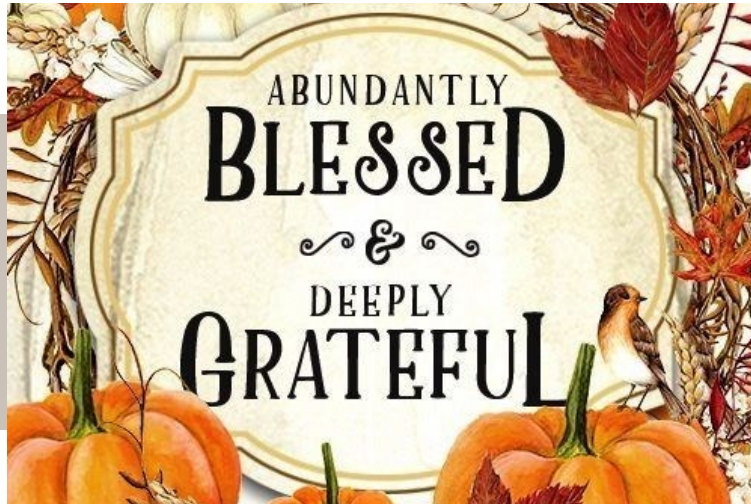

November 2023

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.

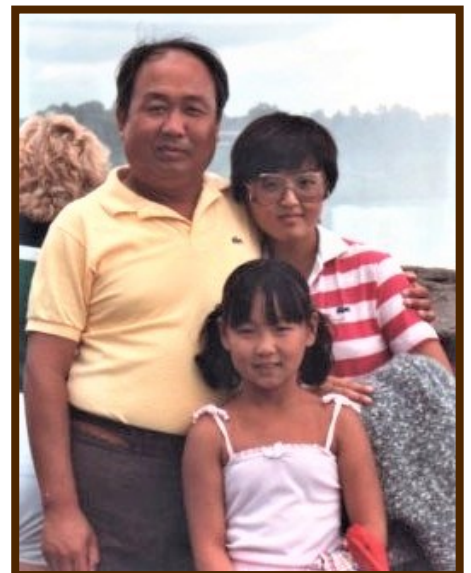


Pastoral Column — November 2023

November is a special month that allows us to remember our loved ones, celebrate our heroes and give thanks to the Lord for all His blessings.

Sunday November 5 is All Saints Day where we will recognize all those that passed away and especially those that received the promise of resurrection this past year. We will show pictures of our Saints that passed away since the last All Saints Day, but any other Saints will be remembered as the congregation will be asked to call out their names.

In this picture are my father and two sisters. My father passed away in 1993 and my older sister Unsoo passed away in 2010. I know we all miss our loved ones and may this All-Saints Sunday help us to honor them as well.

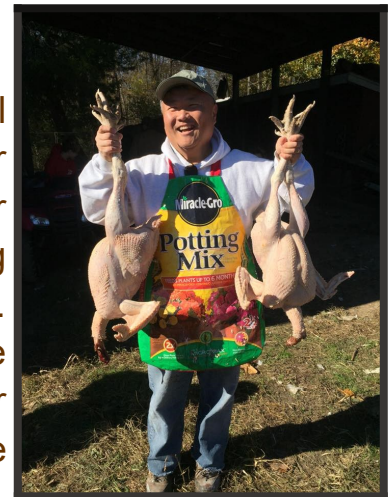




On Saturday November 11th, turn to a Veteran and thank them for sacrificing their time in one of our military branches. Their dedication and commitment have enabled us to have the freedom we do today. If you know of a Veteran, please give them a salute, hug, or a word of thanks for their services. These are some of my VMI students that have graduated and serve

in the US Army today.

As we prepare for Advent, we are reminded to be thankful for the little things in our life that mount up to greater things. For me, I am thankful for my Bethel family for staying together even when things were difficult. Knowing that we have each other reminds me that I am not alone. This Thanksgiving, remember the person who might be alone during this season and invite them over to your family Thanksgiving dinner or bring them a nice Thanksgiving meal to feel the warmth of God's embrace.



Finally, this Advent theme is about allowing the Spirit to help us wait. Not only are we waiting for the return of Christ, but we are also waiting for the unforeseen changes that are about to take place whether we know it or not. No one is ever ready for change but when the door opens for us to enter in, we must trust God because He alone knows what needs to take place next. If it means, caring for your parents or finding yourself downsizing to meet the needs of your family,

embrace the change and expect the best because God knows best.

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Administrative Council Chair:
Nancy Pinson

Vice Council Chair:
Carlton Hayden

Staff-Parish Relations:
Rosanne Williamson

Finance Committee Chair:
Lewis Lee

Trustees Chair:
Ava Lee

Church Treasurer:
Donna Broadbent

Finance Secretary
Christine Winters

Recording Secretary:
Gary Pinson

Worship Committee Chair:
Cathy Carayas

Sunday School Superintendent:
Linda Hayden

Nurture/Fellowship Committee
Chair:
Charlene Hahne

Mission & Outreach Committee
Chairs:
Sandra Colvin,
Karla Yocum

United Women in Faith
President: Dolores Goff

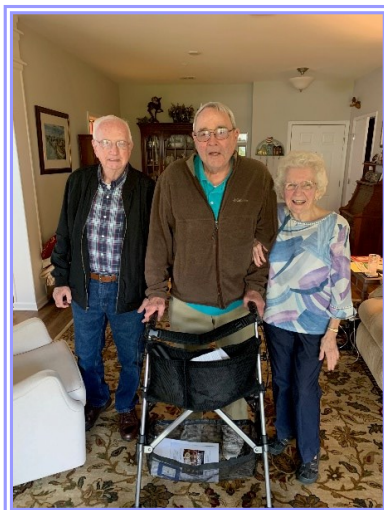
Lay Member to Annual
Conference: Brett Hahne

District Conference
Representative & Steward:
Murray Edwards

The Final Wonderful Wednesdays Program

For those of you that have followed us in all the activities we had during the month of October, you will know that we truly enjoyed another visit to Charlie Marshall at Ashby Ponds and a bus ride to Carter Mountain Orchards in Charlottesville. Our last month will be November, and this is the schedule:

November 1	BINGO (prizes for each round)
November 8	Cooking Class – (How to make dumplings)
November 15	Bible Museum Field Trip
November 22	Thanksgiving Week (Cancelled)
November 29	Painting Class



Laity Sunday and More

On Sunday October 15, our laity led a wonderful service for us. We had Charlene Hahne as our liturgist, Brett Hahne as our presider, Crystal Taylor who gave the Young Disciples' message and Dan Janickey who gave a powerful message.



During that same service, we welcomed four new members to Bethel as they transferred their membership. Tim Boone, Susan Higgins, Garry and Cheryl Brown.



November Birthdays:

- 2 Grant Taylor
- 3 Catherine Carayas
- 11 Eric Florence
- 26 Mary Jane Shofkom
- 29 Jane Brewer
- 30 Karen Goff



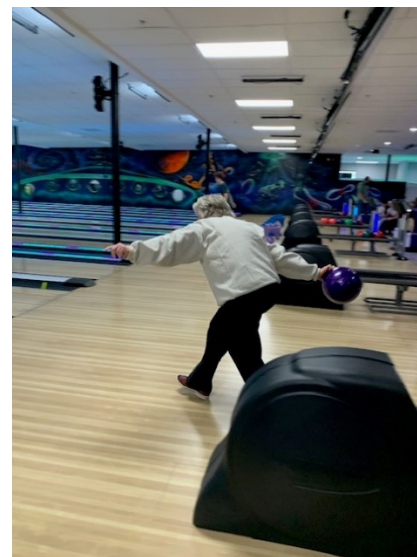
November Anniversaries:

- 7 Bill & Sue Mitchell
- 8 Eric & Amy Zitzmann
- 30 Ronald & Sandra Colvin



Laity Sunday and More cont.

On that same Sunday after church, our youth group and their youth leaders went bowling. Special thanks to Karen Nelson, Karla Yocum, and Sandra Colvin for showing our youth how much they are treasured.

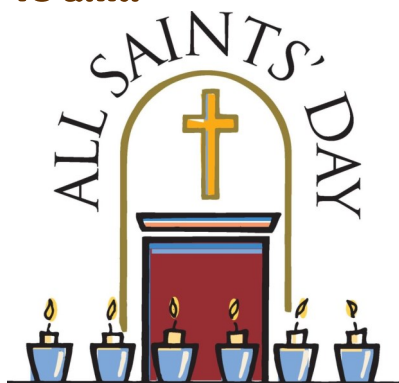


Thanks for joining us! Grant and Oliver Taylor, Luke Gibson, Sandra Colvin, Denali Grogan, Karla Yocum, Karen Nelson, and Pastor David



Sunday, Nov. 5

10 a.m.



Saturday, Nov. 11

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



DON'T STOP THE MUSIC—Pat Martin

Why Do We Sing “Meditation Hymns”?

It is not because the choir needs a break. It's not because anyone is lazy. It's because I feel quite strongly that ALL OF US are part of the Church music ministry. You may have noticed that the number of choir members changes from Sunday to Sunday, sometimes making it difficult to plan, and consistently rehearse. Hence, the choir will sing generally twice a month; and on the other Sundays, the larger Church choir... aka... all of us... will sing.

Besides, it's a nice opportunity to just stay seated and prayerfully sing a hymn which can help us prepare our hearts to hear the word read and preached. The hymn may or may not be familiar to you, but it's one that will have the same theme as the scripture or sermon. Feel free to sing just listen, but the intent is to learn and sing meaningful songs as we worship, and to include everyone in bringing music to the worship service.

Can I Join the Choir?

Yes, you sure can. We welcome new folks. We have been working on Advent and Christmas music, so now is a great time to come. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. You do not need to read music. You do not need to have a wonderful solo voice. If you do, that's terrific, but I just ask you to come with a heart to sing and a desire to become part of something meaningful to our worship experience. And the chairs up in the chancel area are very comfortable!

Winter Peace Taize' Service

We will have a Taize' service at 4:00 p.m. on *Sunday, December 10th*. This is a quiet, meditative service that includes candlelight, singing, soft guitar and piano music, meditative readings and periods of silence. What better way to spend about 35-45 minutes on a late Sunday afternoon during a very busy and hectic time of the year? If you have not attended this type of service, just come. You won't be asked to do anything except to come and enjoy the time. We look forward to your joining us.

Christmas Carol Sing and Program

Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. We'll sing your favorite carols, and enjoy some music brought by the Handbells and the Choir; as well as by some individuals who will share their musical gifts with us as well. If you play the piano or another instrument and would like to share a Christmas selection, please let me know by December 1st. This will be a casual event in the social hall... sort of like an old-fashioned family Christmas gathering. Please join us as we celebrate the season. And I think there might be cookies!

CHIMING IN FROM THE BELL ROOM

The Hymndingers continue to gather in the Bell Room each Thursday night from 5:30 to 6:30 for rehearsal. We will be assisting in worship on *Sunday, November 12*. You will hear a rousing version of The Church's One Foundation for the prelude and All Hail the Power of Jesus Name played with mallets, hand chimes and handbells for special music.

Bethel's bell choir is a fellowship of musicians who are dedicated to practice and working to become better in their skills. More importantly, the bell ringers are a rather diverse group who love music, but also care for each other. We are blessed to also have folks who are willing to jump in and substitute when needed. This is so important in a group of this nature because if you are absent, your notes are also absent and not only is the music incomplete, but the fellowship is income. Every person is equally important.

We also welcome newcomers and are willing to teach and train. Contact Joice at (540) 878-8742 if you are interested in learning more about handbell ringing.

In the meantime, we look forward to sharing our music with the congregation during worship on November 12 and again on December 10 when we will be immersed in Advent. Musically yours, Joice



Cookies and Conversation - "Tinsel & Tears"

Many of us have experienced deep loss at some point in our lives: a spouse, a child, a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, a dear friend. The empty seat at the table, the missing piece in our lives, remind us of the reality of that loss. And, let's face it... that loss gets a little more profound at Christmas time.

Whether your loss is very recent or happened a long time ago, I invite you to join me in conversation to share ideas on how we navigate Christmas without that special person with us. Christmas traditions? What about putting up the decorations? What about the meal? Do I send cards? What about gifts?

Join me at 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th in the Pavilion Room for cookies and conversation. After our time together, those wishing to, can gather in the sanctuary at 3:45 for the Winter Peace Taize' Service.

Pat Martin

Bethel UMC Advent Devotion

Dear friends, once again this year the Bethel community is going to publish our own devotional booklet for the Advent and Christmas season. This isn't possible without many volunteers who are willing to share a story or message. Please read the writing guidelines and consider contributing to this project that brings joy to so many.

Contact Rosanne Williamson at 540-272-8957 or rosannewilliamson@comcast.net with questions or to volunteer.



Writing Guide 2023

The theme for Advent Worship and the Advent Devotional is **Our Spirit Waits**. As Advent comes, we begin the Christian year anew with a season of waiting. As the days grow darker, we draw closer to the arrival of the Light that turns the world upside down—or right-side up! The journey toward and beyond the manger is one of reversing expectations, encountering what we thought we already knew in brand new ways, and receiving good news in unexpected places. So, with one foot in the prophets and another in the Gospels, we journey together as our spirit waits to welcome the Christ child and carry hope, peace, joy, and love as we live as disciples who anticipate the now-and-not-yet kingdom of God.

What are your stories of waiting and/or preparation that are part of your Advent/Christmas experience? What are your experiences of discovering hope, peace, joy or love in the midst of life with all of its blessings and trials? Please write one of these as a short devotion to share with your Bethel Church family. Or if you are uncomfortable writing the devotion, share it orally, and we'll write it for you! You can even submit a drawing or photograph that portrays an Advent/Christmas experience.

A devotion is a sharing from the heart with a connection to a scripture passage. It is written for the purpose of inspiring us to have hope and joy each day through the experience of Christ who has come in our lives. It begins with a scripture passage of one or two verses. Next there is a short story that relates to the passage and ends with the point you are wishing to make. A short prayer related to the story comes at the end. Be yourself in writing a devotional. Keep it short and to the point. You don't need to use theological or intellectual language, unless that is your style. Think about others reading this and how they might benefit. Our booklet will be published electronically and as a traditional paper booklet.

As you consider your story, reflect on the following questions, the scriptures, and the actual Sunday message title for that week.

What do we see?

What do we hear, followed by what are we doing about it?"

How are we living the promise in our communities right now?

How are we lighting a light that others might see and find their way into this relationship?

What stories will we tell? What examples will we live out?

How will we make our space ready to receive the one who comes and the family invited to share?

Bethel UMC Advent Devotion, continued

1st week – Hope – Our Shocking Hope

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

2nd week – Peace – Our Just Peace

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

3rd week – Joy – Our Fierce Joy

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Luke 1:46-55; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Christmas Week – Love – Love That Transforms Us

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

New Year's Week and Epiphany – Watchnight: Our Spirit Waits

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Please sign up to write a devotion at the Welcome Center or by contacting Rosanne at rosannewilliamson@comcast.net or 540-272-8957. All devotions are due to Rosanne by November 19th. Thank you for sharing your Advent/Christmas faith and joy with your Bethel Church family!



Church Staff:

Pastor: David Ryu
 pastordavidryu@bethelumc.com
 858/344-5354

Music Director:
 Pat Martin
 pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist:
 Joan Bacot

Interim Director of Hymndingers
 Joice Fredenburgh
 dfredenburgh@verizon.net

Media & Communications
 Coordinator: Sarah Hundley
 Sarahhundley@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
 Christine Winters
 bumcofficeassistant@comcast.net
 540/347-4874
 Office Hours:
 Monday—Thursday
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Conference Bishop:
 Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
 P.O. Box 5606
 Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606
 804/521-1102

Northern Virginia District
 Superintendent:
 Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert
 3600 Chain Bridge Rd., Fl 1
 Fairfax, VA 22030-3236
 703/820-7200

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship in Sanctuary & Online

1st & 3rd Sundays: Communion Sundays

1st Sundays: Youth Motel Ministries—12:00 pm

Join our Sunday morning ministry team. To volunteer:

- ◆ *to read scripture, contact Jane Brewer at 540-428-0038*
- ◆ *to usher, contact Tom Ferrell at 540-439-9043*
- ◆ *to help before and after communion, contact Cathy Carayas at 540-219-2575*
- ◆ *to assist with tech, contact Sarah Hundley at 540-589-5564*
- ◆ *to assist with the Youth, contact Sandra Colvin at 540-347-2375 or Karla Yocum at 540-514-6070*

We appreciate all of our volunteers and can always use more!

November Worship

November 5 — Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: From Every Tribe

Scripture: Revelations 7:1-8

November 12 — Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Enter the Gates

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 — Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: In Everything

Scripture: Philippians 5:16-18

November 26 — Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Sermon: After Giving Thanks

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-36

Worship Reminders

We changed our mask mandate for worship and all other events at Bethel. If you feel safer or want to protect family members at home, please feel free to wear a mask. If you want to come without a mask, you are welcome to do so. We continue to meet in the Sanctuary. Air purifiers are running in the sanctuary before, during, and after worship service.

Communion will be served by intinction on the first and third Sundays of the month. Those who prefer the self-serve elements or the gluten-free elements can ask the server when they come up.

Ink Cartridges

Donating used ink cartridges to the church helps us to get rewards at Staples that we use to purchase copy paper and other office supplies.

Thank you to all who donate!

Finance & Worship Attendance

Income & Expenses*

October Income: \$25,100.00 October Expenses: \$23,034.68
 YTD 2023 Income: \$231,125.25 YTD 2023 Expenses: \$250,269.67

*Because the Beacon is published monthly, finances for the prior month will be reported.

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/ Kids	Average	Giving
October 1	44	72	119.88	\$7585.00
October 8	45	102	120.54	\$6343.00
October 15	0	68	119.29	\$3375.00
October 22	40	61	118.86	\$2973.00

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, November 4 UWF Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, November 5 Motel Ministry 11:30 a.m.
- Friday, November 10 Fellowship Table, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 12 Worship and Trustee Meetings
- Tuesday, November 14 Fauquier Retired Teachers Assn
- Tuesday, November 14 7:30 p.m. Finance Meeting
- Thursday, November 16 Ruritan Dinner
- Fri, Nov 17—Sun, Nov 19 Women’s Emmaus Walk
- Fri, Nov 17—Wed Nov 22 Pastor David visiting Family
- Thursday, November 23 Happy Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, November 28 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**Bethel United
Methodist Church**

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(540) 347-4874

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