

THE Tower

JUNE 2022

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—AS THIS— ELDER SEES IT



Memorial Day weekend is upon us. Time to remember those that selflessly laid down their lives for our freedom and remember all of our loved ones that served. Time to decorate our homes in red, white and blue and usher in that patriotic feeling yet another year.

I used to think it odd that we celebrated Memorial Day with picnics and celebrations. I have reconsidered: if remembering those that

made the ultimate sacrifice is a reason for us to gather, fellowship and love on each other, then I guess it makes sense. Bible study has me re-considering a lot of things, or maybe it's my age, perhaps a combination.

In God's word, He is consistently telling us to love people, to show grace, to hate sin but love the sinner, to reflect the light of Jesus onto others and to do it joyfully.

As we move closer to our gracious dismissal, I think we should find all the reasons we can to gather, fellowship and love on each other. We cannot fully serve others if we haven't first discovered how to joyfully share the light and love of Jesus Christ with each other. No matter what. No. Matter. What.

Peace & Love, Penny Lee, Elder

I hope you love this excerpt from Romans 12 as much as I do...



ROMANS 12 3-18 (NIV)

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

A NOTE FROM THE BETHEL SESSION

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church is pleased and proud to announce that member & Elder Derek Almarode will be filling a role here at Bethel, starting May 29th, 2022. He will be our full-time Pulpit Supply Pastor until we are able to fill the pulpit with a full-time Pastor. He will continue as our Bible Study Leader and serve as the congregation Shepherd, to include, calling on the sick, funerals and weddings upon request of congregants and family.

In the past Derek has filled the Pulpit regularly, both here and at Pines Chapel, as well as other churches in our area. He is a lifetime member of Bethel and has been very active in the life of Bethel, serving as Deacon and Elder for most of his adult life.

Again, I'm very proud that Derek has made this decision and look forward to the future here at Bethel. Please extend to him your support and best wishes.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session

Proposal from Derek Almarode

I proffer to serve the pulpits of both Bethel and Pines consistently every week starting May 29, 2022, until my services are no longer needed by the two churches. I will also continue teaching a weekly Bible Study group every Thursday as I am currently doing. Once the current Bible Study has been completed, I will seek out another class syllabus so both congregations and our community friends can share in the Gospel of Jesus Christ together as we currently do. In addition, I will serve as your Shepherd "On Call" for emergencies within your congregations until your pulpits are filled permanently by the actions of your Session. Should one church hire before the other I will remain with the other church until they hire as well. I will serve as directed by the Session in all matters to include assisting in funerals and weddings should the families find that fitting and appropriate.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING

The Session met May 15th, 2022, in the Bethel Fellowship Hall, with 8 members present.

- A meeting was held to update and review the process of Gracious Dismissal with the congregation on May 15th, 2022.
- Rev. Karen Allamon, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.
- The Elder-on-Call for the month of June will be Derek Almarode. He can be reached by phone at (540) 280-4940 (call or text) or by email at almarodes@verizon.net.
- A Bethel Christian Scholarship was approved for Will Hanger, who will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall. We wish him the best of luck with his continuing education.
- The application to ECO was reviewed, revised, and approved to send.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by Karen Allamon.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

11:00 am Chapel in the Woods

June 2022 - October 2022 (*weather permitting*)

(*Rain Location: Sanctuary*)

PRAYER LIST

(*updated 5/27/22*)

Bethel (*our* church)

Leaders & Congregation

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Joyce Davis Jane Law

Margaret Liptrap ∞John Pilson

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Matt Koogler Jamie Pirkey

Van Pirkey Bill Ross

SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Debbie Hughes

Family & Friends of Lynn Moore

COMMUNITY & WORLD

Ukraine & the Ukrainian People

Families & Community of Uvalde, TX

Copies of Prayer List in vestibule.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS & NOTES

The Bethel Worship Committee is pleased to welcome Bethel's own Ruling Elder, Derek Almarode, as our full-time Pulpit Supply Pastor. Bethel was blessed to have so many Pulpit Supply Pastors preach every Sunday, for both inside and outside worship services, for the last (almost) 3 years. We wish to thank them for their continued support and sharing of God's word with us each Sunday.

Rev. Bernard Bangley

Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

ECO Scott Dove, Ruling Elder

ECO James Dye, Ruling Elder

Rev. Melissa Harmon

Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao

Rev. Clayton Rascoe

Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder

And in addition to Derek, Bethel's own Ruling Elders, Brian Lee and Jill Webb.

Sunday, May 29th, 2022, will be Derek's official start of his full-time pulpit supply for Bethel and Pines Chapel. It was felt by both the Worship Committee and Session that the time had come to have a single, consistent presence in the pulpit each Sunday. With Derek, Bethel gets both a pulpit supply speaker and someone who knows the people of Bethel. Please come and support Bethel and Derek as we move closer to a new beginning (hopefully) with ECO.

Tamara Barbour,
Worship Committee Chair

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.

∞ *Cards can be sent to John Pilson at Blue Ridge Christian Home; they are appreciated!*
(85 Beulah Drive; Raphine, VA 24472)

BETHEL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

Mark your calendars! Bethel will have their VBS on Saturday, July 9th, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Some of the fun activities include a scavenger hunt, escape room, and a campfire in the evening. More details to follow. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like more information, please contact Cindy Almarode, Christian Education Chair (540/490-2121; calmarode@hotmail.com).

PINES CHAPEL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

Mark your calendars! Pines Chapel (our sister church) will have their VBS on Monday, June 20th - Friday, June 24th, from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. A light supper will be served. The theme of VBS is: "Jerusalem Marketplace" and there will be a story along with crafts and music each evening. Everyone is invited so make plans to join them!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

WILLIAM MCKAY HANGER

Son of Billy & Kristin Hanger

Graduated from Riverheads High School

Attending Virginia Tech in the fall



Will accepting his diploma.

MADISON MILLER

Daughter of Ron & Lori Miller

Graduated from Eastern Mennonite University

BSN in Nursing

Will be working at UVA as a Maternity Nurse

TRENTON JEFFERY THOMPSON

Son of Paul Thompson and Wendy Thompson

Grandson of Dale & Kay Thompson

Graduated from Riverheads High School

I USED TO BE
FRUSTRATED THAT JESUS
DIDN'T GIVE ME
EVERYTHING THAT I
PRAYED FOR.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

AND NOW?



I FIGURE WE DON'T
GIVE HIM EVERYTHING
HE PRAYS FOR!



JOHN 17:20-26

OUCH!



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Thank you to all who participated in the ComfortCare "Stride for Life" walk in May. The Bethel team name was the "Bethel Brave Hearts". The photo to the right is two of our walkers Stephanie Rivers and Beth Miller with the Bethel poster.



Thanks again to all of you for your help, work and participation!

The following letter is from ComfortCare Women's Health to the Bethel congregation:

**"He is amazing.
More than amazing.
Forever our God.
He's more than enough.
He is Amazing!"**



ComfortCare Women's Health
Caring for women- body, head, & heart

Administrative Office | (540) 885-7448
PO Box 924 | SupportCC.org
Staunton, VA 24402 | @SupportCCWH

You are Amazing!

Thank you for participating in our 2022 Baby Bottle Campaign.
#SPEAKUP for those who cannot speak for themselves. Proverbs 31:6

He is Amazing!

This year 168 churches/organizations participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign.
Increase of 52 participants from last year!

He is Amazing!

This year 6,207 Baby Bottles were distributed.
Increase of 1,628 baby bottles.

He is Amazing!

This year we had 50 volunteers: Baby Bottle Managers, Processors, and Adm. Support.
Increase of 28 volunteers.

More than Amazing.

This year the Baby Bottle Campaign raised \$134,007.25
Staunton/Augusta \$100,003.09 Rockbridge/Bath \$34,004.16
Increase of \$32,138.71 from 2021.

Bethel Presbyterian Church raised \$749.19

HE IS FOREVER OUR GOD, AND HE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

Thank you for partnering with ComfortCare and the Creator of Life to make THIS year
AMAZING!

Living for God with a Passion for LIFE!

Director of Events

Locations

631 Waddell St, Lexington, VA 24450 *(clinic)*
1020 North Augusta St, Staunton, VA 24401 *(clinic & admin offices)*
Corner of 13th and Magnolia St, Waynesboro, VA 22980 *(clinic)*

BIRTHDAYS JUNE 2022

Moose Lee June 1
Jarod Davis June 2
Susan McCutchen-Smith June 2
Ben Williams June 9
Joe F. Williams June 12
Sally (Beard) Shafer June 16
Cate Schooley June 19
Stephanie Davis June 21
Marion Simmers June 26
Alex Sproul June 27

Laura Barmore June 29
Bill Francisco June 29
Bob Olson June 29
Barbara Damico June 30
Joyce Davis June 30

BEGINNING OF JULY

Faye Brown July 7
Bruce Lamond, Jr. July 7

ANNIVERSARIES JUNE 2022

Wes & Katie McElveen June 6, 2015
Joe & Tabby Moore June 11, 1994
Joe F. & Sally Williams June 15, 1985
Tim & Julie Turner June 18, 2007

BEGINNING OF JULY

Frank & Brenda Shiflett July 7, 1967
Dale & Kay Thompson July 7, 1967
David & Betty Schooley July 8, 1967

June 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 - DEADLINE: Bulletin & Announcements (June 5th & June 12th)	2 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 6:30 Bible Study	3 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	4
5 Pentecost Sunday 11:00 Worship at the Chapel 12:15 - PWCT Meeting 1:00 - 5:00 Private Event (in Fellowship Hall set-up & program)	6 Church Office Closed (Tuesday Club Fellowship Hall set-up & decorate)	7 Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation June 7th - June 10th) 11:00 - 3:00 - Tuesday Club (Fellowship Hall)	8 Church Office Closed	9 Church Office Closed 6:30 Bible Study	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 Trinity Sunday 11:00 Worship at the Chapel & Communion 6:00 Session Meeting	13 Church Office Closed	14 Flag Day 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (June 19th)	15 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	16 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 1:30 PW Circle 6:30 Bible Study	17 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: July Tower Newsletter	18
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 11:00 Worship at the Chapel	20 Church Office Closed 6:00 - 8:30 Pines Chapel - Vacation Bible School (June 20th - June 24th)	21 Summer begins 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (June 26th)	22 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	23 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 6:30 Bible Study	24 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	25
26 11:00 Worship at the Chapel & 5 Cents A Meal Offering 12:15 Lemonade at the Pavilion	27 Church Office Closed	28 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements (July 3rd)	29 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	30 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 6:30 Bible Study		