  
May 23, 2005

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**BEGINNING OF JUNE**

Wes & Katie McElveen  
June 6, 2015

# May 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Young Life: Campaigners	<b>3</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(May 8th)</i>	<b>4</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:30 Young Life: Club	<b>5</b> National Day of Prayer 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Choir Rehearsal 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day 11:00 Worship	<b>9</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Young Life: Campaigners	<b>10</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(May 15th)</i>	<b>11</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:30 Young Life: Club	<b>12</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 6:30 Bible Study	<b>13</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> OUTDOOR WORSHIP 2022 SERVICES BEGIN Outdoor Worship Services at 11:00 am at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(Rain Location:            Sanctuary)</i> 12:15 Session Meeting 12:15 PWCT Meeting	<b>16</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Young Life: Campaigners	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(May 22nd)</i>	<b>18</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:30 Young Life: Club	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 1:30 PW Circle 6:30 Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: June Tower Newsletter	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 11:00 Worship at the Chapel & Five Cents A Meal Offering	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Young Life: Campaigners	<b>24</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(May 29th)</i>	<b>25</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:30 Young Life: Club	<b>26</b> Ascension of the Lord 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 6:30 Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 11:00 Worship at the Chapel	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Church Office Closed	<b>31</b> Church Office Closed				