

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 11

Issue 12

December 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

"...a Savior has been born to you;"

-Luke 2:11 NIV

It feels like every day there are more and more problems and troubles that face this world; something that makes the struggle real. Then after we are made aware of these struggles and problems, we find all kinds of books, podcasts, radio, social media friends with all the answers. Sometimes these answers can be helpful at some small level (or at least a sign of care in some cases), but just like all the post-holiday diet programs, they are not cracked up to be as advertised and if they do help, it is short-lived (with results most of the times worse).

Thanks be to God!!! In Luke 2: 10-14 NIV we have knowledge of a hurting, dying, and suffering world with a response not from social media, radio, TV commercials, etc....but an answer (and not just answer) but **The Answer** announced and proclaimed to the world by God's messengers, His Angels:

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God, and saying,¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

So, let's all take a deep breath and give thanks and praise that the Answer of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace has been given to us. May God bless you with the blessings that you so greatly need and desire, and may we continue to receive the gift of Christ every day and share Jesus with the world.

Merry Christmas to each and to all!!!

Grace and Peace.

Pastor Joseph, III



Bethlehem Methodist Church

Our Mission at Bethlehem Church 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

jmfulkiii@gmail.com

Church Office

Robin Bunton

336-674-0155

bethumcclimax@gmail.com

Choir Director

Gloria Austin

Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Childcare Director

Erica Shanahan

336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



Join us on Facebook

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

Visit our Website at
bethlehemumc.org

From the Church Office



There continues to be a little bit of confusion about using a key to open the church office entrance doors during church office hours.

- On Monday through Thursday, from 8:30AM until 4:30PM the glass doors at the church office entrance are locked by using a magnetic lock. This lock is activated from the church office. **The deadbolt is not locked.** So key holders who attempt to use their key to enter through this doors, please keep in mind that a key will not open the door. To gain entry using your key, you will need to enter through another door. Once inside, please let the church office know you are in the building. Thank you!

Here are a few important reminders:

- Sign-up sheets for 2024 Greeters & Altar Flowers are in the narthex. **Thank You** for serving in 2023 and **Thank You** in advance for serving in 2024!
- The deadline for the January 2024 newsletter is Thursday, December 14th. When possible, please email your newsletter items to the church office as a word document or in the text of your email. Please email them to bethumcclimax@gmail.com
- Administrative Council/Charge Conference will meet on Thursday, December 14th at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Also, a reminder - Pastor Joseph holds a planning meeting with church-paid staff on the last Monday of the month. Please keep in mind that Robin will be away from the Church Office during this time. **(In order to accommodate the Christmas Holiday, the December meeting will be on Monday, December 18th at 10AM.)**

Christmas Blessings, Robin



The Church Office will be closed Mon., Dec. 25th & Mon., Jan. 1st

Bethlehem Childcare will be closed on Mon., Dec. 25th, Tues., Dec. 26th & Mon., Jan. 1st



COPIER FOR CHURCH USE



Here's a reminder that there is a copier in the conference room for church use. In addition to copying, the machine can also print from a thumb drive, so you can bring your file(s) to the church and print them.

The instruction manual for the machine is stored in the small metal cabinet which is located to the right of the copier. If you need assistance, please contact a Trustee.



BIBLES & BISCUITS Men's Bible Study



Pastor Joseph leads this study.

All men in the community are invited!
Meets the 1st Sat. of the month at 8AM
at Climax Fire Station #35.



Julian UMC Event

The Children's Christmas Shop will be Saturday, December 16th from 9-11AM. Children can purchase items for the adults in his or her life for a minimal cost. Coupons are also available. This will be the 16th year, Praise the Lord, for this precious ministry. We are in need of small items especially for men. For info contact Pastor Melissa Swofford, ph. (704) 619-8272, email mswofford3@wnccumc.net Youth/Adult helpers are also needed. Thank you.



Christmas Card Post Office Open Until SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th



Again this year our group of helpful elves will be operating Bethlehem's Christmas Card Post Office. The Christmas Card Post Office is located in the conference room and will be open until **Sunday, December 17th**.

When dropping off your cards, it would be most helpful if you alphabetized them by last name. And don't forget to retrieve cards left for you when you drop yours off.



**Bethlehem Church**
Presents
Carol of Christmas
A Christmas Cantata
by John W. Peterson
Sunday, December 17th
10AM Worship
Plan to join us for this collection
of familiar Christmas Carols.



NOISY OFFERING

The Arlene Stokes Circle is resuming **Noisy Offering** (to benefit Northeastern Middle School's **Backpack Pals**) – collected on the **third Sunday of the month**. This offering will be collected during worship by our new children's SS Class. November Noisy Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 17th**.

Noisy Offering will be donated to Northeastern Middle School's **Backpack Pals**, a program which meets the needs of hungry students by sending a bag of nutritious, non-

perishable, child-friendly food home from school with the child on Friday afternoons.

Our November collection was \$156.00.

Thank you in advance for supporting this outreach!



"The First Christmas Night"

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

Sunday, December 17th at 5PM

Refreshments to follow in the FH.

(All are invited to bring finger foods to share.)

Volunteers to set up & tear down needed.

Questions - Layne Downing (336) 317-5722
or Gail Williams (336) 314-1668.



PRAYER list

Those in Need of Prayer:

Active Duty Military

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Rodney Golden

Carlie Hanner

Lorrie Roth

Francis Snow

Frank & Julia Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

*Our printed prayer list includes
church members and close family
and friends of church members.*



SAVE THE DATE ...

Wednesday Night Soup & Sandwich Dinner

(to benefit the Disaffiliation Loan)

January 17th in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 to 7PM

If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee: Cindy Fields, Phyllis Garrett, Judy Fields, or Phyllis Wicker.



A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEE CHAIR

The Trustees are not only responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church, but they also oversee what takes place in the building and on the grounds. There are activities on the church calendar which recur and events which supersede those recurring events – the Trustees need to be aware of both and the planning behind both.

To aid in making scheduling go smoother, we are reminding folks to complete a Request for Use of the Facilities Form and turn it in to the church office. (A Request for Use of the Facilities Form is included in this newsletter. Copies of this form are also available from the church office.) This form should be completed, and the event approved by the Trustees, prior to the event being listed/scheduled on the church calendar.

Thank you, David Cranfill, Trustee Chair



Memorials & Honorariums

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

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Edna Phillips Coble**
By Phyllis Wicker

In Memory of **Beverly Culbertson**
By Steve & Cindy Fields
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum

In Memory of **Mike Fields**
By Beverly Fields

In Memory of **Jerry Flinchum**
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Nathan Hinshaw**
By Melvin & Karen Hinshaw

In Memory of **Sarah Hinshaw**
By Anonymous
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum
By Ray & Cindy Hudson
By Wayne & Sheila Moser
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Ruby Hockett**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Wayne Kirkman**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Russell & Sharon Hill
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Rob & Irene Monnett**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett
In Memory of **Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Moore**
By David & Laura Cranfill

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

In Memory of **Billy Oliver**
By Joyce Oliver

In Memory of **Dicky Parks**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **A.C. & Bette Weatherly**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Josephine "Jodi" Weatherly**
By Anonymous
By Sandy Fulp
By Danny Weatherly
By Gary Weatherly
By Sharon Weatherly

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

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **All of Our Veterans**
By Phala Garrett

HONORARIUMS CONTINUED

In Honor of **Brenda Allred**
By Evonne Parks

In Honor of **Bethlehem Kids**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Kim Faircloth/Christmas**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

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

In Honor of **Clarence & Lucille McClintock**
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Ruth Rowland**
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Margaret Royal**
By Evonne Parks

In Honor of **Frank Willis (Frank's Birthday)**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Frank & Julia Willis/Christmas**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Frank & Julia Willis**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett



December

12/5 Gene Flinchum
12/6 Lily Christie
12/9 Cory Fields
Luke Hinshaw
12/10 Holley Wicker
12/11 Erin Edwards
Dawn McCrea
12/13 Wayne Alley
Karon Monnett
12/15 Jerry Monnett
12/17 Nelle Haywood
Jane Chamelin
12/19 Grant Allen
12/21 David Fields
12/23 Braylynn Adams
12/26 Amber Cook

December Continued

12/26 Cindy Franklin
Leah Fields
12/27 Joy Cranfill
Logan Royal
12/28 Cindy Duncan
12/30 Andrew Coward
12/31 David Allen

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 Neeley
1/18 Melanie Robb
1/21 Alice Jones
Lisa Taylor
1/22 Pat Waugh
1/23 Lindsey Fields
Linda Grimes
1/24 Angie Routh
Jane Snead
1/26 Gale Bowman Berke
1/29 Judy Norris
1/31 Sharon Goad



Karen Barbone wishes to thank you all for your cards, contacts, and expecially your prayers. It all made a difference! Thank you all!



STEWARDSHIP REPORT-October 2023

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$511,955.23 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of October 1, 2023

+ 29,243.56 Money Received in October

- 39,029.22 Money Spent in October

\$502,169.57 Budget's Fund Balance as of October 31, 2023

For the month of October, 2023, the Church Budget spent \$9,785.66 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget received \$47,425.98 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

Disaffiliation Loan Repayment—The church council voted unanimously on October 22, 2023, to borrow the money needed to pay our disaffiliation expenses from the Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance. We will know from the Conference the exact amount of the loan in November. In October we have received \$9,033.38 from the Brunswick Stew day sales and \$3,007.00 from individual donations, totaling \$12,040.38 that will reduce the amount of our loan.

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.

\$77,581.71 MM&RF Money Available October 31, 2023

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	\$ 1,341.65	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,185.49	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 19,320.86
UMYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,906.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 30,688.83
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 815.00	Choir Fund	\$ 246.26
(\$800 History)		Flowers	\$ 516.50
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92	Pastor Appreciation	\$ 50.00
Church Sign	\$ 500.00		

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of October 31, 2023 \$178,796.13

Trust Funds

\$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 September 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$57,085.58 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

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Town Hall (following worship) 3PM PG Christmas Parade 4PM Christmas Play Practice (Sanct) 5PM Senior Youth (Youth Rm.)	4 Walking Group <i>(Time Varies)</i>  11:30AM Adlene Stokes Christmas Lunch (Pavilion)	5 10AM StoryTime (Library)	6 Walking Group <i>(Time Varies)</i>	7 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 10AM Treat Bags Assembled (Parlor) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 6PM Adult Fellow.  Christmas Dinner (FH & Kit in use 4-9PM) 7PM Trustees (Parlor or Sunshine Rm.)	1  7PM Childcare Board Christmas Dinner (FH & Kit in use 6-9PM)	2 8AM Bibles & Biscuits Men's Bible Study (at Climax Fire #35) 12-6PM Family Event (FH & Kit in use)
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Estimate of Giving Cards Due 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM Senior Youth (Youth Rm.)	11 Walking Group <i>(Time Varies)</i>	12 9-1PM Prep for Friendly Club (FH & Kit in use) 10AM StoryTime (Lib.) 11AM Friendly Club (FH) 2-4PM GriefShare (Young-at-Heart Rm.)	13 9:30-10:30AM Book Mobile (Childcare; 2 nd Wed./month) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 6:30PM Childcare Bld. (Sunshine) 7PM Cantata/Choir (Ch Rm.)	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 7PM Active Disciples Christmas Party (FH & Kit in use 6-10PM) 	16 3-8PM Family Event (FH & Kit in use)
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Poinsettias in Sanctuary Noisy Offering 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship/Cantata 5PM Christmas Play (Sanctuary) Reception Follows/FH(FH & Kit in use)	18 Budget Requests Due 10AM Admin. (Parlor) Staff – Joseph, Robin, Erica, et al (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	19 10AM StoryTime (Library)	20 Walking Group <i>(Time Varies)</i> 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	21 Winter Begins 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)	22 7PM Active Disciples Christmas Party (FH & Kit in use 6-10PM)	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 6PM Candlelight Communion Service (Poinsettias go home after service.)	25 Christmas Day 11:30-3PM Family Event (FH & Kit in use) Church Office Closed Childcare Closed	26 10AM StoryTime (Library) Childcare Closed	27 Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday after Christmas Day New Year's Eve 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed Childcare Closed	2 10AM StoryTime (Library)	3 Walking Group <i>(Time Varies)</i> 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	4 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 7PM Trustees (FH)	5	6 8AM Bibles & Biscuits Men's Bible Study (at Climax Fire #35)

GREETERS: 12/3 Pat Wough 12/10 Sandie Harris 12/17 Phyllis Wicker 12/24 Byron & Phyllis Dahl 12/31 OPEN	ALTAR FLOWERS: 12/3 OPEN 12/10 OPEN 12/17 Poinsettias 12/24 Poinsettias 12/31 OPEN	ACOLITES: 12/3 Braxton Wall 12/10 Ashton Allen 12/17 Maysa Downing 12/24 Braxton Wall 12/31 Quatt Fulk	DECEMBER USHERS: David Allen Byron Dahl Doug Garrett Desi Williams	DECEMBER OPENER: Kim Faircloth	DECEMBER CLOSER: Ron Baznow
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NOTES:

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Climax, NC
PERMIT NO. 1

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



crosswalk.com

Bethlehem Methodist Church Reservation Request for Use of the Facilities

Member ☐ or Non-Member ☐

Policy Changes & Fee Schedule Changes effective January 01, 2018

(Note: Members reserving facilities for groups are responsible for ensuring policy adherence. Fees are applicable with group reservations.)

Requester or Group: _____

Event Purpose: _____

Leader Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Contact for this event if different: _____ Phone#: _____

Email Address: _____

Requested Day/Date/Time (Please include time for set-up, time for the event, and clean-up after the event): _____

Identify the facilities you will be using: Kitchen ☐, Fellowship Hall space ☐,
Tables & Chairs ☐, Grounds/Outside areas ☐, Other _____

NOTE: You are expected to bring your own paper products for use at your event.

If church products are used, you are expected to pay a minimum of \$20 in addition to any other fees.

Is your event open to the community? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like your event posted in the Church Newsletter ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you have any special needs for Heat or AC? _____

Audio or Video? _____

When will the event begin and conclude? _____

Key Arrangements:

Will you need special arrangements for a key to access building? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please identify date/time for pick-up at the church office: _____

Key#: _____ Key Returned Date: _____

(Office Hours: Mon – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

PLEASE CONFIRM BY SIGNATURE REVIEW OF THE BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH POLICY OF USE OF FACILITIES

SIGNATURE

DATE

Effective January 01, 2018 the following changes have been made to the Facilities Usage and Fee Policy for Bethlehem Methodist Church.

- No non-member weddings. (Member weddings permitted will include members and their family members which includes - children, grandchildren, and parents. MEMBER WEDDINGS REQUIRE \$100 CLEANING DEPOSIT – due before wedding date.)
- Non-member facilities usage options ONLY include – Kitchen and Fellowship Hall.
- Hourly rate charged and hours for set up and clean-up must be included in the time calculated for facility use. Maximum usage is 6 hours.
- Security/Cleaning Deposit is required.

Requested Facilities and/or Rooms	Fees	Office Use Only
A. Cleaning Deposit	\$100.00	
B. *Custodial/Cleaning Fees (If required due to non-cleaning.)		
B1. Fellowship Hall	\$100.00	
B2. Fellowship Hall & Kitchen	\$150.00	
B3. Sanctuary & other facilities (not available to non-members)	\$100.00	
C. Facilities Non-Member Use Fees		
C1. Fellowship Hall	\$75.00 per hour; max hours up to 6 & set-up & clean-up hours MUST be included.	
C2. Fellowship Hall & Kitchen	\$150.00 per hour; max. hours up to 6 & set-up & clean-up MUST be included.	
C3. Sanctuary	NOT AVAILABLE	TO NON-MEMBERS
D. *Paper Goods Fee (If applicable.)	\$20.00 (minimum)	
*Applicable to member's weddings & non-members, for all reservations		

1. 25% deposit \$ _____

Deposit paid on: _____ Received by: _____

(25% deposit is required from non-church members before the event is placed on our calendar.)

2. The remaining balance of \$ _____ is required four weeks before your event/function.

- A member of the Trustees committee will be assigned to each non-church function.
- If you have any questions, you may contact either your contact or the church office.
- A clean-up checklist will be furnished at the time the reservation is made.
- This checklist must be signed by the Trustee and returned to the church office before any security deposit will be released.

Your Trustee contact is: _____

Phone Number: _____

All submitted requests are subject for final review and approval by the Trustee Committee.

Bethlehem Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56 Climax, NC 27233
bethumclimax@gmail.com
336-674-0155

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30AM-4:30PM

Admin Assistant>Facilities Use> UPDATED REQUEST FOR USE FORM