



Bethel Bell

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

A Word From the Pastor

Friends,

There's a hymn that always comes to mind as we approach Holy Week. It's a slow, somber hymn called "Ah, Holy Jesus." The first three verses are:

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.*

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.*

This is the tragic story we remember each year at Holy Week. That Holy Jesus, righteous and innocent, was executed on a Roman cross. That before he was executed, he was whipped and mocked and abused. That his closest followers left him to go through this alone. That he was abandoned. And most tragically, that all this occurred because of your sin and my sin.

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Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Palm Sunday - April 10
- Holy Thursday - April 14
- Good Friday - April 15
- Easter - April 17
- April's Communion Offering;
Rising Hope
Project Mend a House



HAVE A BLESSED
Easter

Scripture Readings for April

- April 6: — Luke 4:1-13
- April 10: — Luke 23:1-49
- April 17: — Luke 24:1-12
- April 24: — Luke 23:1-49

A Word From the Pastor continued

But this story is also a wonderful story because through the Holy Spirit, God raised Jesus to life anew. And through the resurrection of Christ, sin no longer holds dominion over us. Death no longer holds dominion over us. That we are free to live in the love and grace of God.

This year we will remember that Christ offered us his very life that we might know God's grace. This year we will celebrate that Jesus lives and that we too live in the love of God. This year we will remember that when we turned away and our love failed, God's love remained steadfast. That while we were sinners, Christ died for us. That when we could do nothing for ourselves, God interceded.

May you experience the grace and love of God demonstrated through Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Matt



2022 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

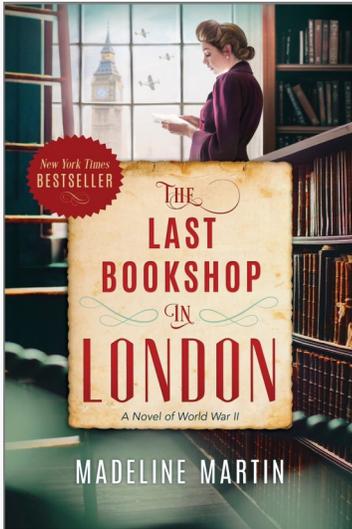
If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or celebration of someone, the 2022 calendar is available.

The cost is \$35.00.
Take the flowers home after service, or gift them to your special someone.

Contact: Karen Johnston
kjohnston@bethelumc.org
703-670-4929



We are currently
reading:



Bethel Book Club

Next Meeting: April 19, 7:00pm

POC Kay Hall 703-670-4929

We met on March 15 at Kay Hall's home. A great time was had socializing and discussing March's book. We missed some of our ladies, but also welcomed some new comers! Hope to see you all next month!

Our next book is "The Last Bookshop in London" by Madeline Martin. We would love to have you join us! Happy Reading!

Can you serve just a couple of hours a month? Join the Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild is a "Behind the Scenes" group of men and women who come together in teams to prepare the sanctuary for worship



- . 2 hours once a month
- Prepare Communion
- Assist in decorating for the holidays
- Care for the plants
- Set linens on the Communion table
- Fill the oil lamps
- Restocking the pews



Being part of the Altar Guild lets you enjoy conversation with your Altar Guild partner and even spend time quietly in the sanctuary in prayer! It is a great opportunity to serve in a meaningful way in a non-time consuming job!

For more information contact Debbie Kimberlin 703-670-4929



Cloverdale School



Scholastic Book Fair



Join us

Creating connections on every page.

We will be in the Fellowship Hall the week of

April 4-8

Stories create connections and tie us together wherever we are. Scholastic Book Fairs empower kids to find the stories that speak to them. They create community as we safely join each other in a shared love of reading, and help provide support for the schools need. We can't wait to connect with you.

Give us a call to learn more.

703-670-8695



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 10, 2022

8:30AM BUMM BREAKFAST

9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 14, 2022

7:00PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 15, 2022

7:00PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 17, 2022

8:30AM BUMM BREAKFAST

6:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE

(IN FRONT OF CHURCH)

9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

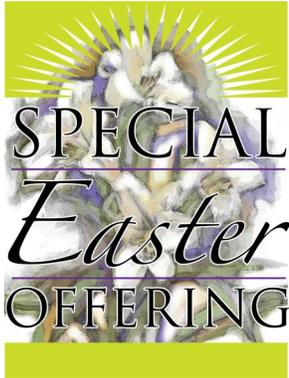
(CHILDCARE PROVIDED FOR ALL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES
AFTER 9:00AM)

As you
SENT ME
into the world,
so I have
SENT THEM
into the world.
John 17:18, ESV

Bethel Is On A Mission!



Missions Chairperson Karen Johnston
kjohnston@bethelumc.org



As a part of our **annual Lent tradition**, we picked a project and a mission to support with our boxes, and our eggs. The Easter eggs are supporting one of our favorite missions, "The Heifer Project". The Lenten boxes are supporting our own raising of funds for "Phase 2" new AV projectors, so we can share our services and God's word with one another, and our neighbors. Please be sure to include your names in or on the eggs and boxes so that proper credit can be given to you for your generosity. Eggs and boxes will be collected as a part of our Easter services. Look for the Easter basket during the offertory at Sunrise Service. It will be on the altar during our Traditional Easter Service.

We served 50 homeless friends and staff at the **Lord's Table**, March 10th. Thank you to those that contributed to a yummy supper, as usual! The gentlemen taking the food in were extremely thankful. They asked if we could come back again real soon, because it all looked so delicious! We certainly do know how to feed people here at Bethel. Yummy meals, our hearts with fellowship from our church family, God's love and our souls, through worship and bible studies.

Speaking of feeding people, our week at the **Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center** is upon us! All 7 dinners have been planned, and our volunteers are ready to cook up a storm. Extra supplies are being donated by other members, and funds have been donated to cover what else is needed. Thank you, thank you, thank you for loving our neighbors, as God would have us do.

In April, the **BUMMs** will be feeding us on **Palm Sunday (April 10)** and between **Easter Sunday** services (**April 17**). So come enjoy the delicious **breakfast** spread that our wonderful BUMMs prepare for us, as we enjoy fellowship with one another during such a special time of year.

During **February**, your **Communion offering (\$185)** went to help those with developmental disabilities through Heart Havens. Likewise, **World Vision (\$185)** helps empower kids and their families by equipping them to create lasting change for themselves and their communities, and by building resilience for the future.

March's Communion went towards our fundraising effort for the next Rise Against Hunger packaging event in the fall. We will continually be raising the funds until we get enough to package at least 10,000 meals for children and their families. From 2014, when we first began this journey with Pastor Joe, through last fall watching Pastor Matt box up meals with both of his sons, we have raised **\$39,545.20!** With the help of many donations, and dedicated volunteers, this means we were able to package 126,640 meals (that's a lot of banging that gong!). We donated 12 water filtration systems, and gave an additional \$700 to the Senegal Gardens Project. That's just what we have been able to accomplish so far! It's not too late, if you'd like to make a donation towards our next packaging event, please mark the donation amount on your envelope on the "Other" line for "Rise Against Hunger" or "RAH".

April's Communion is going to support both **Project Mend-A-House, and Rising Hope UMC.** **Project Mend-A-House** works with the Area Agency on Aging, Social Services agencies, and other non-profit organizations and groups, to reach out to low-income Prince William County or greater Manassas residents in need of help. Our donations will help provide home repairs to low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities, at no cost to them. A gift of time and talent makes a difference. More information for Project Mend a House can be found at: www.pmah.org

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church is located in Alexandria, VA. Our support has helped to distribute thousands of dollars worth of groceries to the needy, fed thousands of hot meals to the hungry, clothed hundreds who were cold, outfitted hundreds beginning new jobs, offered individualized assistance, counseling and referrals to many, and made innumerable disciples through their bible studies, smalls groups, and worship services. More information about Rising Hope UMC can be found at: www.risinghopeumc.org



Thanks for always being on a mission to share God's love with others!

Karen

Pssst.....When you have been the hands and feet of Jesus, don't forget to include those missions bookmarks (that are on the pews), in the offering plate along with your tithes and offerings. Our service to others is such a very important offering too. Praying that you all stay safe and well.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to pray - your needs are important to us. You can share your prayer needs on the card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate, or you can email your request to:

bethelumcprayerteam@verizon.net

I urge that SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, and THANKSGIVINGS

be made for everyone... 1 Timothy 2:1 NRSV

Occoquan District Dumpster Day

Save a trip to the landfill on Dumpster Day! Just in time for spring cleaning, Supervisor Boddye is partnering with Prince William County Public Works to make it convenient to dispose of old furniture, yard waste and non-hazardous items without leaving your neighborhood!

Dumpsters will be set up at Bethel United Methodist Church, from 10:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday, April 9.

They will also collect cleaned bottles and jars for glass recycling!

In conjunction, Rollingwood Village will be conducting a community cleanup as well from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beautifying the neighborhood and preventing litter from reaching Hooes Run. Volunteers welcome!

Dumpster
Day
Recycling
Station



Prince William County
**Neighborhood
Services**



Working with you for a better community!



Pictures with your Pet

Golden Years Pup Rescue is having a fundraiser at Bethel Historical Church on **Saturday April 2, 2022, and Saturday April 9, 12 noon till 4:00 pm.** For a donation of any amount, all pets and humans can come to meet the Easter Bunny, and get your photos taken with him. All proceeds will go to Golden Years Pup Rescue.org. Anyone interested in fostering a pup contact:

Debbie Womer Lumber

Deb@goldenyears puprescue.org.

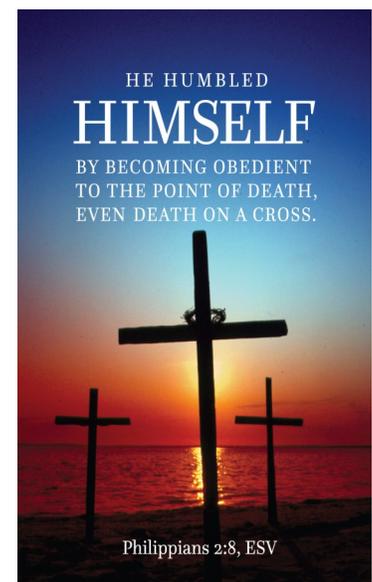
A Love Filled Victory

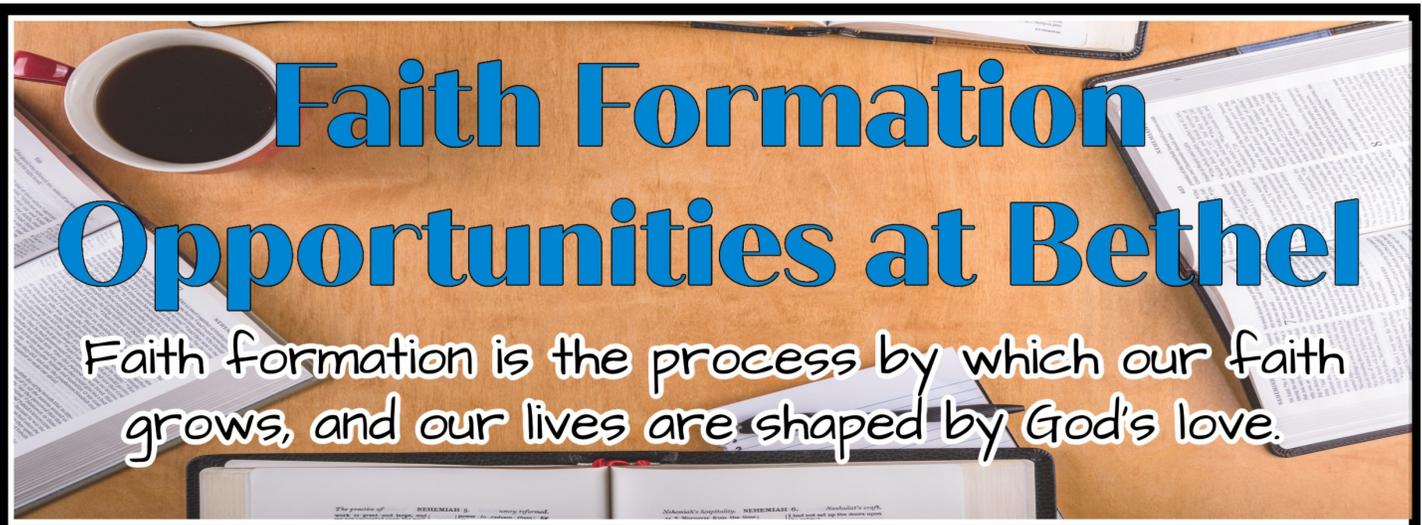
It's tough to read about Jesus' agony on the cross, where he felt "forsaken" by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn't desert Jesus — and doesn't desert us:

"God was not 'up there' watching the tragic events conspire 'down here.' God was *in Christ*, reconciling the world to himself," he writes. "If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God's cruelty; the fact that he was God's Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

"To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat," Yancey continues. "But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, 'I LOVE YOU.' Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us."

He concludes: "Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross."





Bible Studies

Zoom links available on the church calendar

<https://www.bethelumc.org/calendar/>

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

POC Pastor Matt mbenton@bethelumc.org

Tuesdays @ 10am via ZOOM

Women's Bible Study

POC Sheri Goad sgoad@bethelumc.org

Wednesdays @ 7pm via ZOOM

Sunday Evening Bible Study

POC Ed Wells

Sundays @ 5pm via ZOOM

Sunday School Classes

Zoom links available on the church calendar

<https://www.bethelumc.org/calendar/>

Breakfast and the Bible

POC John Etter

vjohn14@hotmail.com

443-797-3957

Sundays @ 8:30am Hybrid

In person in the Library

Zoom Option available.

(This study covers the scripture used in the weekly sermon. Feel free to bring your breakfast!)

Adult Sunday School

POC Steve Stoops and Jim Smith

Sundays @ 8:30am Hybrid

In person Room 5 & 6

Zoom Option available

If you are feeling lead to host a bible study or Sunday School class please reach out to Pastor Matt!
We would love to talk about your ideas!

Pastor Matthew J. Benton
Cell Phone: 703-599-8701
Email: mbenton@bethelumc.org

Sounds of Grace Bethel's Music Ministry

Director of Music Joe Swetnam / Choir Director Brandon Boling



ADD YOUR VOICE!

BETHEL CHANCEL CHOR

Join the Choir and SING praises to the Lord.

Practices weekly on Thursday nights @ 7:00pm.

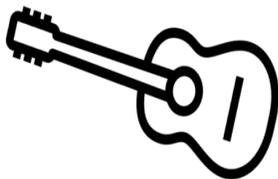
If you are interested in participating send a 🎵 to Brandon Boling!



Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Do you play an instrument?

Interested in joining the Praise Band? Come on out and join the band!

Practices weekly on Thursday nights @ 6:00pm.



Join the Solid Rock Ringers and ring praises to the Lord. We need ringers, and always need substitute ringers. We practice weekly on Wednesday nights @ 7:00pm. If you are interested in participating please give a jingle to:

Jan Womer at 703-670-5236 or email jmwomer@verizon.net for more information

Your participation would make an un-BELL-ievable difference!



Bethel United Methodist Church

Church Office: (703) 670-4929 Email: bethel@bethelumc.org Website: www.bethelumc.org

13506 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Rev. Matthew J. Benton, Pastor

Cell Phone: 703-599-8701 Email: mbenton@bethelumc.org

Bethel UMC Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Holy Communion:
1st Sunday - 10:00 AM Service
Baptism: as requested
Membership: as requested
Sundays:
10:00 am - Worship Service
Live streaming available:
You Tube - BethelLive4Christ

Tithe - Offering - Donations

We have set up a PayPal Giving Fund account for those who wish to donate online.



The link to our PayPal Giving Fund page is <http://bethelumc.org/donate>

April 2022 Assignments

Altar Guild

Debbie Kimberlin, Minnie Hale,
& Lee Williams

Communion Servers

Pam Oakes, Randy McHugh

Ushers

Lead: Rob Williams
Lee Williams
Harry Burket
Pam Oakes

Lay Readers

April 3: George Gero
April 10: Tonia Parker
April 17: Kevin McNamara
April 24: Rob Williams

Counters

April 3: Jane Harris & Karen Johnston
April 10: Karol Kaldenbach & Jordan Johnston
April 17: Kathleen Lee & Harry Burket
April 24: Terese Smith & Carolyn May

