

BEULAH BEACON

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By Pastor Don Gibson

God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

I pray that you had a wonderful, God-filled-Christmas; I sure did. I enjoyed the wonderful Christmas music, gatherings with family and friends, giving and receiving of gifts and all the good food (lots of baked goodies). I overheard a conversation, during the Christmas season, that included the sharing of a cake-recipe, and these words, “well, it normally takes more than 2 ingredients.” You might already know this, I do, although I am certainly a novice when it comes to baking. Cakes, to be edible, need more than two ingredients. Even if you are baking a cake from a box mix, you often need oil, water (or milk) and eggs. I have learned, from a good old southern recipe, that a can of soda helps make a delicious cake. That might sound strange, but it’s true. One of my favorite cakes, made by my grandmother, included a can of Sprite or 7 UP. As I look forward to another new year, I am reminded that sometimes the “ingredients” in our lives can seem strange, too. Things happen that surprise us, and we wonder what God has in store. We wonder, “why” or “how will this turn out?”

The scripture text above, Romans 8:28, reminds us that God works for the good of those who love Him. What do you think that means? God is sovereign. That means He is in control of

everything that happens. He has a plan for our lives, even when things seem bad or sometimes don’t make sense. We must trust Him. God may surprise us in this New Year, but he is always working for our good. It’s up to us to trust in His wisdom, His power, and His love for us. I have found this to be a great recipe for each new year!

2023 A YEAR OF:

New Beginnings: Start out the New Year with a fresh point of view to new experiences, memories, and blessings. Have an open mind and heart to wherever the Lord may take you with full assurance and confidence that He is with you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

New Purpose: As you forge ahead, God always has a plan and a purpose for what you will go through and experience. Remember that God always has a reason for what He allows in your life and through it you can trust Him completely. (Proverbs 1:3-5)

New Growth: When we are willing to let go and let God work in us and through us, He will always stretch us and grow us. It is an important part of the growth process. Continue to grow in your relationship with Him and in His Word. Pray for God to mold you and make you pliable in the potter’s hand and then watch the master craftsman work on His masterpiece, which is you!

Renewed Peace: As you go through new experiences and new adventures whether they are good or bad, my encouragement is to keep your eyes fixed on Christ and He will give you rest and peace, because He is our peace and loves you and cares for you deeply. (John 16:33)



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BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

JANUARY PROMPT

January's theme is "New Year's Devotional". To begin the New Year, we invite everyone to write a devotional for each day of reading. We then encourage you to share that devotional with your friends to read (via Facebook, Email, Text Message). The hope is to begin the New Year with continuous reading and sharing of God's Word.

An example can be found at
<https://www.beulahumc.org/post/january-devotional-sample>

JANUARY READING

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 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.

B'RESHEET

By Barry Iglehart

Interesting how it appears our thoughts and our thinking is at times influenced by Hebrew concepts. We tend to think of our day as beginning with sunrise while in many Jewish communities it is the previous sundown. Labeled as roughly the same twenty-four hours, they have differing start-points.

Now, we know that technically our day, with our western, Gentile clock, clicks over in the middle of the night (okay, midnight). So does our Gentile year click over amidst the darkness of Winter for a lot of us. In the cold we find a new start, a new beginning. The Hebrew words "B'resheet Elohim", "In the beginning God", which is the root for the word Genesis, epitomizes this thought. It was here, during darkness and chaos, when the world had no form and no life, that He brought forth light and life. It was here that we had our start, our beginnings, our creation in the midst of His Creation.

And as our Gentile minds see New Year's Day as alive with fresh possibilities, God sees us always with fresh possibilities and newness of life, waiting beneath the cold. Let us allow that original Gardener to work through us, planting a new garden in each of us. May there be a new beginning in each of us with God, the Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Yeshua ha Mashiach. And may everything we do have its "B'resheet Elohim".

Welcome to the New Year and bless you!
Baruch atah!

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.

BEULAH UWF SAYS THANKS!

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Holiday Bake Sale. Whether you baked or bought or did both, you helped raise \$1,171 to support the missions in our budget. Many thanks to those who worked before the sale to create a festive atmosphere and during the sale to help shoppers find the right treats and to Riley Turner, a great cashier!

Our unit has been blessed to be able to meet our mission budgets through the pandemic and afterwards due to the generosity of our members and the support of our congregation. On behalf of the women, children, and youth who have known the love of the Risen Christ through our mission dollars, we thank you!

SHOWING APPRECIATION TO INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

For several years, groups and individuals at Beulah have provided monthly treats to the instructional assistants in the Exceptional Education Department at Meadowbrook High School to recognize them for all they do to help their students. Please sign up at the Information Center if you or your group would like to help with this. The Instructional Assistants appreciate it so much!

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: This year's Cantata was *The First Noel*. The sanctuary choir did an excellent job. If you missed the Cantata you can view it on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).



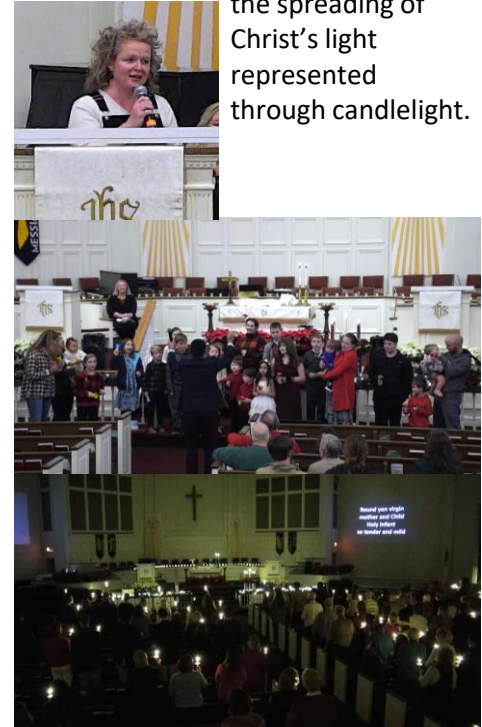
CHRISTMAS PLAY: On Saturday, December 17, the Music Department presented *A King Is Coming to Town*. The play was written by our music director Deborah Wenrich and had a cast of thirteen. The play was fun while telling the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. The audience attendance was about 150 people with a third being visitors from the community.



LIVING NATIVITY: On Sunday December 18, about 300 people came to view the living nativity. We had a great crew acting out the scene, handing out hot chocolate with cookies, and interacting with people who visited the Petting Zoo. Beulah's Living Nativity is a tradition for many families in the community and we are blessed to be able to host it every year.



CHRISTMAS EVE: On Saturday, December 24, Beulah and people from the community gathered to celebrate our Savior's birth through the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. The service was beautiful with the children ringing bells, the sharing of communion, Kent Hudson's daughter, Rose Hager, singing *O Holy Night*, and the spreading of Christ's light represented through candlelight.



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: On Sunday, December 25, the congregation gathered in the Fellow Hall to celebrate Jesus' Birthday! Amongst the various carols of the day the Interpretive Dance team performed to *Mary Did You Know* and the children and youth lead us in singing *Away in a Manger*. There was the reading of Jesus's birth, and we all sang *Happy Birthday to Jesus!*



COMMUNION OFFERINGS

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 months offering by writing "communion offering" on the memo line of your check or envelope or by going to the church's website at Beulahumc.org/give.



2022 COMMUNION OFFERINGS

- January - CARITAS
- February - Heart Havens
- March - UMCOR
- April - Native American Ministries
- May - Society of St. Andrew & Shalom Farms
- June - UM Conference Services
- July - Rise Against Hunger
- August - Crossover Ministries
- September - CCHASM
- October - World Communion
- November – James House/Safe Harbor
- December - United Methodist Family Services

THIS MONTH'S COMMUNION OFFERING



<https://www.caritasva.org/>
(From the Caritas website)

Caring is at the heart of all we do at CARITAS and caring community members like you allow us to provide immediate assistance and long-term support that help those in need find homes and overcome addiction. By supporting CARITAS, you play a valuable role in our active community of caring, so that we can support the participants of our programs and continue to provide intentional, safe spaces where healing and recovery can happen. It is because of your support that our participants are never alone on their journey to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for being a part of our active community of caring at CARITAS. Your generosity delivers the smiles, hugs, and support that support us, so that we can support our CARITAS community.



SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

The Sherbourne Food Pantry received 75 completed Christmas meal bags to help the families they serve, along with items in our regular delivery that could be used to assemble more meals. Sherbourne UMC gives us an opportunity to bless our neighbors every week and especially at Christmas! Thanks to everyone who donated. Our total for 2022 was 4,752 lbs. of food. We were short 248 lbs of reaching our goal. The goal for 2023 is 5,000 lbs.

January's Suggested Donations

The suggested donation for January are Pasta and Pasta Sauces. Donations can be left on the silver rack at the Information Center or in the white bin in the breezeway.

UMCOR RESPONDS TO MASSIVE WINTER STORM

As our United Methodist Committee on Relief says on their Facebook page, "From rain to snow to tornadoes and more, the system will affect different regions in different ways", and true to form, UMCOR will work through disaster response ministries and coordinators in the Annual Conferences affected to provide emergency grants and plan for ongoing recovery, based on the different needs of each area. If you want to help with this effort, please make your check out to "Beulah UMC", designated for "U.S. Disaster Response". The Advance number is #901670, and 100% of your donation will go to the relief and recovery efforts.

CROP WALK UPDATE

Thank you to everyone on the Beulah Team and those who supported them. We raised a total of \$1,840 to fight hunger locally and around the world. The Richmond Walk raised a total of more than \$24,600. Twenty five percent of this total will stay in our area. The local missions that benefited from the Richmond Walk are Shalom Farms and Peter Paul Development Center.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING JOURNEY

The meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on August 28, 2022, have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Richmond warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner, Convoy of Hope in Nicaragua.



JANUARY CALENDAR

- 03** Hugging Hearts
- 05** UWF Mission Meeting
- 06** Mariners Dinner
- 09** Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 10** Finance Meeting
- 14** Oyster Roast
- 16** Youth Retreat
- 17** Beulah's Best
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Springdale Bible Study
Hugging Hearts
Admin Board Meeting
- 18** Wesleyan Stratton
- 19** Rebekah Fellowship
- 24** UMM Dinner and Meeting
- 31** Prayer Meeting

REOCCURRING WEEKLY

- Sunday** 8:30 Worship
Sunday School
11:00 Worship
Interpretive Dance
Solo Bells Rehearsal
Youth
- Monday** Card Ministry
Men's Bible Study
Ensemble Rehearsal
Bells of Praise Rehearsal
Scouts
- Tuesday** Cub Scouts
- Wednesday** Staff Meeting
- Thursday** Beulah Land Quartet
Girl Scouts
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FINANCE MEETING

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 10**, at 7:00 pm in room 107. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Tyler at 804-393-1687.

OYSTER ROAST

The Oyster Roast and Barbecue will return on **Saturday, January 14**, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Break out your oyster knives, put on your warm clothes, come shuck some oysters out back of the Fellowship Hall. Eat all the BBQ you want along with baked beans, cole slaw, and dessert. Please sign up at the Information Center. The dinner is by donation and all proceeds will go to Neighbors Outreach Worldwide (NOW).

BEULAH'S BEST

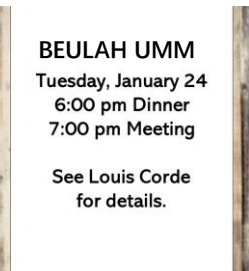
Beulah's Best will meet **Tuesday, January 17** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be music by Deborah Wenrich, music director at Beulah UMC.

ADMIN BOARD MEETING

Following our recent Administrative Board meeting, it was decided (by vote) that Pastor Don would contact Dr. Hyo Lee (our District Superintendent) requesting information about the Discernment toward Disaffiliation process. Pastor Don has received the following date and time for our meeting: **Tuesday, January 17**, at 7:00 pm (in the Fellowship Hall). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Don.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S DINNER AND MEETING

The annual UMM dinner and meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 24**. Dinner is at 6:00 pm and the meeting is at 7:00 pm. The dinner and meeting are open to all men as you do not have to be a member to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Louis Corde at 804-748-9862.



THANKS

To: Beulah Family and Friends

From: Pastor Don Gibson and the Beulah Staff

We are overwhelmed at the outpouring of cards, gifts, and expressions of appreciation we have received this year. Thank you! It is truly a blessing to witness your dedication to serving God, not just within the confines of the church, but to those also in the community. It is an honor to serve God beside you, not just during the Christmas season, but all year long. Thank you

To: Beulah

From: Jann Niccoli

I am truly blessed. I have received cards, calls, texts, and emails from my Beulah family and friends. They were very timely and encouraging. I cannot thank you enough!!! I pray that you each feel God's loving arms around you and His love and peace during this beautiful holiday season."

To: Beulah

From: Della Delbridge

I enjoyed the recent visit from Dale Childrey and appreciate the fresh "green" arrangement in the Christmas mug. It is still looking good! Thank you for the Christmas card (and all the lovely cards I receive) from the card ministry group. I have saved every one of them. I wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Thanks for all the prayers.

To: Beulah Church

From: Howard and Priscilla Bareford

A huge thank you to all who have kept us in your prayers during Howard's prolonged recovery. They are deeply felt and appreciated. Bravo to the Card ministry who are the unsung heroes of Beulah. Your work is beautiful and enjoyed. To Louis Corde: thank you for your visit, chat and lovely mug filled with fresh greenery -it is still being enjoyed. To Pastor Don: thank you for your calls, prayers, and encouragement. Thank you. God's blessing on you all and a very happy 2023.

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Alexander "Jay" Patrick; Resident & CEO, Liberation Veteran Services

On behalf of our staff, board and the veterans we serve, we express our sincere appreciation for your kind and generous contribution of \$500 received on December 2, 2022, which provides support to our clients in our transitional program for homeless veterans. We truly thank you for your generosity and compassion. With the help of your gift, we are able to offer shelter, meals, case management, clothing, recovery services and many other forms of support. Because of you, continue to see great success, and as we continue working together, we will help our local veterans who are experiencing hunger and homelessness to have a brighter future.

To: Beulah Family

From: Deborah Wenrich

I would like to thank you all for your many prayers for me and my dad. He is doing so much better. Thank you all for the many gifts, Christmas wreath, money, cookies, chocolates, apple cakes, peanut butter bars. Merry Christmas to you all!

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Julie S. Biodeau; CEO, CrossOver Healthcare Ministry

Thank you for your generous support of CrossOver Healthcare Ministry. Beulah's contribution makes it possible for CrossOver to provide compassionate, high-quality healthcare to the medically underserved in our local community. It is because of your support that we were able to serve over 6,500 unique clients this past fiscal year. Thank you for answering the call to support CrossOver, our patients, and our community.

To: Beulah UMC

From: Rev. Rusty Lee; Rise Against Hunger, Area Manager

I wanted to reach out to personally thank you for your support in 2022. We packaged almost 2 million meals across Virginia! We're so grateful for our partnership with Beulah UMC - North Chesterfield and look forward to continuing to make an impact together in 2023! Let us know when you are ready to help us again. I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to kick off the new year with Rise Against Hunger by joining us on MLK Day of Service at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery / Richmond on January 16, 2023

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

01 Jean Shackelford
03 Pat Hart
05 Stefanie Turner
11 Robert Lohr
12 Andrew Glass
Maggie Glass
13 Isaiah Gibson
Howie Worrell
14 Melissa Butler
Sherry Gilliam
15 Jim Niccoli
16 Carol Casler Martin
Matthew Dilday
17 Noel Boraski
Barbara Dudley
18 Ryan Crutchfield
20 Ted Soyars

21 Haylee Conner
Paola Leiva
22 Daniel Goff
25 Howard Bareford
Jerri Beatty
26 Mark Inman
27 Chance Gibson
29 Whitney Worrell

FEBRUARY

02 Betsy Q Forbes
03 Marvin Waldrop
04 Mary Love Walston
05 Skip Mulligan
06 Eric Cunningham
Allen Mason
07 Cathy Keller
Robert Mays