

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 8

Issue 5

November 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

November is a time when most of us think about Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving. It is one holiday the advertising industry has not turned into a total commercial bonanza, not yet anyway. Thanksgiving is all about our gratefulness to God for our many blessings.

However, November is more than Thanksgiving Day. It includes a time change, Veterans Day, and this year, a Presidential election, probably one of the most important elections any of us will ever encounter. However, in the life of the Church, it also includes *All Saints Day, Christ the King Sunday, and the First Sunday of Advent.*

This year has certainly been different and it seems like our lives have been turned upside down. We missed out on some important holiday gatherings and events, such as *Holy Week, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.* On the other hand, did we really miss out on those events? Didn't each of those days still take place? *Holy Week and Easter*, the most important time within the Church, was still remembered and celebrated because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, even if it was in a different way.

So much has changed in our lives in the last seven months at home, at work, at Church, and within our country; but the one thing that has not changed, is God's love for us. The world may turn its back on God, but God will never turn His back on us. There may be consequences for our actions, but God still loves us and wants the best for us and the world He created.

Therefore, each one of us has much for which to be thankful. Whatever has happened in your life this past year, God's holy presence has been with you throughout. Each one of us has still been able to worship our Lord, whether from home, our cars or any other place, for we worship wherever we are, as the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Whatever the world throws at us, no one can take that away. God will always be the Triune God, who loved us so much, He came in the flesh to show us.

Which is why, however or wherever we end up worshipping during Advent and on Christmas Eve, we worship all the same. Will this year look different? Yes. Will it mean any less? Prayerfully not.

This newsletter contains information for the month of November only, because the rest is unknown at this time. Our December newsletter will also be for only one month. We will again have a bimonthly newsletter beginning with January and February.

May we all be thankful that we have the opportunity to worship the Lord for His many and mighty blessings. May you and your family have a very blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Debra



**Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC
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

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Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Child Care Director

Erica Shanahan
336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Debbie Brady



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www.facebook.com/BUMC.nc

Visit our Website at

bethlehemumc.org

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Join Us for WORSHIP 10:00am

November Sermon Series

GIVING THANKS

- Nov. 1 For the Cloud of Witnesses
- Nov. 8 To the Giving God
- Nov. 15 Gene Flinchum Preaching
- Nov. 22 To the King We Serve
- Nov. 29 ADVENT BEGINS

All Saint's Sunday Nov. 1st

This worship service will be outside Drive-in and live streamed.

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Indoor Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Date TBD

PLEASE read the information mailed to all members so you are informed as to what to expect and what is required. LIMIT 41 inside

Drive-In Worship and live stream will still be available options for those who do not feel comfortable coming inside.

VETERAN'S Sunday, November 8th



Immediately following the worship service, please join us at the Memorial Garden for Laying of the Wreath Ceremony

We thank all veterans for your love for and service to this country, The United States of America. We Salute You!

THE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Due to Covid 19, we will not be participating in a community Thanksgiving Service.



Children's/Family Ministry

Children's/Family Ministry events/activities are still guided by Covid 19 restrictions. Please contact - Gail Williams, Children's Coordinator (336)314-1668 or Layne Downing, Family Coordinator (336)317-5722 for information.

YOUTH LINK

Youth activities continue to be affected by Covid 19 restrictions. To find our specifics on meetings and activities, please contact Reba Lamb, Youth Director at rebaelamb@yahoo.com or call her at 336-953-7376.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ongoing

- Vicky Alexander
- Martha Boren
- Jack Bowman
- Suzie Branch
- Evelyn Churchill
- Edna Coble
- Jane Dunham
- Ronda Faggart
- Cory Fields
- Kelsey Garrett
- Nancy Golden
- Ruby Hockett
- Clyde Land
- Lucille McClintock
- Jamie O'Daniel
- Bobby Tew
- Our Homebound

Immediate

- Rev. Ed Armfield (retired minister from Burnett's Chapel)
- James Brownsfield (friend of Marjorie Mabe)
- Elaine Flinchum (Gene Flinchum's mom)
- Betty Hull
- Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
- Marjorie Mabe
- Mildred Moser
- Dicky Parks
- Preston Ryan (acquaintance of Cindy Franklin)
- Francis Snow
- Bobbie Westmoreland (Linda Duncan's cousin)

Military

- Matthew Jones (friend of Londa Parks)
- Randall Shaver (Sherri Bowman's son)

OTHER MINISTRY

Adopting a Bible Life Verse

Submitted by Andrew Coward

Do you have a *Bible Life Verse*? You should. Mine is Galatians 2:20, and here is how *the Message* puts it:

"Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you, or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that."

Each of us has within us **the Spirit of Power** and **the Spirit of Jesus**. It is up to us to appeal to these and through constant acts of faith, to draw upon and use these. Then, our *Bible Life Verse* will become as much a truth of experience to us as it was to Paul. And we can say, *"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*

ARLENE STOKES CIRCLE

We want to thank everyone who has participated in our pecan, persimmon, and flavorings sales. At this writing, we still have a few of each left at Margaret's Salon, Londa's Shop, and at Styles by Lyn in Pleasant Garden. For pecans (\$10/pound) and flavoring (\$3.50/bottle), call Shirley Hackett (336) 676 – 0485 or Phyllis Wicker (336) 685 – 9322, and for persimmon pulp (\$7/pint), call Cindy Fields at (336) 674 – 6858. Happy Baking!



OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



Stewardship Campaign has been postponed until early 2021

However, our stewardship of the blessings and gifts God has provided us has not been and never will be postponed. How has God blessed you and your family, especially this year?

ELECTION DAY November 3rd



If you have not already done so, we encourage you to vote.

CHARGE CONFERENCE



Sunday, Nov. 8 @ 6:30
ALL Church Council members should plan to attend.

Pastor Debra will also be taking a vacation day Sunday, November 15th

THE CHURCH OFFICE Will Be CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 26th

Contacting the Pastor

Should you need to reach the Pastor, please call either the church office or her cell phone, 704-604-1128. If she does not answer, please leave a message and she will return your call.

Please be respectful of her family time and call only between the hours of 9:00am – 8:00pm M-Th, Sun. However, should there be an emergency, please do not hesitate to call her at any time, day or night.

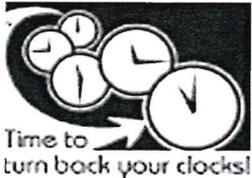
Pastor Debra's day off is typically Friday and her Sabbath is Friday evening - Saturday 4:00pm

Happy Thanksgiving



From the staff at Bethlehem UMC

*Robin Bunton
Laura Cranfill Reba Lamb
Jane Reddick Lesley Song
Pastor Debra*



**Don't forget.....
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 1st.**
Turn your clocks **back** 1 hour
and enjoy sleeping in!



The financial records of Bethlehem United Methodist Church are required to be audited annually. This is not always easy because certain expertise is required to verify the records and procedures of the treasurer and count team.

Whitney Routh Reilly agreed to use her knowledge and expertise to audit the church's 2019 financial records. This is a fine example of good stewardship in which we use our tithes, time, and talents to further the kingdom of God. We are grateful to Whitney for the *time* and talent she has donated to her church. She has given us a clean audit for the year 2019.

Thank you, Whitney, for a job well done and greatly appreciated.

Frank Willis
Stewardship & Finance Chair



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE...

The information in this issue of the newsletter covers only November. The church office will notify you of changes, additions, etc. via the church phone tree and/or emails. (Please make sure Robin has your email address, if you have not already submitted it to be included on group emails.)

There are no calendar inserts in the newsletter, but here are some dates/activities to remember:

Sun., Nov. 1	All Saints Sun. (Drive-in 10AM)
Mon., Nov. 2	Walking Group (6:45PM)
Tues., Nov. 3	Election Day
Wed., Nov. 4	Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Wed., Nov. 4	Child Care Board (7PM)
Thurs., Nov. 5	Trustees (7:30PM)
Sun., Nov. 8	Drive-in worship (10AM)
Sun., Nov. 8	Laying/Wreath (follows worship)
Sun., Nov. 8	Charge Conf. (6:30PM)
Wed., Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Wed., Nov. 11	Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., Nov. 15	Gene Flinchum Preaches
Mon., Nov. 16	Walking Group (6:45PM)
Wed., Nov. 17	Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Sun., Nov. 22	Christ the King Sunday
Mon., Nov. 23	Child/Fam Mins. (6:30PM)
Wed., Nov. 25	Youth Bible Study (6:30PM)
Thurs., Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day
Sun., Nov. 29	1 st Sunday of Advent

Please call Robin in the church office at (336) 674-0155 with any changes or additions to the November calendar.

BIRTHDAYS

November

11/1	Matthew Garrett Amanda Parks
11/3	Denny Spencer
11/5	Kaila Hill
11/6	Sharon Hill
11/10	Justin Windsor
11/11	Pat Coble Sarah Hinshaw Annie Mae Jones Jean Greeson
11/12	Vickie Flinchum Karen Lauder Madison Nance Kathy Wilkinson
11/13	Fred Cook
11/14	Ronda Faggart Phil Smith Carol Williams
11/17	Jonathan King Nathan Pipe

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Acknowledgement: Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in memory/honor as listed. BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Steve Alley**
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum
By Jane Williams

In Memory of **Brad Fields**
By Karen Barbone
By Jane Chamelin
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy
By Carol Fields
By Jeanette Fields
By Steve & Cindy Fields
By Gene & Vickie Flinchum
By Jane Williams
By Cathy Wray

In Memory of **James Lester "Pete" Griffin**
By Jane Williams
By the Young-at-Heart Class

In Memory of **Scott Hackett**
By Shirley Hackett

In Memory of **Jerry Hilliard**
By Carol Williams

In Memory of **Rev. Kenneth
& Sara Helen Moore**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Sara Helen Moore**
By Buddy & Judy Fields

11/18	Emily Lauder Gail Williams Mario Massarelli
11/19	Will Rivers
11/22	Nancy Kivett Terry Owens
11/23	Doug Garrett Franklin Stevens
11/26	Frank Willis
11/27	Ginny Fields
11/28	Tim Fields Bobby Tew
11/29	Ethan Hill Wayne Moser
11/30	Mark Allen Beverly Culbertson
<u>December</u>	
12/5	Gene Flinchum
12/9	Cory Fields Luke Hinshaw
12/10	Holley Wicker
12/11	Erin Edwards Dawn White Charles Wells
12/13	Wayne Alley Karon Monnett
12/15	Jerry Berry Jerry Monnett
12/17	Nelle Haywood Jane Chamelin
12/19	Grant Allen
12/21	David Fields
12/23	Leigh Garrett
12/26	Amber Cook Cindy Franklin Leah Fields
12/27	Joy Cranfill Logan Royal
12/28	Cindy Duncan
12/29	Marjorie Mabe
12/30	Andrew Coward
12/31	David Allen

Happy Birthday!

In Memory of **Tracy Michael O'Daniel, Sr.**

By Jane Williams

In Memory of **Betty Wilkins**

By Jane Chamelin

By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy

By Buddy & Judy Fields

By Carol Fields

By Kelly & Betty Fields

By Steve & Cindy Fields

By Gene & Vickie Flinchum

By Nancy Golden

By Shirley Hackett

By Annie Jenkins

By Myrtle Leonard

By PG High School Class of 1955

By Jim Smith

By Phyllis Wicker

By Jane Williams

By Frank & Julia Willis

By Cathy Wray

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **Kelly & Betty Fields**



THANKSGIVING DAY

By Lydia Maria Child

*Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.*

*Over the river, and through the wood—
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose
As over the ground we go.*

*Over the river, and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring
"Ting-a-ling-ding",
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!*

*Over the river, and through the wood
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!*

*Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting-hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day.*

*Over the river, and through the wood,
And straight through the barn-yard gate.
We seem to go
Extremely slow,—
It is so hard to wait!*

*Over the river and through the wood—
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!*

Looking Ahead

Please look and listen for information in the coming weeks regarding decorating and worship during Advent and Christmas.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for September 2020

\$365,371.15 Total Budget Money Available September 1, 2020
22,776.35 Money Received in September
- 19,827.45 Money Spent in September
\$368,320.05 Total Budget Money Available September 30, 2020

For the month of September, 2020, the Church Budget received \$2,948.90 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$29,861.86 more than it spent.

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.

\$30,857.61 Total MM&RF Money Available September 30, 2020

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	Bible Study Books	\$ <72.67>
Food Pantry	\$ 1,964.60	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 5,252.29	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,362.98
UMYF	\$22,450.64	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 302.85
Family Ministries	\$ 462.40	Cemetery Fund	\$ 23,939.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 2,118.94
Flowers	\$ 136.75	Arbor Fund	\$ 935.37
Camp Meeting Fund	\$ <700.16>	Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46
		PPP	\$ <4,569.50>

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available September 30, 2020 \$73,895.52

\$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.

\$51,142.42 **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 United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

