

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 11

Issue 11

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

"He says, "'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'"

-Psalm 46:10 NIV

Luke 17:11-19 is a passage of Scripture I find myself led to every year. Is it the miraculous healing that Jesus provides for these persons suffering from leprosy? That God shows up? Could it be the expression of God's Grace? Even the mercy to not only heal but also open the door for these men to return to life and their families? It is also pretty amazing that Jesus stopped to help; Jesus shared compassion upon the nine Jewish men and the one (singular) Samaritan man. There is honestly a lot going on here that shows a lot of God's Awesomeness.

With all this, Psalm 46:10 comes to mind, and this Samaritan gentleman pauses in his excitement of being healed and he thanks Jesus; became still and exalted God. Glory to God for all He shares with us and how He blesses us. I know we have a day called Thanksgiving and it's fine and dandy. But it strikes me as a daily thing to be still and exalt God because God is doing things we cannot imagine, fathom, or better yet, He is right in front of us doing miracles. We need to give Him the Praise, the Glory, the Honor, the Thank You He more than deserves.

Have a blessed and beautiful fall and closer walk with our Lord as we each day say thank you.

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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Organist

Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Childcare 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



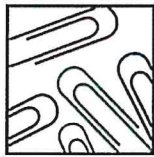
BIBLES & BISCUITS Men's Bible Study



Pastor Joseph leads this study.

All men in the community are invited!
It meets the first Saturday of the month at
8AM at Climax Fire Station #35.

**NOTE: NOVEMBER MEETING
will be on Sat., Nov. 11th at 8AM**



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Here are a few reminders from the Church Office:

- **REMINDER TO KEY HOLDERS** – If you attempt to unlock the glass doors at the church office entrance with your key during church office hours, please remember your key **WILL NOT** unlock the door, as the magnet lock will be engaged. 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. Thanks!
- The deadline for the December newsletter is **Monday, November 20th**. Please send your items via email to bethumcclimax@gmail.com. When possible, please send your materials as word documents. If you submit your materials in written/typed form, they will have to be retyped ... and if corrections/changes need to be made, there is no guarantee your original idea(s) will be duplicated. If you have questions, please call the office.
- 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. **(The November meeting is Monday, November 27th at 10AM.)**

- Since December will be here before we know it. I have included December events to reference as additional events are scheduled. You will find this information on the back of the November calendar.

Blessings, *Robin*



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.



All Saint's Sunday, November 5th

On **Sunday, November 5th at the 10AM** worship service, Bethlehem Methodist Church will celebrate **All Saints Sunday** – a time in which we celebrate and remember the life of church members who graduated to the *Church Triumphant* in 2023.



SPECIAL VETERANS DAY BULLETIN

The Young-at-Heart SS Class is preparing a special bulletin to **honor/memorialize Veterans on Sun., Nov. 12th**. Donations/\$5 per name. Use separate envelope for each name (envelopes at each entrance & in the SS Classes.) Make checks payable to Young-at-Heart SS Class, with *Veterans Memorial* on the memo line. Give envelopes to Judy Fields or Phyllis Wicker. **Deadline Sun., Nov. 5th**.





Laying of the Wreath Ceremony

All are invited to attend a **WREATH LAYING CEREMONY** in recognition of Veterans Day on Sunday, November 12th. This service will be held in the Memorial Garden immediately following worship.



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, November 19th**.

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.

If you have any questions about the **Noisy Offering/Backpack Pals** program, please contact Phyllis Wicker at (336) - 685-9322.

Thank you in advance for supporting this outreach!



Pleasant Garden Methodist will host the event. This combined service will take place on **Sunday, November 19th at 7PM.**



CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE SUN., NOV. 26th –SUN., DEC. 17th



Again this year "Miss Phyllis" and her group of helpful elves will be operating Bethlehem's Christmas Card Post Office. It will be located in the conference room. You are invited to drop your cards off beginning Sunday, November 26th. Be sure to retrieve your own cards as well. (When dropping off your cards, it would be most helpful if you alphabetized them by last name.) The Christmas Card Post Office will close on Sunday, December 17th.

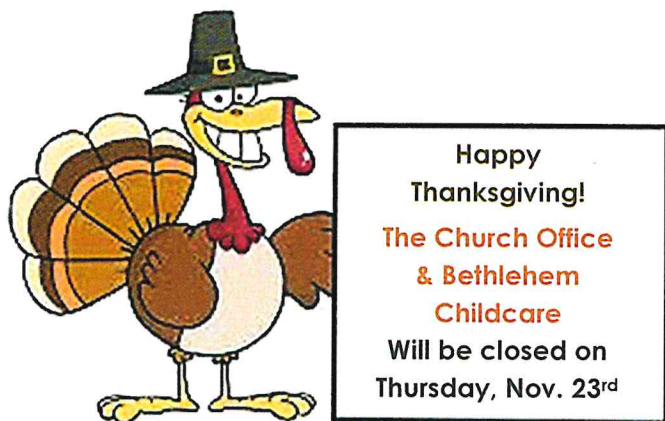


FROM CARE & NURTURE

Prior to the Christmas Card Post Office opening on November 26th, the Care & Nurture Team will make available copies of a list of our homebound and others to receive cards. This list will be available for pick up from the narthex and from the table outside of the church office.

If you will be sending cards to folks on this list via the Christmas Card Post Office, please drop your cards off by Sunday, December 3rd. (This will make it possible to include these cards in Christmas Treat Bags that will be delivered on December 7th.) If you have any questions, please contact Jane Snead at (336) 674-7593.





Mark your
calendar




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.



NOTE: Beginning Wednesday, October 3rd...
Cantata practice from 7PM to 7:30PM. Our regular
choir practice will begin at 7:30PM.

If you have questions, contact Gloria Austin (336)
420-1329.

**If you want to join us for the Cantata, come join
us on Wednesdays!**



2023 Brunswick Stew Results



Thanks to all who helped with the Brunswick Stew, bake sale, and country store to make it a success. It was a week of hard work, offset by lots of Christian fellowship. The contributions from Sunday School Classes and the congregation toward the purchase of meat and veggies was \$1,340. Another big thanks to all who provided country store and baked items. These 100% profit sales were a huge boost to our bottom line. We made 844 quarts of stew and we have a profit of \$9,033.38. Stew Committee



PRAYER list

Those in Need of Prayer:

Karen Barbone

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

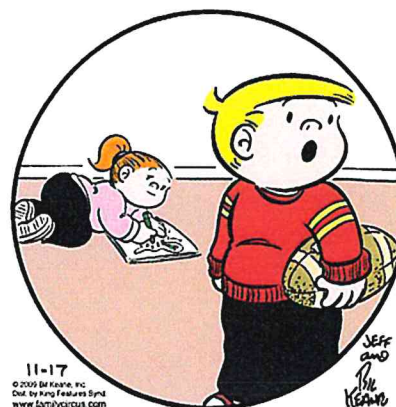
Lorrie Roth

Francis Snow

Frank & Julia Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins




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



11-17
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"Dolly keeps humming 'Santa Claus
Is Comin' to Town' and we haven't
even had Thanksgiving yet!"

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Sunday, Communion, Prnt Butler & Oatmeal Sunday DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Deadline/Veterans Day Bulletin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM Senior Youth (Youth Rm) SPM Junior Youth (Jr Youth Rm)</p>	<p>6 Walking Group (Time Varies)</p>	<p>7 10AM StoryTime (Lib) 2PM GriefShare (Young-at-Heart Rm)</p>	<p>1 All Saints Day Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Cantata Practice (Choir Rm) 7:30PM Choir Practice (Choir Rm)</p>	<p>2 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 7PM Trustees (FH)</p>	<p>3 4PM GriefShare (Young-at-Heart Rm)</p>	<p>4 9-10AM Special Session of the NC Conference VOTE (Virtual)</p>
<p>12 24th Sunday after Pentecost Special Veterans Day Bulletin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship Following Worship - <i>Wreath Laying</i> (Mem Garden) SPM Senior Youth (Youth Rm)</p>	<p>13 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>14 9-1PM FH & Kit in use (Friendly Club Prep) 10AM StoryTime (Lib) 11AM Friendly Cl (FH) 2PM GriefShare (Young-at-Heart Rm)</p>	<p>8 9:30-10:30AM Bookmobile (Childcare, 2nd Wed of month) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Childcare Board (Sunshine Rm) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Cantata Practice (Choir Rm) 7:30PM Choir Practice (Choir Rm)</p>	<p>9 6:30PM Children & Fam. (FH)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day 8AM Bibles & Biscuits (at Climax Fire #35)</p>
<p>19 25th Sunday after Pentecost Noisy Offering Sunday 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship SPM Senior Youth (Youth Rm) SPM Junior Youth (Jr Youth Rm) 7PM Community Thanksgiving Service (at PG Methodists)</p>	<p>20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>21 10AM StoryTime (Lib)</p>	<p>22 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Cantata Practice (Choir Rm) 7:30PM Choir Practice (Choir Rm)</p>	<p>23  Church Office Closed Childcare Closed</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Christ the King Sunday Consecration Sunday  Christmas Card Post Office Opens 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship ~12-4PM FH & Kit in use (Farm Event) SPM Senior Youth (Youth Rm)</p>	<p>27 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Parlor) Arlene Stokes-Decorates Church Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 <i>Wonderful Wednesday</i> (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Cantata Practice (Choir Rm) 7:30PM Choir Practice (Choir Rm)</p>	<p>30 4PM GriefShare (Young-at-Heart Rm)</p>	<p>1 </p>	<p>2 8AM Bibles & Biscuits (at Climax Fire #35) 12-6PM FH & Kit in use (Family Event)</p>

NOVEMBER GREETERS:

11/5 Debbie Waugh
 11/12 Sandie Harris
 11/19 Phyllis Wicker
 11/26 Alice Jones & Kim Lopossay

ALTAR FLOWERS:

11/5 OPEN
 11/12 OPEN
 11/19 OPEN
 11/26 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

11/5 Ashton Allen
 11/12 Maysa Downing
 11/19 Braxton Wall
 11/26 Quart Fulk

NOVEMBER USHERS:

Dale Austin
 Tim Fields
 Glenn Getner
 Greg Wicker

NOVEMBER OPENER:

Jerry Monnett

NOVEMBER CLOSER:

Dale Austin

Tentative December 2023 Calendar/Schedule of Events and Facility Use

December is a busy time at Bethlehem. The church is abuzz with activities. In order to give everyone information on events and activities occurring at Bethlehem or as a part of our church, here is a tentative schedule for the month of December, as received by the church office. Locations are listed so that you know what areas in the church will be in use. Please note that this schedule is subject to changes. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thanks for all that you all do!

<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Time/Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat., Dec. 2 nd	8AM Bibles and Biscuits	Off-site - Climax Fire #35
Sat., Dec. 2 nd	12-6PM Family Gathering	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Mon., Dec. 4 th	11:30AM Arlene Stokes Christmas Lunch	Off-site - Pavilion Restaurant
Mon., Dec. 4 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Tues., Dec. 5 th	2-4PM GriefShare	Young-at-Heart Room
Wed., Dec. 6 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Wed., Dec. 6 th	7PM/7:30PM Cantata/Choir Practice	Bethlehem Choir Room
Thurs., Dec. 7 th	~6-9PM Adult Fellowship Class Dinner	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Thurs., Dec. 7 th	7PM Trustees Meeting	Bethlehem Parlor or Sunshine Room
Fri., Dec. 8 th	9AM to 7PM Parking Lot Use	Bethlehem Blacktop/Parking Lot
Sat., Dec. 9 th	~2-9PM Young-at-Heart Class Party	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Mon., Dec. 11 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Tues., Dec. 12 th	11AM Friendly Club (set-up at 9AM)	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Tues., Dec. 12 th	2-4PM GriefShare	Young-at-Heart Room
Wed., Dec. 13 th	6:30PM Childcare Board	Sunshine Room
Wed., Dec. 13 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Wed., Dec. 13 th	7PM/7:30PM Cantata/Choir Practice	Bethlehem Choir Room
Wed., Dec. 13 th	3-8PM Family Gathering	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Sat., Dec. 16 th	10AM Worship/Christmas Cantata	Bethlehem Sanctuary
Sun. Dec. 17 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Mon., Dec. 18 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Wed., Dec. 20 th	7PM Choir Practice	Bethlehem Choir Room
Wed., Dec. 20 th	6PM Candlelight/Communion Service	Bethlehem Sanctuary
Sun., Dec. 24 th	Church Office & Childcare Closed	-----
Mon., Dec. 25th	~11:30-3PM Family Event	Bethlehem FH & Kitchen in use
Wed., Dec. 27 th	~9:40AM Wonderful Wednesday	Off-site – Cracker Barrel (Elmsley Court)
Wed., Dec. 27 th	6:30PM Exercise	Bethlehem FH
Wed., Dec. 27 th	7PM Choir Practice	Bethlehem Choir Room

Recurring events which do not affect scheduling have been omitted.

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 **Leo Allred**
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Memory of **Worth & Mary Allred**
By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Louise Bennett**
By Darlene Coble

In Memory of **Jack & Danny Bowman**
By Eutha Bowman

In Memory of **Beverly Kime Culbertson**
By Buddy & Judy Fields

In Memory of **Tommy Faggart**
By Scott & Sandra Faggart

In Memory of **Sarah Hinshaw**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

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

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

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Cindy Fields**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Joseph, Elaine & Children**
By David & Laura Cranfill
By Jane Williams

In Honor of **Pat Lineberry**
By Floyd Cook

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



NOVEMBER

11/1 Matthew Garrett
Amanda Parks
11/3 Denny Spencer
11/5 Kaila Hill
11/6 Sharon Hill
11/10 Justin Windsor
11/11 Pat Coble
11/12 Vickie Flinchum
Karen Lauder
Madison Nance
Kathy Wilkinson
11/13 Fred Cook
11/14 Ronda Faggart
Phil Smith
Carol Williams
11/17 Jonathan King
Nathan Pipe
Emily Lauder Taylor
11/18 Gail Williams
Mario Massarelli
11/19 Will Rivers
11/22 Nancy Kivett
Terry Owens
11/23 Doug Garrett
Franklin Stevens
Shannon Wicker
11/26 Frank Willis
11/28 Tim Fields
11/29 Ethan Hill
Wayne Moser
11/30 Mark Allen

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



Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Special thanks to **Climax Fire Station #35** for presenting an informative program to *Friendly Club* members at the October 10th meeting. Club members got first-hand experience in using fire extinguishers. It was a well-timed, appropriate subject for the club's October meeting as it was *Fire Prevention Week*.

(Pictured left to right: Tad Ritcher, Pastor Joseph, Aaron Coble, Buddy Fields.)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

*Please see reverse
of this report for
important messages
from the Finance
Chair and the
Church Treasurer.*

Budget Results for September 2023

\$508,301.07 Total Budget Money Available September 1, 2023
+ 30,471.75 Money Received in September
- 26,817.59 Money Spent in September
\$511,955.23 Money Available September 30, 2023

For the month of September, 2023, the Church Budget received \$3,654.16 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$57,211.64 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.

\$76,756.71 MM&RF Money Available September 30, 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	\$ 1,641.65	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,362.87	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 19,719.78
UMYF	\$24,432.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 4,606.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 30,836.33
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History)	\$ 815.00	Choir Fund	\$ 196.26
		Flowers	\$ 261.50
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 1,129.92	Misc In/Out (childcare)	\$ <1,391.80>
Church Sign	\$ 500.00		

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available September 30, 2023 \$88,791.04

\$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

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE CHAIR:

Disaffiliation Loan

The Church Council, by unanimous vote, approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to borrow the money needed to pay our disaffiliation expenses from ourselves using an inter-fund loan. We will know from the conference the exact cost of disaffiliation in November. We will not have to pay interest or have a set repayment schedule. This will be accomplished by setting up an account named "Disaffiliation Loan" where individuals can write a check payable to Bethlehem Methodist Church referencing "Disaffiliation Loan" on the memo line. Sunday School classes and other church groups are highly encouraged to have fund raisers to help pay off this loan. The Church Council, by unanimous vote, agreed to put the Brunswick Stew day profits of \$9,033.38 towards the repayment of our loan. We are off to a good start and our monthly Stewardship Report will show our progress in paying off this loan.

Frank Willis, Finance Committee Chairman



A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER:

****ATTENTION All Church Group Treasurers****

By year-end please get in touch with your bank to determine what you need to do to omit "United" from your account name and change your Employee Identification Number (EIN). Some banks can make these changes easily, others require a new account, new checks & deposit tickets...so PLEASE check with your bank. If you need our new EIN, please contact Julia Willis at 336-392-1233.

Julia Willis, Treasurer