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NOVEMBER 2024

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## *Bethel Beacon*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Living our faith, sharing God's love.*



### Message from the Pastor

Dear Bethel Family,

Observing All Saints' Day every year is one of the Christian traditions that dates back to the early days of the church. On this day, Christians honor the saints, both living and deceased. Among these saints is one known as "The Reluctant Saint" or "The World's Most Beloved Saint," and that is none other than St. Francis of Assisi.

Born into a wealthy cloth merchant's family in Assisi, Francis enjoyed all the luxuries a young boy could dream of during his youth. He lived a colorful life, filled with wild parties and excess. Thomas of Celano, his biographer who knew him well, stated, "In other respects, an exquisite youth, he attracted a whole retinue of young people addicted to evil and accustomed to vice." Francis himself admitted, "I lived in sin" during this time. However, his transformation was remarkable. He became a model of extreme surrender, exemplified by his bold act of re-

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## Message from the Pastor—continued

turning the money he had stolen from his father to repair a church. When his father brought him before the bishop to hold him accountable publicly, St. Francis stripped off the clothes his father had given him and declared, "Pietro Bernardone is no longer my father. From now on, I can say with complete freedom, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'"

St. Francis emptied himself and was willing to embrace others, to the extent of not hesitating to touch and even kiss those suffering from leprosy. Engelbert, in his biography of St. Francis, illustrates this moment when he writes that "after completing his devotions, he went out to encounter the beggars in front of St. Peter's, a place teeming with them at all times. It was there that he proposed to one of them that they exchange clothes—an offer that, as one can well imagine, was eagerly accepted. Wearing the rags of the beggar and joining the group, he begged alongside them, shared their meager meal, and found so much happiness in experiencing this way of life that he wished to continue living it." This year, as you remember a saint who has made a difference in your life, will you surrender to Jesus and follow the example of the saint you honor?

Moreover, I invite you to join me for a new sermon series "I Quit" starting from Sunday Nov 10th. This sermon series will challenge us to examine some of the habits that hold us back from becoming better Christians and disciples. If you aspire to become a better follower of Jesus Christ, a better spouse, co-worker, friend, neighbor, or sibling, it all begins with the powerful decision to say, "I quit." Join for worship on Sunday as I will preach on growing in Christ's likeness by quitting habits of Assuming, Complaining and Comparing.

In Christ,

Rev. Nadeem



**Lay Leadership:**

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne  
 Council Chair: Nancy Pinson  
 Vice Chair: vacant  
 Staff-Parish Relations:  
 Rosanne Williamson  
 Finance Chair: Lewis Lee  
 Finance Vice Chair:  
 Travis Taylor  
 Trustees Chair: Ava Lee  
 Church Treasurer:  
 Donna Broadbent  
 Finance Secretary  
 TBD  
 Recording Secretary:  
 Gary Pinson  
 Worship Committee Chair:  
 Nancy Pinson  
 Funeral Care Committee Chair:  
 Cathy Carayas  
 Sunday School Superintendent:  
 Crystal Taylor  
 Nurture/Fellowship Committee  
 Chair: Charlene Hahne  
 Mission & Outreach Chairs:  
 Sandra Colvin,  
 Karla Yocum  
 United Women in Faith  
 President: Dolores Goff  
 United Methodist Men  
 President: Joe Florence  
 Lay Member to Annual  
 Conference: Brett Hahne  
 District Conference  
 Representative & Steward:  
 Murray Edwards  
 Youth Representative:  
 Grant Taylor  
 Young Adult Representative:  
 TBD

**Finance Committee**

THANK YOU for your extravagant generosity!!! Bethel raised \$6, 645 to support hurricane relief efforts in North Carolina and Florida. Donations have been mailed to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

THANK YOU for your participation during Pastor Nadeem’s Gratitude Check sermon series. We have received so many cards of giving and we will report the results in the coming weeks.

The Finance Committee

**Finance Monthly Report**

**Income & Expenses\***

October Income: \$29,468.00      October Expenses \$23,492.35

YTD 2024 Income: \$228,556.00      YTD 2024 Expenses: \$256,386.83

\*Because the Beacon is published monthly, finances for the prior month will be reported.

**Attendance & Giving**

Date	Views	In-Person	Average	Giving
		Adults/ Kids		
October 6	47	76	106.73	\$15,517.00
October 13	16	65	106.12	\$5,535.00
October 20	28	71	105.95	\$4,376.00
October 27	42	83	106.39	\$4,040.00



**November Birthdays**

- 2 Grant Taylor
- 3 Catherine Carayas
- 6 Nadeem Khokhar
- 11 Eric Florence
- 26 Mary Jane Shofkom
- 29 Jane Brewer
- 30 Karen Goff

**November Anniversaries**

- 7 Bill and Sue Mitchell
- 8 Eric and Amy Zitzmann
- 30 Ronnie and Sandra Colvin

## Worship Reminder

**Communion** will be served by intinction on the first and third\* Sundays of the month. Those who prefer the self-serve elements or the gluten-free elements can ask the server when they come up.

## Don't Stop the Music

### Pat Martin, Music Director

Sometimes things just don't go as planned! Most of you know that I was to be on a 6-8 week medical leave of absence starting October 14th through the end of November, returning on December 1st. Because of hurricane Helene damage to the factory (near Asheville NC) that supplies 60% of the IV fluids to hospitals in the US, my surgery was postponed. It will now be sometime after Christmas. Many of you have asked about it and I can say, while I am a bit uncomfortable and have lifting restrictions at this time, I am fine compared to those who are more in need of those IV fluids than I. My procedure will wait.

We are planning some special music for December. For those of you who can't be a part of the choir all year long, we would welcome your voices for the Advent and Christmas season. We have already begun working on the music and invite you to join us on Thursday evenings, starting on November 7th from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. to work on the music with us.

We have lots of music to look forward to in December. On **December 8th, we will have a "Family Christmas Carol Sing and Ring" at 2:00 p.m.** The bells will ring, the choir will sing, we will have vocal, piano and instrumental presentations, AND you will sing some favorite carols. Come with your families, friends and neighbors to enjoy a sing and ring. We'll have some cookies and beverages as well.

**On December 15th we will have the traditional Lessons & Carols service** during the worship service. We'll hear scripture and sing carols of the season to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

**HELP WANTED:** We are still looking for a piano accompanist at Bethel. Someone who is a competent pianist to play the music for the choir when they sing (Thursday rehearsals and Sundays). In general, the choir will sing only two Sundays a month: typically the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If you know of someone who might be interested in this paid position, please provide me with a name and contact information.

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## CHIMING IN FROM THE BELL ROOM

If you should happen to wander by the bell room on a Thursday night between the hours of 5:30 and 6:30 you will most likely hear beautiful Christmas music being played by beautiful people.

This fall we have been focused on refreshing some of our music to play for worship in October. In addition, we have been playing some of our favorite Christmas music. The congregation will be able to hear the bells play during worship on December 8 and again in the afternoon of December 8 when we will be a part of what we hope will become a traditional Christmas celebration of music by many members of our congregation, both young and old.

We are discovering the magic and mystery of our new choir chimes. They are sneaking into some of our Christmas music. I think you will love the sound.

As always I can't say enough good things about the folks who so faithfully come every Thursday for an hour to play our bells and chimes and to enjoy each others fellowship. My heart is filled with gratitude for their dedication and their perseverance.

Plan to worship with us on December 8 at 10:00 and also on December 8 at 2:00 come and enjoy a time of fellowship, refreshments and good music.

Hugs, Joice Fredenburgh



### BETTY'S BLUEBERRY DESSERT

From Betty Kiester, Geneice Kemper's Mom

2 boxes (two 3 oz. packages) raspberry Jello  
(or 1 - 6 oz. package)  
2 cups boiling water  
1 can blueberry pie filling  
8 oz. crushed pineapple (UN-drained)

Mix Jello and water together until dissolved.  
Add pie filling and pineapple  
Mix together and pour in pan  
After Jello has set, cover with topping  
and chopped walnuts

#### TOPPING

8 oz. cream cheese – room temperature  
½ cup sour cream  
¼ cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Chopped nuts (optional)

Combine all ingredients and mix until smooth.  
Spread over Jello and top with chopped nuts.

If you really like nuts, you can add them to the Jello mixture also.

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Nadeem Khokhar  
 NKhokhar@bethelumc.com  
 434/480-1063

Music Director:  
 Pat Martin  
 pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist:

Director of Hymndingers  
 Joice Fredenburgh  
 dfredenburgh@verizon.net

Administrative Assistant:  
 Christine Winters  
 bumcofficeassistant@comcast.net  
 540/347-4874  
 Office Hours:  
 Monday—Thursday  
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Conference Bishop:  
 Sue Hauptert-Johnson  
 P.O. Box 5606  
 Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606  
 804/521-1102

Northern Virginia District Superintendent:  
 Rev. Kirk Nave  
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 Fairfax, VA 22030-3236  
 703/820-7200

**Bethel United Methodist Church**

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 Warrenton, VA 20187  
 (540) 347-4874

**Website**

www.bethelumc.com

**Facebook**

@bethel.umc.warrenton

**November Sermons**

- November 3:** Love Beyond Borders Ruth 1:11-18
- November 10:** I Quit Assuming Matthew 9:9-13
- November 17:** I Quit Complaining Matthew 20:1-16
- November 24:** I Quit Comparing Matthew 7:1-6

**Events and Meetings**

Mondays	Women’s Book Study, 10 a.m., Pavilion Room
Wednesdays	Prayer Gathering, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Wednesdays	1st and 2nd Peter Bible Study 10 a.m. and repeat at 7:00 p.m., Pavilion Rm
Thursdays	Women’s Book Study, 10 a.m., Pavilion Room
Thursdays	Hymndingers, Bell Rm 301, 5:30—6:30 pm Choir, Sanctuary, 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 2	United Women of Faith (UMF) Meeting, Pavilion Room, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, November 3	Motel Ministry, 11:30 a.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, November 5	Fauquier Cty Quilters, 7:00 p.m. Social Hall
Saturday, November 9	Cookie Walk/Christmas Bazaar, 8 am to 1 pm
Sunday, November 10	Trustees, 11:30 a.m., Pavilion Room
Tuesday, November 12	Finance Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Pavilion Room
Sunday, November 17	Worship Comm., Library 303, after worship
Sunday November 17	SPRC Meeting, Upper Room, after worship
Sunday, November 17	BUMYouth Group, 11:30 am, Pavilion Rm
Thursday, November 21	Ruritan Dinner, 7:00 p.m., Pavilion Room
Tuesday, November 26	Council, 7:00 p.m. Pavilion Room
Thursday, November 28	THANKSGIVING DAY

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## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Once again we will adorn our church with beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas season. But, this year we will do things a little differently. Instead of adorning our church for only the Christmas service, we will have poinsettias during the entire month of December. As you can see above, the congregation did a beautiful job providing poinsettias for Christmas last year. Let's do it again.

Order forms will be in the bulletins on the first 2 Sundays in November (3 and 10). Please make checks payable to Bethel UMC with "Poinsettias" noted in the memo section. Order forms and checks should be placed in the basket in the social hall. The last day to order poinsettias will be after the Service on November 10. After the Christmas service on Sunday, December 21, you may take your poinsettias home.

### **Looking for Volunteers**

To keep the poinsettias looking healthy and beautiful, we need to water them twice a week. Susan Higgins will water them each Sunday before the service. We need volunteers to water them in the middle of the week. If you can help out, please contact Susan Higgins by phone at 301-367-8398 or email at [rsjasm@yahoo.com](mailto:rsjasm@yahoo.com).