



Bethany Banner December 2023

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors
Sunday Worship – 8:30 a.m. Informal; 11 a.m. Traditional
Sunday School for all ages – 9:45 a.m.
Office Hours: Tues.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Church Office: 804-642-2110; www.bethanyumc-gp.org



Holiday Services and Special Events Bethany United Methodist Church

1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point
www.bethanyumc-gp.org, 804-642-2110

Advent Bible School (K-5th grade)

Monday, December 4, 11, & 18 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Courthouse Community Orchestra Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

11 a.m. – Christmas Eve Traditional Worship
7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Informal Worship (Candlelight Communion)
Sunday, December 24

Church Office will be Closed

Thursday & Friday, November 23-24 (Thanksgiving)
Friday, December 22 (Christmas)
Friday, December 29 (New Year's Day)

Pastor: Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song

Director of Music: Sandra Fox

Organist: Dr. Rudy Shackelford

Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Brad Thomas

Church Office Administrator: Dee Dee Wike

Glory and Peace

The Gospel of Luke witnesses to the angelic message of the birth of the Christ Child, the Messiah, the Lord, calling it good news that will cause great joy for all people, followed by the heavenly host of angelic praising, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:8-14)

Why is the birth of a tiny baby who was born in a the manger good news to all people, causing heaven and earth to respond with celebration, bringing an angel choir singing, “glory to God in heaven and peace on earth?”

The Christ Child is God incarnate, meaning God in human form. On his shoulder is the government. And he is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In him there is no darkness at all. In him there is all time: past, present and future. In him there is everything: life, suffering, death and resurrection. In him we find all human experiences: love, joy, sorrow, suffering, agony and tears, healing. In him we know salvation, and living eternally. In him, there is heaven and earth, beginning and end, and the first and the last.

Karl Rahner, a German Jesuit priest and theologian wrote this way,

“God himself now stands behind and has become himself the true reality underneath the surface: Eternity is already at the core of time, life is at the core of death, truth is stronger than the lie, love is more powerful than hate, human malice has already been fully conquered by God’s grace. So let us sing with the joy of a heart that has been freed to live in union with God, who is eternal youth. The night has turned to light and God has prepared a feast for himself that previously did not exist in heaven: God has become human.” — *The Mystical Way in Everyday Life*, pp 14-15.

In the present time when we have seen human malice such as wars, violence, and strife, we have good reason to witness to the world the Good News proclaiming, “The Child is born. He is the Messiah, the Lord,” and good reason to celebrate his birth with love, joy, and hope.

Merry and Blessed Christmas to All,

Pastor Paul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK BREAKFAST, December 10 at 9:30 a.m., WBFH

Bring a favorite breakfast dish to share and join us for our monthly fellowship breakfast before heading off to your Sunday school class! Bring a friend, too!

JOY CIRCLE will have their Christmas celebration on **Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Dawn Cluts, 7590 Tyndall Dr., Gloucester Point.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Also bring a \$10 gift that begins with the first letter of your last name for a gift exchange.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES will be cooking on **Wednesday, December 20 at 9:30 a.m.** Come join the fun!

REVERSE ADVENT BAGS — In the spirit of giving, BUMC encourages each family to pick up a Reverse Advent bag and fill it for a needy family. Treat it as you would a traditional Advent calendar but instead of receiving something each day, add an item to your bag each day until Christmas. Suggested items include non-perishable food and pantry items, paper products, household cleaning, & personal hygiene items. **Bags should be returned to church by December 24.** Bags will be dedicated in our worship service 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!

NEEDED FOR BETHANY BAZAAR 2024 – Old watches & license plates



ADVENT BIBLE SCHOOL:

CHILDREN K —5TH GRADE

Learn the true meaning of Christmas!

Music – Story – Snack – Crafts

Monday evenings: December 4, 11 and 18

Time: 6:00-7:30

Bethany United Methodist Church
1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point

BETHANY UMC YOUTH & CHILDREN

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



Sunday School

Each Sunday @ 9:45AM

Youth Group

Dec. 3rd & 17th from 6-7:30PM



Sunday School

Each Sunday @ 9:45AM

Children's Church

Each Sunday at the
8:30 & 11AM Service



Chrismon Tree Decorating

Saturday Dec. 2nd @ 3PM
Food and Fellowship to follow
Please bring a snack or dessert to share!

Pastor's Narrative Report to the Charge Conference.

Nov. 4, 2023, 1:00PM

This year marks the start of my third year of sharing the life, mission, and ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church; it has been a time full of grace, love, and the mercy of God, with much fruitfulness and blessedness. According to my ministerial focus, "To be attentive to God, to respond to the work of God, and to be growing spiritually," I want to highlight some of our areas of ministry:

Ministry of prayer and presence --- Prayer is the beacon of life and ministry of the church, praying consistently at worship, small groups, and all forms of gathering, as well as praying individually. "Hour of Prayer," is our weekly prayer gathering on Thursday evenings, 6:30pm, initiated by a member of the church, open to all in the sanctuary until 7:00PM. Beginning in January, we plan to call for eighteen weeks of prayer, meeting weekly for General Conference, which will be on April 23-May 3. Daily prayer, both intercessory and contemplative, is my personal prayer practice and ministry, and pastoral visitation on demand or on schedule is my ministry of presence, along with worship, study groups, and meetings.

Ministry of worship and preaching --- I believe that worship is the most integral part of the life and ministry of the church. Since the Covid 19 Pandemic has officially been declared passed, and people are coming back to in-person worship in increasing numbers, we have seen fruitfulness in the ministry of worship. Newly installed A/V equipment in the sanctuary enabled us to offer livestreaming of worship to virtual worshippers. Our media team has been organized to volunteer for worship services. A newly formed praise team of vocalists accompanied by guitar and Cajon has led our Informal service on Sundays. Now we offer two very different styles of worship so that we can reach out to more people to worship God. We want to thank all volunteers who have served in worship at our church.

Ministry of building lay leadership --- 14 people have completed our Joshua Spiritual Formation course this year. We have experienced a transformation happening among them in a variety of ways through this course. Some of our group members continue meeting together monthly to revisit what they have read and experienced. I am praying about forming a new group for 2024.

Ministry of small group --- our Bethany Bible Study (BBS) meets weekly on Thursday evenings. We have studied Romans, and currently I Corinthians. A year-long Confirmation class, involving two youths, has been meeting until

December this year, focusing on growing in faith through the process of knowing and experiencing the love of God and of the church. A new adult Sunday school started this past summer.

Ministry of Children and Youth --- We are excited about hiring a new staff member as Director of Children and Youth Ministry, looking forward to vitality and fruitfulness in the lives of our children and youth, growing in faith, and participating in study, programs, and activities.

Ministry of mission and outreach ---- This past summer we offered the second year of Music Camp for middle school children. Most of the participants are non-church members. This led to a partnership with the homeschooling group in our area, which uses our building for their weekly Music Academy. We hop to grow in connection with these families and with the community. On August 12th 15th and 19th, our summer mission team of 18 people helped in repairing Gloucester House for the homeless. We look forward to becoming actively involved in more local mission activities this coming year with new mission teams. This year Bethany church is one of the churches in the Annual Conference who have faithfully paid 100% of our shared, connectional mission of apportionment. It is a visible sign of our commitment to God's mission.

Ministry of Stewardship team --- We have six members who serve in the ministry of stewardship. They have prayed for this ministry. They met during the summer before our annual stewardship campaign began, for prayer and Scripture reading focusing on 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, with meditation. They have read three stewardship books written by J Cliff Christopher. When we completed "Faith Promise" an annual financial campaign for the coming year, it was reported that our congregation pledged \$70,000 more over the last year. It is a visible sign of fruitfulness that we have witnessed.

I have been blessed serving Bethany church, seeing how God has led us, and by love that I have received through the congregation. As we are look forward to the coming year, I trust that God will continue to lead us, and for us to know God by experience, to grow in faith, love and joy, faithfully responding to what God is doing through us.

Sincerely,

Rev Moonsup "Paul" Song, D.Min
Pastor

OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for

Mistletoe and Munchies

SAT., DECEMBER 9, 2023

10 am to 4 pm



Creative Reuse Center

3261 George Wash. Mem. HWY

Hayes, VA 23072

BETHANY TO SERVE AS HOMELESS SHELTER, January 1 through January 8

This winter Bethany will serve as a week-long overnight homeless shelter offering overnight accommodations and meals each night in our Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the many Bethany volunteers and those from outside our church that make this ministry possible as part of the GUEST (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team) program. GUEST is a coalition of churches and community organizations that strives to love, help, and reduce our homeless population. Since January of this year the GUEST program has helped 99 individuals (68 adults, 31 children) receive shelter through motel vouchers. Note that with assistance from the GUEST program 86 of the shelter participants have moved into permanent housing. Bethany's week of service is Jan 1 to Jan 8. Signup sheets at church as well as online signups will be available soon. Please consider being the hands and feet of Christ serving our brothers and sisters in need. Please call Al (804-413-4444) or Judy (804-413-8888) Burner if any questions or to find out how you might participate.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE —The Finance Committee is preparing the contribution envelopes for 2024. If you give online and/or no longer use envelopes to make your contributions, please contact Financial Secretary Cheryl Roane (804-815-8311 or cherylroane11@gmail.com), or Finance Committee Chair Jack Whitmore, so we can update our records accordingly and make the envelopes available for other donors. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the families of:

Jerry Douglass Hall, father of Christopher Hall (wife Clare Hall) and nephew of Linda Hall, who passed on November 1.

Rev. Hugh T. Harris, former Bethany pastor, who passed on November 11.

Robert Ervi, uncle of Ron Ervi, who passed on October 26. Ron and Loreen's address is 7444 Lafayette Heights Dr., Gloucester Point, 23062.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE for Charlotte Cecil will be held on **Saturday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary, followed by a finger-food reception in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all who have called, sent get well cards, all the prayers over the past couple weeks, and for the delicious homebound ministry meal. I'm finally feeling a little better! My family and I greatly appreciate all the love and prayers that the Bethany family has shown. — *Krista Chase*

You have fed us, you visited us, you sent us cards, and you called us, but most importantly, we know you have been praying for us. Jane is almost back walking steadily on her own two feet. Healing of her foot is a slow process. We thank you, Church Family, for caring for us in so many ways. God Bless each of you! — *Fred and Jane Niethamer*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/4 Duane Bayly, Al Burner, Randy Campbell, Makena Bontrager,
Dawn Bontrager
- 12/5 Dawn Cluts, Gerald Davis, Vernon McDaniel, III
- 12/6 Maxx Polk, Rosemarie Tong
- 12/7 Scott Farmer, Mae Eppard, Judy Hudgins, Henry Chapin,
Hannah Chapin
- 12/8 Charlotte Chapin, Grant Morris
- 12/9 Mary Kaylor
- 12/11 Martin Breen, Jerry Hickman
- 12/12 Dylan Chapin
- 12/16 Susan Conry
- 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
- 12/26 Doug Wheat
- 12/27 Katie Burner Barnett
- 12/28 Amanda Maples,
- 12/29 Kaiten Cooper, Carter Roane, Gerri Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/3 Kevin & Crystal Thompson (16)
- 12/4 Jim & Gerlinde Stevens (47)
- 12/16 Larry & Sue Whitfield (45)
- 12/21 Bernard & Debbie Robins (37)
- 12/23 Bruce & Joy Long (57)
- 12/26 Clair & Sarah Hillard (56)
- 12/27 Bobby & Nan Leigh (65)
- 12/28 Warren & Candy Douglas (49)
- 12/28 Philip & Sylvia Ransone (60)
- 12/29 Jim & Jane Sterling (68)

COUNTING TEAMS

12/3 Team 6: Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard
12/10 Team 1: Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd, Pat Hasty
12/17 Team 3: Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donna Andersen
12/24 Team 2: Betty Neikirk, Chip Neikirk, Cheryl Roane
12/31 Team 4: Bernard Robins, Debbie Robins, Doris Luther

TRUSTEE CONTACTS

11/29-12/02: Rob Raines
12/03-12/09: Diana Simmons
12/10-12/16: Don Thomas
12/17-12/23: Milton Hudgins
12/24-12/30: Donna Lane
12/30-01/06/24: Tom Barnard

ALTAR GUILD

Peggy Lewis, Laura Glaze, Laura Vaughan

LITURGISTS

12/3 Loreen Paiva
12/10 Judy Burner
12/17 Pauline Reimold
12/24 Clair Hillard
12/31 Lynne Barnes

ALTAR FLOWERS

12/3 Mary Kaylor
12/10 AVAILABLE
12/17 Poinsettias
12/24 Poinsettias
12/31 AVAILABLE

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	11.26.23
<p>CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Fred Niethamer, Linwood Rowe, Gwen Wesson, Larry Whitfield</p> <p>GRIEVING: Families of Charlotte Cecil, Sandra Hollins, Sue Morecock</p> <p>HEALTH ISSUES: Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, David Cecil, Billy Davis, Jim Durette, Debra Farrow, Estelle Harris, David Hoover, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Alice Northam, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan</p> <p>HOSPITALIZED/REHAB: Bessie Conner (Sanders Rm. 1214), Estelle Harris</p> <p>HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace, Lavalie Wilson</p> <p>PARKINSON'S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White</p> <p>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Dylan Chapin, Krista Chase, Billy Davis, Jon Kent, Jane Niethamer, Cathy Raines</p> <p>UPCOMING SURGERY: Lonnie Byrd (11/27), Paul Kendall (11/28)</p>		
BETHANY FRIENDS		
<p>CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Peyton Arthur, Fran Bonnaville, Kendell Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Dallas "Butch" Folk (ME), Carol Gibbs, Traci Greene, Zachary Hoover, Erin Kate (Dooley) McGuire, Sissi Mise, John Sheppard, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Kent Stevens, Jeff Suntken, Jill Ward, Bob Wharen, Susan Williams</p> <p>GRIEVING: Families of Jerry Hall, Rev. Hugh T. Harris, Ellis Hogge</p> <p>HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Connie Bowler, Kathryn Bjers, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Adie Kurth, Sylvia Motley, Ken Pierkowski, Phillip Presson, Dixie Sharp, Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Sandie Wharen, Sabrina Wikle, Randy Wilson</p> <p>HOSPICE: Selma</p> <p>HOSPITAL/REHAB: James Page (GA)</p> <p>PARKINSON'S: Janet Burch (KY)</p> <p>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Luke Burner, Terry Corbin, Jaunita Goins, Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Natalie Long, Howard Moore</p> <p>UPCOMING SURGERY: Eric Bunch</p> <p>OTHER PRAYERS: Afghanistan earthquake victims, Israel and Ukraine</p>		
BUMC'S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (<i>italics—Bethany friends</i>)		
<p><i>Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, Bowdy Schrader, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i></p>		
ASSISTED LIVING (<i>italics-Bethany friends</i>)		
<p>Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061</p>	<p>Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 106 Jean Heywood, Rm 110 Bessie Conner, Rm 102</p>	
<p>Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061 (Sid & Marion Dixon's mailing address: PO Box 36, Gloucester Point, VA 23062)</p>	<p>Sid Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 35 Marion Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 33 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29 Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13</p>	
<p>Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061</p>	<p>Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A</p>	
<p>Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235</p>	<p>Pauline Harris, Apt. 130</p>	
<p>Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149</p>	<p>Jennie Lipscomb</p>	

December 2023

December 2023							January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
					8:30am Homeschool Music Academy (Make Up Day)	11:00am Charlotte Cecil Memorial 3:00pm Chrismon Tree Decorating & Meal
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Comunion Sunday 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 6:00pm UMYF (Youth Group)	6:00pm Advent Bible School	5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30pm S/PPRC 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2:00pm Homeschool Christmas Party 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS) 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal		9:00am Cantata Rehearsal 5:00pm Julia Middleton Recital
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Second Sunday Potluck Breakfast 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 6:00pm CCO Christmas Concert	6:00pm Advent Bible School	5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm JOY Circle (Off-site)	6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00am York River Garden Club 2:30pm UWF Board 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS) 7:00pm Choir / Orchestra Rehearsal	BANNER DEADLINE 10:00am Cantata Rehearsal (Orchestra)	9:00am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Christmas Cantata 6:00pm UMYF (Youth Group)	6:00pm Advent Bible School	5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45pm York River Villas	9:30am Homebound Ministries 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:30am Naomi Circle 5:00pm Media Upgrade Team 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS) 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON (Christmas Eve)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Christmas Eve Traditional Worship 7:00pm Christmas Eve Informal Worship		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas) 5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS) 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON (New Year's Day)	
31	Jan 1, 24	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 2:30pm GUEST Setup						