



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT › DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2023 › 11:00 AM

Prelude . . . . . O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee . . . . . arranged by David H Hegarty

Westminster Chimes

Welcome & Announcements . . . . . Wade Cash

**WE APPROACH GOD** -----

Invocation . . . . . Wade Cash

Call to Worship {Psalms 121} . . . . . Wade Cash

**Leader: Friends rejoice in the Lord always..**

People: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

**Leader: Shout for joy for the Lord is near.**

People: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things He has done.

**Leader: Let our praise be in tribute to God..**

**Everyone: God blesses us and saves us, Hallelujah Amen!**

† Opening Hymn #5 . . . . . Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent . . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Call to Confession . . . . . Wade Cash

† Prayer of Confession . . . . . Wade Cash

**Gracious God, it was with great joy you brought us into being. You created the world and called it good, yet we have done so much to quell that goodness. Father we have fought with one another and failed to live in peace. We have shut out the strangers, ignored the needy, and judged the poor. It is obvious we have fallen short of your command to be the beloved community. Forgive us merciful Father, and bring us back to the joy we find only in you. Amen.**

† Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness . . . . . Wade Cash



† Please stand - in body or spirit

Elder Wade Cash, Worship Leader

Elder Derek Almarode, Lay Pastor

**HEARING GOD'S WORD** -----

**The Advent Wreath** . . . . . Tammy Barbour & Mitch Lathrop

Luke 2:13-14

Lighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle . . . . . *The Candle of Joy*

The Advent Song - Verse 3 . . . . . Melissa Swisher

Advent Prayer

Anthem . . . . . *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*. . . . . Bethel Choir

*\*\*\*Please join the choir singing the Anthem!*

Time with Young People {Isaiah 55: 12} . . . . . *Joy Gift*. . . . . Derek Almarode

Prayer of Illumination . . . . . Derek Almarode

Scripture Reading {Isaiah 55, Galatians 5:22-24} . . . . . Derek Almarode

Sermon . . . . . *The Lord's Joy*. . . . . Derek Almarode

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** -----

† Hymn of Reflection #30. . . . . *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* . . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Statement of Faith {The Apostle's Creed} . . . . . Wade Cash

\*THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH: THAT IS THE TRUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ALL TIMES AND ALL PLACES

Joys & Concerns . . . . . Wade Cash

Prayers of the People followed by Amen #601 . . . . . Derek Almarode

**RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS** -----

Offertory . . . . . *Be Still, and Have Faith* . . . . . by James Denton

† Doxology. . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Prayer of Dedication. . . . . Derek Almarode

**SENDING** -----

† Closing Hymn #40 . . . . . *Joy to the World* . . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Charge & Benediction . . . . . Derek Almarode

Postlude . . . . . Alleluia, Song of Sweetness . . . . . by Edward Broughton

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY HAVE MISSED THIS LAST SUNDAY

*Thank you to those that rang the Salvation Army Bell!!*

BETH MILLER, MO KYLE, TAMMY BARBOUR, DAVE & BETTY SCHOOLEY,  
KAY THOMPSON, STEPHANIE RIVERS & GRANDDAUGHTER, TERRY & PARKER CAMPBELL

# Advent Song

2090

C C/E G7 G7 G7 G7 G7 C

1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the wait - ing has be - gun;  
 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of hum - ble shep - herds, who  
 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of heaven - ly har - mo - ny;  
 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of joy for - ev - er - more;  
 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of don - key, sheep, and cow;

E E7 Am F C/E C G7 G7

we have start - ed on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.  
 filled with won - der at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.  
 an - gels sing - ing "Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth.  
 Christ Child in a sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.  
 birth - day can - dles for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

Refrain  
C C/E G7 G7 G7 G7 G7 C

Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;

E E7 Am F C/E C G7 C

can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

# RIVERHEADS WRE

Riverheads Weekday Religious Education is currently looking for a long-term sub. This is a part-time position, five days a week, working a rotating schedule of half days. Six days in a row classes are in the morning (8:40-11:05) followed by six days of afternoon classes (12:20-2:45). Therefore the applicant would need to be willing to work a flexible schedule. **A love of Jesus and children is a must!**

**Deadline to apply is December 20, 2023.**

Aiming for a start date in January to continue through the rest of the school year.

***If interested, please contact:***

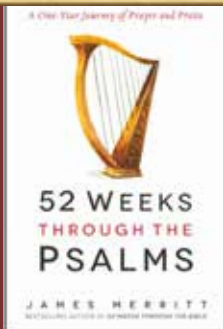
Mary Alford  
President of Riverheads WRE  
(540) 280-3540  
alfords4@verizon.net

## PRAYER REQUESTS OR 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 Office has been notified otherwise.



## BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS @ 6:30

THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON  
DECEMBER 28 OR JANUARY 4

*The new study begins January 11  
and is titled*

*52 WEEKS THROUGH THE PSALMS*



## ECO

As a Presbyterian church, ECO adheres to Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity. The acronym represent ECO's three-fold commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ (*Evangelical*), connect leaders through accountable relationships and encourage collaboration (*Covenant*), and commit to a shared way of life together (*Order*).

# Winter Plans

We're making plans for the bleak winter months and want your suggestions! Drop a note in the box under the tv in memorial hall if you have any ideas!

*game night · movie night · date night  
more fellowship · sight & sound in lancaster  
You name it and we'll try to make it happen!!*

YOUTH (KIDS AT HEART INCLUDED)

*bowling · movies · tubing · water park  
basketball · snowflex · give us your ideas!!*

## *Impacting Lives with a Helping Hand*

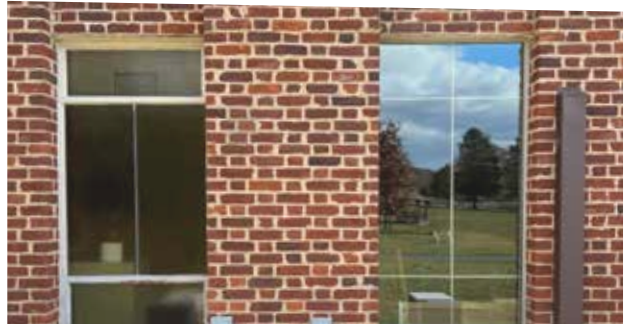
“God’s Pit Crew” is traveling to Mississippi to construct a new home. Are you interested in lending a hand? Bethel would be joining another local church to comprise a team, the team would be assigned to work the week of April 6-13, 2024 (Saturday to Saturday) We have talked about resurrecting our great Mission Teams here at Bethel and putting our talent back to work for Christ, here is our chance to lend a hand in a storm tattered area. If you are interested please see Derek for details.

*All of the large windows  
are installed -  
go check them out!*

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to purchase a new window for the Sunday School Wing in Honor or Memory of someone, please see Wade Cash.

SAMPLE WINDOW ON THE RIGHT.



# LIVING NATIVITY

*at the Chapel in the Woods*

**THURSDAY**

**DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> @ 6:30 PM**

**LIVE ANIMALS - REFRESHMENTS - HOT CIDER & COCOA.**

**COME EARLY AND FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE FIRE!**

**PINES CHAPEL WILL BE JOINING US!**



**LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS**

*Thank you to everyone that participated in the Christmas Alive Project this Christmas! Your generosity has allowed those less fortunate in our community to provide a happy & healthy Christmas to their family.*

**CHRISTMAS  
ALIVE PROJECT**  
RIVERHEADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**ALL GIFTS & GROCERY ITEMS DUE TODAY!**

# lift up in prayer

## Bethel Leadership and Our Bethel Church Family

Bill Brubeck | Joyce Davis | Ronnie Wilson | Cathy Bartley  
Jane Law | John Sproul | Skyler Harris | Rodger Swisher  
Kenny Olson | Joe Heizer | Bobbie Lawhorn | Eddie Bartley  
Ronnie Warren | Wilda Dyer | Debbie Koogler | Crystal Gordan  
Pat Quick | Tara Lafler | Lester Hughes | Faye Ambler

## Sympathy & Condolences

### FAMILY and FRIENDS of the FOLLOWING:

John Pilson | Virginia Francisco | Gary Sutton  
Chuckie Burgdorf

Dear Bethel Family,

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The season of Advent is known as a season of drawing families together and the faithful to worship. As we celebrate this Christmas season with each other, our thoughts turn to that sacred event long ago in Bethlehem where the "Light of the World" was born.

As Advent begins, I sincerely pray that the light and testimony of Jesus will come into your hearts, and your lives will reflect His life and attributes. It is my prayer, that people everywhere will accept the blessings of His mercy and grace that are made possible through His birth and atoning sacrifice.

During this Christmas Season don't miss out on all the great and wonderful things planned here at Bethel. As we celebrate and worship together, may your families be blessed by the joy found in this season of birth which brings us all great hope.

Christmas is a joyous time where we acknowledge with gratitude God's incomparable gift to us, His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Friends, speaking of gifts, the best Christmas gift we can give each other is to share our faith with loved ones and strangers alike, proclaiming the joyous tidings that God is truly with us.

As we serve Jesus here at Bethel, we should not just share our faith with one another but we should reach out beyond our walls and share all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of love and peace. In our world we are witnesses to violence, prejudice and fear. Christmas is a time for us to counter these worldly sins and ills by loving each other as deeply as God loved us by sending us His son Jesus on that beautiful Christmas Night!

This Christmas Season, Cindy, Ashlyn, Cayden and I wish each of you great tidings of peace, joy and good will. May this Christmas be one for which you remember for years to come as you share in love of family and friendship.

Please know Bethel's doors are open this Advent season and beyond for you and your loved ones to experience the attributes of Christ Jesus! "Come one, Come All!!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Derek

10<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER

ATTENDANCE  
46

THE FLOWERS  
TODAY ARE GIVEN BY  
KAY & ANNIE (*fur baby*)  
SWISHER

IN MEMORY OF  
HER FAMILY:

Mitch & Antha Swisher  
GRANDPARENTS

Don & Bettie Swisher, PARENTS

Wayne Swisher, BROTHER

ALL WERE MEMBERS OF BETHEL

ELDER ON CALL

Derek Almarode  
540-280-4940

WEEKLY  
FINANCIAL  
REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget  
\$3,127.00

Offering for December 10  
\$2,180.00





# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING OUR  
COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FAITH

## Sunday, December 17th

BRIEF SECURITY MEETING AFTER CHURCH.  
SESSION MEETING AFTER CHURCH.

## Thursday, December 21st

LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS, BETHEL  
WITH PINES CHAPEL AND MT. TABOR.

## Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.  
REGULAR WORSHIP AT 11:00.  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE @ 8:00PM.

## Thursday, December 28 - NO BIBLE STUDY

## Sunday, December 31st

WRE BREAKFAST AT PINES CHAPEL AT 8:30  
WORSHIP AT PINES - 9:30, WORSHIP AT BETHEL - 11:00.

## Thursday, January 4 - NO BIBLE STUDY

## Thursdays - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL  
— SERIES 52 WEEKS THROUGH PSALMS  
NEW LESSON SERIES STARTS JANUARY 11TH!!



**YOUTH COMMITTEE**  
*Meets the last Sunday  
of each month.*

**SECURITY COMMITTEE**  
*Meets the 3rd Sunday  
of each month.*

## ELDERS

**Dave Schooley**  
CLERK OF SESSION  
S&F CO-CHAIR

**Cindy Almarode**  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, CHAIR  
MODERATOR, WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

**Derek Almarode**  
LAY PASTOR  
TRANSITION CHAIR

**Tammy Barbour**  
WORSHIP CHAIR

**Wade Cash**  
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CHAIR  
CHAIRMAN OF THE DEACONS

**Penny Lee**  
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CHAIR

**Brian Lee**  
YOUTH CHAIR  
S&F CO-CHAIR

**Bob Olson**  
NOMINATING CHAIR  
WITNESS CHAIR

**Dale Thompson**  
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**Tim Turner**  
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

**Jill Webb**

## DEACONS

**Ellen Fitzgerald**

**Charlie Johnson**

**Mitch Lathrop**

**Harleigh Lee**

**Katie McElveen**

**D.W. Miller**

## TRUSTEES

**Guy D. Brooks**

**Bill Brubeck**

**Charlie Johnson**

**Billy Wade**

**James Williams**

## CHURCH STAFF

**JoAnn Pendley**  
PIANIST, ORGANIST  
BELL CHOIR AND CHOIR

**Lois Stogdale**  
DISBURSING TREASURER

**Kay Thompson**  
RECEIVING TREASURER

**John & Donna Bush**  
CUSTODIANS

**Carol & Puggie Sprouse**  
CUSTODIANS