



Bethel Presbyterian Church

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THE OPEN DOOR

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December 2018

Dear Friends,

Advent begins on December 2. I know "Christmas" is all around us. Stores began putting out Christmas items before Halloween was even over. Black Friday sales got lots of folks in the shopping spirit and many neighborhoods are already covered with lights and wreaths and smiling Santas. But for us in the church, Christmas is still a ways off. Before we get there, on Dec. 24th, there is much for us to be about though.

Advent is a season of preparation as we get ready to receive again the Christ Child into our midst. We can think about what might need to clear of our hearts and minds to have space to receive the Christ Child. What might we need to change in our own lives to make space to love and care for this other? As we make our preparations it is also good to remember the story of this baby Jesus. Re-telling the story of how we came into the world is important, so is re-telling Jesus' story.

You see, we await in this season of Advent the one who came as a poor child, to poor, unwed parents. We await the one who was welcomed by shepherds and angels and magi but hunted by the powerful Herod. We await the one who very soon in his young life became a migrant and a refugee as his family left their home and went to a foreign land in order to keep their young child safe. We await the one who came in vulnerability and need.

So take time this Advent to ponder what it means to await such a one, what it means to welcome such a one. What does it mean for our own lives, for the Christmas we will celebrate, for the ways we will choose to welcome those in our midst today? Christmas will come, without a doubt, but don't rush it. Wait, ponder, imagine, dream and hope as you light candles, sing songs, and pray this Advent Season. When we do, Christmas will indeed be filled with lasting joy.

Grace and peace,
Wendy

Christmas Pageant and Supper

Please join us for the Christmas Pageant and Supper on Wednesday, December 19th. We will share a potluck supper at 6:30, in the Fellowship Hall. The Christmas Pageant will immediately follow the supper. After the pageant we will enjoy finger desserts in the Fellowship Hall.

Children's Choir/Harp Girls

The Bethel girls harp group will offer a song during worship this month. The girls harp group will continue to practice during December. The next practice will be held at 5 pm on Wednesday, December 5th.



Any child who would like to sing in the Christmas Eve church service can attend practice on Wednesdays, the 5th, 12th, and 19th at 5:30 pm in the Choir Room.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will take off during the month of December. We will resume Bible Study on January 10, 2019.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship

Join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship on Monday, December 24th at 8 pm. We will also receive the Baby Jesus offering during the service. Please bring baby items such as baby food, formula, diapers, wipes, etc. for babies in need in our community.



Christmas
EVE

Laundry Love

Bethel is planning our third Laundry Love Day! Laundry Love is a mission that helps families in need with the cost of doing laundry. We provide quarters and the laundry supplies, as well as fellowship and a few snacks for those in need of laundry services in our community.

The first Laundry Love Day was well received, but only 10 families participated. The second Laundry Love Day was also well received, with a much larger number of families participating. It was a full house at the laundromat! We had all washers and dryers in use with the families we were serving.

We are planning another Laundry Love Day on January 15th. We are in need of additional funds to support this project, which serves a great need in our community. If you would like to help with this project, donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays. Please designate your gift to Laundry Love.



Laundry
Love

Doing Our Part

As part of an Earth Care Congregation program, we have a Cell Phone Recycle Box located in the Gathering Area. We also recycle ink cartridges and toner. These can be dropped off in the church office. **Please place items in a bag.**

H.O.M.E. Food Collection



Thank you to everyone who contributed food for our November

HOME collection, and supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community. For the month of December, our focus foods will be **Baby Supplies** (diapers, pull ups, wipes, lotion, shampoo, diaper rash cream, baby bath, etc.). These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area. **Our in-worship collection will be Monday, Dec. 24th during the Christmas Eve Service at 8 pm.**

memorials & gifts

In memory of Chris Badger from The Badger Family
Frank and Marilyn Harris
Liz Singley

In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from Mark and Kathy Banker
Jim and Mary B. Hines

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Carl, June and Carlyle Henley from
Anita Nerhus

Fair Trade

Mandy Knies will have the Fair Trade cart in the gathering area, on Sundays, while the Christmas and Holiday chocolate is still in stock.

Limited Edition chocolate bars from Divine Chocolate are available for \$3 a bar. Milk Chocolate with spiced cookie is available, along with in stock coffee, tea and olive oil.

The next ordering period will be January 6-13th.



- 11 Krista Kolwyck
- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando Vanegas Jr.
- 14 Bob Jones
Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 28 David Standridge
Maria Vanegas
- 29 Jessica Choate
Jim Schall

Thank You

Gary Lemasters and Gail would like to say Thank You to all of our Bethel Family for their prayers and support during their time of loss. It is greatly appreciated!

Reminders:

- The church office will be closed on Dec 25th and 26th
- **Looking Ahead:** Laundry Love night January 15th.

Kids Activities



CHRISTMAS
joy

Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



What you need:

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

What you do:

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

PUZZLE

Joy to the
WORLD

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

Directions: Circle all the complete small "joy" words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find "Jesus" amid all the joy!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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TOTAL JOY=_____

Answer 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y): Jesus is at the bottom of the large O

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Faith Team 12:15 pm Hanging of the Greens 3:30 pm	3	4	5 Harp at 5 Children's Choir 5:30 pm	6 Book Club 10	7	8
9 2nd Sunday in Advent Presbytery Youth Gathering 3 pm	10	11	12 Children's Choir 5:30 pm	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday in Advent Session 12:15	17	18	19 Children's Choir 5:30 pm Christmas Pageant and Supper 6:30	20	21	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent	24 Christmas Eve Service 8pm	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Years Eve					

EACH WEEK:

Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club Monday 10-Noon & Monday 5-7 pm

Taoist Tai Chi: Tuesday 6-7:30 pm, Friday & Saturday 10-11:30 am

Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7 pm

Yoga: Thursdays 5:30 pm