



# THIS WEEK AT BETHEL:

September 5, 2021

**Office hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm  
**Pastor Dave's office hours:** Monday, 9am-12pm

**Welcome to Worship!** We are glad to have you with us today! If you are a first-time visitor, we invite you to complete a communication card, available at the Welcome Table. If you have questions or need assistance, please see an usher or greeter. **Nursery aged children (birth through pre-kindergarten):** please meet the Nursery Attendants at the door closest to the sound board after the Children's Sermon.

**\*\*NEW!\*\* Want to Assist in Worship Leadership?** A new signup is available on the Welcome Table in the narthex for anyone who is interested in assisting in worship. This includes Acolytes, Altar Care, Clean-up after worship, sharing a Children's Sermon, Greeters, Prayer Leaders, Scripture Readers, Ushers, and Sound, Multi-Media and video recording. As a list of volunteers is compiled, a schedule will be made for all worship gatherings. These opportunities are open to folks of all ages and training is provided! Please contact George Donovan ([george@bethelwinchester.com](mailto:george@bethelwinchester.com)) with any questions or for more information. If you signed up last week, you do not need to sign-up again—we already have your info!

**Men's Ministry:** The Men's Breakfast for September will be held on Saturday, September 11th, from 8:30 am - 9:30 am at the Backseat Bar & Grill.

**Women's Ministry:** Bible study continues Friday, September 10th at 6:30. This month is on Mary and Martha: Finding Life in Death. This study is an incredible look at finding belief in God working out all things- even in the middle of a mess! All women can jump in on this study and all are welcome! We meet via Zoom.

**God's Work Our Hands:** Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." on **Sunday, Sept. 12**. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Gather after worship in Discipleship Hall. We will work on several projects- pick the project you want! \*Tagging quilts with inspirational messages \*Delivering diapers to the Red Wagon Ministry \*Writing letters of encouragement to people in need around the world... and more!

**Red Wagon Ministry Diaper Drive:** Red Wagon Ministry is a non-profit organization created to help collect and donate diapers for CCAP. Red Wagon Ministry is seeking diapers for babies of all sizes, but especially the large sizes of 5 and 6, baby wipes, disposable adult underwear and briefs, incontinence pads, and flushable wipes. Please consider contributing to this worthy cause by donating these items through Sunday September 12th (*God's Work Our Hands Sunday*).

**It's Almost Shrimp Boil Time!** Join us on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for our annual Shrimp Boil dinner! The event will be held at the Picnic Pavilion with individual servings offered, instead of the traditional communal style of serving. Please sign up in the Narthex. The cost is \$8/person, paid that evening.

**Music Ministry News:** Bethel's Music Ministry is ramping up for a new season, and opportunities are available for all ages to participate! The **Adult Choir** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 9th at 6:30 pm. **OffeRings Chime Choir** is reforming under the leadership of Darline DeMott. Stay tuned for more information on rehearsal times. You can also support our music ministries through regular giving to the **Jones/Joyner Music Fund**. Your donations help bless Shenandoah University Scholarship Students, and additional musicians for worship and special events who bless us with their gifts. We have a goal to raise \$6000 in this fund by December 1st to enhance special music offerings this fall and into the Christmas season. An anonymous donor has offered to match donations to the Jones/Joyner Fund, up to \$1000 through September. **Come be a part of Bethel's amazing music programs!**

**Do you have questions on who to contact? We've put together a list:**

- I need to sign up to help in worship - Kristin ([communicator@bethelwinchester.com](mailto:communicator@bethelwinchester.com))
- I need to promote a Bethel event - Kristin
- I need to use Bethel facilities - Kim ([bookkeeper@bethelwinchester.com](mailto:bookkeeper@bethelwinchester.com))
- I have questions about giving - Kim
- I need to update my information (address/phone/email) - Kim
- I would like to provide a floral arrangement - Kim
- I want to promote/display something during worship - Kim
- I would like to submit a prayer request - Pastor Dave ([pastordave@bethelwinchester.com](mailto:pastordave@bethelwinchester.com)) / Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team - Urve ([ukcrowder@icloud.com](mailto:ukcrowder@icloud.com)) / Shirley ([sstrosnider01@gmail.com](mailto:ssstrosnider01@gmail.com))

**Ways to Give to Bethel:** Thank you for your continued support of mission and ministry at Bethel! At this time, we are not passing the offering plate during our worship gatherings, but you can leave your offering in the basket on the welcome table, or use one of the methods below:

1. Mail to Bethel at 2077 N Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603
2. Use the "Give Now" button on our website.
3. Donate via text, by sending the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, (ie: \$50/\$50.00) to 844-946-2995.

<b>Ministry Spending Plan Update as of July 31, 2021</b>	Actual July 2021	Actual Year-to-Date
Actual Income	\$24,795.70	\$200,279.75
Actual Expenses	\$29,845.90	\$220,467.66
Balance (Shortfall)	\$(5,050.20)	\$(20,187.91)
Balance (Shortfall) with 2021 Payroll Protection Loan Funds of \$35,408	\$(5,050.20)	\$15,220.09

For more detailed financial information, please visit [bethelwinchester.com](http://bethelwinchester.com) and click on Publications.

*For more news and updates on what is happening at Bethel, checkout our Facebook Page and Website:  
[www.bethelwinchester.com](http://www.bethelwinchester.com)*



## ***God Is Partial***

Again and again throughout biblical history, God is partial to caring for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Which is why, perhaps, Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman takes us by surprise: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (Mark 7:27).

The Syrophenician woman acts in faith. She engages Jesus with what she believes to be true about him: that through him God's mercy will extend even to her. Despite the distinctions that separate them (including race, gender, and religion), she believes Jesus is a Savior who has the power to heal all people and that she, although not a Jew, is a member of the household of God.

The second reading, from James, reminds hearers then and now that the Christian community's actions are to be shaped by God's partiality. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. While the world values the rich, the poor are God's own treasure, made honored guests and royal heirs through baptism. The community is called to a partiality based on God's values, not the world's.

The waters of baptism wash away all distinctions. Like streams breaking forth in the desert, these waters surprise us with mercy in unexpected places. These waters open our eyes, unstop our ears, and loose our tongues to see, hear, and speak God's partiality for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit fills us with faith—a faith active in showing mercy that knows no limits.

Around the table, rich and poor, haughty and humble, all who gather receive a feast fit for the family of God. All are honored and all are fed, because the Lord is the maker of them all.