



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)

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December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ADVENT CANTATA**

WELCOME, EVERYONE! Thank you for worshipping 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):	Josiah Minor (11:00)
Media:	Jeremy Nardozi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Kim Song, Chip Neikirk Aidan Dumbrocyo
Altar Guild this month:	Peggy Lewis, Laura Glaze, Laura Vaughan
Liturgist:	Pauline Reimold (11:00)
Trustee Contact this week:	Milton Hudgins
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Rick Wilson, Kirk Bell (11:00)
Greeters:	M. E. Thomas, David Ayers (11:00)

STEWARDSHIP	12/10
General Fund (\$95 Cecil; \$50 Morecock)	16,224.89
Capital Improvement	320.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	280.00
Altar Flowers	50.00
Poinsettias	30.00
Homebound Ministries	75.00
ATTENDANCE	12/10
In-person Worship (8:30-37; 11:00-69)	106
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube) <i>(YouTube is from two weeks prior to today’s service)</i>	37
Total in Worship	143

COUNTING TEAMS	
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
1/7	Team 5: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane

Intrada	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	UMH No. 237
	<i>Variations on a Noël – Variation 10: Fugato</i>	Marcel Dupré
	Based upon UMH No. 237	(1886-1971)

Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction Pastor Paul Song

***Call to Worship** Pauline Reimold

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

Congregation: and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

All: that the King of glory may come in.

***Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH No. 238

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional Version) UMH No. 881

Lighting of Advent Candle Jim, Shannon, Justus, and Josiah Minor

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.

May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

“And those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (Isaiah 35:10)

(Light two purple and the pink candles.)

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Opening Prayer Pauline Reimold

O Holy God, open unto us light for our darkness, courage for our fear, hope for our despair.

O loving God, open unto us wisdom for our confusion, forgiveness for our sins, love for our hate.

O God of peace, open unto us peace for our turmoil, joy for our sorrow, strength for our weakness.

O generous God, open our heart to receive all your gifts. And now we pray the Lord’s Prayer...

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.

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.
Brad Thomas, Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Office 804.642.2110, call/text 304.483.3403 Email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org	Office Hours vary / by appt.

Offering and Offertory Prayer

Offertory

The Wedding of Mary and Joseph,
from *"Years of Pilgrimage: Italy"*

Transcribed for organ-piano duet by Rudy Shackelford

Pastor Paul Song

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

"...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

Pauline Reimold

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 61: 1-4, 8-11

Pauline Reimold

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

***Gospel Reading**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS CANTATA

I Hear the Prophet Callin' by Pepper Choplin

***Hymn**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH No. 230

***Benediction**

Pastor Paul Song

***Closing Chorus**

Shalom to You

UMH No. 666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

The Holly and the Ivy

English Carol

"The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir."

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

(No Informal Worship Service)

Traditional Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelight and Communion at 7:00 p.m.

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Music and Lyrics by Pepper Choplin

Orchestrated by Stan Pethel

Director: Sandra Fox

Pianist: Rudy Shackelford

Narrator: Clair Hillard

Soloists: Dolores Breen, Donna Lane, Steve Wike, Kevin Kiley



Listen to the Story

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

The People Who Walk in Darkness

I Hear a Mother Singin'

Rockin' Slow and Even

There in the Same Country

I Hear the Shepherds Callin'

Go Tell It

I See the Star of Glory

A Star Rising in the East

I Hear the People Singin'