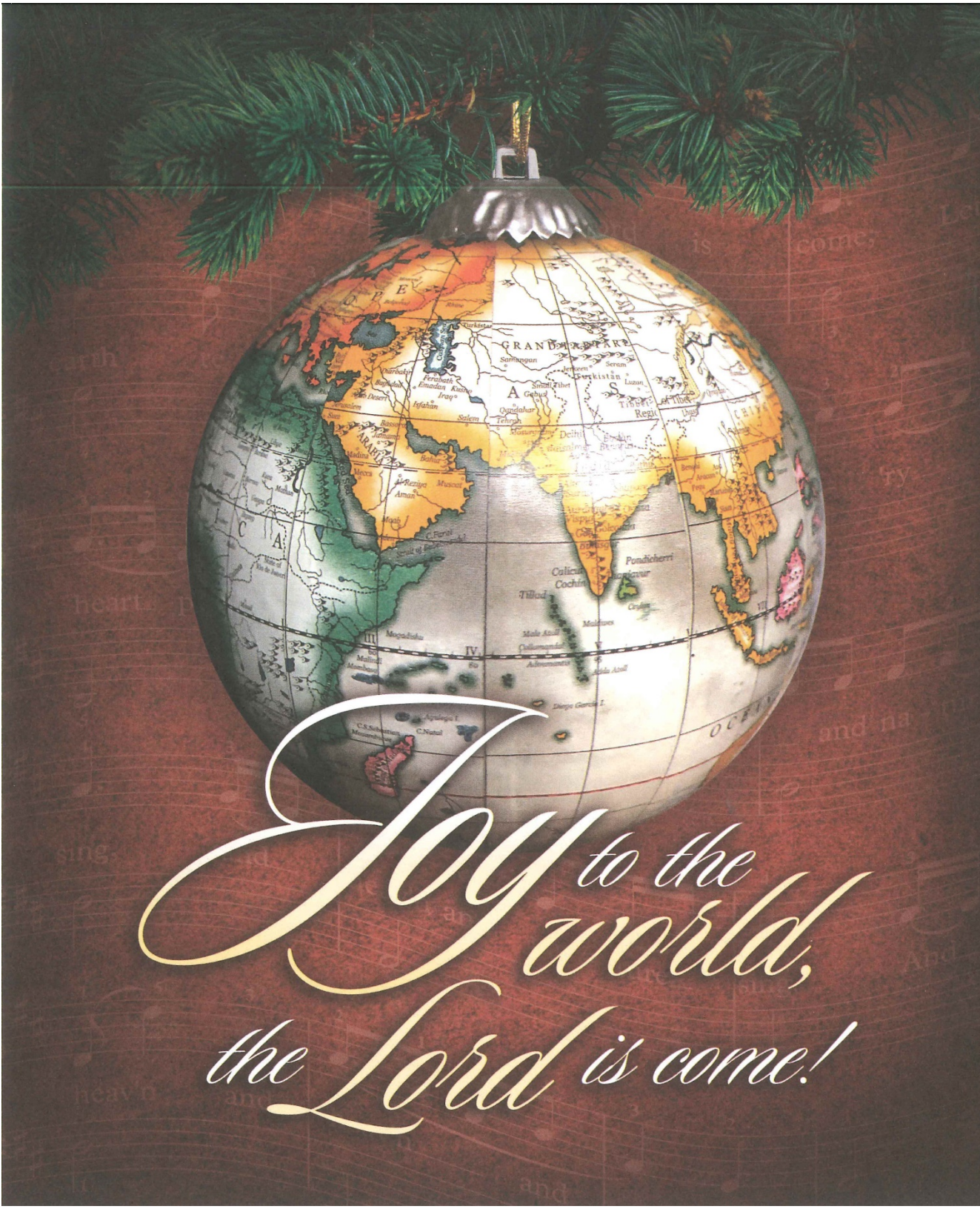


Offering and Offertory Prayer		Pastor Paul Song
Offertory Music	Noel No. 10 – Grand Jeu et Duo	Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
“When God was born at Christmas in the land of Judaea, that solemn day was bathed in joy. There was no man, great or small, who did not bring his present and did not offer ceaselessly all his wealth and riches. – Provençal Carol		
*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.		
The Great Thanksgiving (on the screen)		
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.		
Giving the Bread and Cup (Bread and cup will be served at the communion rail.)		
Music during Communion	Prelude on “Behold, a Rose Is Blooming” Based on UMH No. 216	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion (on screen) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.		
*Hymn	Joy to the World (vv. 1,4)	UMH No. 246
*Benediction		Pastor Paul Song
Carillon Postlude	Angels We Have Heard on High	UMH No. 238

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY		
Acolyte(s):	Regina Berry	
Media:	Jeremy Nardozzi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Kirk Bell, Kim Song	
Altar Guild this month:	Nina Whitmore, Sharon Cheek, Mary Linda Brooks	
Liturgist:	Sandra Harvey	
Trustee Contact this week:	Rob Raines	
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Jon Kent, Rick Wilson	
Greeters:	David Ayers	
Counting Team:	Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane	



Holy Communion with Lessons and Carols

WELCOME, EVERYONE! Thank you for 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. When the music begins, please quietly prepare your heart for worship.

Voluntary

Hallelujah Chorus, from “Messiah”
Transcribed for organ by Virgil Fox

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

“Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah! The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah! King of kings, and Lord of lords, and he shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!”

Welcome and Announcements, Concerns and Updates

Pastor Paul Song

*Call to Worship

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for your gift of love.

Congregation: Help us respond to your love with our whole hearts.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for humbling yourself and coming to earth as a baby.

Congregation: Lord, please take our pride and help us walk humbly with you.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for choosing ordinary people like Mary and Joseph to serve you.

Congregation: Lord, we offer ourselves to you - show us how we can serve you.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for choosing to be born in poverty.

Congregation: Help us make your love known to all people.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for welcoming the despised shepherds at your manger.

All: Lord, enable our church to be full of your welcoming love. Amen.

*Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH No. 230

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional Version)

UMH No. 881

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pauline and Nathaniel Reimold

Today we light the Christ Candle as a symbol of his coming to us as the light of the world.
(Light the white Christ candle only.)

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can extinguish.

Dedication of Reverse Advent Bags (on screen)

Pastor Paul Song

Opening Prayer

Sandra Harvey

O Almighty God, by the birth of your holy Child Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.

Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end.

In His name, we pray. Amen.

Service of Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Genesis 2: 1-4

Steve Wike

Carol

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (vv. 1, 7)

(on screen)

Second Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Dee Dee Wike

Carol

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH No. 196

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Janet Chapin

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High (vv. 1, 2, 3)

UMH No. 238

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Ann Byrd

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vv. 1, 2)

UMH No. 240

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Sandy Fox

Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH No. 211

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-22

Sandra Harvey

Carol

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (vv. 1,2)

UMH No. 218

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

Carter Roane

Carol

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Music by Gloria Shayne

Carter Roane, soloist

Lyrics by Noel Regney

The Collect

Pastor Paul Song

Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, who in love made humankind, create in us love so pure and perfect that whosoever our heart loves may be after thy will, in thy name, and for thy sake. In your name.

Amen.

Homily

“Creation, Covenant, and Christ”

Pastor Paul Song

Holy Communion

Invitation to Table

Confession and Pardon (on screen)

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Peace

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

(Service continued on back page)

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	12.25.22
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</i> (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, <i>Bowdy Schrader</i> , Jim Minor, all members of the military.		
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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
Sunday, December 25		MERRY CHRISTMAS – GOD BLESS YOU!
Friday, December 30		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (New Year’s Day observance)
Sunday, January 1	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Informal Worship Fellowship & Celebrations (WBFH) Sunday school for all ages Traditional Worship

BIBLE READING PLAN					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12/26 Mt. 14-16	12/27 Mt 17-19	12/28 Mt 20-22	12/29 Mt 23-25	12/30 Mt 26-28	12/31 Thanksgiving Meditation

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
12/26	Doug Wheat	12/26	Clair & Sarah Hillard (55)
12/27	Katie Burner Barnett	12/27	Bobby & Nan Leigh (64)
12/28	Amanda Maples,	12/28	Warren & Candy Douglas (48)
12/29	Kaiten Cooper, Carter Roane, Gerri Wilson	12/28	Philip & Sylvia Ransone (59)
		12/29	Jim & Jane Sterling (67)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BABY SHOWER FOR ROB AND SAMANTHA HORNSBY -- Joy Circle will be hosting a baby shower for Rob and Samantha Hornsby on **Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. All of our Bethany family are invited to share in this joyous occasion as Rob and Samantha await the birth of a third son! Needed are diapers - Pampers or Costco brand - size 1, long sleeve sleepers, and winter clothes. Samantha is registered at Target and Amazon. Let's welcome this new baby into the Bethany Family!

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.

The **2023 ALTAR FLOWERS CALENDAR** has been posted in the main hallway. Please be sure to stop by and reserve the date(s) you wish to provide the flowers for our Sunday morning worship. Questions? Contact the church office or pull an information card from the bulletin board.

PEW CARDS -- The pink and buff colored pew cards have been replaced by an updated "Welcome" card. This card is for visitors and members alike, who wish to provide or update contact information, submit prayer requests, and seek information about our ministries and membership. If you are seated near a guest on Sunday morning, please encourage them to fill out a card so we may get to know them better. Thanks for extending a warm welcome to our guests!

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.

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!

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.

ANGEL TREE THANK YOU — To Angel Tree gift-givers: Thank you for being angels to twenty children in our community.

135 YEARS OF BETHANY HISTORY (Snippet #40)

Did you know that the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is seeking a church historian to record Bethany's history as it unfolds? If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paul.
Note: This is the last *Did you know?* history snippet as Bethany's 135th anniversary year comes to a close.

"**Thank you** to everyone who participated in the cantata, *Appalachian Winter*. It was an inspirational performance and I want to say 'thank you' to the singers, instrumentalists, media team, and narrator Clair Hillard for all the work you put into the cantata. Thank you, Rudy, for the additional practice you consistently put into it. It was, as always, an incredible experience."
— *Sandy Fox*

We wish all of our Bethany family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
— *Lavalle and Aidan*

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. 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.

STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Attendance: 106 in-person, 23 online	
Stewardship:	
General Fund:	\$12,182.23
Pastor's Discretionary Fund:	\$205.00
Bazaar:	\$25.00
GMHS (Geo. Nelson Concert):	\$644.00