

**Bethany United Methodist Church**  
*The Church with Open Hearts,  
 Minds, and Doors*  
 1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527  
 Gloucester Point VA 23062  
 Office Hours: M-F, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
 Phone: 804.642.2110  
 Email: bethanyumc3@verizon.net  
 Website: [www.bethanyumc-gp.org](http://www.bethanyumc-gp.org)

The *Salvation Army* has an ongoing need for the following items: **Household cleaners, paper products, over the counter medicines, and personal hygiene items.**

Please place donations in the baskets beside the church office and in the narthex. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP	12/23
General Fund Total	5337.35
Capital Improvements	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	40.00
Endowment Fund (McGee)	40.00
Clara Biswas	25.00
Children's Fund (McGee)	25.00
COUNTING TEAMS	December
4-Riggin, Blubaugh, Blubaugh	30

CHRISTMAS EVE GIVING	12/24
General Fund	779.00
GUEST	100.00
Adult Missions	50.00
Choir	50.00
GNMCS	50.00
Homebound Ministries	100.00
Endowment	100.00

SUNDAY WORSHIP	12/23
8:30 Sanctuary	40
8:30 Nursery	0
11:00 Sanctuary	112
11:00 Nursery	1
11:00 Children's Church (already included in Total Worship)	8
<b>TOTAL in Worship</b>	<b>153</b>
SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Adults	22
Youth	3
Children	11
<b>TOTAL in SS</b>	<b>36</b>

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP	
7:00 PM	140
11:00 PM	42

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS			
Date	8:30 a.m.	Sunday School Hour	11:00 a.m.
12/30	Janet Chapin	Marcia Hargis	Donna Lane

**Pastor:** Mike Derflinger

**Church Office Administrator:** Dee Dee Wike      **Chaplain in Residence:** Carol Johnson  
**Director of Children & Youth Ministries:** Kris Kent      **Lay Leader:** Judy Burner  
**Nursery Attendant:** Jeannie Meisner      **Director of Music:** Sandra Fox

**Organist:** Dr. Rudy Shackelford

**Acolytes:** 8:30 Stella White      11:00 Alyssa Hall  
**Sound Room:** 8:30 Adam White      11:00 Jeremy Nardozzi  
**December Altar Guild:** Polly Harrison, Wendy Hogge, Cathy Raines

**Trustee Contact for this Week:** David Lewis



**WELCOME, GUESTS!** We are delighted to worship with you today and invite you to participate as fully as you feel comfortable.

**AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE:** Please ask an usher for assistance if you require a large print hymnal, large print bulletin, or hearing aid.

**CELL PHONES:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before the service begins. Thank you.

**Please greet one another before our worship begins.**

**\*Please stand as you are able. And it's okay to sit.**

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

**WELCOME**

Pastor Mike

**PRELUDE**

*Back to Bethlehem Medley*  
 Loretta Leigh, pianist

arr. Marilyn Ham

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Sue Morecock

The presents are opened, O God; the ham and turkey are eaten, the eggnog is drunk and, if we are people of especially good fortune, we have leftovers to savor and enjoy with family and friends. The birth of your Son is a divine miracle meant to change this world. So, we also thank you for the humanity of Christmas: for the excitement and the joy and the signs of warmth and kindness. Now, we come into your house and ask that the important things may be lasting: that the sense of His birth and incarnation may continue; that the feeling and desire for Mystery may grow; that the delight in gift-giving may lead us to give ourselves to Him whose birthday we are still celebrating. We pray in His name, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

**\*CAROL**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*, vv. 1, 4

UMH No. 203

**\*CAROL**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*, vv. 1, 2, 4

UMH No. 221

### SHARING OF OUR PRAYER CONCERNS & MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Mike

**UNISON PRAYER**

Sue Morecock

Praying is an adventure with you, Lord, and what an adventure it has been in 2018. You've answered our spoken and unspoken prayers; sometimes the answers were what we wanted to receive, other times not. Whether we've made right choices and enjoyed the fruit of them or made wrong choices and grumbled at living with the consequences, You have been faithful, protecting, and jealous for us, and Your love for us and your creation is evident always. Let's talk once more, as we bless Your name and leave this year joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that You have shown us.

**THE ANTHEM**

*Noel*  
Meg Jackson, soloist

Lauren Daigle  
Chris Tomlin

**CHILDREN'S STORY**

Pastor Mike

**DEDICATION OF REVERSE ADVENT BAGS**

Pastor Mike

Loving God, we pray your blessing on our Reverse Advent Bags. We pray for the hurting children and their families whose lives will be brightened by these bags and the contents we've packed with love. We pray especially that through these gifts the hearts and minds of the children and their families will be opened to your divine love and the Good News of your grace through Jesus Christ. Bless all who made these bags a reality, who transport them, and smooth the way that they may reach their intended destinations. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**RECEIVING GOD'S TITHES, GIFTS AND MORNING OFFERING****OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Sue Morecock

What can we say, gracious Lord, but thank you for the countless blessings of our lives. We are so rich in things material and immaterial that we are compelled to worship You with all we have. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE OFFERTORY**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Meg Jackson, soloist

Dan Fox

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH No. 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*CAROL**

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*  
(vv. 1-2 all, v. 3 men, v. 4 ladies, vv. 5-6 all)

UMH No. 236

**\*SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Zephaniah 3:14-17, Luke 2:15-20*

Sue Morecock

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

**THE MESSAGE***God Is Joyful*

Pastor Mike

**\*CLOSING CAROL***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, vv. 5, 6, 7

UMH No. 211

**\*CLOSING UNISON PRAYER***The Lord's Prayer*

UMH No. 895

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given for the glory of God by Clair and Sarah Hillard with thankfulness for the many blessings He has bestowed in our 51 years of marriage.

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY
<b>CANCER/CHEMO:</b> Krista Chase <b>GRIEVING:</b> <b>HEALTH ISSUES:</b> <b>HOMEBOUND:</b> Annette Adams, Katherine Jordan, Alice McGee, Mary Dale Williams <b>HOSPITALIZED:</b> Gerlinde Stevens (WR, Rm. 128) <b>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:</b> <b>UPCOMING SURGERY/TESTS:</b> Mike Ekdahl (1/14/19)	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
<b>CANCER/CHEMO:</b> Brenda France <b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH:</b> Luke Wilcox <b>GRIEVING:</b> Family of Paula Lankford <b>HEALTH ISSUES:</b> <b>HOSPICE:</b> <b>HOSPITALIZED:</b> Arthur Paiva (CT) <b>PARKINSON'S:</b> Duane Burnett <b>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY</b> <b>UPCOMING SURGERY/TESTS:</b> Delores Goode (1/7), Dwayne Smith	
BUMC'S MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES ( <i>italics—Bethany friends</i> )	
<i>Edward Bailey, Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Laine Fay, Thomas Howse, Kevin Jacobs, Bernard Johnson, Lamont Johnson, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i>	
ASSISTED LIVING ( <i>italics-Bethany friends</i> )	
c/o Lee & Silma Kuivinen, 3717 Wren Ln., Rolling Meadows, IL 80008-2863	Mary Margaret Kuivinen
Gayton Terrace, 12041 Gayton Rd., Richmond, VA 23238	Dorothy Critzer, Room 418
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Room 107 Jean Heywood, Room 110 Esther Marie Jordan, Room 509
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Ellis Hall, Room 106
Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130
York Convalescent & Rehab Center, 113 Battle Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692	Mary Poland, Rm 27A Alice Doggett, Rm 27B
OUR MISSIONARY – Clara Biswas, Cambodia.	

**Reflections after our Message on 12.30.18**  
**Zephaniah 3:14-17 and Luke 2:15-20**

**Series: Under Wraps**  
**Title: God is Joyful**

Do you usually see God as a Jubilant, Joyful God? Why or why not?

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What's your favorite God-is-Joyful situation in the Bible? The creation of Adam and Eve? The father's joy when the prodigal son returns home? The birth of Jesus? Another story?

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Hebrews 11:5,6 tells of Enoch. Reliable testimony from those who knew Enoch said that he pleased God. The writer of Hebrews says that it's impossible to please God apart from faith. Why do you think faith pleases God?

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Pastor Mike said, "At Christmas, no one is more joyful than God Himself, because Christmas is about God getting His kids back." What does this mean to you?

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**Our Sunday School** meets from 9:45-10:45 each Sunday morning with several different classes for adults, one class for youth, three classes for children, and a nursery for infants & toddlers.

**Our Nursery** — For the convenience of parents with small children, a nursery is provided for infants through 3-year-olds during both worship services, as well as during the Sunday school hour.

**Our Children's Church** is during 11:00 worship only. Children ages 4 and older sit with parents until dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Message.

For more information please visit [www.bethanyumc-gp.org](http://www.bethanyumc-gp.org).

**LOOKING FOR A SIMPLE PLAN TO READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2019?** Check out Bishop Lewis' plan on [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org).

**PASTOR MIKE WILL BE OUT OF TOWN THROUGHOUT NEW YEAR'S DAY.** In event of emergency, you can text or call him at 540.631.4469.

**OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ORGANIST, AND CHANCEL CHOIR** are away today. All will be with us next Sunday as we begin the season of Epiphany and celebrate Holy Communion.

**BEGINNING IN 2019, WE WILL HAVE NURSERY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND 11:00 AM WORSHIP ONLY.** Kris Kent will be working with others in this transition to schedule volunteers in our nursery on Sundays and special events and services throughout 2019.

<b>THIS WEEK AT BETHANY UMC</b>		
8:25 a.m. Prayer Time (Mary Lotsey); 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship; 9:45 Sunday School		
<b>TODAY</b>	1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – Regular Schedule, no activities	
<b>Monday, December 31</b>	NEW YEAR'S EVE – Office will close at noon.	
<b>Tuesday, January 1</b>	NEW YEAR'S DAY – Office closed. Will reopen at 9am Wednesday.	
<b>Wednesday, January 2</b>	6:30 p.m.	Troop 75
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, January 6</b>	EPIPHANY AND CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION	
	12:15-2:00 p.m.	UMYF Nursing Home Visit and Fellowship

### PRAYER TIP OF THE WEEK

How good it is to receive! Those who took the time to choose and prepare, to purchase and wrap, did something that gladdens the heart and brightens the life. As surely as they deserved to be thanked for their kindness, surely God deserves to be thanked as well. Whether Christmas was what you hoped for, or however in retrospect 2018 was to you, bring a heart of gratitude to your prayer time this week. Write the thank-you notes and make the phone calls, praying that God will truly bless them in 2019.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Brothers & Sisters,

Thank you for honoring your Faith Promises to support the ministries and missions of Bethany Church. You make the work of the Finance Committee feel like monthly celebrations! We get to hear and see firsthand how generous and caring each of you are! It's wonderful to see how God is using us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Please remember that today is the last day to have your Faith Promises credited to 2018. And, it's the last Sunday to use your 2018 envelopes! Your 2019 envelopes are available in the Narthex.

I pray that God will continue to pour His blessings upon each of us as we strive to be good stewards of His many gifts and blessings.

Happy New Year!  
Dolores Breen  
Finance Committee Chair

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**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2019** may be picked up in the narthex. Please make certain you pick up the pack with your name on it. If you received envelopes but do not need them, please return them to the church office so they can be reassigned. • If you were not assigned numbered envelopes for 2019, you may request them by contacting Bernard Robins (642-6412 or [bdrobins@peoplepc.com](mailto:bdrobins@peoplepc.com)).

**BETHANY PRAYER LIST** – With the exception of the names listed on the inside back cover, we have removed names that have been on the prayer list for a while in order to start 2019 with a clean slate. Certainly this does not mean that the individuals removed are no longer in our prayers. If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request card, located in the pew pocket. In order to help us maintain our list, please make sure to contact us with updates. Thank you for your assistance and participation in our prayer ministry.

The **CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX** has been placed in the main hallway beneath the bulletin board for your convenience in exchanging Christmas cards with our church family. Before you leave church today please check the mailbox for any cards you may have received.

I want to give my thanks and appreciation to my amazing Bethany family who provided prayers, phone calls, cards, food and love to me and my family after I fractured my tibia and crushed my knee this summer. The support of Bethany has meant so much to me as I battled complications with numerous trips to the hospital. My family and I are so lucky to have the loving support of this wonderful church. Thank you! — *Kathy Jacobs*

I want to thank all the volunteers who served during the week of the GUEST program, December 3-10. I appreciate your continued support. You made such a difference in the lives of our guests by allowing them to keep warm at Bethany. Also, thanks to Al and Judy Burner for the many hours they donate to this ministry.  
– Nancy Orth, GUEST Volunteer Coordinator

