

NOTE ON THE MEDITATION



French composer Claude Debussy died on 25 March 1918, near the end of World War I – though not as a combatant. For the past nine years he had suffered from rectal cancer but was obliged financially to undertake long, exhausting concert tours across Europe. Shortly after Germany declared war on France, 3 August 1914, Debussy wrote to his publisher: “I feel I am nothing but a mere atom crushed to pieces in this terrible cataclysm.”

In November he was commissioned, along with leading artists and intellectuals of the allied countries, to contribute to a memorial volume in honor of King Albert of Belgium, commander-in-chief of the defeated Belgian army. The result was a brief piano piece titled *Berceuse Héroïque (Heroic Lullaby)* which

quotes the Belgian national anthem and distant trumpet calls Debussy had heard French soldiers practicing. He orchestrated the work in December 1914.

The transcription for organ was given its world première performance at Bethany on 18 November 2018 during our program “1918 — Homage to Claude Debussy,” part of the George Nelson Memorial Concert Series.

— Rudy Shackelford

notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, August 27, 2023

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday school hour and 11:00 service.
The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.
Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP? Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given for the glory of God by Dawne Sawyer in celebration of her birthday today and her daughter, Kristin Poulin’s birthday on August 29th.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Confirmation Class
	4:00 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)
Monday, August 28	9:30 a.m.	Homebound Ministries (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (Mary Lotsey)
Tuesday, August 29	6:15 p.m.	Stewardship Committee (Confirmation Classroom)
Wednesday, August 30	10:00 a.m.	Nominations Committee (WBFH)
Thursday, August 24	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study (BBS) (Lacey Martin)
Friday, August 25		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (LABOR DAY)
Sunday, September 3	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
Communion Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Confirmation Class

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP will meet and celebrate the Eucharist **TODAY at 4:00 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom. We will offer a new group, 2023-2024, with orientation next month. For details, please see insert.

We keep all students in our thoughts and prayer as Gloucester schools open this week.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES - We will be cooking for our shut-ins on **Monday, August 28 at 9:30 am.** Hope you can help in this outreach ministry.

S/PPRC ANNOUNCEMENT — Carter Roane will be recognized during our weekly fellowship time on **Sunday, September 3.** Please stop by the fellowship hall between services that day to wish him well.

JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome!

THURSDAYS AT BUMC

House of Prayer – 6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary is open from 6:30-7:00 for all who wish to come pray.

Bethany Bible Study (BBS) – 7:00 p.m. in Lacey Martin classroom. Studying 1 Corinthians.



GEORGE NELSON MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES

Rappahannock Crossing Bluegrass Band will be performing at Bethany on **Sunday, September 17 at 4 PM.** Details are in the September *Bethany Banner*.

UMCOR MISSION TO MAUI

UMCOR has begun its rescue mission to help the recovery of Maui wildfires, and you can help by donating. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to **Global Ministries/UMCOR** with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and mailed to:
Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to **Global Ministries/UMCOR** with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 each Sunday for fellowship and celebration!

Birthdays:

8/27 Dawne Sawyer, Jim Durette
8/28 David Belvin, Jack Whitmore
8/29 Kristin Poulin, Donna Lane
8/30 McKenzie Hasty
8/31 Tom Barnard
9/1 Clare Hall, Alliyson Alligood, Troy Andersen, Dave Ayers

Anniversaries – None this Week

8/28 Billy & Wendy Hogge (47)
8/29 Rev. Braxton & Cathie Allport (59)
8/31 Lewis & Rev. Debbie Marion (27)
9/1 Al & Judy Burner (55)

Faith Promise

The Finance Committee has started planning the 2024 budget. The process began on the 1st of August when the committee sent budget requests to committee chairs and staff members responsible for selected budget categories. Now we need the help of our Bethany family. How? By completing the Faith Promise form in today’s bulletin.

Faith Promise giving is a vital part of the budget process because it’s one of the tools used to predict income for the coming budget year. Faith Promises are allocated to the General Fund and used for routine operational expenses (water, electricity, general maintenance, insurance, pastor and staff salaries, advertising, supplies, etc.) needed to provide effective ministry to our church and community. Bethany’s income and expenses have been impacted in these challenging times, yet the need for ministry and outreach is more important than ever.

Please take a few minutes and prayerfully consider your general fund Faith Promise for 2024, and return your completed form by Sunday, September 10th. (Instructions are on the back of the form.) This will give us time to complete and submit the budget for approval by the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council prior to our Charge Conference.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” —2 Corinthians 9:7

—Jack Whitmore, Finance Chairman