



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 24, 2023

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.*

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

Chiming of the Hour

Special Music

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Steve Wike, soloist

Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction

Pastor Paul Song

***Call to Worship**

Clair Hillard

Leader: Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

Congregation: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

Leader: The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

Congregation: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

Leader: With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

Congregation: We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

Leader: So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

Congregation: We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

***Hymn**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH No. 240

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)

UMH No. 881

Lighting of Advent Candle

Chip and Betty Neikirk

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, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

(Light four candles) **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Acolyte(s):	Regina Berry (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:	Clair Hillard (11:00)
Trustee Contact this week:	Donna Lane
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Rick Wilson, Kirk Bell (11:00)
Greeters:	Rick & Gerri Wilson, David Ayers (11:00)

STEWARDSHIP	12/17
General Fund	6869.75
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	105.00
Youth Ministry	150.00
Children's Ministry	150.00
Choir (\$50 Kira Fox memorial)	75.00
ATTENDANCE	12/17
In-person Worship (8:30-25; 11:00-123)	148
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube) <i>(YouTube is from two weeks prior to today's service)</i>	86
Total in Worship	234

COUNTING TEAMS	
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
1/14	Team 6: Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard

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.

Opening Prayer Clair Hillard
In the advent seasons, when the past has fled, unasked, away and there is nothing left to do but wait, God, shelter us. Be our surrounding darkness; be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time. In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, love on, in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you waiting to be born in due time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Dedication of Reverse Advent Bags

Anthem *Go, Tell It!* Pepper Choplin

Time with Children Brad Thomas

Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition "Lord, hear our prayer."
The Lord's Prayer Pastor Paul Song
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.

Meditation *Noël 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

Offering and Offertory Prayer Pastor Paul Song
Offertory *Hallelujah Chorus, from "Messiah"* 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!"
— Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16

***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 Clair Hillard
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 7:10-17 Clair Hillard
New Testament Reading Romans 16:25-27
***Gospel Reading** Luke 1:26-38
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Two Announcements" Pastor Paul Song

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

***Benediction** Pastor Paul Song

***Closing Chorus** *Joy to the World* (vs. 1, 4) UMH No. 246

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE
with CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION
TONIGHT AT 7 PM**

