



Bethany United Methodist Church

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors

1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062

Office Hours: Tues.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (closed 12-1pm)

Phone: 804.642.2110 Fax: 804.642.2114

Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org

Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org



December 18, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Cantata

WELCOME, GUESTS! We're glad you are worshiping with us today!

CELL PHONES: Please remember to silence your phones before the service.

HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE: Please see an usher if you need a hearing device.

**Please stand as you are able.*

— As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship. —

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Acolyte(s): Ella and Emily Ward
 Media: Jeremy Nardozi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Kirk Bell, Kim Song
 Altar Guild this month: Nina Whitmore, Sharon Cheek, Mary Linda Brooks
 Liturgist: Betty Neikirk
 Trustee Contact this week: M. E. Thomas
 Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Jon Kent, Rick Wilson
 Greeters: Jane Sterling, David Ayers

STEWARDSHIP	Last Sunday
General Fund Receipts	6040.16
Capital Improvement	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	605.00
Poinsettias	112.00
Homebound Ministries	50.00
Bazaar	15.00
ATTENDANCE	
In-person Worship (Informal 23, Traditional 72)	95
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube/Drive-In)*	47
Total in Worship	142

COUNTING TEAMS	
12/18	Team 4: Doris Luther, Debbie Robins, Susan Rollins
12/25	Team 5: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane
1/1/23	Team 6: Charlotte Cecil, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard
1/8/23	Team 1: Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd, Pat Hasty

*YouTube information is from two weeks prior to today's service.

BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song, Pastor	call/text 703.625.8025, office: 804.642.2110 email: pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org	Tues. thru Fri., 8am-4pm For pastoral emergencies, call/text 703.625.8025
Dee Dee Wike, Church Office Administrator	office 804.642.2110, cell: 901.831.8534 email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org	Tues. thru Fri., 8am-4pm (Closed 12-1pm for lunch)
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	call/text 757.329.6128 email: rfox6@cox.net	Works from home, by appt.
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	home 804.642.5938, cell 804.413.0211	By appt.
Carter Roane, Director of Children & Youth Ministries	office 804.642.2110, cell: 804.815.5722 email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org	Tue./Wed./Thur. 10am-2pm

Intrada

Variations on a Noël: Variation 10 - Fugato
Based on the French Carol *Sing We Now of Christmas* (UMH No. 237)

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

Welcome and Announcements, Sharing Joys, Concerns and Updates

Pastor Paul Song

***Call to Worship**

Betty Neikirk

Leader: We gather in preparation,

Congregation: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

Leader: We gather in expectation,

Congregation: for joy is about to break forth in our midst.

Leader: We gather in celebration,

Congregation: for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.

Leader: In preparation and expectation,

All: let us celebrate!

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH No. 234

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)

UMH No. 881

Lighting of Advent Candle

Al and Judy Burner

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

"For to us a child is born, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9: 6)

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Opening Prayer

Betty Neikirk

Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your Son.

Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition "Lord, hear our prayer."

Pastor Paul Song

The Lord’s Prayer UMH No. 895
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering and Offertory Prayer Pastor Paul Song
Offertory Music Franz Liszt
The Wedding of Mary and Joseph, (1811-1886)
from “Years of Pilgrimage: Italy”
 Transcribed for organ-piano duet by Rudy Shackelford

“Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” – *Matthew* 1:20

***Doxology** UMH No. 95
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination Betty Neikirk
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7:10-16 Betty Neikirk
***Gospel Reading** Matthew 1:18-25
 The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Appalachian Winter by Joseph M. Martin
 (see insert)

***Hymn** UMH No. 245
The First Noel

***Benediction** Pastor Paul Song

***Closing Chorus** UMH No. 246
Joy to the World (v. 2)
 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods,
 rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Exodus UMH No. 251
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	12.18.22
CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Linwood Rowe, Bob Wharen GRIEVING: Family of Marshall Lewis, Diane McFarland HEALTH ISSUES: Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, Charlotte Cecil, Billy Davis, Jimmy Greene, Sandra Hollins, Jon Kent, Bonnie Lewis, Patsy Morales, Sue Morecock, Kim Paiva, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan, Sandie Wharen HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Sid Dixon, Jack & Ruth Wallace HOSPICE: Alice McGee PARKINSON’S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Doris Courtney, Kathleen Greene, Fred Townsend, Yvonne White RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Mike Andersen, Nan Leigh, Joy Long, Paul McFarland, Richard Parkes		
BETHANY FRIENDS		
CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Fran Bonnaville, Kendell Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Dallas “Butch” Folk (ME), Jackie Gibbs, Nell Goldstein, Traci Greene, Zachary Hoover, Jeff Leiffer, Sissi Mise, Randy Riffe, Laine Seely, Chauntea Shields, Jill Ward, Susan Williams GRIEVING: Families of Joe Downes, Frederick Ekdahl, James Nickels, Angie Williams HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Charles & Mary Black, Connie Bowler, Cathie Brown, Esther Dawson, Dewayne Haywood, Matt Iddings (PA) Norah Ivesson, Scott Leiffer, Donna Messersmith, Glen Null, Tucker Sharp, Tim Sullivan, Evie Sutton, Mildred Townsend, Sabrina Wikle, Tim Williford (TN), Terry Wilson HOSPICE: William Ervi, Selma PARKINSON’S: Janet Burch (KY) RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Joe Byrne, Jim Flansberg, Donna Hogge, Norman Spaleny OTHER PRAYERS: Randy Wilson, Kwame & Juliet Annorbah-Sarpei, Alli Razzaghi, Kasie Hall, Hurricane Victims and Relief Workers; Ukraine		
BUMC’S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (<i>italics—Bethany friends</i>)		
<i>Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, Bowdy Schrader, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i>		
ASSISTED LIVING (<i>italics-Bethany friends</i>)		
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Doris Courtney, Rm 305 Jean Heywood, Rm 110 Bessie Conner, Rm 102	
Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061	Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29	
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A	
Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130	
Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149	Jennie Lipscomb	
The Hamilton Assisted Living, 113 Battle Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692	Sue Morecock, Rm 214	

Please contact the church office (804-642-2110) with any prayer requests or updates.

ALTAR FLOWERS—The poinsettias adorning our sanctuary today have been given by Bethany members and friends in memory and in honor of loved ones.

135 YEARS OF BETHANY HISTORY (SNIPPET #39) — Did you know that Bethany’s Choir was reorganized in 1954 with Marie Baldwin as organist and Bessie Conner as choir director? Bessie served as choir director until 1958 when she became a deaconess in the missionary field of the Methodist Church. In 1958, the choir came under the direction of Becky Ashe. Becky and Marie retired from their respective positions in 1972.

GUEST SHELTER CHANGE – Please read the announcement below regarding an important change to this year’s program. Thanks to all who have offered to volunteer so far.

WINTER SHELTER 2022-2023 ANNOUNCEMENT

In the best interest of the homeless individuals and families GUEST serves, GUEST will be utilizing the Motel Voucher Program for the Winter Shelter Season from December 2022 to March 2023. We are incredibly grateful to the churches and volunteers that continue to partner with us to provide a safe and warm space for our homeless brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, we continue to see the effects of COVID within our community. The four locations that have willingly opened their doors are not enough to provide for 16 weeks of winter shelter needs.

The connection with our volunteers and churches are incredibly important to the mission and vision of GUEST. You provide that extra touch of hospitality, compassion, and mercy that our guests look forward to and appreciate. In order to provide opportunities for connection, we plan to coordinate special dinners for volunteers to come, serve, eat and build relationships with our guests. We also invite volunteers to come to the Day Shelter & Resource Center to help receive and sort donations, assist guests with resources, share a special talent or hobby, or just sit and chat with our guests to encourage them in this difficult time in their life.

If you know someone in need of shelter, please share with them our website www.guestshelter.org and phone number 804-792-5046. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at kristieaskew@guestshelter.net.

THANKS to the following volunteers who kept everything running smoothly during my vacation days in November and December – *Bernard and Debbie Robins, Sandra Harvey, Pauline Reimold, Dawn Sawyer, Wendy Hogge, and Diana Simmons*. What a blessing it is to have a team of volunteers ready to fill in whenever there is a need! – *Dee Dee*

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
Monday, December 19	6:30 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)
Tuesday, December 20	6:00 p.m.	York River Villas (Lacey Martin)
Wednesday, December 21	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Friday, December 23		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas observance)
Saturday, December 24	7:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Children & Youth Program (no Communion)
Sunday, December 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Communion Service with Lessons & Carols (one service, no Sunday school)
Friday, December 30		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (New Year’s Day observance)

BIBLE READING PLAN					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24
Lk 23-24	Mt 1-2	Mt 3-4	Mt 5-7	Mt 8-10	Mt 11-13

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

- 12/18 Chrissy Fox Whitehill, Sharon Johnson-Carleton, Aubrey Lynn Chase
- 12/19 Cathie Allport, Bev Kearney
- 12/20 David Byrd
- 12/23 Alix Shackelford
- 12/24 Jeffrey Leigh, Catherine Leigh, Tanner Bayly, Shelby Jacobs, Baum Hogge

Anniversaries

- 12/21 Bernard & Debbie Robins (36)
- 12/23 Bruce & Joy Long (56)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY BANNER SUBMISSIONS were due on 12/15. If you have not yet submitted your information, please email it to admin@bethanyumc-gp.org by Monday afternoon. Thanks!

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP will meet on **Monday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 BETHANY BIBLE STUDY —As we finish up our Bible reading plan for 2022, please take a minute to let us know which book(s) of the Bible you are most interested in studying in 2023. Please complete the form inserted in today's bulletin to let us know what you would most like to study!

CONFIRMATION CLASS — Bethany will begin a Confirmation Class in early 2023, for youth, ages 12 and up, meeting weekly during the Sunday school hour. If your child is a candidate for the class, please give their name to Carter Roane, Director of Children and Youth Ministry. Detailed schedule and plan will be announced.

BETHANY TOWN HALL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 4:00 P.M.

This is our second town hall meeting on human sexuality, with Bible study, using the book *Confronting the Controversies*, Chapter 7, "Homosexuality," written by Adam Hamilton. Mark your calendar and come to this congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

REVERSE ADVENT BAGS — THERE'S STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE! Please pick up a bag and join this fun tradition and help us make a difference for our neighbors in need! Suggested items to fill your bag include non-perishable food and pantry items, paper products, household cleaning, & personal hygiene items. **Bags should be returned to church by December 25.** Bags will be dedicated in our worship service on Christmas Day and items collected will be taken to Salvation Army, the G.U.E.S.T. Day Shelter, Union Baptist Church Food Pantry, and Bread for Life Food Pantry for distribution. Together we can make a difference for needy families this Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOXES are located in the fellowship hall. Please check the mailbox for any cards you may have received. If you are leaving cards for shut-ins or members who don't attend regularly, you may wish to consider mailing them so they can be received in time for Christmas. Christmas cards may be dropped off on Sundays or during office hours.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS — Gifts of Appreciated Stock

This time of year, many United Methodist members choose to make donations of stock as a tax-deductible contribution to their church. All gifts of stock are handled through our (BUMC) brokerage account with Edward Jones. The brokerage handles the transaction, by accepting the stock, liquidating it upon receipt, and issuing a check to BUMC.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available and located on the pew in the back parking lot foyer (office entrance). If you don't need the envelopes, please return them to the church office. If you don't see envelopes with your name on them but would like a set, please let us know. **NOTE: Please do not use 2023 envelopes before the first Sunday in January, or 2022 envelopes after December 25.** Thank you!

APPALACHIAN WINTER

A Cantata for Christmas

By Joseph M. Martin

Prelude

'Tis a Season for Singing

Long Time Ago

Hope and Expectation

Carol of the Winter Wind

Mountain Carol

Gentle Carols of Bethlehem

While Shepherds Watched

A Rustic Star Carol

Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain

Choir

Rev. Paul Song
Steve Wike
Sandra Harvey
Don Thomas
Tom Barnard
Kevin Kiley
Keith Brown
Carter Roane
Dolores Breen
Dee Dee Wike
Donna Lane
Janet Chapin
Ann Byrd
Charla Barnard
Cheryl Roane
Jeannie Harrell
Mary Kaylor
Joan Farr
Kelly Fox

Instrumentalists

Dr. Rudy Shackelford-pianist
Jeff Haney-trumpet
Deb Evans-flute
Sandra Byrd-violin
Anne Baltrusaitis-violin
Nancy Wilson-cello
Jeremy Nardozi-percussion

Media

Kirk Bell

Narrator

Clair Hillard

Soloists

Dee Dee Wike
Dolores Breen
Steve Wike
Carter Roane

Director of Music

Sandy Fox

2022 Poinsettia Tributes

Poinsettias are lovingly given...

*in memory of my beloved husband, Eugene Brown
in honor of Debbie & Bernard Robins and Bettie Sue & Jerry Varner
by Lorraine Brown*



*in memory of Gladys Davis and Lawson Byrd
in honor of David Byrd and Laurie Flowers
by Ann Byrd*

in memory of James K. Bell, Sr. by Theresa Childre

in honor of Patrick and Shelton Glaze by Laura and Scott Glaze

*in memory of Alan's grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Oliver, who raised him
by Alan and Sandra Harvey*

*in memory of my parents, Doris & Harry Foster and Jerry's parents, Claud & Edra Hickman
by Nerine Hickman*

in memory of Pat Kearney by Bev Kearney

*in memory of our parents and in honor of our children and grandchildren
by Paul and Nancy Kendall*

in memory of Harry & JoAnne Lewis by Brian Lewis

*in memory of Barbara & Bill Berry and Nonnie & Joe Neikirk
by Betty and Chip Neikirk*

*in memory of Anne Langley, mother and Clarice Carmine, mother-in-law
in honor of my family, Pitt, Jason, Josh, Jake, Shannon, Jessica, Jordan & Carter
by Cheryl Roane*

Poinsettias are lovingly given...

*in memory of Tom & Edith Emory
in honor of Jean Heywood and Mary Kaylor
by Don Sandridge*

in memory of Tom Sawyer by Dawne Sawyer

*in memory of Louise & Rudolph Shackelford and Annie Lee Owens
by Rudy Shackelford*

*in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Noah C. Thomas and Agnes Lewis Williams
by Donnie, M. E., and Brenda*

*my grandchildren: Norah, Iris, Grayson, Patrick, and Claire
by Nancy Wilburn*

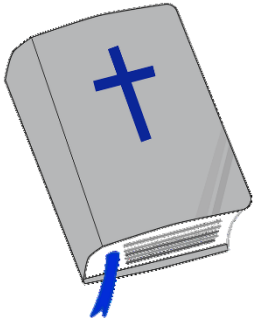


Bethany Bible Study, 2023

***In 2023 our church will study 3 books of the Bible,
chosen by our congregation!***

**What books of the Bible would you be most
interested in studying?**

Please list your top 3 choices below and return this form in the offering plate, to the church office, or to Pastor Paul, or email to pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name: _____

(Returning this form is not a commitment to participate but is an opportunity to express your preference.)



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*