



BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December 2019

As we enter a season of sacred thought the following is a guideline for prayer, contemplation and meditation and Study of the Word. This month I am sharing with the construct for you to read, absorb and practice with you favorite scripture. Next month and at other times in the coming months I will share a bible study using this same format.

"**Lectio Divina**", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. In the 12th century, a Carthusian monk called Guigo, described the stages which he saw as essential to the practice of Lectio Divina. There are various ways of practicing Lectio Divina either individually or in groups but Guigo's description remains fundamental.

He said that the first stage is lectio (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is meditatio (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminates upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is oratio (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is contemplatio (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice. As we listen, we are gradually transformed from within. Obviously, this transformation will have a profound effect on the way we actually live and the way we live is the test of the authenticity of our prayer. We must take what we read in the Word of God into our daily lives.

These stages of Lectio Divina are not fixed rules of procedure but simply guidelines as to how the prayer normally develops. Its natural movement is towards greater simplicity, with less and less talking and more listening. Gradually the words of Scripture begin to dissolve, and the Word is revealed before the eyes of our heart. How much time should be given to each stage depends very much on whether it is used individually or in a group. If Lectio Divina is used for group prayer, obviously more structure is needed than for individual use. In group prayer, much will depend on the type of group. Lectio Divina may involve discussing the implications of the Word of God for daily life but it cannot be reduced to this. The movement of the prayer is towards silence. If the group is comfortable with silence, more time could be spent resting in the Word.

The practice of Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures has been a fruitful source of growing in relationship with Christ for many centuries and in our own day is being rediscovered by many individuals and groups. The Word of God is alive and active and will transform each of us if we open ourselves to receive what God wants to give us.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land. Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

Food for Thought ... Pastor Todd

Christmas Eve Services



6:30 p.m.

Family Concert

7:00 p.m.

Family Service

10:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert

11:00 p.m.

Late Service

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December

Birthdays

Sarah Scott ~ 12/01

John Cairnes ~ 12/03

Kristin Kirkwood ~ 12/03

Lisa Calary ~ 12/04

Sherry Kirchner ~ 12/05

William Scott ~ 12/05

George Denbow ~ 12/06

Dick Walker ~ 12/07

John Shaul ~ 12/08

Carolina Galliher ~ 12/09

Steve Saneman ~ 12/09

Tom O'Neill ~ 12/12

Heather Saneman ~ 12/14

Ann Edie ~ 12/15

Mo Howard ~ 12/15

Theresa Sachs ~ 12/15

Kristin Comer ~ 12/18

Joan Murrell ~ 12/18

Rita Cairnes ~ 12/19

Abigail Lowe ~ 12/21

John Adair ~ 12/24

Susie Horn ~ 12/24

Lynda McRee ~ 12/30

Michael Alexander ~ 12/31



If you would like to send Carolyn Mattheiss a card or your well wishes, please forward all mail to:

Carolyn Mattheiss
800 Southerly Rd.
#HH112
Baltimore, MD 21286

She would love to hear from her Bethel Family.

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bobthesignman@yahoo.com

DEACON'S UPDATE

We uphold the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers and pray God's healing upon them:

Ongoing Prayers:

Gretchen Shanklin, Billy Gross, Jack Shaul, Jerry Wiley, Dorothy Goldstein, George Reeves, Carolyn Mattheiss, Sam Brooks and Barbara Thompson.

Rev. Bruce and Barbara Barstow, former pastor at Bethel and his wife.

Dan Kelleher, brother-in-law of Jack and Betty Rogers.

Howard Eisner, brother-in-law of Carol Morrow.

Dan Garey, brother of Sandy Louderback.

Lynn Zeichner, friend of Sandy Louderback.

Charlie Rozek, Sandy Hughes' nephew.

Olivia Demmler, friend of Carol Morrow.

Gail Kimble, niece of Tom & MaryLee Swift.

Hazel Liff, friend of Andi & Ron Holmes.

The Griffiths Family, friends of Don Scott.

Jim Freel, friend of Dan & Mary Beth Scott.

Kim Rutledge, wife of Jim Rutledge, friend of Dan & Mary Beth Scott.

The Wilson Family and The Comer Family.

Linda Rodarmel, cousin of Marsha Brooks.

Gail Lowe will be updating the Prayer Concerns. If you would like to add someone or you feel someone can be removed from the list, please call Gail at 443-567-0150 or email her at ggalowe@aol.com



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support and recent donation of \$500 toward our 2019 Building on Faith Appeal.

Your generosity helps ensure more families in Harford and Cecil Counties have safe, affordable places to call home.

We are grateful you are a supporter and partner in helping improve Harford & Cecil Counties together.

With Gratitude,
Karen Blanford
Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity

Dear Friends of Bethel,

Thank you so very much for your generous contribution to Shared Ministry within the Presbytery. It means so much! You're helping to provide for our Ministry Groups and Commissions to support and encourage your congregation and many others. It gives us all the ability to work together to strengthen our leaders and engage in missions that make a difference.

Blessings in Christ,
Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby
Susquehanna Parish Ministry Group



2019
Per Capita
Reminder

Please be sure to turn in your portion of this year's Per Capita fee of **\$35.73** before the end of the year ... thank you !

Church Events

Deacons Luncheon



On Sunday, November 3rd, the Bethel Deacons provided the congregation a special delicious luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. They presented each Bethel Family with a commemorative crystal bell ornament in recognition of our 250th Anniversary. If your family did not receive the ornament, please contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office. We are very grateful and blessed to have this incredible group of women watching over the congregation.



Ice Cream Devotional

Our Sunday School children enjoyed a time of fellowship, reflection and devotion over some delicious ice cream on Sunday, November 10th. We hope you had the opportunity to partake in this fun and inspiring way of spending time with your Bethel Family.



Church Events

Harvest Home Sunday

There is no better feeling in the world than when you are helping others during a time of need. Bethel Church came together on Sunday, November 17th for worship and to donate much needed non-perishable food items for the Mason Dixon Community Services food pantry that will be used for distribution to families in our area who are in crisis. We were able to supply them with 235 pounds of food! Thank you for your generosity and sharing with those who are less fortunate!



Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Christian Education Committee and the Sunday School Students and Youth Groups enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner together on Tuesday, November 26th in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to those who donated dishes and helped make this evening a wonderful time of fellowship.



Church Events

Guests to Our Service

We had the pleasure of having Harford County Executive Barry Glassman as our Guest Liturgist on Sunday, November 10th at which time he presented our congregation with a Proclamation. We were also blessed to have Rev. Jack Carlson as our guest minister on Sunday, November 17th at which time he too presented the congregation with a certificate from the Presbytery General Assembly.



The Honorable Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive
Sunday, November 10, 2019



Rev. Jack Carlson
State Clerk of the Presbytery
Sunday, November 17, 2019

Church Events

Advent Luncheon

The Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to attend our Advent Luncheon on ...

Sunday ~ December 1st

Immediately following Worship Service, join us for an afternoon of Caroling, Fellowship, and an Advent Devotion.

Please be sure to reserve your place at the luncheon by calling Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org

Christmas Poinsettias



The most wonderful time of the year is approaching and we invite you to share your memories with us by acknowledging a loved one or friend with a donation for the poinsettia decorations we provide each year to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

Please be sure to contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org if you would like to make a donation.

Donation forms will be available in your Sunday bulletins soon.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day bring in the item listed and put it in the box. The items collected will be donated to the Mason Dixon Community Service Food Pantry. Please help our Sunday School Students give the gift of nutrition this Christmas Season.

December 1 st	Box of Cereal	December 13 th	Canned Beans
December 2 nd	Peanut Butter	December 14 th	Box of Crackers
December 3 rd	Stuffing Mix	December 15 th	Package of Rice
December 4 th	Instant Potatoes	December 16 th	Packaged Oatmeal
December 5 th	Macaroni & Cheese	December 17 th	Packaged Dry Pasta
December 6 th	Canned Fruit	December 18 th	Spaghetti Sauce
December 7 th	Canned Tomatoes	December 19 th	Canned Soup
December 8 th	Canned Tuna	December 20 th	Canned Ravioli
December 9 th	Jelly	December 21 st	Canned Corn
December 10 th	Jar of Applesauce	December 22 nd	Canned Mix Veggies
December 11 th	Canned Spaghetti O's	December 23 rd	Canned Carrots
December 12 th	Spam	December 24 th	Canned Green Beans

Thank you for your support, generosity, and for helping our community.



Merry Christmas



Church Events

Christmas Caroling & Celebration Party

Please join us for Caroling at the homes of our church members on ...

December 15th at 3:00 p.m.

We will return to Bethel Church after our Caroling to have a Christmas Party & Movie Event

We will tentatively start the Christmas Party at 5:00 p.m. but this is depending on the length of time we spend caroling.

Children and youth are encouraged to bring a \$5 gift card to use for a gift exchange.

Please **RSVP** to Chrissie Galliher
443-807-2367 or chrissiegirl24@gmail.com



Each year, the Deacons of Bethel Church organize a Giving Tree that is decorated with envelopes for donations that will be used to purchase Walmart gift cards. These gift cards will be distributed to our local elementary schools for children in need this Christmas season.

The Giving Tree will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary on December 1st and you can help by taking an envelope, make a donation, and put your envelope in the Offering Plate.

Let us all be the guiding light this Christmas season to children in our community who are in need of our kindness, love, and your generosity.

Thank you for your support ♥

Church Events

Christmas with Quorus



***Sunday ~ December 22nd
at 6:00 p.m.***

We invite you to join us for an evening
of wonderful holiday music and fellowship
with a light fare reception to follow

We will have a *Free-Will Offering*
to help benefit Quorus

Recognizing Our Community

Join Us,

Our occupations and how we carry them out, affirms our faith.

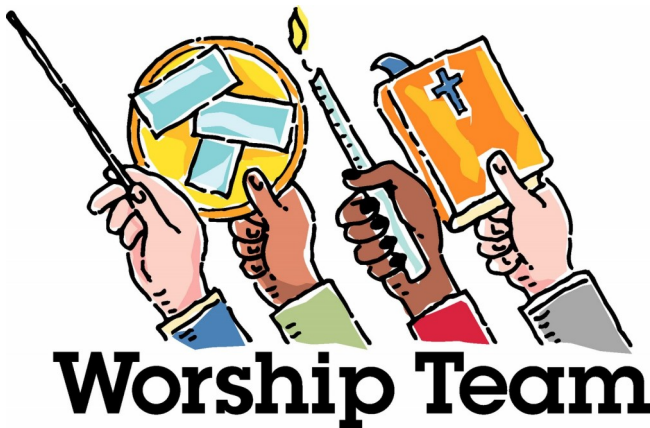
We have been recognizing occupations of our members and our community each month of this year of celebration and on this month of December we plan to recognize those engaged in **Volunteer and Faith Services**: Our Pastor, Youth Leaders, Organist, Choir Members, Lay Speakers, Sunday School Teachers, Liturgists, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and the entire congregation should be recognized for all the diverse ways each member lives their faith through serving on Church Committees and in Mission services, Volunteers in hospital service, School Aides, Library Helpers, and those who Volunteer in Retirement Facilities.

Join us during the worship service, **Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.** as we give thanks to our Lord for guiding those in the Faith Services.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Rev. Todd D. Smith
Minister

Ruth Walker
Committee Member



Moments in Time

We have come to the end of our *Trip Down Memory Lane*. We do hope you have enjoyed each month's history. This is the **December** installment. Happy Reading !!

Bethel History - 2001-Present

As we come to the current time period, we start a new millennium and Bethel entering its 4th century. Many new events have occurred, and some old ones continued or revived. We were blessed to have the benefit of 3 Associate Pastors during this time. Rev. James Cole, Rev. Nam Min and Rev. Vicki Kennedy served under the direction of the then current pastor. Also, during this time, we had the services of 4 interim pastors, Revs. David Harris, Mary Morgan, John Potter and Richard Sheffield.

The position of Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Programs was begun with the hiring of Chrissie Galliher. She directs the Sunday School and arranges the annual Vacation Bible School, both of which are open to not only church members but to the community as well. She directs other projects thru out the year, as needed.

The Boy Scout troop sponsorship, begun in the early 1940s, is still thriving at Bethel to this day.

Many of the programs started in the 90s continue to the present. This includes the Mission trips, the spaghetti dinners and the 70 luncheons. Habitat for Humanity has ceased to build houses in this county due to the high cost of land, but the church has continued with monetary contributions toward the cost of rehabbing several houses.

In 2013, Bethel celebrated the 125th anniversary of the building of the present sanctuary, built in 1888. This beautiful sanctuary has been the church home for countless local families and represents the cycles of life for the congregation.

Our current pastor, Rev. Todd Smith, came to Bethel in 2015. A year-long celebration has been planned for 2019 as we celebrate 250 years of Bethel Church. Given Bethel's long history and strong member dedication we believe it will continue to serve its members and its community for many more generations as it has served every generation since 1769.

"One generation passeth away and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever" ... Ecclesiastes 1:4

Nation's History - 2001-Present

2001- War on Afghanistan

- 2001 World Trade Center and Pentagon Terrorists Attacks and plane crash at Shanksville, PA
Baltimore Ravens defeat New York Giants in Super Bowl
Tiger Woods first African American to simultaneously hold all 4 majors

2003-11 War in Iraq

- 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia explodes killing all 7 astronauts
Saddam Hussein is captured
- 2004 Freedom Tower at Ground Zero has groundbreaking ceremony
Michael Phelps first American to win 8 medals in a single Olympic Game
Facebook is launched
- 2005 YouTube is launched
Hurricane Katrina hits Gulf Coast
- 2006 Wii is released
Twitter was launched
- 2007 iPhones are released
Nancy Pelosi first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
- 2009 Barack Obama first African American President
- 2010 Oil rig in Gulf of Mexico explodes
- 2011 Osama Bin Laden is killed
- 2012 Kevin Systrom launches Instagram
- 2013 Baltimore Ravens defeat San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl
Cornell University uses 3-D printer and cell cultures to grow a living ear
Boston Marathon Bombing
- 2015 Riots in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody
Supreme Court allows same-sex marriage
American Pharaoh wins Triple Crown
- 2017 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria have devastating damage to the Atlantic seaboard and Caribbean with over \$275 billion in damages
- 2019 Hurricane Dorian massive devastation on areas from the Bahamas all the way to Canada

Community Events

Candlelight Christmas Service

Historic North Bend Church

Saturday ~ December 7th
5:00 p.m.



The perfect start for the Holiday season! Enjoy an early evening entertainment with musical talent and a few surprises, 19th century style! Hear our 1880's organ played by Lancaster County resident Mark Herr of the International Reed Organ Society plus soloists and other musical talent. See North Bend with all its oil lamps lit, and candles too. It is a wonderful evening, beginning at 5 pm to allow for your dinner plans afterward. Costumes optional. Admission by donation at the door. Proceeds benefit restoration at North Bend. For more information, please contact Debbie Bowers at 410 913-8979 or bowerspub@hotmail.com.



Christmas Breakfast

Norrisville United Methodist Church
Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 a.m.
\$8 per person

Christmas Bazaar

Ayres Chapel United Methodist Church
Saturday, December 7th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.




Christmas Craft Show

Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company
Saturday, December 14th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2019 DECEMBER

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Advent 8:45 Hand Bell Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Guest - Kristen Barstow 11:30 Advent Luncheon	02 10:00 am AARP Blanketeers 4:00 pm Mission Meeting 7:00 pm Worship & Music	03 6:30 pm Bridge Group 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	04 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	05 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch	06	07 Scout Crew #265 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
08 8:45 Hand Bell Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 1:30 Cub Scouts #809 6:00 Blue Ribbon 4H Club	09 10:00 am AARP Blanketeers 4:00 pm Mission Meeting 7:00 pm Worship & Music	10 10:00 am Mary's Circle 6:30 pm Bridge Group	11 7:00 pm Care & Reach Out Team 7:00 pm Cemetery Committee	12 5:00 pm DCYC Auditions	13	14
15 8:45 Hand Bell Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Lessons & Carols 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 2:45 Caroling 5:00 Christmas Party	16	17 6:30 pm Bridge Group 7:00 pm CE Committee Mtg.	18 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	19 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch	20	21
22 8:45 Hand Bell Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Quorus Concert	23 7:00 pm Admin & Personnel NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:30 Christmas Concert 7:00 Family Service 10:30 Christmas Concert 11:00 Late Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26 Office CLOSED	27 Office CLOSED	28 Pastor Todd is on Vacation
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Special Presentation	30 Pastor Todd is on Vacation	31 6:30 pm Bridge Group Pastor Todd is on Vacation	01	02 Pastor Todd is on Vacation	03 Pastor Todd is on Vacation	04