



The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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November, 2025

Volume 64, Issue 11

Our Vision: Bethany Christian Church is committed to worshipping God, deepening our faith, spreading the gospel, and serving where Christ leads.

Rev. Jaclyn Twedell Woods

Senior Pastor

Naomi Moon

Financial Secretary

Duane Toole

Director of Music

Carol Molinares

Pianist

To submit information for the Newsette, call (804) 233-1066 or send an email to bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com

We are still broadcasting our Sunday service online on Facebook for those members and friends who choose to worship at home.

November TEAMS

If you are unable to serve on the date(s) assigned, please arrange for a replacement.

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER

Scot Hawthorne

COMMUNION PREPARATION

2 – Stephanie Lewis
9 – Sue Marion
16 – Barbara Ozlin
23 – Geoff Gangloff
30 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman

USHERS - all month

Johnny Grubb
Linda Grubb

WORSHIP LEADERS

2 – June Sears
9 – Donna Wicker
16 – Barb Koch
23 – Penny Gradwell
30 – Barbara Ozlin

DEACONS

Jo Anne Dorneman
Christie Rolston

ELDERS

2 – June Sears
9 – Donna Wicker
16 – Barb Koch
23 – Penny Gradwell
30 – Barbara Ozlin

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Ray Crawford & Donna Wicker

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Barb Koch & Linda Walls

NOTE 1: The Into Action AA group will be meeting in our Youth Center: •Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. •Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE 2: Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church meets in our main building: •Sundays at 1:30 p.m. •Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

•Third Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and other times as coordinated with us

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 2**. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour ("fall back") before you go to bed on Saturday, November 1.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH



November is tied together with the heartstrings of gratitude." J.A. McIntosh

"November comes and November goes. With the last red berries and the first white snows." Clyde Watson

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" 1 Thessalonians 5:18

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of September 30, 2025 (75% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$129,877.12 (83.81% of annual budget)

pledged donations; "give-as-I-can" donations;
transient, Sunday School, budgeted special offerings and
receipts; budgeted facility donations; budgeted
interest/dividend income

* also YTD, we have received and disbursed through Misc Special Offerings: \$860 to CrossOver Ministries, \$630 to ACTS,
WHOA Foundation \$600

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$142,319.52 (66.51% of annual budget)

For 2025, we:

- accounted for \$1000.00 donations to the church facility
- accounted for \$8,854.18 miscellaneous donation to the church
- accounted for \$35,971.47 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of September 30, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 67,721.37
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Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 640.89
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Truist CD (matures 10-5-2025 – original principal \$25,000)	\$ 25,881.47
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Truist CD (matures 3-27-2026)	\$ 50,000.00
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Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment

(principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
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Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 426,533.18
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*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
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*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	75,853.51
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*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....	111,518.88
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WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, **November 2**. We will remember our saints by naming in the Pastoral Prayer all of our members who have died this year. According to our records, we will remember Hazel Henrietta Knibb Heider. Also during worship that morning, as the Pastoral Prayer is ending, we will take time for you to come forward as you are able to light candles in honor of or in memory of all the saints in your life.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we ask for help decorating the Sanctuary and the tree in the Narthex on **Monday November 24, at 10:00 a.m.** Thanks in advance for your help making this Christmas season bright and beautiful in our church!



YOU are invited to sing with the choir for our Christmas music this year in the Sunday service on **December 21, 2025**. We have part-specific learning CDs (or MP3s) so that you can learn the music at home, and will be rehearsing the Christmas music each **Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:15 in the sanctuary**. If you like to sing, join us for the Christmas music: no long term commitment required! Just show up at 7:30 in the Sanctuary.



PRAYER CONCERNS – *Please notify the church office when this information changes.*

● Acute – examples are: a surgery and release, an accident, a procedure, a hospital stay and release, etc.

B. J. Gradwell

Mary Kline

Matt Koch

Carolyn Moore

● Ongoing – examples are: rehabilitation and recovery, new treatments, waiting on tests results

Mark Kimmel

Ed McCann

Eliana Oatman

Pat Rende

Sheila Thayer

Dee & Jim Evans

● Members of our church family who may be struggling with chronic health issues, sadness, loneliness, and other burdens or who might just need a "prayer hug" to include

Merrily Baber

Ann Hasty

Jean McNeely

● Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Art John Shell's brother-in-law

Rev. Alice Clarke Sarah McLillard's friend

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Harrison Gradwell Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson

Odell Ingram John Shell's mother-in-law

Susan Lowe Mary Lowe's sister

Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

Michael McNeely & April Gray

Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother

Scott Shaw Catherine Parrish's friend

Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Smith Barbara Ozlin's sister

Penny Walker Pastor Jackie's grandmother

Heather White Diana Case-Foster's cousin



Please pray for those who suffer from natural disasters and war; for all of our men and women in the military and their families; for our country, its leaders, and peace in our world; and for our church.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT



We will **combine Sunday School Classes** during Advent, beginning Sunday, November 30th. The theme is "FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS/SONGS" Will you share with us what your favorite Christmas carol or song is and why? Is it the lyrics? The music? Or is there a special memory you have about the carol?

We are seeking volunteers to tell us about your favorite carol/song to prepare a devotion for our classes. We will also sing the carols/songs. If you would be so kind to please let Sue Marion know which Sunday during Advent you would like share and the name of the carol.

Advent Sundays are: **November 30th, December 7th, December 14th, and December 21st.**

Seekers Class- Please bring your gifts for the Christmas Mother lady on **November 30** wrapped for giving. They have to be delivered on Monday, Dec. 1. Contact Linda Grubb if you have questions.

DWF #1- Please bring your gifts for the Christmas Mother lady to our **November 18th** meeting, wrapped for delivery on Monday, Dec. 1. Also, our **December 16th** meeting is a luncheon at Linda Edwards's home at noon. We will sign up for bringing a dish at our November meeting- sides or dessert please. Contact Linda Grubb if you have any questions.



EVANGELISM | OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Bainbridge Community Ministry box in the hallway near the Chapel is always open for your donations of non-perishable food (and there is a box for paper bags with handles). Tim Skeens, from Bon Air Christian Church, is always so kind to deliver our food donations.

• *things to think about when donating to the food bank: cans with pop tops (no can opener required); smaller portions not oversized boxes; items that don't require ingredients not in the box (i.e., some mac & cheese requires milk and butter); cooking oil, sugar, and spices are needed also*

Thanksgiving Offerings will be accepted **Sunday, November 16**, and **Sunday, November 23**. These offerings support Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering provides a direct connection to fifteen colleges and universities, seven seminaries, and theological programs to continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church Christian Church" and indicate "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo.



FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

The beloved hymn "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" begins like this...

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

I love that last phrase...the hopes and fears of all the years...

Inspired by the last line, we will spend the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season focusing on the hope we hold tightly to, even as we are overwhelmed with fear. Because it does seem like there is so much to fear right now...

But we also trust in God – and the promise of the birth of Christ, Emmanuel. That trust allows us to hold on to hope, even if it is just a glimmer.... even if it doesn't feel like enough.

Each week of Advent, we will look to the beloved characters of the Nativity story – John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, the Christ Child, the Shepherds, and the Magi – as they choose hope over fear. I love that nearly all of our favorite Advent and Christmas scriptures remind us not to choose fear... "Fear not! The angels say, for I bring you good tidings of great joy!"

In addition to worship, we are creating an interactive bulletin board in the Narthex. Look to the Worship bulletin board each week, beginning **November 16th**, for instruction on how to participate. The first two weeks, you will be asked to share your fears. Then, each week of Advent, Christmas Eve, the Sunday after Christmas, and Epiphany, you will be asked to share your hopes. My hope is that, over the weeks of Advent and Christmas, we can all see that our hopes shine brighter than our fears.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace today, tomorrow, and always.

Blessings,
Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Saving ends All Saints' Sunday Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	3	4 AA-YC 7:00 pm	5 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	6 AA-YC 7:00 pm	7 C&J Teen Night 6:00 pm room upstairs	8
9 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am spagh lunch noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	10	11 Veterans Day AA-YC 7:00 pm	12 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	13 AA-YC 7:00 pm	14	15 C&J 8:30 am -12 pm
16 Thanksgiving Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	17	18 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	19 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	20 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	21	22
23 Thanksgiving Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • Dec Newsette deadline	24 decorate church 10 a.m.	25 Choir 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	26 C&J 6:30 pm	27 Thanksgiving church office holiday	28 church office holiday	29
30 combined Sunday School (Advent) 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm		Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center • note different day			© 2019 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com	