
December 2023

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.



Pastoral Column — December 2023

Our Wonderful Wednesday group went to the Bible Museum on November 15. Ted and Betty Zyla along with Olga and her daughter Nikki enjoyed a fabulous day learning about the artifacts of the Bible and all the different ways the Bible was translated. Our last Wonderful Wednesday was on November 29 where we learned how to make Korean dumplings.



On Thursday, November 16, four ladies attended the Loudoun Valley Emmaus Walk #92 for women. Rosanne Williamson, Janet Miles, Susan Higgins and Gayle Ferrell had an amazing time learning about God's amazing Grace and how His love transformed their lives. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in the days to come.

We want to thank Geneice and Earl Kemper for sponsoring Gayle and for Brett and Charlene Hahne for sponsoring Janet and Rosanne. Pat Martin sponsored Susan. Special thanks to Brett Hahne for picking up the pilgrims on Sunday with the Bethel bus.



The week of Thanksgiving, I went to Toronto to see my mother and spent some much needed time with her. On the way back, I was shocked to hear about the car accident at the Niagara Falls border because I usually take that crossing. This time I drove to Detroit to catch my flight back home on November 22nd.



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

On Thanksgiving Thursday, my family joined the local Baptist church to prepare and serve a hot Thanksgiving meal to all the residents at our local motels. Tarah's senior pastor and his family also came to serve alongside us.



As we walk through the last month of 2023, may the Spirit of the Lord fill us even more as we anticipate the return of Christ. I will be sending out my Christmas letters to you soon so please be on the lookout for that letter. God bless you all.



Men's Group November 2023
Left to right: Tim B., Richard B., Earl K., Bob J., Carlton H., Irvin T., Ken A., and Charles M.



December Birthdays:

1	Tom Wilson
4	Greg Bayliff
4	Lewis Lee Jr.
5	Patricia Stine
15	Theodore Zyla
18	Rosanne Williamson
20	Paul Goff
21	Steve Yocum
22	Geneice Kemper
22	Alice Steinmeyer
28	Karen Nelson



December Anniversaries:

14	Edward & Donna Stouffer
19	Steve & Pamela Kalinsky
28	Roger Johns & Louise Stowe-Johns

Bethel Cookie Walk and Holiday Bazaar.

What a great day we had at the Bethel Cookie Walk and Holiday Bazaar. All glory goes to God who was with us from the start and who covered us in Holy Moments throughout the day!

Thank you one and all who made it such a success –the cookie bakers, and bakers –also the craftsmen, the quilters, the knitters and jewelry makers, the jam and pickle queen – the bakery contributors who continued to go home and bring back more, the kitchen crew (you too PD), and each of you that manned a section, assisting our customers and keeping things tidy and attractive.

Starting right at the front door, a thank you to our greeter who was there with a friendly hello and welcome and thank you to all who came by and shopped – we really had a great selection didn't we? And while we shopped, we were treated to Christmas music being played by Bethel's fine musicians.



Finally, a great big thank you to all of our cashiers who assisted our shoppers to check out! They were very busy as the total sales for the day went over \$6,800!! All proceeds that will go to helping those in need in our community.

Thank you everyone for making this special "all church" event such a success!!

Ava Lee



Bethel's Elves



Bethel's Community

Music and Worship for the Season

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 Ring

Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 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!

Pat Martin

Chiming in from the Bell Room

If you were in worship on November 12, I'm sure you were blessed by the music offered by the Hymndingers. Needless to say, I am very proud of this group of musicians and feel moved every time I hear them play.

You will have another opportunity to hear them as they will be assisting in worship again on December 10 as they share music of the Advent season. And then they will be offering you some Christmas music on Sunday afternoon, December 17 at 2:00, as we join with the choir and some other talented Bethel musicians for a time of sharing music, light refreshments and good fellowship.

As always, I invite anyone interested in becoming a bell ringer to contact me. We have accomplished players who are always willing and eager to teach and train new bell members.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share in this music ministry with members of Bethel and friends from other churches. Each and every member is a treasure and a gift and their talents and dedication are truly a blessing to our congregation. Thank you Hymndingers!

Joice Fredenburgh

Our Talented Musicians

I can recall when I first started coming to Bethel that there were several ladies that played for our church services. These remarkable ladies were Doris Hano, Peggy Goff, Dolores Goff, and Gretchen Davis. Bethel continues to be blessed with amazing musicians: Jane Brewer, Joice Fredenburgh, Megan Robinson, Joan Bacot, and Pat Martin.

One young man graced us during his time at church and that is Eric Florence. I'm sure there are many whose musical talent we have enjoyed. (I probably missed a few during my overseas tours)

Now we have our Bell Ringers, Grant and Oliver Taylor, and Denali Grogan. Thank you to our musicians and soloists. You've blessed us all with your talents.

Dona Nagy-Sutton



Holy Moments

Kelly and I want to thank everyone who helped, baked, and contributed to the meal for the shelter on Thursday, Nov. 9.

We received donations totally \$100, and 100 pieces of chicken cost \$99.95. Wow! The shelter staff was shocked at the spread, but most importantly, the residents were extremely appreciative and delighted with the amount of food and set-up.

We fed 22 adults and 12 children. Not all sitting together at once, because some were at work or school. Truly a blessing! Having children running around the kitchen as we baked and warmed up casseroles, made that place feel like home. As I envisioned when I started on this task, no matter how long they have to stay there to get back on their feet, it's home for them and it should feel like it.

Thank you for Living our faith and sharing God's love. Our next meal date is *Thursday, December 14*. I will set up another sign-up genius as we get closer. I pray that God will provide as He did in November. Thank you, Sara Janickey & Kelly Eisele

My Walk to Emmaus

When asked if anyone would like to attend the Walk to Emmaus, I said "I will go". I didn't know what I was getting into, but it felt right. When asked to write about my experience, I was a little torn. Since my walk, I've come to realize why those who have attended don't talk about it much. That's because "words cannot describe it". So, how am I going to write about it? Well, what I can say is that it's such an overwhelming experience, overwhelming in a wonderful way. Spiritually, I feel my faith is stronger than ever. Emotionally, I had never been surrounded by so much Love. Never in my lifetime could I ever fully express my gratitude to all those responsible for making my Walk possible. I just hope I can use what I learned to continue to grow in Christ and to serve my God.

Susan Higgins

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.

Cookies and Conversations: "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 p.m. for the Winter Peace Taize' Service. Pat Martin

Flowers of the Holy Night

The reason we associate poinsettias with the holidays comes from an old Mexican lore. A young girl named Pepita was sad that she didn't have a gift to leave for the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. Her cousin tried to comfort her and said that Jesus would love any present from her, even the smallest one. With no money to buy a real gift, Pepita set out for church. On her way, an angel appeared and instructed her to pick a bouquet of weeds that she walked past. When she got to church, she left the weeds at the crèche of the nativity scene. The angels felt compassion so they transformed the weeds into beautiful red flowers. This is why Christmas colors are red and green and why poinsettias became known as "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

What a beautiful story. Let's do it. Let's decorate our church with the Flowers of the Holy Night! **(continued)**

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 858/344-5354

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 Pat Martin
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Accompanist:
 Joan Bacot

Interim Director of Hymndingers
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 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

Flowers (continued) To participate, you may fill out an order form for the purchase of poinsettias. These flowers will be used to decorate the church for our Christmas Eve services (10 a.m. and 5 p.m.), after which you can take your purchase home. The form will be available soon. Susan Higgins

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!

December Worship

December 3 — First Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Our Shocking Hope

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

December 10 — Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Our Just Peace

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-15

December 17 — Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Our Fierce Joy

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

December 24 — Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

Sermon: Love that Transforms Us/Our Wondrous

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

December 31 — First Sunday After Christmas

Sermon: Epiphany

Scripture: Revelations 1:19

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*

November Income: \$16,503.03 November Expenses: \$24,064.11
 YTD 2023 Income: \$247,628.28 YTD 2023 Expenses: \$275,583.75

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

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/Kids	Average	Giving
November 5	32	84	118.51	\$8,029.00
November 12	43	85	118.72	\$2,389.11
November 19	52	65	118.68	\$3,380.00
November 26		62	117.50	\$2,704.92

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 2 UWF Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 3 Motel Ministry 11:30 a.m.
- SPRC Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, December 9 Sights and Sound Theatre Bus Trip to Pennsylvania
- Sunday, December 10 Trustees Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- BUMY 11:30 a.m.
- Winters Peace Taize Service 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 17 BUMY 11:30 a.m.
- Christmas Carol Sing and Ring 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 24 Worship 10:00 a.m.
- Family Friendly Worship 5:00 p.m.

Bethel United Methodist Church

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