



THIS WEEK AT BETHEL:

October 3, 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. Children's worship supplies are now on the table under the nursery bulletin board.

Assisting in Worship: Thank you to all those who stepped up to say "YES!" to the call to assist in worship leadership each week. A worship assistant schedule has been made through 12/31/21. Printouts are available in the narthex and church office. You can also find the schedule in the weekly "This Week At Bethel" email and posted on the church website. At our Congregational meeting in November, we will have another opportunity for folks to become a part of these ministries through our "Ministry Response" survey. If you have any questions about assisting in worship weekly, please contact George Donovan (george@bethelwinchester.com).

Care for Creation: Today Bethel will highlight the Care of Creation as a theme for our worship, giving thanks for the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of our world as a sign of God's love for us and all creatures. We are being asked to consider what challenges our creation is currently facing and what can be faithful and loving responses as people of faith. In keeping with this theme, following worship, our Adult Forum will offer the first of a two-part, two-week conversation called "Climate Change and the Christian Faith" to be led by our own John Gavitt. We hope you can join us and we invite you to consider bringing friends who might find this conversation meaningful and interesting.

Bethel Grounds Work: Many thanks to the Mulchnificent 7! We enjoyed a great workout spreading 45 bags (3 cubic feet each) of mulch. Cliff, Betty, Charlie, Jason, Charlie, John, and John made quick work of trimming shrubs and spreading out mulch. John Gavitt treated us to ice cream at Pack's. Thanks also to John McAllister (Reading Landscapers) for the load of mulch. It was mulch needed!

Fall New Member Class Forming: Pastor Dave is forming our next new member class this fall. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an "official" member of Bethel, please contact Pastor Dave. This class will include any who have recently "transferred" to Bethel and any wishing to join via Affirmation of Baptism. If you have any questions about the New Member process, please contact Pastor Dave.

Luther League: The Underground will be open from 6:30 - 8:00pm on Sundays to just hang out and re-charge before we start another week. We'll have snacks, games & music. Bring a friend if you want to! See you there!

Thrivent: If you are currently a Thrivent member, please contact Kim (bookkeeper@bethelwinchester.com). We want to make sure that your current membership still fits your needs. If you are not currently a Thrivent member, but are interested in becoming one, we are working on getting updated member forms. Please contact Kim.

Music Ministry News: You can 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 (Such as Brass Players for Reformation Sunday, and a chamber orchestra for Christmas) 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. The current Jones/Joyner Fund balance is only \$700. Will you consider a donation?

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

- † I would like to sign up to help in worship - George (george@bethelwinchester.com)
- † I need to promote a Bethel event - Kristin
- † I need to use Bethel facilities - Kim (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 for worship - Kim
- † I want to promote/display something in the Narthex – George
- † I would like to submit a prayer request - Pastor Dave (pastordave@bethelwinchester.com) or Intercessory Prayer Ministry Team – Urve Crowder (ukcrowder@icloud.com) & Shirley Strosnider ([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.

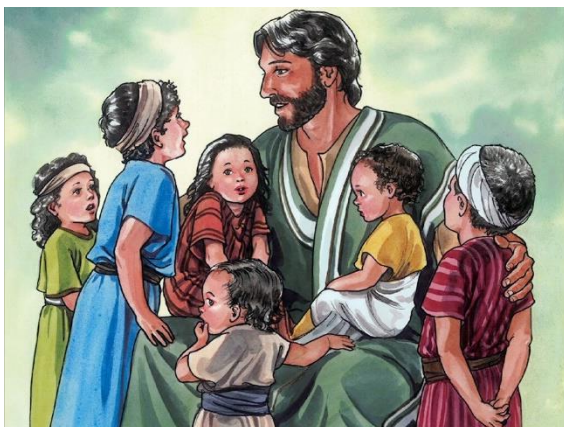
Ministry Spending Plan Update as of August 31, 2021	<u>Actual August 2021</u>	<u>Actual Year-to-Date</u>
Actual Income	26,946.80	\$227,226.55
Actual Expenses	\$32,212.36	\$252,680.02
Balance (Shortfall)	\$(5,265.56)	\$(25,453.47)
Balance (Shortfall) with 2021 Payroll Protection Loan Funds of \$35,408	\$(5,265.56)	\$9,954.53

For more detailed financial information, please visit 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

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	Today	October 10th, 2021
Church Season	Pentecost	Pentecost
Color	Green	Green
	9:30	9:30
Greeter <i>Please Arrive by 9:10 AM!</i>	Shari Fletcher	Beth Garner
Usher <i>Please Arrive by 9:10 AM!</i>	John Gavitt	Renee Frederickson
Scripture Reader	Karen Shipp	Marge Vorous
Prayers	Robin Forest	Shari Fletcher
Sound	David Shoberg	Charlie Moyer



Who Would Jesus Bless Today?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.

However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?