

# BEULAH BEACON

## NEW THINGS....

By Pastor Don Gibson

*"So our faces are not covered. They show the bright glory of the Lord, as the Lord's Spirit makes us more and more like our glorious Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18*

What kinds of changes are taking place in your life, in your physical body and spirit? Sometimes we say, "getting old isn't for the weak or faint of heart," or, "I'm falling apart," or, "I have half-timers; I remember half of what I should know." All these, as painful as it is to admit, are realities of our human condition. We are changing, every day we are changing and everything around us changes, constantly. If I were to sum of 2023, in just a few words, I would have to say; "lots of big changes mixed with lots of big blessings." We as a church have traveled a very narrow, at times bumpy, path. My family and I have traveled through some very dark and difficult times. However, along the way, I was always aware of God's presence. I was reminded, more than once in this past year, that we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death." It is simply the shadow of death- and because it is simply the shadow and because shadows have no power over us, we can say "I will fear no evil for thou are with me!" God has been

and will be with us! Perhaps this could be our summation of 2023? God has been and will be with us! Paul invites us to remember that we are not to only account for the ways we are failing, and things are constantly changing, we are encouraged to give an account of how we are growing, being transformed, becoming more like our glorious Lord and in doing this, we are announcing to the world that- God is with us!

Paul says, that as a result of beholding God and communing with him, our faces uncovered, we are "being transformed", "being changed", even our appearance is being changed. Paul reminds us, as he did those at Corinth, that we have a new and improved appearance, spirit, and outlook. So, we are not weak, we are not falling apart. Our world, though changing, our church, though changing, our lives, loved ones, though changing, aren't overwhelmed by the "shadow of death" - why? Because God is with us! And, because God is with us, this Christmas truth, gives promise to our New Year- we are growing, being transformed, taking on a new image, a new identity. That's how I want to present "what's happening with me, my family, with our church, and our future. How 'bout you?"

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# MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I chose Sing we now of Christmas and Ding Dong Merrily on High for our songs to look at during January. I hope that you like reading about the history behind these hymns.

**Sing We Now of Christmas** is a traditional French carol with origins unknown. It has 5 stanzas that tell of the angels announcing the birth, the shepherds visit, and the wisemen who come and worship. It's the perfect song to accompany the creche. The handmade nativity scene figures are not just in people's homes but also set up in the town square. History of Hymns: "Sing We Now of Christmas" Hawn, C. Michael 23, December 2014

Discipleship Ministries UMC,

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-sing-we-now-of-christmas>



**Ding Dong Merrily on High** was written in 1588. It was a French tune that was written sideways and it was found in the Orchesographic book. This book contains a lot of tunes from the French Renaissance period with instructions on how to dance the tunes. It has the title of Brandle D'LeOfficial. In 1948, Mary Stewart Evans translated the book to English. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1914) wrote some lyrics and set the tune and the song became Ding Dong, Merrily on High. In 1924 it was published in The Cambridge Carol Book.

The History of Ding Dong! Merrily on High Coughlin, Kyle 15, December 2016 Christmas Music Songs, Joyful Santa

<https://joyfulsanta.blogspot.com/2016/12/the-history-of-ding-dong-merrily-on-high.html>



By Barry Iglehart

[root-cellar.org](http://root-cellar.org)

## OR... LET THERE BE LIGHT

Trick question, what's the first thing listed that God created? Okay, it was/is the heavens and the earth. More specifically... light? The Hebrew for that is "or". "Va yomair Elohim y'he or, va y'he or."... "And God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light.' Earth was formless, lifeless, "and darkness covered the face of the deep. "Perhaps God, Elohim", put the light in the darkness so what He created could see all that was around it. That includes us. That seeing would include both our spirits and our physical bodies. "Let those with eyes..."

Why? I think that God gave us spirits so we could truly walk at His side, be more than mere toys. He created the entire universe, physical and spiritual, seen and unseen. When we broke it, choosing to do so in a way, allowing sin to become a part of it, He already knew that we'd need something to help us get past the stumbling rocks and pitfalls which are in our way in we chose to turn back to Him. That light He not only set in the sky, He set it in His word by His prophets and His Son. As we enter this new year, let us set His word before us at all times remembering His Son, our Savior. As the psalmist says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." Let it ever be so. Shalom.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES  
AS WE  
SEEK, SHARE,  
AND SERVE GOD**



# THE MONTHIN REVIEW



**On Sunday, December 03,** Beulah said farewell to Pastor Daniel and Karis Chun. Pastor Daniel has been appointed as a senior pastor to a local small church. While at Beulah, Pastor Daniel served as an associate pastor overseeing the Next-Gen ministries (Children, Youth, and College age), outreach ministries, and blessed Beulah with his love of playing guitar, becoming everyone's favorite son-in-law, and coffee. While his absence is felt, we pray for Pastor Daniel and Karis's new adventure.

**On Tuesday, December 05,** Beulah United Methodist Church became officially disaffiliated from the United Methodist denomination and became Beulah Church Inc. (Please make sure to write any checks to Beulah Church from here on out). With this change also came a new church website and staff email addresses. You can check the site out at <https://www.beulah-church.com/>. The new email addresses are listed to the side.

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Don Gibson	don@beulah-church.com
Deborah Wenrich	deborah@beulah-church.com
Suzanne Davis	suzanne@beulah-church.com
Melissa Butler	melissa@beulah-church.com
Koranny More Espinal	koranny@beulah-church.com



**On Friday, December 08,** several volunteers gathered to make 20 Christmas Arrangements for people who were homebound or going through a difficult time this past Christmas season. They were delivered over the course of the following week and their receptions caused greatly joy for many. Thank you to everyone who was involved in gathering supplies, making the arrangements, and delivering them.



**On Saturday, December 9,** Beulah's Drama team Presented "The Best Present" for about 150 people. The play was about five toys; a monster truck, a chipmunk, an airplane/robot, a doll, and a toy army man. They all come to life on Christmas Eve believing they are the best gift. The toys set out on a mission to discover exactly who is "The Best Present"



**On Sunday, December 10,** was a very eventful and blessed day. During the worship services Beulah welcomed new members Rachayl Powell, Tamira Roman, and Harry and Ellen Trimble.

During the worship services Beulah also prayed over the 51 meals which families received what they needed to help them put a nice Christmas meal on the table. The meals we donated had an estimated weight of 867 pounds. On behalf of the families, thank you for your generosity!

After the service several of the children, youth, and adults went to Common Wealth Senior Living to share the love of Christ by sing carols for the residents and handing out Christmas arrangements to several members of the Beulah family who have taken up residence there. It was truly a special blessing for all involved.



**On Sunday, December 17,** the church gathered for a combined special service at 11:00 am as the Sanctuary Choir performed "Christmas Is Real" a Christmas Cantata. The congregation was touched in hearing what the true meaning of Christmas is as shown through God's love and the birth of Jesus.

# THE MONTH IN REVIEW CONTINUED

**On Sunday, December 24,** Christmas Eve hosted the normal Sunday morning worship services and the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. The services were beautifully decorated with poinsettias given in honor or memory of Beulah's loved ones. There were many notable moments in the service as Cindy Staneart led a story time for the children and young at heart and Debbie Phillips, sang a beautiful rendition of Holy Night. The truest blessing of the service came after the congregation took part in the Sacraments and was able to take the Light of Christ, along with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ, remembering that while our physical candle may be extinguished the Light of Christ is always carried with us.



**On Sunday, December 31,** Beulah closed out the year with a combined service of Lessons and Carols. It was a joyful service as one congregant described it as "a cantata where the congregation gets to sing". The service was led by Lay Leader Louis Corde, Deborah Wenrich, and four scripture readers. The story through song and scripture took everyone on a journey from the fall of man to the birth of our savior. The Beulah Land Quartet opened the service with "Little Drummer Boy" and the woman's chorus closed the service with "Silent Night".



## COMMUNION OFFERING

Each month the church is invited to contribute to a Communion Offering. This offering helps to support various ministries and non-profits financially. You can mark your contribution for the month's offering by writing "communion offering" on the memo line of your check or envelope or by going to the church's website at [Beulah-church.com/give](http://Beulah-church.com/give).

## 2024 COMMUNION OFFERINGS

- January - [CARITAS](#)
- February - [Heart Havens](#)
- March - [UMCOR](#)
- April - [Liberations Veteran Services](#)
- May - [Society of St Andrew](#) and [Shalom Farms](#)
- June - [Chesterfield Food Bank](#)
- July - [Rise Against Hunger](#)
- August - [Crossover Ministries](#)
- September - [CCHASM](#)
- October - [Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield](#)
- November - [James House](#) and [Safe Harbor](#)
- December - [United Methodist Family Services](#)

## BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

### JANUARY READING

01	2 Samuel 22-24	17	2 Kings 9-10
02	1 Kings 1-2	18	2 Kings 11-14
03	1 Kings 3-5	19	2 Kings 15-16
04	1 Kings 6-7	20	2 Kings 17-18
05	1 Kings 8	21	Sunday (Catch-up day)
06	1 Kings 9-11	22	2 Kings 19-22
07	Sunday (Catch-up day)	23	2 Kings 23-24
08	1 Kings 12-13	24	2 Kings 25;
09	1 Kings 14-15		1 Chronicles 1-2
10	1 Kings 16-18	25	1 Chronicles 3-5
11	1 Kings 19-20	26	1 Chronicles 6-8
12	1 Kings 21-22	27	1 Chronicles 9-11
13	2 Kings 1-3	28	Sunday (Catch-up day)
14	Sunday (Catch-up day)	29	1 Chronicles 12-15
15	2 Kings 4-6	30	1 Chronicles 16-20
16	2 Kings 7-8	31	1 Chronicles 21-23





## DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ADVENT SERVICE

Once again, our UWF unit was recognized at the District Annual Meeting as a 6-star unit for giving financially to all 6 channels for undesignated mission giving and as a Gold Unit for participating in mission giving and education, spiritual growth, and hands-on mission projects. If you are a mission-minded woman looking for a way to serve with a group of supportive women, we invite you to join one of our circles. Their meeting dates and times are in the monthly calendars of this newsletter.

## UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guide is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

### Scripture for the Month

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you.*

- Isaiah 60:1

### Witness

God places opportunities to serve in our paths every day. We can ignore them, dwelling upon the before, or embrace them, engaging in the now with faith, commitment and love.

-Cornelia Wieck, Global Missionary from the United States serving in East Asia.

### Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Angola, Argentina, Austria, Belize and Brazil and our United States missionaries serving in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas and Arizona.

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of January, Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of pasta and pasta sauces. Your donation can be left on the wire rack at the Information Center or in the white Afterhours Donation Cabinet in the Breezeway. Thank you for all you did to help us meet our 2023 pledge of 5,000 lbs. The total amount collected this year was 5,598 lbs.

## CROP HUNGER WALK RESULTS

Thank you for your support of your Beulah Team. We raised \$1,010 towards the total of \$22,357 for the Richmond Walk. Thank you too for your patience as your checks work their way through the channels on their way to fighting hunger around the world and around the city. 25% of the funds raised will help Shalom Farms and Peter Paul Development Center provide good nutrition to underserved neighborhoods in Richmond.

## BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet **Tuesday, January, 16** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our music program will be Paul Muller's "The Tune Wrangler". Come and join us for the program, snacks and fun.

## NEW YEAR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS

Are you looking to join a new Sunday School Class or try out a new group in 2024? At the front desk, there is a list of all the groups meeting at Beulah if you have any questions please see the church office.

### VOLUNTEERING

At the Information Center you will find several ways to sign up to volunteer in 2024. Most volunteer areas ask for once a month or less commitment.

- Nursery and Children's ministry
- Delivering food to Sherbourne
- Scripture readers
- Blessing teachers aids at Meadowbrook HS
- Volunteer Desk
- Prayer Team
- Ushering
- Greeting

## RUTH ROBERTSON CHRISTMAS BRUNCH



## CALENDAR

### January

- 01 Church Closed for New Year
- 05 Mariner's Dinner
- 08 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 09 Mary Farmer Circle of Love  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Rebekah Fellowship
- 12 Historical Society
- 13 Hearing Loss Association
- 16 Beulah's Best  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Methodist Men's Meeting
- 17 Wesleyan Stratton  
Beulah Pool
- 23 Springdale Bible Study
- 26 Historical Society
- 31 Prayer meeting

### REOCCURRING WEEKLY

#### Sunday

- 8:30 Worship
- Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- Youth Group

#### Monday

- Card Ministry
- Men's Bible study
- Bells of Praise Rehearsal
- Scouts

#### Tuesday

- Women's Chorus rehearsal
- Cub Scouts

#### Thursday

- Beulah Land Quartet Rehearsal
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

- 02 Linda Mustain  
Mickey Williams
- 03 Pat Hart
- 04 Lynn Hamlett  
Laura Stonestreet
- 05 Stefanie Turner
- 07 Raymond Hodges
- 11 Madeline Hodges  
Robert Lohr
- 13 Isaiah Gibson  
Howie Worrell
- 14 Sherry Gilliam
- 15 Robert Kinneberg  
Jim Niccoli
- 16 Carol Casler-Martin
- 17 Noel Boraski  
Barbara Dudley
- 19 Dawn Sullivan Woolridge
- 20 Ted Soyars
- 21 Paola Leyva
- 25 Howard Bareford  
Jerri Beatty  
J. R. Roach
- 26 Mark Inman
- 27 Chance Gibson

### February

- 02 Betsy Q Forbes  
Marvin Waldrop
- 03 Jamie Scavone  
Ann Warren
- 04 Bobbi Hudson  
Mary Love Walston
- 05 Skip Mulligan
- 06 Eric Cunningham  
Allen Mason
- 07 Cathy Keller  
Bob Mays



## ANNOUNCEMENT



**Cayden Lee McKinney** was born December 20, 2023 weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and 22 inches long. He is the son of Megan and Daniel McKinney and great grandson of Sarah Tatum and Ray McKinney. His daddy is a great baseball player and hunter but this big guy is bound to be a football player.