



Bethany United Methodist Church
1860 Hayes Road • Gloucester Point VA 23062
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Phone: 804.642.2110 **Email:** admin@bethanyumc-gp.org;
Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Media Team: Scott Berry, Aidan Dumbrocyo, Susannah Hogge, Jeremy Nardozi, Cathy Raines
Altar Guild this month: Pauline Reimold, Lynne Barnes, Diana Simmons
Liturgist: Judy Burner
Trustee Contact this week: Milton Hudgins
Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
Greeters: Jack and Nina Whitmore
Counting Team: Loreen Paiva, Jackie Hampton, Betty Neikirk

STEWARDSHIP	12/7
General Fund	5,979.15
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	240.00
Endowment Fund (memorial)	50.00
Upsy Daisy	10,000.00
Memorial	20,000.00
ATTENDANCE	12/7
Informal Worship - 8:30	37
Traditional Worship – 11:00	55
Online Worship	66
Total in Worship	158

BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. John Choi, Pastor	Cell: 703.384-3521; office: 804.642.2110 Email: johnchoi@vaumc.org
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office 804.642.2110 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Cell: 757.329.6128 Email: foxysander@outlook.com
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home: 804.642.5938; cell 804.413.0211
Ellie Fountain, Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries	Office: 804.642.2110 Email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org



December 14, 2025 **10:00 a.m.**

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME EVERYONE! Thank you for worshiping with us!

— As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship. —
**Please stand as you are able and please silence your mobile devices.*

Intrada	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Ludwig van Beethoven
	Based upon “Ode to Joy,” from <i>Symphony No. 9</i>	(15 Dec. 1770-1827)

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Choi

Advent Candle Lighting Gwen & Grady Wesson
“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.”

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
Many search for happiness, but joy comes from
fellowship with God in Christ, and with one another.
O come, Emmanuel.
In your presence there is fullness of joy.

***Call to Worship** Judy Burner
Leader: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things,
who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.
Congregation: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.
Congregation: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We lift up our voices in song and story,
in prayer and praise,
as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.
Congregation: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

All: Come! Let us worship God with joy
as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

*Hymn	Angels from the Realms of Glory	UMH 220
Opening Prayer		Judy Burner
Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.		
Anthem	Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)	Praise Team
Children’s Time		Ellie Fountain
The Lord’s Prayer		UMH No. 895
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.		
Meditation	The Wedding of Mary and Joseph, from “Years of Pilgrimage: Italy” Transcribed for organ-piano duet by Rudy Shackelford, Performed in memory of David Chapin	Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
“Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto Him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” - Matthew 1:20		
*Scripture Reading	Matthew 1: 18-25 The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	Judy Burner
Sermon	“God With Us”	Pastor John Choi
Intercession		
Affirmation of Faith	The Apostles Creed (Ecumenical Version)	UMH 882
Offering and Offertory Prayer		Pastor John Choi
Offertory	Prayer to Notre Dame, from “Gothic Suite” “I feel that, in the Heavens above, The angels, whispering to one another, Can find, among their burning terms of love, None so devotional as that of ‘Mother’.” - Edgar Allan Poe	Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

*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		
*Hymn	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	UMH 218
*Benediction		Pastor John Choi
*Closing Chorus	Emmanuel, Emmanuel Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat once)	UMH 204
Exodus	Angels We Have Heard on High	UMH 238

NOTE ON THE WEDDING OF MARY AND JOSEPH

Our Meditation 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

