

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 11

Issue 1

January 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Whether you are an avid sports fan, or lover of the arts, we all have in common the anticipation of the first pitch, opening kick-off, drop of the puck, the tip-off, the first strike of an orchestra's note, the opening lines of a play that hook us, or the drop of the green flag. Why do we have such great anticipation? Well...I cannot help but believe that a large portion of it is the excitement of what is about to take place, the clean slate where anything can happen, the opportunity to succeed/do better, the chance to win or be blessed with a sense of fulfillment of "this is what I have been waiting for," something new.

With all of this in mind, it reminds that here we are in 2023, a year that from my childhood seemed very *space age* (even though there are no flying cars that we are aware of.) There are incredible technologies that have come to be. But, here it is January 2023, the first day, week, weekend, month, of a new year to seek as the wisemen (*Matthew 2:1-12*) did, a new opportunity to be closer to God personally, as a family, a part of the 'body of Christ (the Church)', and as a community of believers that extend beyond any human-built walls (physical/social).

With this thought, I am reminded of Paul speaking to the Romans (*Romans 12:1-8*, NIV, 2011):

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

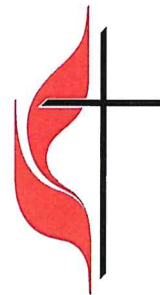
³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

As Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit speaks to us, the Lord's Church, that with the anticipation of something new we should open ourselves to be governed by the things of God and no longer the things of this world. Why? Because this is where a true new life begins; a life not of this world but of the world that is to come. The things of this world will perish but not the things of God. Conformity leads to death and transformation leads to life. All of this is given by God's Grace.

So, with much anticipation, I hope that your 2023 is blessed. I hope and pray that we are all able, with great anticipation, to be ready to transform and grow closer to God to more fully receive and share His Blessings with all the world.

With Great Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joseph, III

PS The Fulk Family truly appreciates all of the cards, gifts, and (especially) the Love shared with us this Christmas Season; thank you.



Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC
is to share the love and spirit of Christ, be a welcoming fellowship for all, nurture followers of Jesus and send them, as servants, into the world in need of God's grace.

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Fulk, III
336-674-0155

jfulk1@wnccumc.net

Church Office

Robin Bunton
336-674-0155

bethumcclimax@gmail.com

Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Child Care Director

Erica Shanahan
336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



Happy New Year!

Here are a few items from the church office:

- Administrative Council & Charge Conference met on Wednesday, November 16th, 2022. The 2023 Leadership Roster was approved. This roster is included in this newsletter as a special insert.
- For those who have keys to entrance doors of the church, please be mindful that because of Child Care Center requirements, as well as for the safety of church staff, the church office needs to know if you enter/are in the building. So, your help is needed. If you come into the building, by way of your own key, during church office hours (8:30AM-4:30PM Monday-Thursday,) please let the church office know.
- Reminder – the **church office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd** as a New Year's Day Holiday and **Monday, January 16th** in observance of M.L.K., Jr. Day.
- Reminder – the **Finance Committee** will meet on **Thursday, January 12th at 7PM/FH** for purposes of 2023 budget business.
- Change in recurring date/time – **Administrative Staff Meeting** (Robin Joseph, et al) has been changed to be the last Monday of the month at 10AM. January meeting is **Monday, January 30th at 10AM** (conference room.)
- **Newsletter Deadline** (for February newsletter) is **Monday, January 23rd**. Please send items via email to bethumcclimax@gmail.com
- **Administrative Council** meets on **Tuesday, January 24th at 7PM** in the FH.

Blessings, Robin



A Christ-Centered Grief Recovery Support Group

Begins Sunday, January 8th

6:30-8:30PM (in BUMC Fellowship Hall)

Have you recently lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend? You have probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have questions about things you have never faced before. I, and many others, understand and would like to reach out to offer support through GriefShare.

What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a thirteen-week program, focused on helping individuals learn how to understand their grief and move forward again. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

Video Seminar with Experts:

Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting-to-watch television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments, and on-location video.

The video can be viewed at the group site, or online.

Support Group Discussion with Focus:

After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

Workbook-based Personal Study and Reflection:

During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

Participants are welcome to join the group at any time. If you miss a session, you will be able to "make it up" during the next 13-week cycle. For more information on GriefShare, contact Pastor Joseph at (336) 674-0155 or Gail Williams at (336) 314-1668. Our lives and world know darkness, but the light of Christ dispels darkness and empowers us to walk in the light of Jesus. There are no charges associated with this event.



NEW LUMINARIES

A big thank you to Joe & Phyllis Garrett, Jackie Smith, Jerry & Karon Monnett, Jo Groh & John Holder for setting up and setting out 335 luminaries on Christmas Eve. And a special *Thank You* to Phyllis Garrett for procuring the new luminaries (donated by the Coble Center.) They were beautiful and were a special treat to all those who came out for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Right front at sanctuary entrance. This is only a snapshot of the 335 beautiful luminaries which lighted the church parking lot and grounds on Christmas Eve.



FRIENDLY CLUB REMINDER

A reminder that Friendly Club has resumed. Next meeting is - Tuesday, January 10th at 11AM in the fellowship hall. (Recurring meeting/2nd Tuesday of the month.) Contact Nancy Golden (336) 674-5982 or Judy Fields (336) 674-0469 if you have questions.



Adopt-A-Soldier

This outreach effort has been extended. Requested donations are treats that are reminiscent of the United States. Suggestions include - personal hygiene items like small, travel-size lotions, reading materials like magazines and soft-cover books, hard candies, snack foods, socks, novelty items, small, soft/fuzzy throws, etc.

Drop off donations in the labeled box in the conference room. Questions – contact Gail Williams.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project!



Prayer LIST

Those in Need of Prayer:

Cory Fields
Kelsey Garrett
Ruby Hockett
Anita Jones
David Robb
Lorrie Roth
Francis Snow
Frank & Julia Willis
Becky Wilson

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

(Due to space constraints, the printed prayer list includes church members and close family and friends of church members. Thank you for your understanding.)



January

1/1 Stephanie Garrett
1/3 Clark Hinshaw
Lois Snow
1/5 Dottie Tew
1/6 Phyllis Wicker
1/7 Sharon Welborn
Kimberly Garrett
1/8 Ron Bazhaw
Sally Sipes
1/10 Todd Garrett
1/12 Bryson Windsor
1/14 Ronnie Grimes
Stacy (C.S.) McClintock
Beth Coble Pulliam
1/15 Eddie Sipes
1/16 Krista Neelley
1/18 Melanie Robb
1/21 Alice Jones
Lisa Taylor
1/22 Pat Waugh
1/23 Lindsay Fields

Continued on top of page 4

1/23 Linda Grimes
 1/24 Angie Routh
 Jane Snead
 1/25 Betty Hull
 1/29 Judy Norris
 1/31 Sharon Goad

February

2/1 Jerry King
 2/2 Jamie O'Daniel
 2/4 R. Steve Fields
 2/6 Sharon Thornton
 2/7 Thomas Bonney
 Emily Hinshaw Peters
 Cody Routh
 Jackie Smith
 Bayne & Shayne Welborn
 2/9 Bud Lauder
 2/10 Todd Berry
 2/14 Dean Fields
 Rod Waugh
 2/15 Laura Cranfill
 2/16 Libby Fields
 2/18 Taylor Cotie
 2/19 Pat Lineberry
 2/22 David Cranfill
 Daniel Hinshaw
 Wesley Eanes
 2/26 Kelly Bowman
 Brian Downing
 Katie Lauder
 2/28 Kelly Dills
 Jan Toler

In Honor of **Jerry & Karon Monnett**
 By Johnny & Barbara Riddle
 By Margaret Royal
 By Jane Williams

In Honor of **Will Rivers**
 By Buddy & Judy Fields

In Honor of **Randy, Tony, & Tim Royal**
 By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Francis & Lois Snow**
 By Wayne & Sheila Moser

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Larry G. Fields**
 By Brenda Fields

In Memory of **Bill Garrett**
 By Todd Garrett

In Memory of **Harmon & Mildred Moser**
 By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Mildred Moser**
 By Friendly Club

In Memory of **Tommy Oliver**
 By Joyce Oliver

In Memory of **Dicky & Keith Parks**
 By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Chuck Rivers**
 By Buddy & Judy Fields

In Memory of **Clem Royal**
 By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Wanda Sheets**
 Grays Chapel HS Class of 1966

In Memory of **Eddie & Mary Suggs**
 By Jim & Carol Williams

In Memory of **Bobby Tew**
 By Darlene Coble

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**
 By Helen Waugh

In Memory of **Jodie Weatherly**
 By Ed & Frances McClintock

In Memory of **H.B. Wicker, Jr.**
 By Wicker Family



Honorariums & Memorials

***Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts
 have been made in honor/memory as listed.
 BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.***

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Kim Faircloth**
 By Denny & Julie Spencer

In Honor of **My Family**
 By Phala Garrett

In Honor of **Pastor Joseph Fulk, III, Elaine & Children**
 By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Phala Garrett**
 By Todd Garrett



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for November 2022

\$446,892.44 Total Budget Money Available November 1, 2022

+ 27,389.52 Money Received in November

- 39,704.33 Money Spent in November

\$434,577.63 Budget Money Available November 30, 2022

For the month of November, 2022, the Church Budget spent \$12,314.81 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget received \$14,402.33 more than it spent.

Major Maintenance & Repair Fund – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times.

\$92,419.89 MM&RF Money Available November 30, 2022

Other Designated Gifts – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88	Arbor Fund	\$ 882.70
Food Pantry	\$ 1,743.22	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,629.46	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,547.58
UMYF	\$21,957.13	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 1,946.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 27,703.60
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46
Flowers	\$ 297.50		
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Pastor Appreciation	\$ -5.00
Camp Meeting Fund	\$ 1,160.00	Misc In/Out (childCare)	\$ 85.90

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available November 30, 2022 \$80,740.48

\$101,800.00 **Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund**

In order to plan and provide the necessary funds for the care and upkeep of our cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was created. This fund was a non-expendable trust fund in which the principal (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principal can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of November 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$50,091.75 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
Climax, NC 27233

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Climax, NC
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up
His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Happy New Year

<https://www.pinterest.com>

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Epiphany Sunday Prut Butler/Oatmeal Sun. 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship NO UMYF	2 Church Office Closed Walking Group (Time Varies)	3 10AM StoryTime (Ch. Care) 11AM Friendly Club (FH & Kit.)	4 Walking Group (Time Varies)	5 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH)	6	7
8 Baptism of the Lord 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM UMYF (Youth Rm.) 6:30PM GriefShare (FH)	9 Walking Group (Time Varies)	10 10AM StoryTime (Ch. Care) 11AM Friendly Club (FH & Kit.)	11 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	12 7PM Trustees (FH)	13	14
15 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM UMYF (Youth Rm.) 6:30PM GriefShare (FH)	16 M.L.K., Jr. Day Church Office Closed Walking Group (Time Varies)	17 10AM StoryTime (Ch. Care)	18 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.) Walking Group (Time Varies)	19 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH)	20	21 10:30-7:30PM FH & Kit in use (family event)
22 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM UMYF (Youth Rm.) 6:30PM GriefShare (FH)	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young-at-Heart Rm.) Walking Group (Time Varies)	24 10AM StoryTime (Ch. Care)	25 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.) Walking Group (Time Varies)	26	27	28
29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM UMYF (Youth Rm.) 6:30PM GriefShare (FH)	30 10AM Admin. Staff Planning Meeting (Joseph, Robin, Et al) in Conf. Rm Walking Group (Time Varies)	31 10AM StoryTime (Ch. Care)	1 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.) Walking Group (Time Varies)	2 Ground Hog Day 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanct or FH) 7PM Trustees (FH)	3	4

January Greeters:

- 1/1 Desi & Gail Williams
- 1/8 Buddy & Judy Fields
- 1/15 OPEN
- 1/22 OPEN
- 1/29 OPEN

January Flowers:

- 1/1 OPEN
- 1/8 OPEN
- 1/15 OPEN
- 1/22 OPEN
- 1/29 OPEN

January Ushers:

- David Fields
- Todd Garrett
- Bud Launder
- Barry Norris

NOTES:

2023 Leadership

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Administrative Council listed in this shaded box.

Council Chair/Day Care Board Chair	Barry Norris	336-908-0274
Council Vice Chair	Bud Lauder	336-337-4008
Council Secretary (Ex Officio)	Robin Bunton	336-263-4287
Lay Leader	Andrew Coward	336-501-0765
Conference Lay Delegate	David Robb	336-674-2705
SPRC Chair or Vice Chair	Denny Spencer or Chad Garrett	336-706-9923 (Denny)
Trustee Chair	OPEN	
Cemetery Chair	Kelly Fields	336-674-2069
Finance Chair or Vice Chair	Frank Willis or Faye Fields	336-392-3935
Treasurer	Julia Willis	336-392-1233
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Gail Williams	336-314-1668
Family Ministry Chair	Layne Downing	336-317-5722
Mission Chair (Outreach)	Phyllis Dahl	336-312-5273
Evangelism Chair	Pat Lineberry	336-674-0180
UMW President	Jane Snead	336-674-7593
Youth Representative	OPEN	
Worship Chair	Fran Getner	336-685-2086
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Fulk, III	336-655-4566

Members-at-Large

2023

Pat Waugh
Sid Fields

2024

Faye Fields
Desi Williams

2025

Jimmy Holt
Tracy Peele

Non-Voting Members

Director of Youth
Director of Church Choirs
Child Care Director

TBA
Gloria Austin*
Erica Shanahan

*voting/church member

Administrative Ministry Teams

• Staff Parish Relations Team

Connecting the Pastor, Staff and Congregation

Chair	Denny Spencer
Vice Chair	Chad Garrett
Lay Leader	Andrew Coward
Conference Lay Delegate	David Robb

2023

Chad Garrett
Todd Garrett
Eddie Wilkinson

2024

Sandy Harris
Denny Spencer

2025

Karen Holt
Justin Windsor

- **Finance Team**

Oversee all financial transactions of the church. Develops the church budget and funding for the mission/ministries of the church.

Chair/Stewardship Chair	Frank Willis
Vice Chair/Head Teller	Faye Fields
Lay Leader	Andrew Coward
Administrative Council Chair	Barry Norris
Conference Lay Delegate	David Robb
SPRC Chair or Vice Chair	Denny Spencer or Chad Garrett
Trustee's Rep	OPEN
Finance Secretary	Robin Bunton
Church Treasurer	Julia Willis
Assistant to Treasurer	Jana Fields
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Fulk, III

- **Finance Sub-Team**

- **Helen Grady Endowment**

Finance Chair	Frank Willis
Treasurer	Julia Willis
Endowment Manager/Finance Vice Chair	Faye Fields
Trustee's Rep	OPEN

2023

Doris Reynolds

2024

Karon Monnett

2025

Jim Smith

- **Nominations Team**

Nominates the slate of church officers to be voted on and approved by the Charge Conference.

Chair	Rev. Joseph Fulk, III
Lay Leader	Andrew Coward

2023

David Fields
Phala Garrett
Becky Windsor

2024

David Cranfill
Carol Fields
Faye Fields

2025

Byron Dahl
Beverly Fields
Tim Fields

- **Trustees Team**

Responsible for the property of the church – insurance, repairs, renovations and all property matters.

Chair	OPEN
Vice Chair	OPEN
Secretary/Treasurer	Phyllis Wicker
Cemetery Coordinator	Kelly Fields
Parsonage Coordinator	Julie Spencer

2023

Ron Bazhaw
Buddy Fields (Trustee Advisor)
Phyllis Wicker

2024

David Cranfill
Kim Faircloth

2025

Dale Austin
Dale Windsor

- **Trustee Sub-Teams/Task Force**

- **Cemetery Team**

Chair	Kelly Fields
Vice Chair	Betty Fields
Assistant Chair in Training	Doug Garrett
Members-at-Large	Joe Garrett, Jim Smith
Columbarium Contact	Londa Parks

- **Parsonage Team**

Chair
Members-at-Large

Julie Spencer
Buddy Fields
Alice Jones

Program Ministry Teams

- **Bethlehem Child Care – Board of Directors**

Chair
Director of Child Care
Board Members

Barry Norris
Erica Shanahan
Phyllis Dahl
Rev. Joseph Fulk, III (Non-Voting)
Deena King
Lorrie Roth
Jana Fields
Shannon Wicker
Abbey Windsor

- **Congregational Care (Nurture)**

Shall give attention to Christian formation and congregational care (mind, body, and spirit.) This includes everything we do for church members to help grow in faith, education, fellowship and care.

Nurture Sub-Teams

- **Card & Visitation**

Coordinator
Members-at-Large

Jane Snead
Lois Bazhaw
Fran Getner
Karen Holt
Betty Kirkman
Karon Monnett
Ruth Rowland
Jane Williams

- **Children's/Family Ministry**

Children's Coordinator
Family Coordinator
Members-at-Large

Gail Williams
Layne Downing
Cheryl Bazhaw
Jana Fields
Stephanie Garrett
Deena King
Lorrie Roth
Shannon Wicker
Becky Windsor

- **Records and History**

Coordinator
Historians

Membership Updating Coordinator
Sunday School Treasurer/Secretary
Members-at-Large

Amanda Fields
Amanda Fields
Judy Fields
Faye Fields
Phyllis Wicker
Nancy Golden
Mike Hinshaw
Evonne Parks
Londa Parks

- **Spiritual Growth**

Coordinator	Rev. Joseph Fulk, III
Prayer Coordinator	
Retreat Coordinator	
Stewardship Coordinator	Frank Willis

2023

2024

2025

- **Evangelism Team (Witness)**

To witness to people outside the membership so as to bring them to Jesus Christ and His church.

Chair	Pat Lineberry
Advertising	
Camp Meeting Coordinator	Londa Parks/Ruth Rowland (Advisory)
Camp Meeting Team	Gloria Austin Floyd Cook Amanda Fields Joe Garrett/Phyllis Garrett Alice Jones
Community Activity Coordinator	
Technical Coordinator	Kylie Russell

- **Mission**

The things we do in mission for those beyond the church.

Chair	Phyllis Dahl
Food Pantry Coordinator	Deena King
UMW Representative	Julia Willis

2023

Debbie Brady
Michael Brady
Byron Dahl
Jim Smith

2024

Ron Bazhaw
David Cranfill
Sid Fields
Nancy Golden

2025

Terry Owens

- **Worship Team**

Chair	Fran Getner
Director of Church Choirs	Gloria Austin
Communion Stewards	Angie Routh/Julie Spencer
Head Usher	OPEN
Greeter Coordinator	Susan Coward
Acolytes Coordinator	Fran Getner
Members-at-Large	Gloria Austin Jane Reddick

**2023 Administrative Council and Leadership Roster was approved
at November 16, 2022 Charge Conference.**

2023 leadership