

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 2

February 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

A new day is before us as a door has closed and a new one has opened.

Lamentations 3:22-23 speaks of God's great faithfulness and mercy as new days and dawns arise before us. So 'seize the day' (carpe diem) and take "one day at a time (sweet Jesus)." And, God's Word also provides encouragement, strength, perspective, and so much more (examples: Matthew 6:34, Philippians 4:6-7, James 4:14, Isaiah 41:10) to do so.

With this in heart, mind, and soul...May we embrace God's Goodness; so if you are on a journey enjoy each step. If you are enjoying your favorite meal, enjoy each bite. If you are enjoying your favorite coffee, enjoy each sip. If you are exercising, enjoy each repetition. If you are enjoying your family and friends, enjoy each hug and moment. If you are growing in your prayer life, enjoy each warm breath of God's presence. If you are reading and studying more of God's Word, enjoy each syllable He breathes; because when we do, we are more able to experience and see more of God's great blessings which are given to us through His great grace and mercy. These graces and mercies being realized can calm our fears, remind us of hope, give us strength and perseverance to live life fully each day with glory to God while being able to seize and take hold of God's mighty and abundant blessings to live out and share.

May our hearts, minds, and souls be opened to enjoy each beautiful day God gives us, and let us make it a point, each day, to share with others the goodness of God's great grace and mercy for us all.

Be Blessed and a Blessing

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
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Church Office

Caitlin Sheppard
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bethlehem1825methodistchurch@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



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Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-November 2024

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$573,974.60 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of November 1, 2024

+ 33, 641.11 Money Received in November

- 27,642.72 Money Spent in November

\$579,972.99 Budget's Fund Balance as of November 30, 2024

For the month of November, 2024, the Church Budget received \$5,998.39 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$46,697.22 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

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.

\$124,453.21 MM&RF Money Available November 30, 2024

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	\$ 863.43
Food Pantry	\$ 1,105.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,225.50	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,322.35
MYF	\$24,732.82	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 34,738.85
Family Ministries	\$ 4,049.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 2,026.73	Flowers	\$ 251.00
((\$800 History, \$1226.73 kitchen)		Misc In/Out: YAH	\$ 413.72
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture)	\$ 189.92		

Total Other Designated Gifts \$89,712.91

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of November 30, 2024 \$214,166.12

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 principle (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principle 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.

\$64,711.05 **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



Friendly Club

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will enjoy Bingo thanks to Nancy Golden. Friendly Club is open to all who wish to come. Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy good food and good fellowship.



Save the date

Bethlehem blood drive will be Tuesday, February 18th from 1PM-7PM in our fellowship hall. Single donors should not have donated within 8 weeks to give and double donors 16 weeks.



Lauren Haywood's Exercise Classes

DANCE, SCULPT, & STRETCH

What to expect – 30 minutes of our original low impact / high intensity cardio "DANCE SCULPT" followed by 15 minutes of targeted SCULPTING, and 15 minutes of STRETCHING. With this combo we will be able to torch fat, tone muscles, and release tension ALL in one hour together!

Mondays – 5:30–6:30 p.m. @ Tabernacle (Sculpt-Core focus)

Wednesdays – 6:30–7:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem (Sculpt-Glute focus)

All classes \$5 or \$20/5 classes punch cards available at Bethlehem [only]. Please bring your own mat, bottled water, 1-5 lb. weights (optional), & sweat towel. Open to ALL fitness levels! Zero experience needed. New members WELCOME!

Questions – contact Lauren 336-686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com





February Wordsearch

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

LOVE
 WELLNESS
 FLAG
 ADVOCATE
 EQUALITY
 WASHINGTON
 CUPID
 GROUNDHOG
 AWARENESS
 CHOCOLATE
 HEARTBEAT
 FREEDOM
 CANDY
 PRESIDENT
 VALENTINES
 SHADOW
 PEACE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7902701/>



Cory Fields
 Kelsey Garrett
 Carlie H.
 Clyde Land
 Barbara Riddle
 Sammy Wall
 Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



Prayer
LIST



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

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 **Woth & Mary Allred**
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Phil Smith**
By Brenda Fields

In Memory of **Mary Lynn Smith**
By Jim Smith

In Memory of **Herman & Scott Hackett**
By Shirley Hackett

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

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

In Memory of **Ed McClintock**
By Jane Snead

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Sharon Goad's Birthday**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

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



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
 2/8 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
 3/6 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 II
 3/13 Heather Robb Adams
 3/20 Barry Lineberry
 3/24 Tony Bowman
 Johnny Riddle
 3/25 Jonathan Riddle
 Caitlin Sheppard
 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



February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				2)	3	1 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35
2 Epiphany Sunday <i>Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday</i> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion- 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	3 Walking Group (Time Varies)	4 10:30AM StoryTime	5 9:30AM Bookmobile Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	6 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor)	7	8
9 Baptism of the Lord 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 5PM Omega Youth 5PM Alpha Youth	10 Walking Group (Time Varies)	11 10:30AM StoryTime 11AM Friendly Club	12 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -Noisy Offering-	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies)	18 10:30AM StoryTime 12PM Blood Drive (FH)	19 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	20 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	21	22
23 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany 9:15AM SS 9:30AM Winter Jam (Omega Youth) 10AM Worship	24 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies)	25 10:30AM StoryTime	26  Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) 7PM Choir Practice	27	28	March

GREETERS:

1/5 OPEN
 1/12 OPEN
 1/19 OPEN
 1/26 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

1/5 OPEN
 1/12 OPEN
 1/19 OPEN
 1/26 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

1/5 Braxton Wall
 1/12 Quart Fulk
 1/19 Bradon Allen
 1/26 Ashton Allen

USHERS:

Dale Austin
 Tim Fields
 Glen Getner
 Greg Wicker

FEBRUARY OPENER:

OPEN

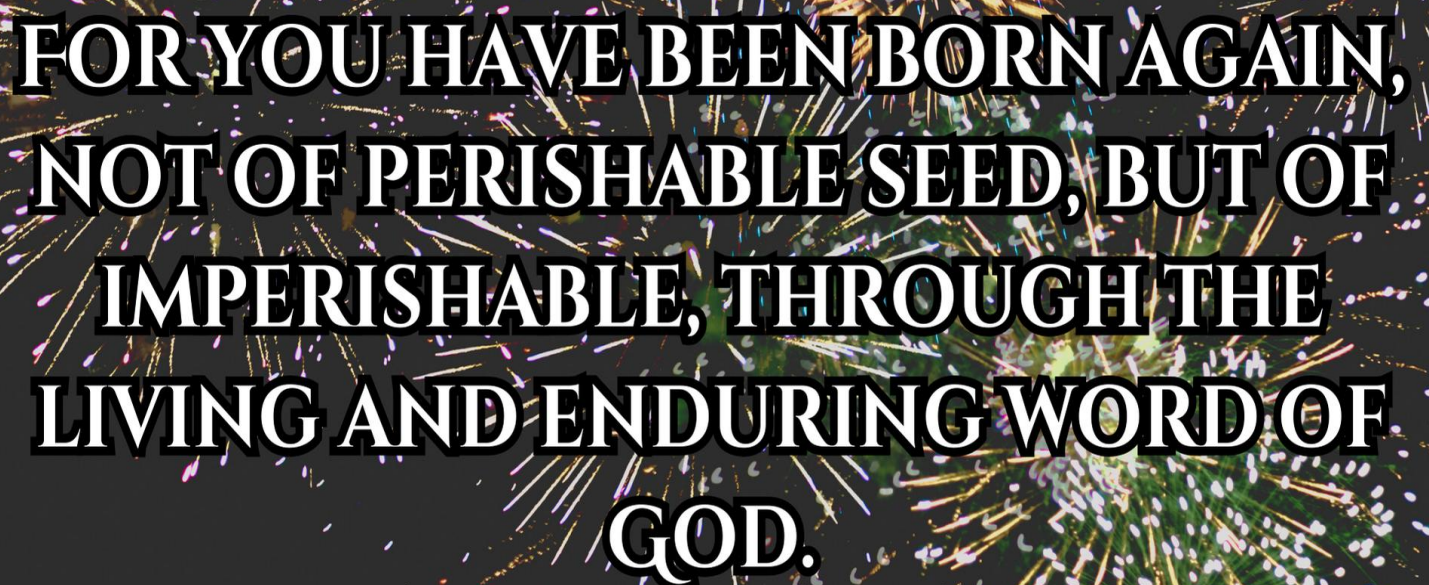
FEBRUARY CLOSER:

David Robb

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN,
NOT OF PERISHABLE SEED, BUT OF
IMPERISHABLE, THROUGH THE
LIVING AND ENDURING WORD OF
GOD.**

1 PETER 1:23 NIV