

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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It's been a year since we've been dealing with the pandemic. I almost cannot believe I wrote that last sentence. One year! I remember March 2020 like yesterday. My wife, son, parents and sister-in-law went away for a few days to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We enjoyed driving through the Smoky Mountains, going sightseeing and even doing some hiking. Each night we'd return to the cabin we rented and we'd turn on the news and every night the news got worse. I knew we were headed into uncharted territory when the NCAA Tournament got cancelled. When we returned to Virginia it was like we were returning to a different world. I never dreamed the first thing we'd have to do upon our return was to go on a scavenger hunt for toilet paper! How did things get so bad, so quickly? Since last March words that we've never spoken have become part of our everyday vernacular; Zoom meetings, social distancing, contact tracing, herd immunity, and virtual learning are as familiar as old friends. I now have a new pet peeve, I'll get out of my car, walk halfway across the parking lot and realize I've forgotten my mask! Problems that didn't exist a year ago are now regular annoyances. Similarly, problems that we dealt with a year ago have gone away or we've learned to put them into proper perspective. That's one thing the last year has taught me, perspective. Socrates famously said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." The pandemic gave me an opportunity to think more deeply about the importance of family, friends, the frailty of life, and the critical importance of human connection. Some of the questions that I'm wrestling with are, what will life look like once we emerge from the Pandemic? Will "normal" look like February 2020? Or will it be something different? What do we want life to look like? These are important questions that require deep thought. I don't want to just slip into old routines without thinking about how I'm spending the gift of time that the Lord is giving me. As I think about these questions, I am reminded of Moses and the people of the Exodus. When the Israelites emerged from 400 plus years of slavery, they had to put the past behind them and move forward in faith. They were wrestling with the question, "Who are we, now that we're no longer slaves?" I'm asking a similar

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question; who do we want to become once we emerge from this major event in our lives? God supplied Moses with an answer in Exodus 19:6, "You shall be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." The Apostle Peter reaffirms this vision for God's people when he says in 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." As we begin to imagine life on the other side of the Pandemic, I'd like for us to think about how we might recommit ourselves to God's vision of being a Kingdom of Priests. In Baptist tradition we celebrate the "Priesthood of all believers." This doctrine states that because Jesus Christ is our only mediator between God and us, we have been commissioned to function as priests. Please don't let the word "priest" intimidate you. God is not asking you to preach a sermon every Sunday or teach a Sunday school class. Simply put, the role of a priest is to represent God. Or, as CS Lewis once said, we're to be "Little Christs." The best way to be "Little Christs," and to live into God's vision of being a Kingdom of Priests is to live out the Great Commandment of loving God and loving our neighbor. There it is again, human connection. One of the things the Lord has impressed upon me during the pandemic is the importance of listening to God and listening to each other, being present to one another. Listening is a form of loving. To help us grow in our relationship with God and each other we're going to offer Prayer and Listening Groups or PALs groups throughout this year. A PALs group is a six-week small group experience where we will learn how to listen for the voice of God; we'll learn different ways to pray; and we'll also learn incarnational listening, which will help us listen to each other. This is important work. I believe God will use this time to guide us a church and guide us individually. I believe we'll renew some old friendships and make new friends through these groups. We'll grow closer to the Lord and closer to each other. I've been saying that our faith will be stronger once we've moved beyond the pandemic. This is a step in that direction, this is redemptive work. You'll have multiple

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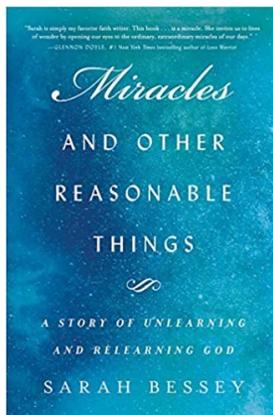
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opportunities to be a part of a PALs group this year. We're going to offer them throughout the year, at different times, different days, different venues with different leaders. Please consider this your invitation to be involved in a PALs group this year. The first PALs group will meet on Tuesday March 9th at 11 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. If you cannot make this first group, there will be other opportunities to participate. We will, of course, practice social distancing and we'll wear masks. Perhaps we'll be treated to some warm days and if that's the case we may meet outside. If you'd like to participate please call or email the church office, and we'll get you registered for the group. May God bless you and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church.

Todd

Book Club News

The Book Club is reading *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things* by Sarah Bessey. Here is what Goodreads says: "Weaving together theology and memoir in her trademark narrative style, Bessey tells us the story of the moment that changed her body and how it ultimately changed her life. She invites us to a path of knowing God that is filled with ordinary miracles, hope in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, and other completely reasonable things."



If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Gayle Taylor at revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com. The discussion will take place on May 16 after the worship service. Please bring a bagged lunch and drink to the meeting.

Library News

As I begin to write this newsletter, I am seeing small signs that spring is on the way. Winter is not my favorite time of the year. However, we are nearing one of the most Holy events in our lives...Easter. How amazing to think of what God and Jesus have done for each of us. Each day we can enjoy the beauty of God's handiwork. Our preschool children have enjoyed reading books about winter and they have enjoyed a couple of snow/ice days off from school and it sounds like more may be on the way. Let's be like children and enjoy the fun of building a snowman or throwing a snowball as we look forward to the warmer days of spring.

Barbara Bell, Media Director



Hoops! Come Join Us

We are taking every measure to ensure our students and volunteers stay safe so if you haven't been back to church yet, please consider joining us!



Pastor's Message Posted on YouTube



Great News! The pastors message will be posted on YouTube. It will be available by searching YouTube using Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian Virginia, and the stream to YouTube will be available by 12 a.m. on Monday morning each week.

Sharing and Caring Monday Small Group



The "Sharing and Caring" group will not meet in March due to the continued rise in Covid cases. We will re-evaluate in April and keep you posted. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

Easter EGGstravaganza

We won't be able to hold our annual Easter Egg hunt this year, but that won't stop us from sharing the Gospel with our community! We are pleased to announce that this year we will be hosting an **Easter EGGstravaganza!** This will be a drive-thru experience that teaches Jesus' Resurrection Story. Families will collect a number of eggs and each egg contains an element representative of the Easter story. Once the family collects their eggs they will be able to retell the story of Easter over and over. Of course, there will be candy and goodies, but most importantly those who attend will leave with the Gospel in their Easter baskets! Stay tuned for more details! We hosted a phenomenal Trunk-or-Treat and I know we can do the same with this! **BUT... We need your help!** Please consider helping in one of the following ways:



- stuffing eggs
- candy donations
- volunteering to serve on March 27
- set up/break down
- host a station (10)

If you can help in any way, please text or call Lauren Moore at 804-337-1497

*A Note From Your Associate
Pastor and Music Minister
by Gayle Taylor*



"Shadow of the Cross: What Matthew Saw" by Gayle Taylor

We began our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday, February 17. That day we reflected on our sin and mortality and possibly marked our foreheads or hands with the sign of the cross. That symbol has worn off by now, but its presence lingers as we follow Jesus' footsteps in the next few weeks. The Gospel of Matthew gives us a unique account of the events that lead us from the celebratory streets of Palm Sunday to the mountain in Galilee. Notice the shadow of the cross over each part of this journey.

On Palm Sunday, we accompany Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. We hear the crowds hail him "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Soon after, however, as he continues to perform miracles and to teach, the chief priests and the Pharisees question Jesus' authority and plot schemes that will lead to his arrest. Still, Jesus continues to tell parables and to forewarn about the end of the age. He predicts various signs such as deceivers, wars, earthquakes, and famines that will and must take place. He urges his followers to be alert, to be vigilant, and to preach the gospel to the world.

We follow Jesus and his disciples as they prepare for the Passover celebration. A woman in the town of Bethany anoints Jesus' head with expensive perfume. Although the disciples complain about the waste of such an expense, Jesus informs them that this was done to prepare his body for burial.

We watch in horror as Judas negotiates a fee for turning over Jesus to the chief priests. Thirty pieces of silver is the price that Judas accepts as he watches for an opportune time to betray the One with whom he had lived and ministered.

We celebrate the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples during Passover. It is an intimate supper with Jesus using the bread and wine to represent his body and blood. These supper elements symbolize the sacrifice that Jesus soon will make for the forgiveness of sins. On that same evening Jesus delivers hurtful predictions. He says that someone in the group will betray him and that Peter will deny him three times.

Even as he speaks to them, Judas appears with the chief priests and a large and armed crowd. He identifies Jesus with a kiss and Jesus is arrested. Then the disciples fled the scene. We, along with Peter, watch the perverse courtroom scene: false witnesses and despicable actions. Later Peter denies Jesus three times, just as Jesus had predicted.

The next morning, the chief priests and elders bind Jesus and hand him over to Pilate. Judas realizes what he has done and tries to undo the events that he has put into place by returning the silver. It is too late, though. He throws the money into the temple and hangs himself. Pilate questions Jesus but finds no fault with him and wants nothing to do with him. He allows the crowd to decide Jesus' fate. The crowd

Continued next column

says, "Crucify him!"

We watch Jesus being led away where the soldiers mocked him, spit on him, and hit him. They force another man, Simon, to carry the cross until they came to Golgotha. There they crucify Jesus. Passersby yell insults at him. From noon until three in the afternoon it is dark.

Finally, Jesus cries out to God. After crying out again, he dies. Immediately, the curtain in the temple tears, an earthquake happens, and tombs open. The guards, terrified of what they are seeing, attest that Jesus is the Son of God.

That evening, Joseph of Arimathea, goes to Pilate and asks for Jesus' body so that he can bury him. Joseph, himself, wraps Jesus' body and puts him into the tomb that he had cut out of rock. He rolls a huge stone over the entrance.

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb. An earthquake occurs and an angel rolls back the stone. The angel tells the women that Jesus has risen and that they are to report this to the disciples. As they run for Galilee, Jesus meets the women and tells them not to be afraid, but to go to the disciples, saying that they will see him in Galilee. On a mountain in Galilee, the eleven disciples do meet Jesus. They worship Him, though some doubt. Jesus claims His authority over heaven and earth and tells them to make disciples of all nations. He promises to be with them, "always, to the very end of the age."

The shadow of the cross looms over us today. As we reflect on the last weeks of Jesus' life on earth, we revisit His anguish and betrayal, but we also see His purpose: Jesus was born in order to die for us. In the nativity scene in Matthew, we read that an angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus "because he will save his people from their sins." Jesus did save his people from their sins... on a cross. That image should be ever before us as we follow His instructions to tell His good news to others.

PALs Group Meeting (POH) Tuesday, March 9th, 11 am

Please consider being involved in a PALs group this year. A PALs group is a six-week small group experience where we will learn how to listen for the voice of God and we'll learn different ways to pray. The first PALs group will meet on Tuesday March 9th at 11 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. If you cannot make this first group, there will be other opportunities to participate. We will, of course, practice social distancing and we will wear masks. If you would like to participate, please call or email the church office.

Easter Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Easter is Sunday, April 4. We are asking that you call and reserve your seats. They will be set up according to the number you reserve and they will be socially distanced from others, (like we did for the Christmas Eve Service.) The deadline to reserve seats is March 31.

Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Russell & I would like to thank you for the yummy snack basket. It was beautiful and we had so many choices to enjoy. We would also like to thank everyone for their prayers, many beautiful cards, phone calls and messages. This has really been hard but we will make it with our loving Bethel Church Family and the Good Lord's help. Thank you God for all your blessings to Russell & I. For giving us strength each day and for all our friends and family who make life more meaningful.

God Bless each one of you and always! May we have a better 2021.
Russell & Susan Wright



Dear Bethel Baptist Family,
Nate and myself wanted to express our gratitude for our church family. You all have always been so loving, supportive and we knew what a special family we found the first time we walked into Bethel. Thank you all so much! And thank you for the yummy fruit and snack basket too!

Love, The Meads (Nate, Andrea, Rylan, Elliemae and Waylon)



Dear Bethel Baptist Church Family,
There are no words to thank you all for your love, prayers, calls, and cards for me these last couple of months. It is such a blessing to be a member of the fellowship of our Bethel family. Thank you each and everyone and I look forward to our return to full services, full fellowship and continued love to one another.

God Bless, Shirley Lewis



Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
We would like to thank everyone who sent us a card or email on the death of Rodney's sister. They were very much appreciated and we hope that someday soon we can thank you in person.

Rodney and Mary Smith



Dear Bethel Church,
Just wanted to thank all of my church family for the wonderful gifts donated for my grandson. We appreciate all the things more than you know. Thanks for being such a blessing in our lives.

Carrie Persichini and Family



Dear Todd, Gayle, Cathy and loving Bethel Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful celebration of Ralph's life and for the generous donation of Bibles to the Gideons in his memory. Also, thank you for all the prayers, calls, cards of comfort and the delicious food. Your kindness, support and sympathy has given us comfort during this difficult time and is more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express, and will always be remembered. I feel so blessed to have such a caring and loving church family.

Love & Blessings, Pat Reynolds and Family



By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

March is roaring in like a lion and we are hoping the Leprechauns will bring Spring and warmer weather to us soon! Who knew that one year ago our lives would change so drastically. I am happy to say that Bethel Baptist Preschool has weathered this storm and is thriving! Looking forward to the new beginnings!

Open registration began February 1st for the 2021/2022 school year for our church families and students of the preschool. Registration became open to the public on February 15th. We are steadily receiving inquiries making our new school year look very promising. If you know of anyone who is looking for a preschool, please be sure to mention us. Spots are filling up fast!

The preschool always likes to honor our parents but this year things must be done a bit differently due to COVID-19. Instead of hosting our annual Dads' night we will be celebrating them from afar. Our children will be making special gifts for their fathers and father-like figures to let them know just how much they are appreciated and loved. These items will be sent home with special messages straight from a child's heart.

The preschool will be having our annual spring pictures. Jennifer Gavin from Jennifer Gavin Photography will be taking spring pictures with our preschoolers on Thursday, March 18th. The kids get so excited to get all dressed up and smile for the camera!

During the month of March, we will be learning the true meaning of Easter. Each class will have their own Easter celebration along with an Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, April 1st during their class snack times.

The Preschool will be closed from Friday, April 2nd through Sunday, April 11th for Spring Break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the classrooms on Monday, April 12th. Please have a safe and relaxing break.

As always, my staff and I would like to thank you again for all the support you give to the Preschool. You are the reason we are the program we are today!



Joint Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Historic Sanctuary

Join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the historic sanctuary, in person or on Zoom for our joint Sunday School class. Our teachers are Sherwood Dance, Gayle Rogers, David Grubbs, John Pulley, Mike Rider and Howard Humphreys. They will be rotating each week and they are teaching from the Formations Adult Bible Study. If you need a book, you may pick one up in the church office or there are some in the historic Sanctuary.

Youth News Connect



by Lauren Moore

In an ongoing effort to equip our students to pursue Jesus on their own, I recently introduced them to two new devotional apps. If you are looking to switch up your quiet time, on the search for a new app or two, or just want to try something different in your routine you may find these apps helpful to you!

The first app is Cultivate devotional app. Cultivate helps teens, young adults, and beyond to cultivate the practice of reading the bible! Not just simply reading the bible, but creating a passion, understanding, and application. The other app I introduced to our students is Glorify. If you feel like your quiet time is difficult at times, Glorify has a built-in rhythm to help your time with God to flow well, to help keep you focused on the Lord. This app is so helpful in creating good daily habits. You can download both of these apps wherever you get your apps!



Cultivate Devotional app features:

- Daily content
- Short passage of scripture and a few

paragraphs of thought-provoking insight to help you apply the passage to your life.

- Short prayer and a challenge to carry with you throughout the day.
- Question of the week and more!



Glorify app features:

- Bite-sized worship routines perfect for any time, anywhere
- Daily worship habit of passage, devotional, reflection, prayer
- Audible content including meditations, declarations, prayers, and music
- Personal space to record and track your prayers
- Bible journaling

March Calendar

- 3: Connect, 7-8:15 pm
- 10: Passport Camp Meeting—6:30 pm
- 17: Connect, 7-8:15 pm
- 24: Connect, 7-8:15 pm
- 26: Deposit due for Passport.
- 27: Easter EGGstravaganza, 1 p.m. (more info on page 2)
- 31: Connect, 7-8:15 pm.

Ministry & Missions Celebration
March 3, 7 p.m. (Business Mtg)

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on Monday, March 1, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. The program which was cancelled last month, will be presented by Wendy Custer. Wendy is the owner of Corner Copia, which is a farm and studio. She is the author of the book *A Cup of Encouragement*. Wendy has a passion to encourage women and gets her inspiration in every day life as she watches and listens to God speaking to her through her relationships and circumstances. We invite all the women of Bethel (and friends) to join us on the first and discover how Wendy acquired the title AN ENCOURAGER.

Hope for Appalachia—See information on page 6

Bethel Preschooler Cards: If you have signed up to send a card to a preschooler, please be sure to remember his/her birthday and any upcoming holidays.

Kroger: Please **register your Kroger card** so Bethel can continue to receive reward points toward Missions. Go to www.Kroger.com and sign in. Then click on "Community" on tab bar and click on "community Rewards." The church member number is **QW701**. You will still get your points toward gas, Bethel will just get credit for any amounts you spend at Kroger.

4 Ways to Give at Bethel

- 1. In Person:** Drop your check in the offering plate as you enter or leave the People of Hope on Sunday morning.
- 2. Send a check to our secure mailbox:** The address is: Bethel Baptist Church, 1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113
- 3. Online Giving:** On our Website there is a link to give. Once you click on the link you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. Here's the link for online giving:
<https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/>
- 4. Text Giving:** Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804) 361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform we're using is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction. As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

Maundy Thursday Service April 1, People of Hope

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! There will be a joint Maundy Thursday Service on April 1, with Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in the People of Hope Center. More information will be coming soon.

March Birthdays



1	Abbey Brooks	17	Wendy Theriot
1	Ed Wooldridge	17	David Wilson
2	Judy Barker	18	Jim Bradley
3	Amy Beltz	18	Shannon Gerace
3	Nancy Humphreys	18	Laura Hughes
3	Cheyenne Nelson	20	Robert Brooks
3	Wendy Palmore	20	Kimberly Cody
4	Conner Brock	20	Pat Bartlam
4	Layne Puryear	20	Colin Patteson
6	Pat Beltz	21	Cindy Wight
6	Kari Liverman	22	Steve Dragnich
6	Christine Cullen	22	Margaret Watkins
6	Jeanne Yeager	24	Doug Acree
7	Jean Redmond	24	Joe Atkinson
8	Donna Brooks	26	Barbara Hale
9	Debbie Weir	27	Brayden Rider
10	Coleman Goodman	28	Andrea Hale
10	Faith Ann McNeel	28	Connor Smith
10	Jennie Sadler	29	Carrie Persichini
11	Gayle Taylor	29	Bobby Moseley
14	Howard Humphreys	29	Debbie Passmore
14	Mark Justis	29	Kenny Passmore
14	Debbie Salyer	30	Bill Redmond
14	Scott Tooley	31	Rylan Mead

Wednesday Night Programs in March



- March 3 — Ministry & Missions Celebration 7 p.m.
 March 10 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 March 17 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 March 24 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 March 31 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

- March 10, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 March 26, 9 to 11 a.m.
 April 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 April 23, 9 to 11 a.m.

If you would like to help on either of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.



Opportunities for:

Please note: Some of these ministries are on hold due to Covid

Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- WMU (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See Ardelle Florence)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Barbara Bell)
- Care Team Ministry (See Pat Reynolds)

Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Margaret Gillis)
- Youth Group Meetings every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. (See Lauren Moore)
- Bible/Discipleship Study Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
- Zumba Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. (See Megan Luck)
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW children's ministry, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Children in Action meet every 5th Sunday, during the Sunday School hour. (See Frances Morris)

Hope for Appalachia

We will be collecting Hope for Appalachia Hope Boxes until **March 14**. A HOPE BOX (shoebox) is our gift of essential items and also fun items to school children in eastern Kentucky. The box also helps us share the Good News of Jesus with the children.

Boxes can be picked up in the Hope Center along with a list of needed items. We are collecting for boys and girls in 2nd Grade. Carefully read the list for 2nd graders, to see what is accepted and what is not. The deadline for this project is **MARCH 14**.



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 WMU—10 am	2 Boy Scouts—7 pm	3 Ministry and Missions Cehb—7 pm Passport Camp Meeting—6:30 pm	4 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	5 Rehearsal for Wedding—TBD	6 Eisherman Wedding—3 pm Historic Sanctuary Only
7 Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH Girl Scout Cookie Sale—2 pm (POH parking lot—drive thru)	8	9 Boy Scouts—7 pm	10 Charlotte's Partry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	11 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	12 Scouts Set Up	13 Scouts All Day Event POH
14 Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	15	16 Boy Scouts—7 pm B & G—7 pm	17 Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	18 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	19	20
21 Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	22	23 Boy Scouts—7 pm	24 Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	25 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	26 Charlotte's Partry—9 to 11 am	27 Easter EGGstravaganza—1 pm Drive-Thru
28 Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	29	30 Boy Scouts—7 pm	31 Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm			

Bethel Baptist Church

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Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES 9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship



JUST FOR FUN

What Do You Know about These Special Days in March 2021?

(Answers in next column)

1. On March 17, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. When and where did this holiday originate?
2. The first day of Spring will occur on March 20. What designates the beginning of spring?
3. On March 14, Daylight Savings Time begins. When did Americans begin honoring daylight savings time?
4. Passover begins on March 27. When did this celebration originate?
5. Christians celebrate Palm Sunday on March 28. What is the significance of this day?
6. In March we will have a new moon on the 13th and a full moon on the 28th. What do these moon phases mean?
7. The Ides of March is on the 15th. Of what significance is this date?

ANSWERS

1. St. Patrick's Day began in Ireland. It commemorates the death of priest St. Patrick who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. He lived from 385-461 AD.
2. The first day of spring is determined by the vernal equinox, which is when the equator, sun crosses over plane of the earth's making night and day approximately equal lengths all over the world. On the day the equinox passes, both of Earth's hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight.
3. European countries began DST during WWI in 1916 to conserve fuel. The U.S. adopted it in 1918. (It was unpopular with farmers because they had less time in the morning to get their milk and crops to the market).
4. Passover is a religious holiday celebrated by the Jewish people which commemorates when God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
5. Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem when palm branches were placed in his path before his arrest on Holy Thursday and crucifixion on Good Friday.
6. New Moon: when the moon's orbit around the Earth moves it between Earth and the Sun. This occurs every 29.5 days. Full Moon: known as a waxing gibbous moon. When the moon has moved 180 degrees from its new moon position, the sun, Earth, and the moon form a line. The moon's disk is as close as it can be to being fully illuminated by the sun.
7. In 44 BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated.