

THE Tower

NOVEMBER 2022

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Fall — my favorite time of year. Our Creator never ceases to amaze with the beauty of the leaves and the smell of Autumn. The first crisp mornings when the sun is glistening across the frosty grass makes my heart so happy ...and my joints - not so much. No one will agree with me here, but one of my first thoughts is “I’d love to have a snowy Thanksgiving.” That is my romantic visual of perfect family time.

After all the hustle and bustle of summer, what better way to recharge than to be snowed in with an abundance of food, a warm fire and family. Time to recharge your relationships. Time to just be together. Time to rebuild anything that may have fallen through the cracks or been neglected in the busy spring and summer months.

Maybe it is a happy coincidence that it is now November and everything is complete but “the buyout” for our move to ECO, maybe the timing is perfect. All in God’s time - not ours. All the same things that the Lee family needs at home, I do believe our church family needs as well. The exact same things: Time to recharge our relationships.

—AS THIS— ELDER SEES IT

Time to fellowship together. Time to rebuild anything that may have fallen through the cracks or been neglected in the past busy seasons.

Some people look at fall as bleak and dreary, all they see is the empty trees and think their surroundings have become depressing. In this season, the leaves become bright and beautiful and then shed from the trees to make way for rebirth in the spring. Trees absorb the nutrients from the leaves in the fall and store them in their roots, making them strong to survive the season. In the spring, with no leaves on their branches, the wind can carry pollen to reach more trees. The tree remains deeply rooted, yet the pollen spreads far and wide.

My hope is that Bethel can be like the trees this fall. May we shed all our woes and let our souls shine bright like the leaves. May our roots be deep & strong and fed by our faith and may we spread our Christian love like the pollen.

Peace & Love, Penny Lee, Elder

1 PETER 5: 1-11 NIV

To the Elders and the Flock

- ⁵ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:
- ² Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;
- ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
- ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.
- ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”
- ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
- ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.
- ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
we’ll understand it all by and by..*

EXCERPT FROM THE HYMN FARTHER ALONG

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

The Session met October 9th, 2022, in the Bethel Fellowship Hall, with 10 Elders present. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, John Craft, from Bethany Presbyterian Church.



- The Elder-on-Call for the month of November will be Derek Almarode. He can be reached by phone at (540) 280-4940 (call or text) or by email at almarodes@verizon.net.



- Negotiations are being worked out with the Shenandoah Presbytery Commission and additional information is being gathered.
- The church security cameras have been installed for church security and protection.
- A motion was approved to have a family Christmas program in the evening, December 17th, 2022, at the Chapel in the Woods. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - please see Tammy Barbour.
- Bible Study is continuing on Thursday nights.



- The Youth Committee is planning Trunk-or-Treat, a movie night, and dinners in the future.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by Derek Almarode.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SESSION WILL MEET ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER RATHER THAN THE SECOND. THIS WILL BE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE DEACONS.

ELDER-ON-CALL

NOVEMBER 2022

If you have a pastoral need during the month of November please contact Derek Almarode.

(540) 280-4940 (call or text)
almarodes@verizon.net



The Church Office will be closed Monday, November 14th - Friday, November 18th 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 23rd - Friday, November 25th 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



DECEMBER TOWER DEADLINE

The December Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Sunday, November 20th. You may leave articles and announcements for the Tower in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. We welcome & appreciate early submissions before the 20th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?



Monday: Office Closed

Tuesday—Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm

*lunch *usually* from
12:30 pm—1:00 pm

(540) 886-6041
bethelpc@gmail.com

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2022

Remember to go vote on Tuesday, November 8th if you haven't already. Make your voice heard!



PRAYER LIST (updated 10/25/22)

Bethel Leadership & Our Bethel Church Family

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Joyce Davis Jane Law
Margaret Liptrap John Pilson

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Ashley Kellogg & Matt Cloonan
Ann Kellogg Tracy Koogler
Miah Miller Van Pirkey

SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Ava Ann Cloonan
Family & Friends of Shelby Fridley
Family & Friends of Matt Koogler
Family & Friends of Dan Sumner

Prayer Requests/Changes

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.

Please continue to pray daily for one another. Don't forget to check on each other whether by phone, text messages, cards or email. It takes just a moment and is a great way to show others you care about them!



CALLING FOR BELL RINGERS!

Volunteers are needed to help with ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Staunton Kroger on Thursday, December 8th, from 11:00 am to 7:00 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!



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. Such children may be victims of abuse or neglect, staying short or long term, depending on their situation

These children would enjoy receiving gift cards from the Bethel congregation for Christmas. The cards that are most popular are from Walmart or McDonald's. Other places where children could use gift cards are Burger King, Target, and Dollar General or Dollar Tree.

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 20th, 2022.

Thank you for your help with this effort by Bethel's Presbyterian Women.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2022

There is an exciting mission project that all of us can participate in! This project is a way for our entire congregation to give back during the holiday season. You can help our Mission Committee support the Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

This is a project asking 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 13th, 2022.

Shoeboxes along with labels and a guide with suggestions of gifts are available in the vestibule.



JUST A NOTE . . .

Presbyterian Women Yearbooks 2022 - 2023 have not been published as the PWCT discusses changes with their calendar year. The yearbooks will be published asap after a decision has been made. Thank you!

THANK OFFERING

Since 1888, Presbyterian Women have funded aid programs through the Thank Offering. In 2022, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee selected 10 Thank Offering projects for funding. Eight of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. More than 40% of the selected projects are related to health ministries.



- Valley Habitat for Humanity Home Repair Ministry - Maumee, Ohio
- Tornado Survivors Pathway to Home Ownership - Dayton, Ohio
- Habitat for Humanity - Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Presbyterian Home for Children - Talladega, Alabama
- Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women - Raleigh, North Carolina
- Cancer Navigators, Inc - Day & Overnight Retreat - Rome, Georgia
- CAMP University, Commercial Kitchen Safety Update - McAllen, Texas
- Tree of Life Church, Our Community Cup Coffee House - Springfield, Pennsylvania
- Haiti - Village Partners International and Mombim Crochu Hospital
- Lebanon - Enhancement of Women with Physical Challenges in Rural Areas

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meeting -
November 17th, 2022, 12:45 pm.

CAN YOU HELP?

THE VALLEY MISSION IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR WINTER:

*COLD & FLU MEDICINE

*HATS

*SCARVES

*GLOVES (children & adults)



Also Needed:

shampoo

shower gel/soap

toilet paper

paper towels

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!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2022

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$13,550.00

Offerings September 2022: \$13,066.00



A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

The leadership (& staff) of Bethel are so grateful for your continued generosity and giving!

If you are unable to attend worship but want and can contribute to Bethel's budget please mail your tithe or offering to:

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Attn: Kay Thompson
563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, VA 24401

*THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE
THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY & CONTINUED
FINANCIAL SUPPORT!*

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 6th, 2022 DST ENDS

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

~ All Saints' Sunday Worship Service ~

November 13th, 2022

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

November 20th, 2022

Christ the King Sunday

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

November 27th, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent

~ Hanging of the Greens Worship Service ~

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY



Bethel will be recognizing All Saints' Sunday on November 6th, 2022. During worship we will remember all in our Community of Faith who have claimed the Gift of Eternal Life, over the past year. Please join us for this special service that will include a candle lighting ceremony of remembrance.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Make sure to join us on Sunday, November 27th, 2022, as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season! Worship will be a special service. The symbols of Advent will be explained and we will light our Christmas tree for the first time this season! Join us for this traditional holiday service!

CANDLES OF ADVENT

Advent means "coming," and during this season, we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. We will light a candle on the Advent wreath each week. Shaped in a perfect circle of evergreens, it symbolizes God's eternity. These four Sundays preceding Christmas are recognized for four virtues. The candles symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. The fifth and final candle is the Christ candle which will be lit on Christmas Eve to remind us of the light Jesus Christ brings to the world.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS 2022

Starting Sunday, November 20th, there will be devotional booklets "Be Born in Us Today" available for Advent. Advent calendars will also be available for children. Both will be in the vestibule and are free.



These resources are provided by the Worship & Christian Education Committees.

The booklet has daily meditations by notable author, pastor, and professor Chad Bird. It is our sincere hope that you will use this booklet as we journey together to the manger this Advent season!



November
Worship
Leader:

Cindy
Almarode

FLOWER SCHEDULE

November 2022

| | |
|---------------|---|
| November 6th | Cindy Almarode (DST ends) |
| November 13th | Sally Brubeck |
| November 20th | Tammy Barbour (Christ the King Sunday) |
| November 27th | Kay Swisher (1st Sunday in Advent) |



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*VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST
WITH THIS EVENT INCLUDING THE NATIVITY!*

Please contact Tammy Barbour ASAP if you can help!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

At the September Session meeting a Family Christmas outdoors program was approved. Bethel's traditional Christmas Eve program will stay the same at 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve!



The Worship Committee has proposed a family-oriented Christmas program to reach out to our families with younger kids.

LOCATION: Chapel in the Woods

DATE: December 17th, 2022 TIME: 6:00 pm

LIVE ANIMALS: sheep and a donkey

REFRESHMENTS: cookies & hot chocolate/cider

BONFIRE WITH SINGING

PROGRAM: lessons & carols

THANK YOU
BETHEL!



The Youth
Committee would like to
thank ...

Those who came to the pancake
supper and made a donation!
Those donations help fund
activities for the next year!

All of those who helped make the
Harvest Party happen and who
joined us for the fun!
We had 52 children & 125 adults!

Y'ALL ARE THE BEST!

Happy Birthday!



| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Leona Ware | November 1 |
| Jill Webb | November 11 |
| Bayleigh Lee | November 15 |
| Brian Lee | November 17 |
| Kenny Olson | November 22 |
| Sue Whitesell | November 30 |

BEGINNING OF DECEMBER

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Jimmy Callison | December 2 |
| Guy D. Brooks | December 3 |
| Puggie Sprouse | December 8 |
| Samuel Williams | December 8 |

Happy Anniversary!

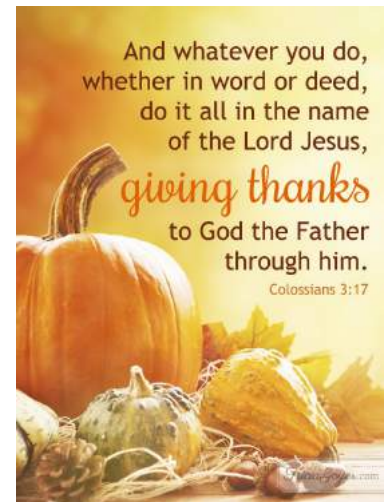


| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Sam & Luanne Leonard | November 1, 1980 |
| Charlie & Rhonda Johnson | November 5, 1983 |
| Alex & Lucy Sproul | November 25, 1972 |

If you have a birthday and/or anniversary that you would like to have appear in the Bethel Tower and we have missed it, please call or email the Church Office. We can include it in future publications.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE



November 2022



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|-----------|
|  | | 1 All Saints' Day 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(November 6th)</i> | 2 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 3 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study | 4 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 5 |
| 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends 11:00 Worship & All Saints' Service 12:45 - Session & Deacons Joint Meeting | 7 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts | 8 Election Day 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(November 13th & November 20th)</i> | 9 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 10 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study | 11 Veterans Day 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 12 |
| 13 11:00 Worship Deadline: OCC Shoeboxes | 14 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts <i>(Adrienne on vacation November 14th - November 18th)</i> | 15 Church Office Closed 9:30 Presbytery Meeting at Massanetta Springs | 16 Church Office Closed | 17 Church Office Closed 12:45 Circle Meeting 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study | 18 Church Office Closed | 19 |
| 20 Christ the King Sunday 11:00 Worship Deadline: PCHH Gift Cards Deadline: December Tower Newsletter Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(November 27th)</i> | 21 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 22 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed | 25 Church Office Closed | 26 |
| 27 First Sunday of Advent 11:00 Worship & Hanging of the Greens | 28 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts | 29 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | 30 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours | | | |



BETHEL CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2023

Bob Olson
Dave Schooley
Tim Turner

Class of 2024

Tammy Barbour
Brian Lee
Dale Thompson
Jill Webb

Class of 2025

Cindy Almarode
Derek Almarode
Wade Cash
Penny Lee

Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

BETHEL CHURCH DEACONS

Class of 2023

Ellen Fitzgerald
Charlie Johnson

Class of 2024

Mitch Lathrop
D.W. Miller

Class of 2025

Harleigh Lee
Katie McElveen

BETHEL CHURCH TRUSTEES

Class of 2023

Bill Brubeck
James Williams

Class of 2024

Guy D. Brooks

Class of 2025

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

Penny Lee, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians