

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 11

November 2025

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34-35, KJV)

We are so blessed to be serving with the folks at Bethlehem Global Methodist Church, as we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in doing God’s ministry. We are excited to be a part of your family, walking together in God’s love and compassion seeking to share God’s grace with all people.

We would love for you to come and be a part of God’s blessing in our worship and ministry. We are not perfect, but we serve the one who is...Jesus Christ!

Our ministry can be summed up in the Hymn, “We Are The Church” (#558).

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

2. We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too
from all times and places.

3. Sometimes the church is marching;
sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding;
always it's learning.

4. And when the people gather,
there's singing and there's praying;
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes,
all of it saying:

5. At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world
to all who would hear it.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!



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. Robert Lorton, Jr
336-674-0155

Church Office

Margot Horney
336-674-0155
bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com

Choir Director

Gloria Austin

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Youth Director

Layne Downing

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Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Kylie Russell



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Visit our Website at

bethlehemmethodist.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-September 2025

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$634,255.48 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of September 1, 2025

+ 29,108.43 Money Received in September

- 20,500.29 Money Spent in September

\$642,863.62 Budget's Fund Balance as of September 30, 2025

For the month of September, 2025, the Church Budget received \$8,608.14 more than it spent.

For the year, the Church Budget received \$55,756.87 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. This fund was created by a vote of the church council on September 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$62,125.39 MM&RF Money Available September 30, 2025

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	\$ 2,937.84
Food Pantry	\$ 1,279.68	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,370.40	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 12,366.50
Alpha & Omega Youth	\$ 22,603.86	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 37,890.43
Children & Family Ministries	\$ 4,079.47	Choir Fund	\$ 286.26
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 512.84 (\$512.84 History)	Brunswick Stew	\$ 1,241.77

Total Other Designated Gifts \$89,076.23

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of September 30, 2025 \$151,201.62

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

\$65,930.69 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 welcomes Rev. Bobby Lorton and his wife Paula to be a part of our church family. Pastor Bobby officially starts on November 1st, 2025.

He comes to us from the Statesville area and is an Elder in the Global Methodist Church. He has 27 years of experience in his ministry. He attended Seminary at Duke COS and has a degree in Electronic Technology from Bluefield College.

Pastor Bobby and Paula will be a great asset to Bethlehem with his story telling style of sermons, his caring nature, and his willingness to become a part of our community. Please be sure to reach out to Pastor Bobby and Paula and give them a big Bethlehem welcome.

Join us for a covered dish lunch on Sunday, November 16 following the Worship Service to welcome Rev and Mrs. Lorton. Bring your favorite covered dish to share with all.

We are all grateful for their coming to Bethlehem and we will all be blessed by their presence here. Please keep them in your prayers as they make their transition to Bethlehem.

WELCOME BOBBY AND PAULA

Bethlehem Post Office

Our Christmas Card post office will open on November 23 in the conference room.

Bring your Christmas Cards (alphabetized would be helpful) to the Conference Room anytime between Sunday, November 23 and Sunday, December 21. Our elves will have those filed in your mail folders in the blink of an eye, ready for you to stop by and pick up your mail!

PS If you are sending cards to those on the Care and Nurture List, please have them in to the PO Office by Sunday, December 7, since the Care Bags will be delivered on Thursday, December 11. And Merry Christmas to all!



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 **Angela Berke**
By Gale Berke

In Memory of **Kathleen Cope**
By Carol Fields

In Memory of **Kathleen Cope**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

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

In Memory of **Haylie Jones**
By Lelesia Allen

In Memory of **Ralph Kirkman**
By Betty Kirkman

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**
By Bob Weatherly (x4)



HONORARIUMS

For the Missions Team
In Honor of **Justin Windsor**
By Andrew and Susan Coward

In Honor of **Buddy and Jane Reddick**
By David and Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Sid, Libby, and Cory Fields**
By **Alice Jones**

In Honor of **Andrew Coward**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Cindy Fields**
By Alice Jones

In Honor of **All the Workers for the Stew**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Buddy and Judy Fields**
By Phyllis Wicker

In Honor of the **SPRC Committee**
By Byron and Phyllis Dahl

In Honor of the Brunswick **Stew Committee**
By David and Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Joe Garrett's Birthday**
By Jerry and Karon Monnett



Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Our Church

John Ainsley

LeeAnne Curtis

Tommy Dills

Cory Fields

Frances Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie H.

Nicole Kasin

Clyde Land

Jerri Ramsey

Albert Smith

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



2025 Brunswick Stew Results

We give thanks to God and to EVERYONE who helped with the Brunswick Stew and Country Store and Bake Sale in every way. Our working together has again produced a rousing success! We thank the leadership of the Brunswick Stew Committee, especially the work of Cindy Fields and Terry Franklin, who gave many hours to planning and extra trips around town to make it happen. We added a vegetarian soup this year thanks to Sandie and Mike Harris which produced 44 quarts of soup. Contributions from the Sunday School Classes and members of the congregation for the purchase of meat and vegetables was \$1750.00. We took in \$13,986 from the Stew, Soup, Cheese Braid, Store, and Donations. Our expenses for the stew and soup were \$2833.34, giving us a profit of \$11,152.66. Thanks for all your time, work, and donations, and we enjoyed the camaraderie of working together. Thank you!

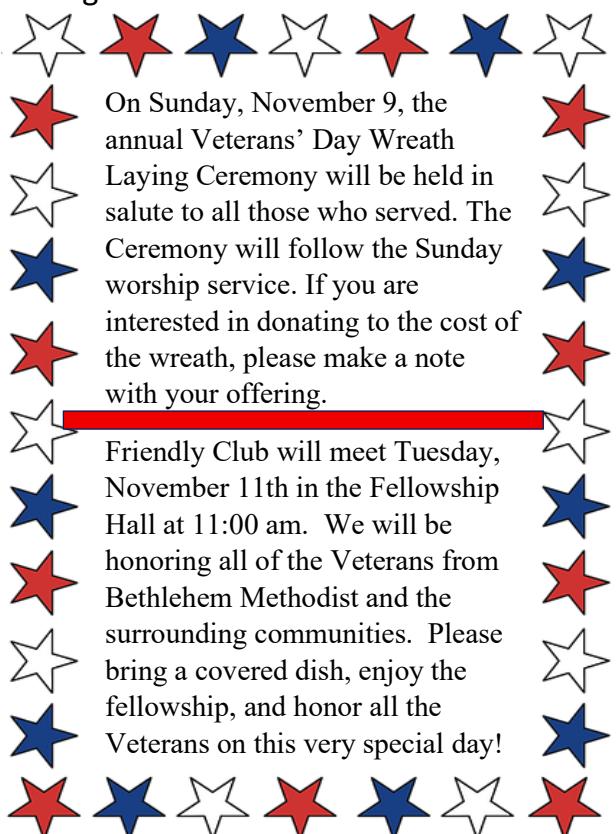
The Brunswick Stew Committee has some used food-grade buckets for sale. There are 5-gallon sized for \$4.00 and some 4-gallon sized for \$3.00; many have lids as well. If you can use a bucket for that pet food, bird seed, etc., please contact Cindy Fields or Terry Franklin.

There has been concern expressed that the phone messages, generally sent out on Thursday afternoons, are not being received by some parishioners. *One Call Now*, the company the Church uses for the group messages, tries each number 6 times. If there is no answer or a voice mail option, it will stop trying for that message. If you have caller ID, it is helpful to add both the Church phone number and the number for *One Call Now* so your phone won't automatically reject the calls. If you add the numbers and still are not getting the messages, please contact the Church Office and we'll look in to it.



This year's community Thanksgiving service will take place at Pleasant Garden Methodist Church on Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be in their Fellowship Hall after service.

Heather Grabbs (NC Conference Lay Leader) with Global Methodist will join Pastor Bobby Lorton in bringing our message at the service.



Volunteers needed! Bethlehem Child Care Center is looking for volunteers to lead the 10:00 am Children's Worship held the first and third Thursday of each month. Also needed are volunteers to read to the 3 and 4 year old children on Tuesday's at 10:30am. Contact Erica at bethchild91@gmail.com or 336-674-9879 if you're interested in helping. *Thanks!*

Happy Birthday

November

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

December

12/5 Gene Flinchum
12/6 Lily Christie
12/9 Cory Fields
Luke Hinshaw
12/10 Holley Wicker
12/11 Erin Edwards
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 Spooner
Joy Cranfill
Logan Royal
Cindy Duncan
Andrew Coward
12/31 David Allen



NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1  Fall back 1 hour
2 Communion Sunday ALL SAINTS' DAY Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship - Communion	3 Walking Group (Time Varies)	4	5 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	6 10:00 am and 4:00 pm Children's Worship 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg FH	7	8
9 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship - Veteran's Day Bulletin Wreath Laying following Worship 5:00 pm Alpha and Omega Youth	10 Walking Group (Time Varies)	11 VETERANS' DAY  11:00 am Friendly Club Veterans' Salute (FH) 5:00 – 7:00 pm Adult Fellowship Class FH	12 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Childcare Bd Mtg Sunshine Room 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13 7:00 pm Administrative Council Mtg DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	14	15
16 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Welcome Reception for Rev Bobby and Paula Lorton – covered dish (FH following service) 5:00 pm Omega Youth	17 Walking Group (Time Varies)	18	19 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	20 10:00 am and 4:00 pm Children's Worship	21	22
23 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Alpha and Omega Youth 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service at Pleasant Garden MC	24 Walking Group (Time Varies) 10:00 am Paid Staff Meeting 10:30 am Arlene Stokes (Parlor)	25	26 Wonderful Wednesday Bus leaves at 9:40 am Bus Res  Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30 pm Exercise (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27 THANKSGIVING Church Office and Child Care Closed	28 Church Office and Child Care Closed	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm Omega	DECEMBER					

Christmas Card PO open (Conf Rm)

GREETERS:

11/2 Debbie Waugh
11/9
11/16
11/23 Elaine Bowman
11/30

ALTAR FLOWERS:

11/2 Dedicated to the Glory of God
11/9 Becky Windsor
11/16 Jackie Smith
11/23 OPEN
11/30 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

11/2 Brandon Allen
11/9 Ashton Allen
11/16 Aubrey Wilson
11/23 Maysa Downing
11/30 Braxton Wall

USHERS:

Dale Austin
Tim Fields
Glenn Getner
Greg Wicker

NOVEMBER OPENER:

Shannon Wicker
NOVEMBER 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
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PERMIT NO. 1



Thanksgiving

For this new morning with its light, Father, we thank Thee.

For rest and shelter of the night, Father, we thank Thee

For health and food, for love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness sends,

Father in heaven, we thank Thee. *Amen.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

