



Transforming Lives As We Seek, Share, And Serve God.



December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

THIS MONTH'S THEME

COMMITMENT VS. RESOLUTION

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

BE IN THE KNOW

What is happening at Beulah.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Mission Witness
Holiday Bake Sale Report
Calling All Women

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

THANKS



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MANY BLESSINGS

By Pastor Don Gibson

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, the will of God.

Romans 12:2

Now that 2021 is officially behind us, we have the great opportunity to begin a brand-new year. It's a special time - a time when local gyms and the diet, food aisle at every grocery store in the county will be overrun with well meaning, temporarily determined New Year's Resolution makers. Maybe we will find ourselves in those same crowded spaces, but we know, because we have experience, that come February everything will be back to normal. Normal, meaning many of us will slip back into our old habits, routines, and ways of thinking.

I know how this feels. I have been determined, many times, to make a change in my own life, only to find myself slipping into an old routine or habit. The Apostle Paul understood this "human-truth." Paul says, when addressing this very issue in our scripture above, that it's important to understand that true change, before it ever manifests in our behavior, must start in our minds and in our hearts. Paul's words challenge us to "... not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2).

Continued from cover page

The transformation we truly need, and that will last, begins on the inside with a renewing of our mind and our heart. Or in other words, when we think differently (transformation of mind and heart) we will act differently. After all, our behaviors come from our thoughts and emotions, and until we allow God to address those areas, any change we make in our behaviors will be temporary - just like a gym membership purchased in early January and forgotten about by February.

We can and will experience renewal in our minds and in our hearts when we submit to God and allow God to help us overcome the patterns of this world. Our busyness, our hectic pace, our overstimulated lives, our worry, our stress, our anxiety, our anger, and even our social media accounts all contribute to filling up our hearts with the stuff of this world. This new year offers us an open invitation to submit our lives, hearts and minds to God allowing God to begin a new work in us, a work of transformation and renewal of real and lasting change. So, I think if the Apostle Paul could speak to us today, he would say, "no resolutions this year, but instead let's go for real transformation by submitting ourselves completely to God- and what an exciting and blessed year we will have."

As you begin this New Year, 2022, I pray that you allow God to recalibrate your heart and mind so as to live faithfully proving what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God!

NO RESOLUTIONS
this year,
but instead lets go for
REAL TRANSFORMATION
by submitting ourselves
completely to
GOD



BE IN THE KNOW

MISSIONS

The Missions Work Group met in December to regroup and plan for 2022. In this new year we will continue to support our missionary, John Elmore, in Chile, participate in Rise Against Hunger on August 28, and distribute school supplies in September.

If you are interested in being apart of the Missions Work Group please contact Joanne Barreca at 703-507-9672 or jlbarreca@yahoo.com.

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. Beulah is blessed to be a blessing, and Sherbourne UMC gives us an opportunity to bless our neighbors every week and especially at Christmas! Thanks to everyone who donated. Our total for 2021 was 5,354 lbs. of food. The new goal for 2022 is 5000 lbs. Donations can be left on the silver rack at the Information Center or in the white bin in the breezeway.

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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.

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 - To Be Announced
- December - United Methodist Family

LET US HOLD FAST

To The Confession of our hope WITHOUT WAVERING

For He Who Has Promised is

FAITHFUL

Hebrews 10:23



REMEMBERING

By Suzanne Davis

I'm not a geologist, but I do collect rocks. I grab one off the ground or buy a decorative one whenever I want to remember something special. The grey one with the sediment line is from my first day here at Beulah. I bought the black onyx rock, with the silver cross etched into it, at the gift shop of the hospital during the first visit I ever made while working at Beulah.

I have over a hundred rocks divided between a small bowl in my office and in a bowl in my home. They are very pretty to look at and, if I just let them sit there, all they will ever be are rocks. The memory of the moment they represent will fade away. To remember, I must revisit them on a regular basis. I need to meditate on the time they represent and ask "am I keeping that promise and what did this moment mean to me?"

In the Old Testament, people would stack rocks and make little altars to God to remember their confessions, promises, and interactions with the Lord. They would also make offerings along with these altars. In Hebrews 10 we are reminded of the offering God made, the sacrifice placed upon the altar for our sins. We must remember and *hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering for He who has promised is faithful*. And in remembering our commitments to the Lord we can then act upon our faith in love.

JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING

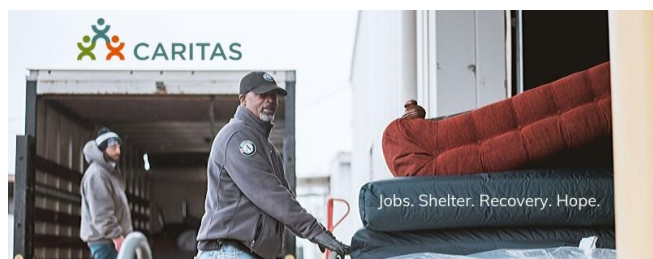


Their Mission: CARITAS creates a safe space to heal and time to rebuild.

Their Purpose: To provide effective, permanent solutions to individuals and families dealing with the crisis of homelessness and/or addiction in the Metro Richmond area.

Their Values: Innovation, Integrity, Passion, Servant Leadership, and Achievement

To learn more about Caritas and their help with the homeless and addicted. Please visit their website at <https://www.caritasva.org/>



BEULAH CARES TEAM

The Cares team is actively shepherding and visiting about 50 people routinely. We are meeting on a monthly basis to discuss how people are doing in general, assure workloads remain balanced, and to pray for those we are shepherding.

The next Cares Team meeting is January 19, at 5pm in room 107. If you are interested in being a part of the Cares Team please contact Pastor Pam Anderson at pam@beulahumc.org.

PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer Team formed in March of 2021 and there are currently 16 people on the team. Each month the team gathers for corporate prayer. During this prayer time they pray for worship services, church ministries and small groups, outreach and our community, church staff, those on the homebound list, and those on the Prayer Concerns list. Weekly, the individual team members pray for corporate prayers, prayer concerns List, and from the Prayer Box. "The Box" has every individual household of the church written on cards. Each day a couple cards are prayed for so by the end of the month every household/person in the church has been lifted to God in prayer.

If you are interested in being a part of the Prayer Team please contact Suzanne Davis at suzanne@beulahumc.org



COMMITMENT VS. RESOLUTION

By Barry Iglehart

In high school, I was a member of the debate team for a while. A phrase that I learned then has for some reason stayed with me, "define your terms." Set out what it is you're talking about and just what those words mean, sometimes quite literally.

Webster defines "commitment" as a pledge or promise, an obligation, a binding. "Resolution" reads as a formal expression of opinion or intention. There are others, but these are enough for us for now. The major difference seems to center on the word "intent". For myself, this holds a lesser degree, a lower standard, and therefore fewer, if any, consequences for not fulfilling that intent. And I speak from experience.

There is another definition of "commitment" that might be relevant here, "confinement or consignment to a prison or mental institution". Scripture tells us in no uncertain terms what the world thinks of us. We're lunatics, silly and insane. Hebrew has it as "meshuga" or "meshugana". In more than a few places it has become criminal to speak the truth, the Gospel. Remember though, Jesus Himself tells us not to fear the world for He has overcome it. Baruch ha'shem Adonai! Bless the name of the Lord!

OPEN THE DOOR AND DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF OUR FAITH.

The Root Cellar is a blog, exploring the Hebrew history of our Christian faith. Come check it out at <https://root-cellar.org/>

Root Cellar



BEULAH
United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

CALLING ALL WOMEN

All women are invited to attend the Richmond District UMW Day Apart on Saturday, January 22, at Ramsey Memorial UMC. Rev. Katie Gooch from the Pace Center at VCU will be our retreat leader. Look for more details to come.

BEULAH UMW SAYS THANKS!

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Holiday Bake Sale. Whether you baked or bought or did both, you helped us raise almost \$1,000 to support the missions in our budget: The Hermitage Samaritan Fund, Covenant Woods Benevolent Fund, Shalom Farms, United Methodist Family Services, Henry Fork Community Center, Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Mission, and the Ferrum College Scholarship Fund. Again, we thank you!

UMW MISSION WITNESS

The Prayer Calendar is published annually by United Methodist Women. 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.

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMCOR RESPONDS TO TORNADOES

Working through Conference Disaster Response Coordinators in the areas hit by the deadly tornadoes, our United Methodist Committee on Relief released grant funds the day after the storms to help with immediate needs. They will continue to provide aid as they plan for long-term recovery. 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 efforts.

CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE

Thank you to everyone on the Beulah Team and those who supported them. We raised \$735 to fight hunger locally and around the world. The Richmond Walk raised a total of almost \$27,600. Church World Service reports that CROP Hunger Walks nationwide have raised a total of \$5.9 million in 2021, twenty five percent of which stays in the communities where it was raised. The local missions that benefitted from the Richmond Walk are Shalom Farms and Peter Paul Development Center.

UPDATE FOR BEULAH BAZAAR AND CURBSIDE MARKET

MANY hours of meetings, volunteering, planning, baking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, crunching numbers, shopping, etc. made the 2021 Beulah Bazaar and Curbside Market a big success. 203 preorders were placed, 66 bushels of apples, 36 bushels of sweet potatoes were sold as well as 600+ quarts of stew. Gross receipts were \$13,115.00 with a net profit of \$4,815.67. THANK YOU BEULAH!

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet **Monday, January 17, at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be singing by Damion Muller. Come join us for refreshments, fellowship and music. Everyone is welcome.

VALENTINE FLOWERS

On **Thursday, January 27, at 5:00 pm** the Creator's Studio will offer a DIY class. We will be painting Valentine flowers on wood through the art of Rosemaling. Rosemaling is a style of decorative painting stylized flower

ornamentation, scrollwork, lining and geometric elements, often in flowing patterns. All materials will be provided for this beginner's level class. If you are interested, please sign up at the Information Center as space is limited.



JANUARY CALENDAR

01	9:00 am	Beulah Distribution
04	10:00 am	Green Acres Garden Club Ruth Robertson Friendship
Circle		
	2:00 pm	Hugging Hearts
05	3:00 pm	COM Meeting
06	5:30 pm	Family Group
08	10:00 am	UMW Mission Meeting
11	10:00 am	Mary Farmer Circle of Love
	5:00 pm	Outreach Meeting
	7:00 pm	Finance
16	5:30 pm	Sunday Evening Worship
17	10:00 am	Beulah's Best
18	1:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Springdale Bible Study
	2:00 pm	Hugging Hearts
19	1:00 pm	Wesleyan - Stratton
	5:00 pm	Cares Team Meeting
20	5:30 pm	Family Group
25	7:00 pm	Prayer Team Meeting
27	5:00 pm	Creator's Studio Craft Night

OCCURRING WEEKLY

Sunday	Worship Sunday School
Monday	Bells Rehearsal Card Ministry Men's Bible Study Scouts
Tuesday	Cub Scouts
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal Creator's Studio Girl Scouts Quartet Rehearsal
Friday	Dog Ministry

IS *YOUR*
CONTACT
INFORMATION
CORRECT?

Contact the office with any updated information.

804-275-2325
Office@beulahumc.org



THANK YOU

To: My Beulah Family

From: Nancy Cowardin

Thank you to everyone who has been helping with the rides, prayers, phone calls, and well wishes. I would not be able to go through the doctor appointments, treatments, and everything else without you and your love. I just love you all so much. I want to give a special thank you to Emma Bradley and to Pastor Don for being the angels they are.

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Tony, Kathleen, Rusty, and Alex (the RVA Team)

from Rise Against Hunger

To the entire congregation of Beulah UMC, Thank you so much for your kindness and support to Rise Against Hunger this year! We are so grateful for you!

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Sherbourne United Methodist Church

Thanks so much for all the donations, it has truly been a blessing to our clients. Barbara and Richard, thank you for all your hard work and we can't thank you enough.

To: Pastor Don and Beulah Church Family

From: Della Delbridge

Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls and lovely cards. I will treasure them always. Many thanks to Pastor Don for his many visits and getting us set up on YouTube. We have been getting the "Live church services" each Sunday. So nice.

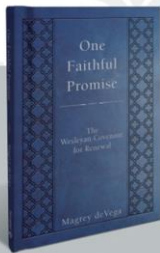
Do You Have An Amplify Media Account?

Amplify Media is a streaming service that delivers high quality videos with an emphasis on Wesleyan perspectives. It is free to you through the church and offers additional resources to many of the book studies here at the church. It also offers several children's programs. If you would like access to Amplify Media please email the church office at office@beulahumc.org.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jean Shackelford
- 2 Linda Mustain
- 3 Pat Hart
- 4 Laura Stonestreet
- 5 Stefanie Turner
- 9 Terrie Mustian
- 10 Bill Chapin
- 11 Brian Buckner
Andrew Glass
Maggie Glass
- 13 Isaiah Gibson
Howie Worrell
- 14 Sherry Gilliam
- 15 Marie Chapin
Jim Niccoli
- 16 Carol Casler
Matthew Dilday
- 17 Noel Boraski
Barbara Dudley
- 18 Ryan Crutchfield
- 20 Ted Soyars
- 21 Haylee Conner
Paola Leiva
- 22 Daniel Goff
Kaitlyn Williams
- 23 Ginny Goff
- 25 Howard Bareford
Jerri Beatty
Joyce Mann
- 26 Mark Inman
- 27 Chance Gibson
- 29 Whitney Worrell

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTING JANUARY 9



BOOKS WILL BE
AVAILABLE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
AT THE
INFORMATION CENTER

ONE FAITHFUL PROMISE

In January we will be reading One Faithful Promise, by Magrey deVega. In our studies of this book we will learn about the Wesleyan Covenant for Renewal and how we can better understand how we belong to God and can live under God's care. The books will be available at the Information Center on Sunday, January 2.