



Welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church

November 28, 2021

Sunday School 9-10:15 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BETHEL CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

4135 Norrisville Road

White Hall, MD 21161

Office Phone: 410-692-5282

Website: www.bethel-md.org

Contact Rev. Todd Smith via his cell: 410-805-8604

or email: pastor@bethel-md.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Office is CLOSED on Fridays.

Staff

Pastor/Moderator: The Rev. Todd D. Smith

Music Director/Organist: Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Children's Youth & Family Program Coordinator: Chrissie Galliher

Office Manager: Lisa Robbins

Church Treasurer: Dan Miller



1st Sunday of Advent

Gathering and Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Rev. Todd Smith

Voluntary

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Call to Worship

Nancy Mory

Leader: And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear,

People: we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Hymn #9

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Steve Kaufman and Dennis Kirkwood

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Advent Reading

Steve Kaufman and Dennis Kirkwood

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days.

Isaiah 2:4

When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You are sovereign and holy, compassionate and faithful. You created us to be in a loving relationship with You. You seek to shape us and guide us by Your perfect will. Yet, we rebel against Your will and seek our own way. We choose to follow our own desires, even when they are destructive. Our hearts are rebellious as we do what we think is right. You have called us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow You. Forgive us for missing the mark. Forgive us for slipping away. Forgive us for our sinful nature and action. Transform our lives by the power of Your Spirit. Redeem and restore us to glorify You. (Silent prayer of confession)

The Lord's Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Christmas Flower Sale

If you would like to purchase a Christmas Flower in memory of or in honor of a family member, we will be accepting donations beginning this week. Please fill out the form below with the information you would like in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. There will be an arrangement in the church during the Christmas Eve services. After the Christmas Eve service, you are invited to take a flower from that arrangement home in memory or in honor of your loved one. We would ask that you have your donations in by **December 19th** so we can have the insert prepared for the Christmas Eve Service. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Name: _____ Message: _____

Name: _____ Message: _____

Name: _____ Message: _____



Seeking Nominations

We are seeking nominations for **Elder, Deacon, Trustees, and Nominating Committee**. You may write in your nominations below and place in offering plate. Please keep in mind that you should only nominate someone you know is interested. Thank you.

Name _____ Nominating for: _____

Church Leadership

Elders (Session) – Meet 3rd Thursday each month

Class of 2021

Robert Dennison
Kirk Jones
Carol Morrow

Class of 2022

Marsha Brooks
Gary Lowe
Carmie Messenger

Class of 2023

Ruth Walker
Polly Winskowski
Nancy Alexander

Deacons – Meet 1st Monday each month

Class of 2021

Marilyn Bradford
Sue Hinkley
Sandy Louderback
Barbara Thomson

Class of 2022

Janet Henderson
Terri Schwarz
MaryLee Swift

Class of 2023

Laurie Falkner
Gail Lowe
Lynda McRee

Trustees – Meet 1st Tuesday each month

Class of 2021

Jan Berlage
Eric Clayton
Dave Hinkley
Don Scott

Class of 2022

Sam Fielder
Bob Horn
Steve Kauffman
Chuck Saneman

Class of 2023

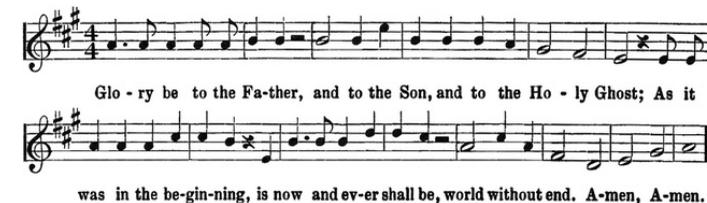
John Cairnes
Brian Calary
Bruce Mattheiss
Craig Messenger

The 2021 Per Capita fee per congregation member is **\$36.06**.

Please be sure to submit your portion
by the end of the year.

Thank you!

Gloria Patri



+ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

+ Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Lesson

Chrissie Galliher

Prayer for Illumination

Nancy Mory

First Lesson

2 Peter 3:8

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn #339

Be Thou My Vision

Prayers of the People

Offertory

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

+ Doxology 592

Hymn #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

+ Benediction

Don't Miss the Lux Choir on December 19th!

What's in a name?

Our name, Lux, (pronounced the same way as "Luke's") is the Latin word for "light". We chose it for a few reasons—for instance, we often did works from Eric Whitacre's Lux Aurumque series in our first performances—but the main idea is that the stuffiness and self-seriousness so often associated with classical music today are unnecessary and ought to be thrown out. The culture of classical music has more than enough heaviness. Time to add a little light.

Who are we?

Lux is an award-winning chamber choir dedicated to accessibility to professional quality choral music performance and education based in the Washington, D.C. area. Founded in 2014 by a small group of high school friends, Lux performs with a dedication to excellence, innovation, and accessibility in choral performance. Lux has been met with acclaim from the world's most popular choral composers and conductors, professors at local conservatories, and audience members alike. The group has earned praise from famed composers and conductors such as Eric Whitacre, Paul Mealor, Ola Gjeilo, and Patrick Dupré Quigley. Benjamin Olinsky, Artistic Director of The 18th Street Singers, has called Lux "incredibly impressive", while composers, music educators, performers, and listeners up and down the east coast have been "wowed by their beauty, depth, and power."

Lux's singers hail from some of the finest conservatories and schools of music across the United States, and have performed everywhere from local churches to university concert halls to high-profile national venues such as Carnegie Hall and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Lauded for their passion towards contemporary choral music, Lux's programs are often full of living composers. They have given six world premieres since 2019, including their first commission and first composition contest during their virtual 2021 season, Christmas From Home. As a group which began with a small group of high school students, Lux also works to create opportunities for and inspire the next generation of young choral artists. Find out more about our educational outreach programs.

In 2021, Lux won two Wammies for Best Choral Group and Best Choral Album for their Christmas release, My Lord Has Come. In 2019, Lux was voted Best Local Choral Group, along with first-place 18th Street Singers and second-runners-up Capitol Hill Chorale, in the Best of DC competition held by Washington City Paper. Lux's first commercial release, Now Ye Heavenly Powers, was met with acclaim from composers, critics, and others, becoming the Featured Choral Album on Classical MPR's choral radio station, joining such groups as Voces8, Seraphic Fire, and Tenebrae.

**Please invite your friends and family to join us for
the award-winning Lux choir
on Sunday, December 19th @4:30 pm**

Upcoming Events at Bethel



**Advent Luncheon
today
after worship service**

- soup, bread & dessert
- Advent Activity
- Christmas sing-along



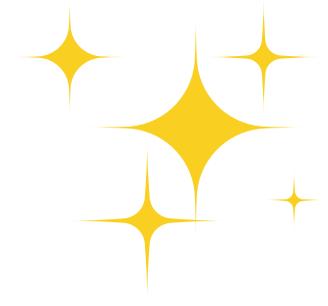
Wreaths for Veterans



Bethel will be supporting Troop 265 this year as they place memorial wreaths on the veterans' graves in Bethel Cemetery.

We are seeking donations from the congregation to offset the cost of the 140 wreaths, which will come to \$2,300. If you would like to make a donation towards the wreath project, please make your check out to Bethel with a note in the memo: For Boy Scout Troop 265 Christmas Wreath Project.

Thank you to all who have donated so far!



**Lux Choir
December 19th
@4:30 pm**



Announcements

This Week at Bethel:

November 28th - Advent Luncheon after the service
November 28th - Zoom Bible Study - 6:00 pm on Zoom
November 29th - Women's Bible Study - 10 am in Fellowship Hall
November 30th - Bridge Game - 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
December 2nd - Men's Breakfast Bunch - 7:00 am in Fellowship Hall

If you would like to list an event in this space, please email me by Monday to be included in that week's Sunday bulletin. Thanks! lisa@bethel-md.org

Save the date:

Sunday, December 19th: Lux Choir @ 4:30 pm, refreshments to follow

Music Notes:

Choir rehearsal will take place each week after the church service from 12:00 - 12:30. All are welcome. Please let Kirsten know if you will attend.

Hand Bell Rehearsals as follows:

November 28 rehearsal 8:45 - 9:30
December 5 rehearsal 8:45 - 9:30
December 12 rehearsal 8:45 - 9:30
December 19 rehearsal 9:00 - 9:30 and performance during service

Sunday school will start at 9:30 during these weeks because Chrissie and other Sunday school teachers will be performing with us.

Verses this Week:

2 Peter 3:8

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.
9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.



We are gratefully accepting donations for Mason-Dixon Community Services to help local families in need this holiday season. Please look for the Giving Tree in the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.
--Joseph Ratzinger

Bethel Joys & Concerns:

Happy Birthday to: Betty Rogers, Albert Troyer, Donna Jones, Sarah Scott, John Cairnes, Kristen Kirkwood Feldmann, Lisa Calary

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

The Fielder Family
Mitch Darnton, fiance of Sarah Jones (Donna Jones' niece)
The Berlage Family
Janet Carty, friend of Nancy Mory
Doug Arnold
Sandy Hughes
Charles McKenzie, father of Gail Lowe
Nelson Berigtold
Charlotte Scott, sister-in-law of Dan Scott
Barb Kirschner, mother of Dave Kirschner
Ed Calary
Max Montfort, friend of Tom & MaryLee Swift
Dorianne Griffey
Janet Kauffman
George Reeves

Kelly Jarrett Reeves, daughter-in-law of the Reeves
Brendan Lins, grandson of Ron & Andi Holmes
Henry Kraft, grandson of Gail & David Thomas
Frank Clement, friend of Sam & Marsha Brooks
John Dorn, friend of John & Rita Cairnes
Beverly Schmidt
George Cowman
Howard Eisner
George Denbow
Jessica Sambor
Debbie Dahl, friend of Lisa Robbins

If you have any updates to the prayer list, please contact the church office

