

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.

*Please sign the Welcome Card found in the pew pocket
and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Thank you!*

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday School hour and 11:00 service.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
Sunday, December 15	10:00 am	Worship and Christmas Cantata
Monday, December 16	5:30 pm	Praise Team
Tuesday, December 17	5:30 pm	York River Villas
Wednesday, December 18	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 19	2:30 pm	Naomi Circle
	6:30 pm	House of Prayer
Sunday, December 22	8:30 & 11:00 am	Worship (8:30 Informal: 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School for all ages

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
12/16	Susan Conry	12/16	Larry & Sue Whitfield, 46
12/18	Chrissy Fox, Aubrey Lynn Chase, Sharon Johnson-Carleton	12/21	Bernard & Debbie Robins, 38
12/19	Cathie Allport, Bev Kearney		
12/20	David Byrd		

Holiday Schedule!

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion with Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Church Office will be Closed
Wednesday, December 25
Wednesday, January 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, December 15, 2024

2025 Offering Envelopes are now available and are located on the table outside the Church office.

The **Bazaar Bunch** has come to a realization - we are not getting any younger! Unless we have some younger individuals come forward, there is a good chance we won't have the regular "Big Bazaar" in 2026. We might have a scaled-down version combined with a bake sale to raise money for Missions. Currently our completed crafts are sold through Upsy-Daisy, which in turn contributes funds to Bethany missions. Upsy-Daisy is an extension of Bethany's Bazaar and needs volunteers to work at the store on Route 17. Please contact Cathy Raines at (410) 599-6493 if you can volunteer time for a very worthy cause. We will have a special service on January 19 at 10:00 a.m. to disburse the Bazaar funds of \$17,500 to 27 worthy organizations. We will honor the recipients at a Covered-dish Luncheon following the service. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share.

The GUEST Homeless Shelter needs our help – Thank you to everyone who has been providing food and supplies for the clients of the shelter - that is so appreciated. Below is a list of additional ways we can help. . .

- **Volunteers for the Night Shelter** - The Winter **Night** Shelter will start on Monday, December 23rd - if you would be willing to volunteer to help with volunteering and/or dinner, you can sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA8A72CAAF8C34-53290886-guest#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA8A72CAAF8C34-53290886-guest#/)

- **Volunteers for the Day Shelter** - The Winter **Day** Shelter will also start the week of December 23rd - the day shelter will now be open 7 days a week from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM - **there is a tremendous need for volunteers to staff the day shelter** from 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. You may sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA8A72CAAF8C34-53521302-guest#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BA8A72CAAF8C34-53521302-guest#/)

- **Laundry** - Volunteers will be needed to pick up the linens and blankets from the host church on Monday mornings (around 7:00 AM) and take to Gloucester You-Do-It Laundromat on Main Street and then pick it up in the evening around 6:00 PM and deliver it to the next host church. If this is something you are interested in helping with, please let me know.

Training is required to volunteer at the shelter and the next session is:
- **Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 PM at Abingdon Episcopal Church**

Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help the GUEST Homeless Shelter!!

Reverse Advent Bags are still available in the narthex and on the table in the main hallway. They will be dedicated next Sunday, December 22nd during our 11:00 am service.

UPSY DAISY is excited to announce a community-driven initiative to collect used T-shirts for a meaningful cause! We're seeking donations of T-shirts from events or activities held in Gloucester or Mathews; such as walks/runs, Guinea Heritage events, Daffodil Festivals, church functions, or school activities. Don't worry if the shirts have seen better days—rips and stains are welcome, as they all contribute to the charm of our project.

The collected shirts will be transformed into beautiful T-shirt quilts, which will then be raffled off to raise funds for Bethany UMC missions and ministries. You can drop off your shirts at Upsy Daisy, or we can arrange a pick-up if that's more convenient.

If you have any questions or to schedule a pick-up, email Cathy at cathy@upsydaisy.org.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

NOTE ON THE WEDDING OF MARY AND JOSEPH

Our Offertory this morning was inspired by a painting, *The Marriage of the Virgin* by Italian Renaissance artist Raphael. Portraying the wedding of Mary, mother of Jesus, the picture inspired Franz Liszt to compose one of his loveliest piano pieces, *Sposalizio*, which eventually became part of *Years of Pilgrimage (Années de Pèlerinage)*, a musical diary of his travels through Italy and Switzerland in 1835-39. Liszt's companion was Countess Marie d'Agoult, a rich, beautiful, artistically talented woman who would dominate his life for more than a decade. Their liaison produced three children, two of whom died in early adulthood. Cosima, born in Como in 1837, married the opera composer Richard Wagner and lived to age ninety-three.

Although Franz Liszt is best known today as the composer of brilliant, virtuosic showpieces for piano, his multifaceted musical personality also embraced a vein of contemplation that makes an early appearance in *Sposalizio*. The gold-hued temple that towers over Raphael's painting suggests the sound of an organ, while the bright red and green colors in the wedding party's clothing are conveyed by the piano's piquant tone. Thus arose the concept of our transcription for organ and piano duet, enhancing both the festive and meditative aspects of Liszt's devotional rhapsody.

— Rudy Shackelford

Bethany UMC Prayer List	
BETHANY FAMILY	
CANCER/CHEMO: Krista Chase, Billy Hogge, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Fred Niethamer, Cathy Raines, Linwood Rowe, Larry Whitfield	
GRIEVING: Families of Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, Iva Belvin, Clyde Burton, Lonnie Byrd, Bessie Conner, Jim Durette, Kira Fox, Judy Hudgins, Larry A. Johnson, Doris Luther, Debbie Durette Potter	
HEALTH ISSUES: David Cecil, Dawn Cluts, Billy Davis, John Farrow, Estelle Harris, Jean Heywood, David Hoover, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul & Nancy Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Alice Northam, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman, Rosemarie Tong	
HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace, Lavalle Wilson	
PARKINSON'S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White	
RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Tom Barnard, Darlene Bauschatz, Mary Linda Brooks, Betty Durette, Sarah Hillard, Barbara Holtry, Shannon Minor, M.E. Thomas	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Peyton Arthur, Fran Bonnaville, Kendall Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Bill Edwards, John Gordon, Traci Greene, Zachary Hoover, Connie Hutchinson, Sissi Mise, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Jeff Suntken, David Trotter, Shalini Upadhyaya, Jill Ward, Bob Wharen, Marian Williford	
GRIEVING: Families of Jennie Handley and Dale Handley, Leo Thomas Hogge, Zachary Thomas Hoover, Robert Howe, Sarah Jacobs, Pat Miller, Robin Moneypenny, Melissa Anne Quesenberry, Gordon Scott, Melissa Sutton, Robert Tucker, Josh Wilson	
HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Sharon Acree, Connie Bowler, Kathryn Bjers, Janet Burch, Juanita Duncan, Mabel Edwards, Jack Gibson, Jason Harney, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Val Hopkins, Adie Kurth, Jean Moon, Dylan Moore family, Jennifer Morecock, Sylvia Motley, Alicia Lynn Williams Naples, Rick Nichols, Annette Peiffer, Ken Pierkowski, Phillip Presson, Mary Ann Shackelford, Dixie Sharp, Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Carl Viens, Sandie Wharen, Sabrina Wickle, Robin Willman, Randy Wilson, Tracy Weingard	
RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Natalie Long	
OTHER PRAYERS: America, Ukraine; Israel; Middle East; UMC; Andrew Lee, Missionary in Cambodia	
ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (<i>italics—Bethany friends</i>)	
<i>Michael Brown, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long, Will Neikirk, Jim Minor, Ben Szulgit, All members of the military.</i>	
ASSISTED LIVING	
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 106 Jean Heywood, Rm 110
Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061	Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Carolyn Scott, Rm 208
Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130
Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149	Jennie Lipscomb