

Bethel Hill Bugle

Late Fall 2023



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MY DAD



Several of you attended my dad's Celebration of Life on 10/7/2023. Thank you for all the cards, prayers, support and love during the week leading up to the service (and after). And the very large, beautiful flower arrangement that graced the sanctuary. Thank you! I thought I would share what I learned from my dad with all of you:

Dad taught us to have fun. Dad wasn't a very tall man and he wasn't very athletic, but when we were small, he used to lay flat on the living room floor. We would crawl all over him, poke him and tickle him and he would play right back. It was a game we called rassel-dassle. I don't know how, but once in a while Dad actually fell asleep in the middle of this game, maybe because he was so tired.

Dad taught me to have a good work ethic. There were times I can remember Dad worked three jobs: purchasing clerk at the Reading Railroad, a part-time job at Arby's down the street, and he sold Amway products on the side. I imagine it was a stretch financially for our parents to make the move from NE Philadelphia to Feasterville when I was ten. We had only one car, so every weekday, Dad would leave while it was still dark to walk down to Somerton train station so Mom could have the car during the day. Then us kids would pile in the car to go pick him up at 5:00 and bring him home for the evening.

Dad taught me about honor. He served his country in the US Army, stateside during the Korean War. He ALWAYS stood and saluted as the local 4th of July parade opened with the honor guard. I think I can even remember him standing in the living room before Phillies games while the national anthem was sung. Thanks for your service, Dad.

Dad taught me about care-giving and nurturing. Mom was quite sick for the last 4 years of her life. I can still picture my dad kneeling in front of her, emptying her ileostomy bag and replacing it with a new one. He took such good care of her and loved her so much.

continued on next page . . .

Reminder: Fall worship schedule 9:00 & 10:30 worship (second service also live-streamed). Adult Sunday School at 9:00 and Children's Sunday School at 10:30, the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.

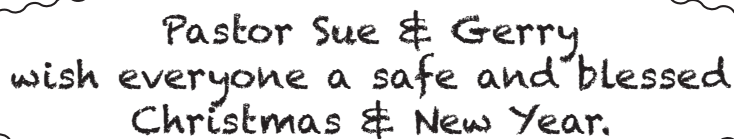
Dad taught me about taking it slow. He had a deliberate, meticulous way of doing things, even to the extreme of putting the tinsel on the Christmas tree one strand at a time. And taking it off that same way and carefully wrapping it around its original cardboard so it could be used the next year. He wrote with neat, tiny printing and loved to document things. His yearly calendar is a treasure of little notes and happenings. Always organized, sometimes in a weird way in some of the items he saved, he researched his family tree and gave us kids notebooks with his notes so we would always know where we came from. If you ever wanted to get anywhere in a hurry, don't get in dad's car! He would never, EVER go over the speed limit! He was one of those cars you see moving slowly in the right lane while everyone else is passing on the left.

Dad taught me about faithfulness. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, Dad was the spiritual leader of our family and I appreciate that. Even when a snow-storm would keep us from traveling to Trevoise Methodist, Dad would "have church". We'd sing a few hymns around the piano with mom playing, he would read scripture and give a little talk. Dad took the scriptures seriously. He preferred we call him Dad or Daddy, as he believed and taught that we have one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, with a capital F, who is over all and through all and in all, from Ephesians 4:5 & 6. And on Christmas morning, we weren't allowed into the living room until we heard the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke. And when we were finally allowed in – Oh, those flood lights on his movie camera were blinding!

Dad taught me to be an encourager. He always let me know how proud he was of all of us kids. He was rather astounded to have two pastors in his family and was equally proud of Loriann and Linda who are working in careers that serve others.

Dad taught me to never take life for granted. He was more than a little surprised to be alive at his age, especially since his dad had died young. Our dad never expected to live past 60. Well, surprise, dad! God blessed you with many more years. Lori showed me a note on his calendar this last birthday. He had marked September 10th – my birthday, if I'm still alive. That was our dad, with his wacky sense of humor. We never hung up from a phone call without him telling me he loved me. In fact, in recent years, he had adopted my mom's favorite good-bye "love you lots!" And, if I said, see you later, his catch phrase was always 'God willing.'

So, thank you Dad, for teaching us how to love Jesus' way and always being there for all of us. We will miss you terribly, but you taught us to trust in God's promise that we will see you and Mom again. God Willing. Love you, Daddy.



Pastor Sue & Gerry
wish everyone a safe and blessed
Christmas & New Year.



Pastor Sue

Please – if you hear of any of our members being in the hospital or ill at home for an extended period of time, please let Pastor Sue or the church office know. We care about you & want to know you are well! Thank you!

Worship Notes for November & December 2023 (topics are subject to change)

November is Generosity Month! The sermon theme is *Generous: The Beauty in Giving*

November 5 – **All Saints Sunday, Holy Communion**

Matthew 23:1-12 – *Living With Abundance*

November 12 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 6:6-12 – *Finding Our Contentment in God*

November 19 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 3:5-12 – *The Flow of Grace*

Tuesday, November 21 at 7pm – **Thanksgiving Service**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 – *Generosity Encouraged*

November 26 – **Christ the King Sunday**

John 6:1-14 – *Abundance in Community: Sharing What You Have*

December 3 – **First Sunday in Advent – Holy Communion**

Hanging of the Greens at 10:30am

New Carols – *Jesus is Alive* by Josh Wilson

December 10 – Second Sunday in Advent

New Carols– *We Need Emmanuel* by Brandon Heath

December 17– Third Sunday in Advent

Choir Cantata at both services!

Monday, December 18 at 7pm – **Blue Christmas Service**

December 24– Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30am – Christmas Eve Breakfast with Worship in Hayes Hall

6:00pm – Family Service with a Story & Candlelight

8:00pm – Service with Choir & Candlelight

December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

New Year's Eve – ONE SERVICE AT 10:30am

Luke 2:22-40 – *Jesus Starts in Church!*

Upcoming Events & Mission Opportunities

Keep reading for more details on later pages

Saturday, November 11, 7-10am ~ **Cecil & Grace Bean Soup Kitchen** –

St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown.

Sign up here to help or donate supplies: <https://bit.ly/BHBean-Nov23>

Sunday, November 12, 5pm ~ **Church Potluck**

Tuesday, November 14, 4-9pm ~ **Dine 'n' Donate** @ The Pour House, Montgomeryville

Saturday, November 18, 9am ~ **Annual Charge Conference**, Lansdale First UMC

Monday, December 11, 5-9pm ~ **Dine 'n' Donate** @ PJ Whelihan's, Blue Bell

Thursday, December 14, 2-7pm ~ **Red Cross Blood Drive**

DON'T FORGET  SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH



MISSIONS CORNER



We sponsor two children through the **World Vision** organization. World Vision is a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision was started in the 1950's helping one little girl with \$5 in his pocket by founder, Bob Pierce. Today, World Vision helps more than 3.5 million children in nearly 100 countries.

Zeinab is an 11-year-old girl living in the Lamu Assessment Project in Kenya, Africa. Zeinab speaks Boni and her birthday is on August 16th. Her favorite hobby is jumping rope and her favorite subject in school is Science. In Lamu, the landscape



is forested and surrounded by seasonal rivers. Many families are dependent on agriculture and livestock for food and income, but irregular rainfall and land degradation have left Kenya vulnerable to drought. A typical diet consists of cereal grains, rice, vegetables and fish, when available.

The HIV and AIDS crisis has severely damaged the social fabric of the entire community, leaving many children without parents. The Lamu community is currently in an Empowerment phase where local leaders and families take on more ownership and self-sufficiency grows. The community and children grow stronger and healthier thanks to large improvements in areas like clean water, education, nutrition, and more.

Anderson Aaron is a 9-year-old boy living in Proyecto CESP Pantasma, Nicaragua. Anderson speaks Spanish and his birthday is on August 26th. His favorite hobby is playing ball games and his favorite subject in school is coloring. Pantasma is a small, fertile valley in western Nicaragua, where many people earn a living raising cattle or growing crops like coffee, bananas, and cit-

rus. Though families grow nutritious foods like beans and corn, they mostly sell what they produce and can't keep enough to feed themselves year-round: Nearly one in five children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. People aren't well educated about the importance of good hygiene behaviors, and they don't always have access to proper sanitation. Up to half of households don't have a way to get clean water, which contributes to preventable illnesses. Most children don't get the chance to attend preschool, and less than one in five teenagers leave school with vocational or career training: The lack of these opportunities limits future success. Too many students must drop out of school to help their families make ends meet by working in the fields. Kids are also vulnerable to other forms of exploitation or abuse, and over half of teenagers report not feeling safe from violence in their homes. Families are also not well prepared for disasters or catastrophes such as the economic crisis caused by the

COVID-19 pandemic, which can push already-vulnerable families deeper into poverty. The community is in a Planning phase where they identify their greatest challenges and develop an action plan. The community nominates vulnerable children for sponsorship.



We also sponsor a missionary through Wycliffe Ministry. Aileen Agoncillo is a Team Development Specialist and currently works at Wycliffe headquarters in Florida.



As a Team Development Specialist, Aileen comes alongside teams and individual staff in helping meet development needs. The goal is to come alongside staff in develop-

ing teams that work better together and are more effective in their work for the furtherance of the Bible translation ministry. As part of her ministry with Wycliffe, Aileen brings her training as a Spiritual Director and her qualification as a GRIP-Birkman Certified Professional.

Over her years of ministry with Wycliffe since 2002, Aileen has served in Bible translation using her skills in media and communications based in the United States and Asia. She also provided leadership to Wycliffe USA's prayer engagement and church partnership strategies.

Aileen's ministry with Wycliffe is dependent on a ministry team of prayer and financial partners. Aileen is currently strengthening the team of financial and prayer partners who invest in her Wycliffe ministry. Aileen is grateful for those who have partnered with her, making her Wycliffe ministry possible.

Manna on Main Street

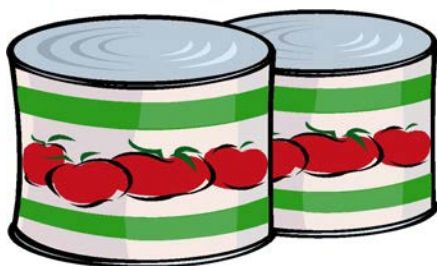
Upcoming collections are:

November - Canned Vegetables

December - Peanut Butter

Please leave in the basket in the narthex.

Thank you to Ken & Joy Black for continuing to deliver the collections.



The communion offerings collected on the first Sunday of each month provide all members a chance to direct contributions to a group or mission that they may feel called to help. These offerings are intended to be donations above any amount pledged. Thank you for your support. Upcoming communion offerings are as follows:

November – Local Missions

December – Love Fund

We have many mission opportunities this coming holiday season. Pick one, pick them all, anything you can contribute is appreciated.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox mission!

Find a shoebox or similarly sized plastic box, fill it with toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Pray over it. Register for the \$10 shipping and bring it to church by November 12th so it can be sent around the world to a young person waiting for your surprise of gifts and the sure knowledge of God, who loves them beyond their knowing. Click here to learn more:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>



Glad Tidings Christmas Shop

Saturday, December 2nd

Things are going to look a bit different this year. Because of security and location at Haws Avenue UMC, everything will happen on Saturday, December 2nd. We will need people to help "price" and sort items at 9:00 – 10:45am. The shop will open at 11:00am and of course we will need helpers then too. The shop will close at 12:30, and we may need help cleaning up a bit. So.... If you have that morning free, we can certainly use your help as we 'love our neighbors' in Norristown! **We are still accepting toys for this shop!**

Methodist Services Christmas Angels are coming!

Keep a look out for the angels at the back of the sanctuary and take one (or more!) to purchase a gift for the many families supported by this local organization. We also have the opportunity this year to help them set up the gifts on the morning of Monday, December 11th. If you would like to join Paul Doll to help please let him know (267-421-2595 or pfdoll@verizon.net)



Harvest Home Collection

Our church is proud to once again collect for our community food bank, Manna on Main Street, during this holiday season to try and fill their quickly emptying shelves. Nonperishables always welcome but also consider things like detergent, shampoo, and paper goods.

Please fill any boxes or bags and bring to church by Sunday, November 19th for distribution.



UM MEN'S BREAKFAST

Usually monthly on the last Saturday, 8am in Hayes Hall, but the schedule is adjusted for the end of year holidays as follows:

Nov 25th - No Breakfast

Dec 2nd - UMM breakfast and it will be open to anyone. We will be decorating the church for Christmas.

Dec 30th - No Breakfast

Jan 6, 2024 - UMM will have a breakfast

All men are invited.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Monthly on the second Saturday, 9am in Hayes Hall.

November 11th & December 9th

Bring a dish to share.

All women are invited.

LUNCH BUNCH

November 15th & December 20th

12:30 in Hayes Hall

Bring a bag lunch for fun and fellowship; beverages and dessert provided.

Remember a loved one with a Christmas Poinsettia Plant

THE COST IS \$15 PER PLANT

To order a Poinsettia plant for the Advent Season, please complete the form below, include a check made to Bethel Hill UMC and give to Joy Black; place it in the "Cross" box in the Narthex; or return it to the church office. The plants should be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS:

If you will be unable to pick up your poinsettia please consider giving a gift to Missions in lieu of receiving a Poinsettia plant.



YOUR NAME: _____

Phone: _____

of plants _____ @ \$15 and/or

of spiritual bouquets _____ @ \$15 = TOTAL \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

FINAL DATE FOR ORDERS: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th.

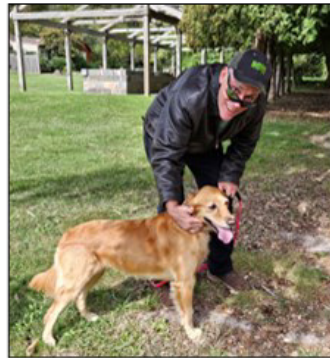
Mark your calendars for a
return to the

Sunday, November 12
5:00 pm in Hayes Hall

Beverage and table service provided.
Sign up in the church narthex.



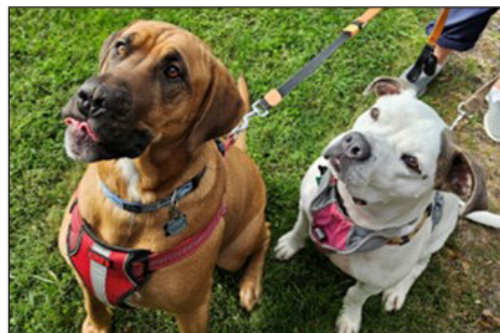
Looking for pictures of any of
Bethel Hill's potlucks or dinners
from the past for a "Nostalgia Drop"
presentation. Please email to
kellidurling@comcast.net



Lay Leader Mary
White (and her mini-
me helper) led a
Blessing of the
Animals on October
8 for six playful pups
and their adoring
owners.



Clockwise from top left:
Cindy and Naga;
Beaty, Ken and Buster;
John and Lily;
Mary, Sara, and Bleu;
Hank and Naga;
Ed, Tyler, Jackson, and
Maddie with Barkley;
Mary and Hank;
Mary and helper Kinsley.





Holiday Happenings

Blue Christmas Service - Monday, December 18, 7pm
Christmas Eve Schedule, Sunday, December 24

- 9:30am – Christmas Eve Breakfast cooked by our Men’s Breakfast crew. We will eat together, sing a few carols, hear the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke, and hear the adult choir bring an anthem. Don’t miss this special time. You will need to sign up so we can get a count for breakfast.
- 6:00 p.m. – Children and Family Service with a Christmas Story read by Pastor Sue, carols, and candlelight.
- 8:00 p.m. – Worship with our adult choir, carols, and candlelight.

Note: One service only on December 31st at 10:30 a.m., also live-streamed.

Advent Bible Study

Studying **The Gift of the Nutcracker** by Matt Rawle

Meeting on Tuesdays, November 28, December 5, 12 & 19 at 7pm on ZOOM. Books are \$10. Please RSVP to Pastor Sue no later than November 19th to let her know if you are coming and if she should order you a book.

Listen! It’s the voice of one crying out:



Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain. And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.



Join us on
Sunday
December 17

Experience



an inspired Christmas Cantata
presented by the Choir and Friends
at the
9:00 and 10:30 am services

*Love beyond measure in glorious array,
Splendor of heaven, asleep on the hay.*

15% OF
ALL FOOD
SALES with flyer
(paper or electronic)



Dine to Donate

**TUESDAY,
NOV. 14
4:00 TO 9:00
PM**

Proceeds go to
Help Build Hope
April 5,6,7 2024



The Pour House 29 Airport Square North Wales PA 19454 (267) 645-4000

DRINK. DINE. DONATE.

HOME BUILD
APRIL 5,6,7

MONDAY
DEC. 11TH
5 TO 9 PM

HELP US BUILD A
2 STORY DUPLEX
IN OUR PARKING
LOT

BETHEL HILL UMC

HELP BUILD HOPE

HELP US EARN **15%** BACK AT PJ'S

BLUE BELL

P.J. WHELIHAN'S

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STAY CONNECTED   #PJsGivesBack

CHURCH NEWS
AROUND
 the
CONGREGATION



We've Lost a Friend

Long-time member **Charles Glanding** passed away on August 24th.



Scheduled to be presented for baptism on November 12th are **Madison Maeve** and **Noelle Natalia Black**

Parents: Anees Moore & Brian Black
 Siblings: Andrew, Emily, and Sarah Black



WELCOME!

These new members joined Bethel Hill on September 24th

Via Affirmation of Faith
Nancy Helfrich
Kathy Molnar-Kimber
Alan Smith

Via transfer from UMC of
 Huntingdon Valley
Sara Pera



American Red Cross

Community of Giving

Did you know you can give blood every 56 days?

We have made it super easy for you to do so right at Bethel Hill, with our calendar of blood drives for 2024 already set (plus a last one for this year), each one 56+ days from the previous one. So mark your calendar and schedule your appointments now (the first three drives listed below are open for scheduling). Schedule your appointment online at

www.redcrossblood.org,

call 800-REDCROSS, or contact Brenda Doll.

December 14, 2023

2024 DATES

February 8	August 8
April 11	October 10
June 13	December 12

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Mrs. Nancy Helfrich
 2054 Serendipity Way
 Schwenksville PA 19473

Kathy Molnar-Kimber
 P. O. Box 190, Worcester PA 19490

Mr. Sara Pera
 420 Dandelion Dr, Blue Bell PA 19422

Mr. Alan Smith
 400 Azalea Dr, Blue Bell PA 19422



Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, November 18th at 9:00am at Lansdale First UMC, 300 N. Broad St., Lansdale. This will be a cluster meeting with several other United Methodist churches. All are encouraged & welcome to attend.

Reminders from Church Committees

From the **Generosity Team** (Formerly Stewardship Committee):

As we approach the end of the year and start thinking about taxes we would like to remind those with a standard IRA who are required to take minimum distributions (RMDs) that a charitable donation can be made and deducted from your adjusted gross income (AGI) for that year. This is one way you could potentially lower your taxes and help improve your gifts to the Lord. This guidance is offered in good faith and we recommend you look at specific Internal Revenue Service publications (“Publication 590-B: Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs),” and check with your tax advisor for more details on your situation.



From **Trustees**:

A Fall Work Day will be planned soon to help clean up the campus for winter. Keep an eye out for an email confirming the date.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

Please check with the church office and the church calendar BEFORE scheduling any events. This is very important so that all will be able to participate in the ministries Bethel Hill is providing.

Thank you!

 **COUPON UPDATE:**
 Thank you for your unused coupons! You can leave them on the parsonage porch or in the white mailbox on the inside of the railing at the old Sunday School room entrance.


The BUGLE LITE is published on the even months! Committee & team chairpeople – don’t forget: You should get a *short* report on what your committee/team is working on from your last meeting. Please email this to Brenda Doll at brendoll@verizon.net.

If anyone would like to put a fresh flower arrangement on the altar, please email the church office at bethel-hill@verizon.net or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.



The arrangements are now \$35.

Altar Flowers

THE BUGLE is a bi-monthly publication of Bethel Hill United Methodist Church. Drop off articles in the Bugle mailbox at the church or send to Brenda Doll: brendoll@verizon.net.

Collating Crew:	Nancy Powell
Linda Dennison	Janet Vasey
Elaine Hegh	Ray Vasey
Alan Powell	Bob Whiteside

Upcoming Bugle Schedule

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Jan 1	December 8
March 1	February 10
May 1	April 10



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tallie Smink
- 3 Liam Hurley, Vincenzo Perrone, Matthew Shaw, Eric Shaw, Mildred Williams
- 4 Kaeylee Shellenberger
- 6 Nancy Powell
- 7 Ruth Bosler, Jon Kirkbride, Tiffany Semitekol
- 9 Benjamin Gabel
- 13 John Bhajjan, Lindy Fischer
- 16 Brian Shaw
- 18 Camryn Perkins, Jordyn Perkins
- 20 Elizabeth Angelo, John Haley IV, Lois Wild, Chris Wright
- 22 Les Brown
- 23 Alice Straubel
- 25 Sam Tooley
- 26 Carol Deptula, Kelli Durling, Sandra Martinez, Hannah Perkins
- 27 Lisa Hoyer
- 28 Marie Dickson
- 29 Gladys Bittner

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Dan Delaney, Christopher Wolgast
- 5 Karen Ross, Mark Straubel
- 6 Morgen Brown, Tyler Murray
- 7 Kayleigh Gloviak
- 9 Elaine Smith
- 10 Ashley Gabel, Evelyn Whiteside
- 12 Dotti Asbert, Phillip Wright
- 13 Max Stadler
- 16 Paul Doll, Bob Yale
- 19 Pastor Sue Ketterer
- 20 Julie Chittick
- 21 Barbara Melnyk, Cheryl Tigh
- 23 Dylan Burkett
- 27 Madeline Brown
- 29 Dick Clauser, Paul Fischer
- 30 Kent Conway
- 31 Cole Stadler

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dan & Pam Culp ('84)
- 9 Jim & Gail Wilkie ('74)
- 11 John & Jeanne Napier ('72)
- 27 Jim and Ruth Bosler ('92)
- 30 Tony & Debra Hall ('90)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Wendy & Michael Henderson ('96)
- 12 Tom & Bonnie Hurd ('87)
- 29 Stan & Sandy Dahl ('67)
- 31 Bob & Eileen Gillmer ('99)



Check out Bethel Hill's new webpage at www.BethelHill.org



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