
January 2024

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.



Pastoral Column — January 2024

Happy New Year everyone! I want to first thank the Lord for guiding us through 2023. Even though we had our fair share of ups and downs, God remained faithful to us as we did our very best to be faithful to Him.

For me, the last month of 2023 was packed with programs, trips, events and visitations. Even though we call this season a Christmas holiday, I am still recuperating from all the festivities. It all began when a group of 53 friends and family went to Lancaster PA on December the 9th. My daughter and I were blessed to have two tickets given to us so that we could enjoy the Miracle of Christmas at the Sight and Sound Theatre for the first time.





Kaitlin and I joined the bus trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the Miracle at Christmas at the Sight and Sound Theatre. Thank you Peggy for organizing a fantastic experience.

During this Advent, we had several families that said their goodbyes to their loved one. First it was Mae Nelson and then Dave Wilcox. Although we miss both of them, we know with certainty that one day we will all be together again.



It was during this time I was able to see Charlie Marshall at Ashby Ponds and Bill and Nancy Matthews at Harper's Station Gainesville. We also took the Bethel bus to see Ms. Doloris Baker at Greenfield Reflections in Strasburg VA.

Left to Right: Pastor David, Barbara Craig, Diane Shofkom, Cathy Carayas, (sitting) Peggy Goff, Doloris Baker and Bea Keefer.



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
 Finance Vice Chair:
 Travis Taylor
 Trustees Chair:
 Ava Lee
 Church Treasurer:
 Donna Broadbent
 Finance Secretary
 Betty Zyla
 Recording Secretary:
 Gary Pinson
 Worship Committee Chair:
 Nancy Pinson
 Sunday School Superintendent:
 Crystal Taylor
 Nurture/Fellowship Committee
 Chair:
 Charlene Hahne
 Mission & Outreach Committee
 Chair:
 Sandra Colvin,
 Karla Yocum
 United Women in Faith
 President: Dolores Goff
 United Methodist Men
 Joe Florence
 Lay Member to Annual
 Conference: Brett Hahne
 District Conference
 Representative & Steward:
 Murray Edwards

On Sunday December 17th, our Hymndingers, Bethel Choir and special musical guests gathered in the Social Hall to present their Christmas music and songs for us to sing.



At left: Amanda Chow on violin
 Above: Dick Brewer, Oliver Taylor
 and Grant Taylor.



January Birthdays:

- 1 Rick Putnam
- 6 Dave Childers
- 7 Sue Mitchell
- 8 Crystal Taylor
- 10 Courtney Childers
- 10 Anne Durbin
- 10 Addison Sellers
- 12 Doloris Baker
- 12 Kim Childers
- 12 Edward Stouffer
- 13 Thomas Litchford
- 14 Carlton Hayden
- 15 Emma Winters
- 16 Kirsten King
- 16 Mary Ann Otey
- 17 Ruth Lepto
- 18 Bonnie Pool
- 20 Bill Mitchell
- 21 Amy Zitzmann
- 22 Grace Langan
- 22 Hannah Langan
- 22 Stephen Lee
- 24 Jill Wilson
- 25 Linda Lee
- 26 Charlene Hahne
- 27 Clarence Gill
- 27 John Lepto
- 27 Raymond Surface
- 31 Rachel Gibson
- 31 Denali Grogan
- 31 Dick Johns

Pastoral Column — January 2024

On Christmas Eve, our children shared a wonderful play that allowed us to laugh and enjoy the acting skills of so many of our talented young disciples.



Thank you Sunday School volunteers, parents and children for a delightful performance.





On Christmas day, Andrew gave the children’s message at his church and afterwards we had our dinner with Andrew’s soon to be fiancé and Kaitlin’s partner in crime Simba.



VISION 2024

As we start the new year, I want to share the theme for 2024. TURNING POINT is a time or event in our lives when something happens that shifts, or in some cases totally changes, and alters our inner landscape and consequently our world view.



A turning point in a story is a moment in the plot when a character must make a decision that will change the course of the story. Every turn involves decisive change and either helps with character development or keeps the story moving.

We have witnessed the turning points in our lives such as an unexpected answer to our prayers or the news that we never expected. We had to make adjustments and shift our perspective on life but Jesus allowed us to experience those turning points to stretch us and mold us to be more like Him. As we embark in a brand-new chapter in 2024, I want to encourage all of you to embrace change and look for the turning points that will bring us closer to God.

Biblical Example: Matthew 27:55-28:20

There is a turning point in this passage in verse 28:6, when the angel notifies the women that Jesus is not in the tomb because He has risen. The material leading up to this turning point focuses on the burial of Jesus, including the care of Joseph (27:57-60) the vigilance of the women (27:61, 28:1), and the suspicions of the chief priests, along with their effort to prevent something from happening (27:62-66).

After the turning point, the material moves in a different direction in reaction to the resurrection event: the women are sent to alert the disciples (27:7-8, 10), on the way they encounter the risen Jesus (27:9), the priests now have to spread misinformation (28:12-15), Jesus has all authority (28:18), and the disciples are commissioned to spread His baptism and teaching (28:19-20).

For us, this year will be a year where a decision can change the course of Bethel UMC's story. Whether these changes or turning points helps us develop a stronger and more vibrant story depends on each of us. Yes, the landscape may change within our denomination, but our witness doesn't have to. That is why I want you to join me in asking God to help us recognize the turning points in our lives so that when we make life altering decisions, we won't be afraid but rather be excited for what is to come.

Rev. David Ryu

Don't Stop The Music Pat Martin, Music Director

Thank you to the very dedicated and committed folks who have been a part of the music ministries this past year. Joice Fredenburgh and the Hymndingers; all those who sing in the choir; and Joan Bacot who accompanies the choir. It takes willing hands and hearts and voices to bring an offering of music. Those who are part of the ministries are blessed not only by the gifts of music we share, but also by the relationships we form along the way. Our common goal is to point people to God through music.

The Bells rehearse on Thursday at 5:30 – 6:30 in the bell room. Contact Joice about becoming a part of the Hymndingers. She said there's always room for those who would like to learn.

The Choir rehearses on Thursdays in the sanctuary from 6:45 – 8:00. We have extra new robes. We have extra copies of music. We have extra VERY COMFORTABLE chairs. What we don't have is YOU. As our dear brother, Murray Edwards said at the Christmas Sing and Ring... "There are quite a few folks with nice voices out there singing away. We need them here!" **Won't you consider becoming a part of our ministries?**

12-12-2023-Bethel United Methodist Church Women singing Christmas Carols for Pat and residents at Blue Ridge Christian Nursing Home. Jane in green shirt played the piano while we all sang. 🎵 🎹



Holiday Cheer

Joice Fredenburgh hosted a Christmas Dinner and gift exchange on Dec. 21 in her home for our handbell choir. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship.

Seating (L to R): Jill Wilson, Karla Yocum, Lily vanBrocklin, Karen Nelson, Sharon Stanley Standing (L to R): Susan Kiser, Chris Kiser, Cathy Carayas, Joice Fredenburgh, Tammie Grogan and Jane Brewer





January Anniversary

7 Kevin and Tara Lee

**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.

Women's Book Studies

Monday Mornings

Janet Miles will be starting Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times by Adam Hamilton on Monday, January 22 in the Pavilion Room from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please contact Janet if you are interested in joining them at janetwmiles@gmail.com

Thursday Mornings

Would you like to grow as you age? Do you have the courage to receive and share God's love and life in new ways? Pat Martin will lead this study starting Thursday, January 18 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. The next study will be Aging Faithfully by Alice Fryling. Please contact Pat if you are interested in joining them at pat88piano@gmail.com.

From the Tech Team,

Do you find yourself silencing your cell phone for service and then not un-silencing afterwards?

Well, both Android and iPhones have a "Do not disturb" option. This allows you to set specific day of the week and time frame to silence your phone without having to remember to un-silence it. Hope you find this helpful.

Bill Nelson



From the Worship Team Flower Ministry,

We have a new flower chart for 2024 and it's located at the kitchen service bar. Sign up and provide the flowers for Sunday's altar in honor or in memory of someone special. It's \$35 to the offering plate and Susan Higgins will arrange it for you.

Thank you for your support.



Church Staff:

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

Music Director:
 Pat Martin
 pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist:
 Joan Bacot

Director of Hymndingers
 Joice Fredenburgh
 dfredenburgh@verizon.net

Media & Communications
 Coordinator: Christine Winters

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 Nancy Rider at 540-347-9168*
- ◆ *to assist with tech, contact Christine Winters 540-347-4874*
- ◆ *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!

January Worship

January 7 — First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Revelation—Triumph of the Lamb

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8

January 14 — Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: The Revelation of the Pre-Eminence of Jesus Christ

Scripture: Revelation 1:9-16

January 21 — Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Letters to the Seven Churches

Scripture: Revelation 2:18-29

January 28 — Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: God and the Lamb

Scripture: Revelation 4:4-11



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*

December Income: \$44,886.00 December Expenses: \$28,721.45

YTD 2023 Income: \$292,514.28 YTD 2023 Expenses: \$303,392.40

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

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/Kids	Average	Giving
December 3	50	84	118.61	\$12,652.00
December 10	165	89	121.32	\$6,136.00
December 17	35	84	121.27	\$8,333.00
December 24	34	85	121.23	\$9,159.00
December 31	50	72	121.25	\$8,606.00

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 14	Trustees Meeting, 11:30 a.m. in the Parish House
Tuesday, January 16	Finance Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, January 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st	Prayer Gathering with Karla Yocum in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays, January 11th, 18th, 25th,	Choir Rehearsal with Pat Martin in the Sanctuary from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.
Thursdays, January 11th, 18th, 25th	Hymndingers Bell Choir with Joice Fredenburgh at 6:30 p.m. in Rm301
Sundays, January 14th, 21st, 24th	BUMY Youth Ministry at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Upcoming: Ice Skating and Meet with Pastor David)
Thursday, January 18	Ruritans Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 20	Northern District Training at Floris UMC or virtual
Friday, January 26	Admin Council Leadership Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Parish House Living
Saturday, January 27	Committee Leadership Meeting from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall

Bethel United Methodist Church

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