



HANGING OF THE GREENS › DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2023 › 11:00 AM

Prelude . . . . . *Prelude on "Ellers"* . . . . . 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, can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming!!**

People: Yes, we place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the infant lowly.

**Leader: Friends, can you see it? Can you smell it? Christ is Coming!!**

People: Yes, we place our hope in a child born in poverty.

**Leader: Friends, can you sense it? Christ is coming!!**

People: Yes, we place our hope in a child born in the margins of society.

**Leader: Come now friends, the season of Advent begins.**

**Everyone: We gather to worship Emmanuel; God is With Us. Amen!**

† Opening Hymn (*Bulletin*) . . . . . *For Unto Us a Child is Born* . . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Call to Confession . . . . . Wade Cash

† Prayer of Confession . . . . . Wade Cash

**Loving and Merciful God, today we light the candle of hope, a beacon of light that shines in the darkness. Today, we confess the ways we have caused others to feel hopeless. Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our greed. Others feel the hopelessness of violence because of our apathy. Still others feel the hopelessness of being lost because of our laziness. Forgive us, gracious God. Help us to always be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. This we pray in the name of your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

† Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness . . . . . Wade Cash

**HEARING GOD’S WORD** -----

Introduction to Hanging of the Greens & Advent . . . . . Penny Lee

The Advent Wreath . . . . . Mallory Swisher

Jeremiah 33:14-16. . . . .Melissa Swisher

Lighting the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle {Isaiah 40:31} *The Candle of Hope*. . . . . The Swisher Family

The Advent Song – Verse 1 . . . . .Melissa Swisher

Advent Prayer. . . . . Wade Cash

The Poinsettia. . . . .Trevor Lee

Isaiah 11: 1-15 . . . . . Colston Wheeler

The Christmas Tree . . . . . Cayden Cook Cash

Isaiah 9:2 . . . . . Cayden Cook Cash

† Lighting of the Tree . . . . . All of our Young People

O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging;  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging:  
Not only green when summer’s here, But also when it’s cold and dreary.  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging!  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can’st give me;  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can’st give me;  
How often has the Christmas tree, afforded me the greatest glee!  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can’st give me;

The Chrismons . . . . . Ashlyn Almarode

Isaiah 2:4 . . . . . Ashlyn Almarode

Time with Young People {Hebrews 6:13-15}  
*Hope, a Desire? Or Unshakable Confidence?*. . . . . Derek Almarode

Prayer of Illumination . . . . . Derek Almarode

Scripture Reading {Hebrews 6:1-20}. . . . . Derek Almarode

Sermon . . . . . *The Promise of Hope is our Empowerment*. . . . . Derek Almarode



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

† Hymn of Reflection #9 . . . . . *O Come, O Come Emmanuel.* . . . . . 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

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION** -----

Holy Communion & Lord's Prayer . . . . . Derek Almarode

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Leader: The Lord be with you,**

*People: and also with you.*

**Leader: Lift up your hearts.**

*People: We lift them to the Lord.*

**Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

*People: It is right to give our thanks and praise*

*Response*

**Leader: Great is the mystery of Faith:**

*People: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.*

Words of Insitution

Communion

Communion Special Music . . . . . *Greenridge* . . . . . Melissa Swisher

Prayer

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

Offertory . . . . . *I Need Thee* . . . . . by Don Phillips

† Doxology. . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Prayer of Dedication. . . . . Derek Almarode

**SENDING** -----

† Closing Hymn #2 . . . . . *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* . . . . . JoAnn Pendley

† Charge & Benediction . . . . . Derek Almarode

† Advent Luncheon Blessing . . . . . Derek Almarode

Postlude . . . . . *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* . . . . . by Lani Smith

# 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

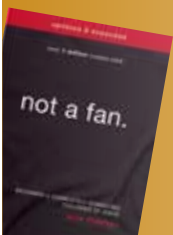
If you have any changes, additions or updates to the Prayer List please contact:

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. We will begin a NEW study on January 11. Book is TBD.**



# 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!!*

*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.



**Thanks to those that have volunteered!!  
WE COULD USE ONE MORE!!**

### **Spread the love of Christ this Season!**

*Something as small as a smile, a hug or a cheerful greeting can mean the world to someone!  
We are called to love people. We can all do it better!  
What better time than Advent Season!*



# LIVING NATIVITY

## *at the Chapel in the Woods*

**Sunday, December 17th @ 5:00 pm**

Live animals. Refreshments before.

Come early and fellowship around the fire!

*Pines Chapel and Mt. Tabor will be joining us!*

### LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

*If you would like to participate, have any livestock that we can use or help in any way, please see Cindy, Penny, Tammy, Brian or Derek!*

## CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROJECT

RIVERHEADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In addition to providing Christmas gifts to our Christmas Alive Families, we would like to provide our families with food for Christmas as well.

*We are requesting the following items that could be used for Christmas dinner:*

HAM • INSTANT OR BOXED MASHED POTATOES • BOXED MAC'N CHEESE OR VELVEETA SHELLS & CHEESE  
BOXED STUFFING • CANNED VEGETABLES • CANNED FRUIT

*Any kind of meat would also be appreciated since it's unaffordable for them at this time such as ground beef or chicken tenders.*

*If you plan donate a ham, ground beef or chicken tenders please call Katie McElveen @ 540-292-4442 before purchasing so as not to duplicate the meats.*

*We would also like to donate snacks for the kids, suggested items include:*

MICROWAVE POPCORN • GOLDFISH CRACKERS • INDIVIDUAL CUPS OF APPLESAUCE OR FRUIT • FRUIT SNACKS  
HOT COCOA MIX • CAKE MIXES & FROSTING • MUFFIN MIXES WITH LINERS OR NON STICK SPRAY  
PEANUT BUTTER • JELLY • CAPRI SUNS OR JUICE BOXES

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS TO CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023.  
PRESENTS ARE ALSO DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH — ALREADY WRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED**

# 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 | Jean Harris  
Ronnie Warren | Wilda Dyer | Debbie Koogler | Crystal Gordan  
Pat Quick | Tara Lafler | Lester Hughes  
Faye Ambler | Jordan Thompson

## 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 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

26th  
NOVEMBER

ATTENDANCE  
56

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 November 26th  
\$1,271.00





# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING OUR  
COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FAITH

## Sunday, December 3rd

HANGING OF THE GREENS.  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - COMMUNION.  
COVERED DISH MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

## Sunday, December 17th

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 "NOT A FAN"  
NEW LESSON SERIES STARTS JANUARY 11TH!!  
SERIES TO BE DETERMINED



## YOUTH COMMITTEE

Meets the last Sunday  
of each month.

## SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meets the 3rd Sunday  
of each month.

## ELDERS

Dave Schooley  
CLERK OF SESSION  
& 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  
& 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 CHAIR AND CHOIR

Lois Stogdale  
DISBURSING TREASURER

Kay Thompson  
RECEIVING TREASURER

John & Donna Bush  
CUSTODIANS

Carol & Puggie Sprouse  
CUSTODIANS