

THE *Tower*

DECEMBER 2022

563 Bethel Green Road Staunton, VA 24401 • 540-886-6041
bethelpc@gmail.com • bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



Hola from Peru! Studying and traveling down here has been an amazing experience! It hasn't been like anything I could have expected, and I have continuously been surprised.

When I first arrived here in September, I was pleasantly surprised to be in such a modern city because I wasn't expecting to have all of the modern amenities that I am blessed to have at home. Initially, I thought it would be a completely different world down here, but come to find out it's actually very similar.

Peru is a very diverse country. I have been able to trek through the Andes, visit Incan ruins, visit Afroperuvian communities in the coastal desert, as well as communities in the Amazon Rainforest, and currently I live in the Andes mountains and shadow in a hospital to see first hand what Peruvian healthcare is like. The way of life is extremely different in each region here with regard to traditions and customs. The one thing I found that each of these communities have in common is that they all share similar values. Hard work, family, and faith are extremely important in every community here. I find it ironic that I will be coming home soon for Christmas, and no matter how culturally different things are here with all of the differ-

ent kinds of people, they're similar in so many ways. The people here are full of joy, love, and hope. When I first arrived, I expected those that have less to not be as content with their lives or constantly be wishing for more; however, it's quite the opposite. The citizens here seem to be genuinely happy and enjoy their day to day lives because they've never known anything different. At home, it feels like everyone is wishing or wanting for more and never content, here they seem happy.

There are some families here that have mansions in the cities, and there are others that have small houses made of tarps and sheets of metal with a tiny plot of land in the provincias. If you compare these people, they obviously have differences in material worth. Yet, those that are "less fortunate" aren't really less fortunate aside from material things. I put this in quotations because I'm not a big fan of the phrase. Less fortunate to me means a lack of resources like safe water, a roof over their head, or food on their table. But, less fortunate meaning less amenities and unnecessary things that we're used to having, I don't consider "less fortunate". I think if people have everything they need, they're as fortunate as anybody else. I've grown up with the opinion that not having money or not owning many things doesn't mean you aren't blessed with what God gave you. This has been reiterated with the people that I have encountered

here because they are so thankful and grateful for what they do have. This perspective has shown me that less may actually be more. These people share the hope and love of Christmas without all the fanfare and big wish lists for more. These are things that will stick with me.

As I have three weeks left here in Peru, it's been fun to look back on the things I have experienced. I am extremely grateful to have been afforded this opportunity, and I want to thank my church family again for the continuous love and support you have shown me.

Love, Lydia



13 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.

ROMANS 15:13

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER SESSION MEETING



The Session met November 6th, 2022, in the Bethel Fellowship Hall, with 9 Elders present. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator, John Craft, from Bethany Presbyterian Church.

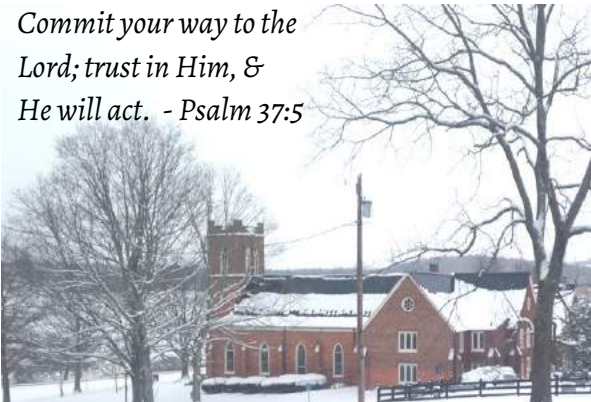
- The Elder-on-Call for the month of December will be Derek Almarode. He can be reached by phone at (540) 280-4940 (call or text) or by email at almarodes@verizon.net.
- Negotiations are being worked out with the Shenandoah Presbytery Commission and additional information is being gathered. We are now waiting on a response from the Commission!
- A motion was approved to remove 2 pews and replace them with shorter pews. This will allow additional space for wheelchairs for handicapped individuals in attendance.
- The annual Christmas Fellowship Meal (covered dish) will be held after church on December 11th, 2022.
- Bethel's Youth Committee reported the Harvest Party was a great success, with pumpkin carving, Trunk-or-Treat, and other activities along with lots of candy & treats!
- Our annual Christmas Eve service will be held at 8:00 pm. If you would like to participate please see Tammy Barbour, Worship Committee Chair.
- The meeting was closed with prayer by Derek Almarode.



David Schooley, Clerk of Session

THE SESSION IS TAKING SOME TIME OFF AND WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, & He will act. - Psalm 37:5



The Church Office will be closed December 26th - January 3rd for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The staff of Bethel wishes you a blessed holiday season and a blessed 2023!

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.



SUBMIT
YOUR
ARTICLES



JANUARY TOWER DEADLINE

The January Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Sunday, December 18th. 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 18th! 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

CHURCH INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV-TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website (www.wHSV.com) for information on whether church has been cancelled.

For weekday activities please follow the Augusta County Schools. If school is cancelled, all events for that afternoon and evening at the church are cancelled.

The Church Office may also be closed due to inclement weather if Augusta County Schools are closed. If the Church Office is closed due to inclement weather and you have a need please contact Adrienne during normal office hours. She will still be available by phone and text (her home phone number), and email even if she is unable to be in the Church Office. Thank you!

Bethel's Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 11th, 2022

immediately following worship

Bethel Fellowship Hall

Covered Dish Meal

Bring your favorite main dish, casserole, side dish, salad, and/or dessert.

Come join us as we spend time with our friends and church family celebrating the most joyous season of the year!





Bethel Christmas Poinsettias & Christmas Donations to BERF

Purchase a Red Christmas poinsettia at \$10.00 each
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 December 18th, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.
Please fill out the form below completely, attach check or cash,
and 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 Church

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:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

(if you miss the deadline but would like to order a poinsettia contact Adrienne @ 540-886-6041)

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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 _____

Poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 18th, Christmas Eve, & Sunday, Dec. 25th.

PRAYER LIST (updated 11/21/22)

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 & Family Van Pirkey
Jack Turner

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.

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!

CAN YOU HELP? THE VALLEY MISSION IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR WINTER:



- *COLD & FLU MEDICINE
- *GLOVES (children & adults)
- *HATS
- *SCARVES

Also Needed:

- shampoo
- toilet paper
- Lysol wipes & spray
- sandwich & lunch bags
- laundry detergent
- umbrellas/ponchos
- shower gel/soap
- paper towels
- Windex
- bathroom cleaner
- aluminum foil
- 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!

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!

A NOTE ABOUT THE "CHRISTMAS ALIVE" PROJECT . . .

Bethel will be participating in Riverheads "Christmas Alive" project again this year. As soon as we receive information about the family, the tags will be placed on the tree if you would like to pick one (or more!) up. Thanks for your amazing generosity for this program in years past!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD REPORT

With YOUR help and generosity 28 shoeboxes for OCC were collected this year.

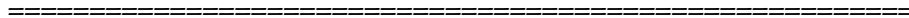
Thanks to Tammy Barbour and Katie McElveen for making this important mission project happen!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Bethel Circle will meet for their meeting and annual Christmas get-together on December 15th, 2022, at 12:30 pm. The meeting will be at the home of Phyllis Cash (774 Chestnut Ridge Road; Staunton 24401).

All women of Bethel are invited! Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Also, bring 2 dozen cookies to package and take to shut-ins. There will be Christmas cards to personalize too.



Volunteers are needed to assist with Bethel's Christmas Dinner following worship on December 11th, 2022. Four people will be needed before the meal and four will be needed after. Please contact Stephanie Rivers or Beth Miller if you can help. Thanks!

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!*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2022

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$13,550.00

Offerings October 2022: \$9,664.46

December
Worship
Leader:
Wade Cash



ADVENT WREATH SCHEDULE

November 27th, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens

Advent Wreath “Candle of Hope”
Shawn & Melissa Swisher and Mallory Swisher

November 4th, 2022
2nd Sunday of Advent
Advent Wreath “Candle of Peace”
Mo & Steve Kyle

November 11th, 2022
3rd Sunday of Advent
Advent Wreath “Candle of Joy”
Kent & Donna Wheeler

(schedule continues)

December 18th, 2022
4th Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath “Candle of Love”
Brian & Penny Lee and Trevor Lee

December 24th, 2022
Christmas Eve

Traditional Candlelight Service
Advent Wreath “Christ Candle”
Derek & Cindy Almarode and Ashlyn Almarode

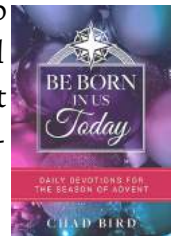


In the vestibule there are currently Advent devotional books provided by the Worship Committee free of charge. The book “And The Word Was God” provides devotions that will help with having a more focused and prayerful Advent season. Each day during Advent has a scripture along with writings of Henri J.M Nouwen, a master theologian. These devotions will guide you through this Advent season with hope, faith, joy and peace.

Make sure to pick up your free copy of this Advent resource today!

There are also Advent calendars available for children.

Please let Adrienne know if you would like her to mail you a copy and she will be happy to do so.



Flower Schedule
December 2022

December 4th &
December 11th
Kay Swisher

December 18th &
December 25th
Christmas Poinsettias



FLOWER SCHEDULE 2023

Mo Kyle is currently working on the Sanctuary Flower Schedule for 2023. If you would like to be removed from the schedule please contact Mo at 540/292-8578 by December 31st, 2022. 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 2023 schedule will be sent out the beginning of January to all those who have offered to provide flowers.



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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: 5:00 pm

LIVE ANIMALS: sheep and a donkey

REFRESHMENTS: cookies & hot chocolate/cider available at 4:30 pm and following the program

BONFIRE WITH SINGING PROGRAM: lessons & carols



CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT FOR SACRA (Staunton Augusta church Relief Association)

Memorial Baptist Church (224 Taylor Street, Staunton 24401; (540) 885-8033)

Monday, December 5th at 7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm

Come join us for a time of music, fellowship and an offering to SACRA. Featuring local musical artists: The Faithful Men (male vocal ensemble) Mr. Jefferson's Bones (trombone fun)

The Boogie Kings (ragtime, boogie & rockabilly trio)

A "Meet and Greet the Artists" time with refreshments will follow the concert.

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SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT Curtis Molley, Director

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, will present its 52nd annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 pm, at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The concert will feature G. F. Handel's *Messiah* accompanied by the SVCS Chamber orchestra, and student soloists from JMU's College of Visual & Performing Arts. The second half of the concert includes a variety of new and traditional carol settings, and will feature the premier of a new carol arrangement by local composer, Dr. John G. Barr.



Tickets are available at the door, locally at Harrisonburg Friendly City Food Coop, and online at singshenandoah.org. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

Happy Birthday!



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
Frank Shiflett	December 16
Cynthia Williams	December 16
Alice Wooddell	December 17
Bob Hoy	December 20
Luanne Leonard	December 20

Mitch Lathrop	December 24
Shirley Heizer	December 29
James Schooley	December 30

BEGINNING OF JANUARY

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

Happy Anniversary!



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

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.



DECEMBER CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE



December 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	2 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent 11:00 Worship 12:15 - PWCT Meeting	5 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(December 11th)</i>	7 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	8 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	9 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent 11:00 Worship 12:15 Annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner <i>(covered dish)</i>	12 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(December 18th)</i>	14 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	15 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 12:30 Circle Meeting & C'mas Get-Together <i>(at home of Phyllis Cash)</i> 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	16 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(December 25th, 2022 & January 1st, 2023)</i>	17 4:30 Family C'mas Program Refreshments <i>(Chapel in the Woods)</i> 5:00 Family C'mas Program <i>(Chapel in the Woods)</i>
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 11:00 Worship Deadline: January Tower Newsletter Deadline: C'mas Eve Bulletin	19 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	21 First Day of Winter 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	22 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	23 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	24 Christmas Eve 8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 
25 Christmas Day 11:00 Worship <i>(shortened service)</i> 	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve 

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