

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 2

February 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 18: "I love you, LORD, my strength."

What is your favorite love song? It might be hard to choose, considering that estimates say there are around one hundred million out there, or it might be simply because of the way it touches your heart. Does this love song bless you or remind you of companionship, security, compassion, trust, being appreciated, or just because?

If we turn to God's Word, we can find a lot of scriptures that speak of love, from brotherly love (philia) to unconditional love (agape). Scripture tells us, reminds us, that God gave of Himself in so many ways; God loves in ways that we should mirror. God's love is everlasting, and, in the passage before us, it is one we can count on to give us strength, courage, and confidence to live this precious gift of life and speak of God's love. It reminds us; it reassures us of how faithful, how powerful, and how merciful our God is.

There are tons of ways God's love can speak, but like your favorite song or love song, may God's love continually touch our hearts and our minds so that we may sing of God's love in all that we do and with all that we have. Let us glorify the Lord by sharing His love as He first shared it with us.

Blessings of Love, 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

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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

Here are some important dates to remember in February:

Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday. We will have two services on February 14th - an informal imposition of ashes from 6 to 7AM and our traditional Ash Wednesday Service at 7PM.

Sunday, February 11th – Heifer International banks, for collecting Special Lenten Offering, will be available to pick up from the narthex, on the table outside of the church office, and the little library.

Sunday, February 18th – March – April Upper Rooms will be available to pick up from the narthex, the table outside of the church office, and the little library.

Wednesday, February 21st – Fundraiser Dinner from 5:30 – 7PM in the Fellowship Hall to benefit our Disaffiliation Loan.

Monday, February 26th at 10AM – Pastor Joseph holds an Administrative Planning Meeting with paid staff in the conference room. Robin will be away from the office during this time.

Thursday, February 29th and Monday, March 4th – Robin will be out of the office.

God Bless, *Robin*



Bethlehem Methodist Church

Invites You to Join Us



Ash Wednesday, February 14th

We will have two services:

An Informal Imposition of Ashes

at 6-7AM

and

A Traditional Ash Wednesday Service

at 7PM

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM DISCERNMENT TEAM CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

Just a note to say thank you to all, that on August 6, 2023, willingly, competently and of your own free will, each of you came to Bethlehem to cast your vote for or against disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. I, as each of you, have been loyal and dedicated to the United Methodist Church. Realizing that the time had come to decide the future of Bethlehem Church, we cast our votes with heavy and sorrow-filled hearts. The outcome was outstandingly in favor of disaffiliation.

Upon receiving approval from the Western Annual Conference on November 4, 2023, to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, we began our discernment for the future of Bethlehem Church. After research of the denominations available, we were led to choose between joining the Global Methodist Church or becoming an Independent Church.

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, Bethlehem voted overwhelmingly to join the Global Methodist Church and to pursue a shared mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly." We received our acceptance to the Global Methodist Church on December 15, 2023.

A bright and vibrant future lies ahead for Bethlehem. This future is filled with hopes and promises of learning, believing, and drawing nearer to the wonderful glory of Our Savior and Redeemer God, Our Heavenly Father, and the precious love of His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.

With blessings and the love of Our Father,

Sincerely, Barry J. Norris



**Important
INFORMATION**

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER
FROM YOUR TREASURER...**

Effective IMMEDIATELY please make all church checks payable to **BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH**. Recent banking regulations require this on ALL deposited checks. If you have automatic recurring checks sent to the church, please change the ship to address and the remit to name to **BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH**. Thank you.



A Message from Care & Nurture

Copies of our Updated Card List (names & addresses of those wishing to receive cards, letters, notes) are available in the Narthex & on the table outside of the Church Office.



SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERING/ HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The Mission Team encourages you and your family to keep a special offering this Lent. The offering will be received after Easter and will go to Heifer International. Special Offering Banks will be available in the narthex, on the table outside of the church office, and in the little library beginning Sunday, February 11th.



Schedule Update for Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

Classes will be cancelled or possibly moved to an alternative location on the following Wednesdays: Feb. 14 & Feb. 21. Monday classes will be held as usual. Class members, watch for e-mail updates!



COMING UP NEXT MONTH ...



The Arlene Stokes Circle is planning a Chicken Stew and Bake Sale for **Saturday, March 9th** in the Fellowship Hall. The stew will **be pre-order only** at \$9.00 per quart. **Pre-orders are due Thursday, February 29th**. To order stew, call Cindy Fields at (336) 430-3715 or Darlene Coble at (336) 709-9283. Please leave your name, # of quarts needed, and a good contact #, in case we need to reach you.



Lois Bazhaw will again make her Cheese Braid for the Chicken Stew sale. Cheese Braid is a yeast bread pastry with a cream cheese filling and a light lemon glaze. Because of the positive response last time, Lois requests pre-orders this year. You may call Lois Bazhaw at (336) 549-0621 with your order.



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Rodney Golden

Donald Jacobs

Donna Moody

Terry Pate

Francis Snow

Frank & Julia Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



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 **All First Responders**

By Phala Garrett

In Memory of **Worth & Mary Allred**

By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Edna Coble**

By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

In Memory of **Earl Fields**

By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Larry Fields**

By Shirley Hackett

By Phyllis Wicker

In Memory of **Richard, Mag, Mike, Larry & Jeff Fields**

By R. Steve & Cindy

In Memory of **Herman & Scott Hackett**

By Shirley Hackett

In Memory of **Jimmie Jones**

By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Doris Kirkman**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy
By Lisa Durham
By Carol Fields
By Steve & Cindy Fields
By Jerry & Karon Monnett
By Jane Williams
By Frank & Julia Willis

In Memory of **Floyd & Blanch Kirkman**
By Shirley Hackett

In Memory of **Wayne Kirkman**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Shirley Hackett
By Russell & Sharon Hill
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **"Possum" Ledbetter**
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

In Memory of **Ed McClintock**
By Frances McClintock

In Memory of **Wanda McClintock**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Memory of **Travis Norris**
By Allen & Barbie Norris

In Memory of **Dicky Parks**
By David & Laura Cranfill

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

In Memory of **Guy & Ruth Reynolds**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Clem Royal**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Johnny Waugh & Sandy Waugh Bradshaw**
By David & Tracy Peele

In Memory of **Bill & Bobby Waugh**
By Helen Waugh
By Helen Waugh (2nd gift)

In Memory of **Tom & Elizabeth Waugh & Doris Waugh**
By David & Tracy Peele

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**
By Anonymous
By Anonymous
By Anonymous
By Anonymous
By Bob Weatherly

In Memory of **Ray Welborn**
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy
By David & Laura Cranfill
By David & Laura Cranfill (2nd gift)

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Maysa Downing**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Ruby Kirkman**
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Stacy McClintock's 94th Birthday**
By Angie Routh
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Stacy & Lucille McClintock**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **My Family**
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **David & Ronda Robb**
By Margaret Robb

In Honor of **Angie Routh's Birthday**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Kylie Russell**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Denny Spencer**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Braxton & Colton Wall**
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Pat Waugh**
By David & Tracy Peele

In Honor of **Bob Weatherly**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett





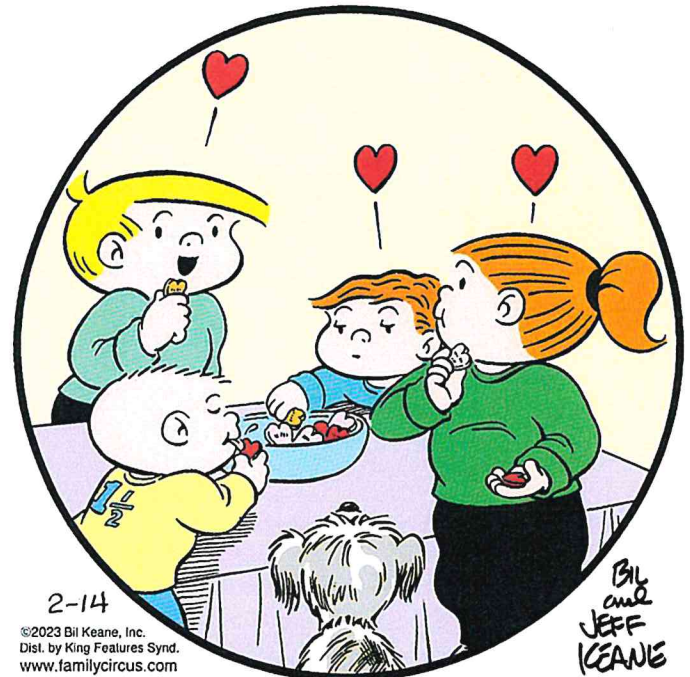
February

2/1 Jerry King
 2/2 Jamie O'Daniel
 2/4 R. Steve Fields
 2/7 Thomas Bonney
 Emily Hinshaw Peters
 Cody Routh
 Jackie Smith
 Bayne Welborn
 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

March

3/5 Amanda Cook
 Alan Kirkman
 Brooke Townsend
 Erika Braddock
 3/7 Pam Jones
 3/8 Buddy Fields
 3/9 Lois Bazhaw
 Darlene Coble
 David Robb II
 3/10 Beverly Fields
 Bob Norris
 Lucy McClintock
 Carlie Suggs
 3/11 Suzie Branch
 Kimberly Duncan
 Teresa Stevens
 3/12 Jay Bowman
 Dale Young
 3/13 Heather Robb Adams
 3/20 Barry Lineberry








3/24 Tony Bowman
 Leo Kirkman
 Johnny Riddle
 3/25 Jonathan Franklin
 Henry Wilkinson
 3/26 Caleb Hinshaw
 Lindsey Wray
 3/27 Wanda Woodford
 3/28 Joey Bowman
 Lorene Wells
 3/29 Susan Coward
 3/31 Carlton Johnson
 John David (J.D.) Peele



"If it wasn't for Valentine's Day, we wouldn't have any candy holidays between Christmas and Easter."



Pinterest.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany Communion Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Jr. Youth (Jr. Youth Room) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)</p>	<p>5 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>6 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)</p>	<p>7 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Childcare Bld (Sunshn Rm) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>1 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees (FH)</p>	<p>2 Groundhog Day </p>	<p>3 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35 9AM-6PM FH & Kit in use (Fram Event)</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration Sunday Scouting Sunday Super Bowl Sunday 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Rm.)  Heifer Banks Available</p>	<p>12 Walking Group (Time Varies)</p>	<p>13 Fat Tuesday  9-1 PM FH & Kit in use (Friendly Club Prep) 10AM StoryTime (Lib) 11AM Friendly Cl (FH)</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday LENT Valentine's Day BEGINS 6-7AM Imposition of Ashes (Sanctuary) 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare) Walking Group (Time Varies) NO EXERCISE CLASS HERE 7PM Ash Wed. Service (Sanct.) Special Lenten Offering Begins</p>	<p>15 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 1st Sunday in Lent Noisy Offering 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Jr. Youth (Jr. Youth Room) 5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room) </p>	<p>19 Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise</p>	<p>20 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)</p>	<p>21 Walking Group (Time Varies) 5:30-7PM Fundraiser Dinner (FH & Kit in use) NO EXERCISE CLASS HERE 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship  5PM Sen. Youth (Sr. Youth Room)</p>	<p>26 10AM (Paid) Staff Planning Meeting (Conf Rm) 10:30AM Ariene Stokes (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>27 10AM StoryTime (Lib.)</p>	<p>28 Wonderful Wednesday  (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>	<p>29 Leap Day Robin out of the office. Chicken Stew pre-orders due. Cheese Braid pre-orders due.</p>	<p>1  MARCH 15 HERE!</p>	<p>2 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Fire #35</p>

GREETERS:

2/4 Open
 2/11 Carol Fields
 2/18 Byron & Phyllis Dahl
 2/25 Open

ALTAR FLOWERS:

2/4 Open
 2/11 Faye Fields
 2/18 Desi Williams
 2/25 Open

ACOLYTES:

2/4 Mayssa Downing
 2/11 Braxton Wall
 2/18 Quart Fulk
 2/25 Bradon Allen

USHERS:

Dale Austin
 Tim Fields
 Glenn Getner
 Greg Wicker

FEBRUARY OPENER:

Sandie Harris

FEBRUARY CLOSER:

Denny Spencer

NOTES:

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-December 2023

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$510,670.95 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of December 1, 2023,

+ 44,613.10 Money Received in December

- 22,008.28 Money Spent in December

\$533,275.77 Budget's Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023

For the month of December 2023, the Church Budget received \$22,604.82 more than it spent.

For the year, the Church Budget received \$78,532.18 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. The conference notified us on November 15, 2023, the disaffiliation amount was \$78,485.33.

<\$50,144.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance December 1, 2023

+ 21,395.00 Money Received from Individuals in December

+ Money Received from Fund Raisers in December

+ Money Received from Other Sources in December

<\$28,749.95> Disaffiliation Loan Balance December 31, 2023

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.

\$76,318.71 MM&RF Money Available December 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	\$ 1,274.82	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,123.49	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 18,985.24
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,693.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 30,193.83
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 815.00	Choir Fund	\$ 266.26
(\$800 History)		Flowers	\$ 938.50

Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)\$ 189.92

Church Sign \$ 500.00

Total Other Designated Gifts \$88,393.29

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023
\$135,962.05.

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.

\$60,054.76 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 Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JUST FOR FUN ...

The Transfiguration

O M O H Z B N J X Z Z F W N N M J R E E P E N T X
E T M Z G U A S R F E B V H M I H S G M Z E M F
I A E E I R P H M S I T P A B I A E E Q A C N A O
K B L F W B P Z O T V B W E O Q F T G F G B J R
U E A J K B E T Y I Y E E C X T G S N J X T P G
K R S W C U A N W S L L R E R J E Y U T E D I
T N U M T M R C R N F O M V M A A S E H O Q M V
H A R F Y E A R I O I V B E S N R O O Q M J E
T C E O K S N U F G G E O L O S I M D X P C C N
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F E C E L I E I C M Z S B R E I E E L V T M L E
F U V U H A N F B B C O Z N R G B L E S S I N G
U P A L U H T I N W B N P A S U E N U I L V U R
B Y R R Z A J E X E B H T M H R L U O O E W L Z
Y A Z O R M G D P C V E S O A A I G A Y P S E G
N D W K P E S D K R M A T R D T E G H K B A C V
D D N Z Q H S Y M B C N H W O I V R M C D Z I L
E V J S H R E T W X I G W Z W O E O X R C V F T
K P W L B G N T E O M L K B E N D P O A L T I P
U R W Z K I M S P D U P A W D G Z F L Q O F R R
B Z F F D Z K W W Y T O Z H N Q Y G C L U F C Z
E D Y S R U E Q N L J G Z I M D J O S C D E A M
R U A X Y I H I O M F Y K P Z O B N U U T E S Q
V G X W V D C O M M A N D M E N T S K J S S U O

Haven	crucified	blessing	arrested
believe	viewpoint	repent	arise
cloud	overshadowed	baptism	beloved son
roman rule	mountain	appearance	kingdom
sacrifice	commandments	Moses	tabernacle
rebuked	messiah	forgiven	prophet
Jerusalem	transfiguration		

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