

# BEULAH BEACON



## SEASON GREETINGS

By Pastor Don Gibson

“What begins in the stable ends in our salvation. That’s why we celebrate Christmas, and it’s the best and only reason the human heart needs” (Charles J. Chaput).

I think that you would agree with me that this surely is the message of Christmas and the message of our faith. Jesus and Jesus with us! Jesus is not only the Babe of Bethlehem, but He is also the Son who was born to live for our righteousness, and to die for our sins. I invite you to remember, and celebrate with me, the gift of Jesus Christ; He is the greatest gift! Without Him our lives are incomplete. With Him our lives, even in their most complex or disappointing parts, make sense.

Jesus and Jesus with us - this is what we need to remember, and to offer others, in the middle of their trials, identity issues, betrayals by friends, struggles to find their way in the world, in the midst of great change, and an unknown future - the Babe of Bethlehem, now the enthroned Christ of all Creation, is with us and with them!

Our HOPE for every New Year: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”  
John 8:12

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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# MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I chose What Child Is This, Joy to the World and In the Bleak Midwinter for December. I hope that you like reading about the history behind these hymns.



*What Child Is This* - The lyrics were written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865. He was 29 when he suffered a severe bout of illness with depression. During this time he experienced a spiritual awakening that inspired him to write hymns. He was an avid reader of the bible then he wrote the lyrics

to "What Child Is This" and set it to the tune of Greensleeves which he loved. The Story Behind the Christmas Carol: "What Child Is This" 2023 Galaxy Music Notes

<https://galaxymusicnotes.com/pages/story-behind-the-christmas-carol-what-child-is-this>



*Joy to the World* - was written by Issac Watts and is based on Psalm 98. It's original intention was not to be a Christmas hymn at all because it told of Christ's second coming. Issac Watts was a English clergyman and a poet. He broke Psalm 98 into two parts and

Joy to the World is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> part. Lowell Mason was a Boston music educator. He took Issac Watts poem and set it to music. The result is a beloved Christmas hymn called Joy to the World. History of Hymn: "Joy to the World" 21, December 2015 Discipleship Ministries UMC,

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-joy-to-the-world>



*In the Bleak Midwinter* - was written by Christina Rossetti. Her family was of Italian descent and were into the arts. Dante and William, her two older brothers formed the Pre-Raphaelite Community which was a famous art community. Christina

rejected two offers of marriage due to her doctrinal beliefs. She was plagued by illness but chose to share herself through the poetry that she wrote. She devoted her life to her family and her faith. She spent her life ministering to former prostitutes. The Remarkable Woman Behind "In the Bleak Midwinter" Prior, Karen Swallow 15, December 2015 TGC US EDITION, 2023 The Gospel Coalition, Inc.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-remarkable-woman-behind-in-the-bleak-midwinter/>



By Barry Iglehart

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

## Tikkun Olam

In two words a veery Jewish concept, although not the way assumed, Messiah's complete mission is expressed. How is that? John 3:16-17 begins to give us the answer. As He meets the pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus tells him that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life. For God did not send Him into the world to condemn it, but that the world through Him should be saved." Okay, two words... How?

Those two words are Hebrew... Tikkun Olam. Word One, "tikkun", is translated as the English "fixed". Word Two is "olam" which translates into several English readings. Webster's leaves it at "world". It is in how we read "world" that we might travel with Messiah Jesus. "World" for us carries both physical and spiritual connotations. "Olam" usually speaks to the physical, five-senses universe. In other words, observable creation. So, fix all that we can see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. But didn't God create us with souls and spirits? Wouldn't they also need to be "fixed"? Wouldn't it also mean that all of Creation was to be "fixed"?

True enough. God created the entire universe. Scripture speaks of the visible and the invisible, Col. 1:15-16, of happening between the earth and heaven, Jacob's ladder not being the least. So, let's look a bit closer at John 3:17.

In doing this, though, let's return to Word One, "tikkun". We left it at "fixed" but stretching just a little we come to "repair", "restore", or "reconcile". In calling to Israel's lost sheep, to those with a broken and contrite heart, isn't this exactly what God wants, to "fix Creation", what, indeed He's done by the blood of Jesus?

As we enter this season of celebrating His birth, let us remember what He's done for us. He has "fixed the world". He is "Tikkun Olam". Shalom.

# THE MONTH IN REVIEW

## FALL FESTIVAL RECAP

by Sherry Harris

Now that our 2023 Fall Festival is over, I look back at what a wonderful and successful experience it was! As you all know, this year we tried to create something fresh and new for our fall event, inviting not only our church family but our entire community, as well as folks throughout Chesterfield County and beyond. The weather cooperated and the day was such a success, with approximately 1,500 people in attendance! I was delighted at the outcome and felt very blessed to have so many people out to just have a fun day with us.

I would like to thank you for your participation in our Festival, whether it was picking up apples from the orchard, unloading them and sorting them into orders; helping us decorate the soccer fields with hay bales and scarecrows and pumpkins; baking all those wonderful baked cookies, pies, cakes, breads and rolls; helping inflate over 600 balloons; making all those beautiful hand- made items to sell; selling food at our various locations including popcorn which was a big hit; setting up the tables and chairs; running our Hayride complete with music; working our hugely successful Yard Sale; attending the decorating workshops and meetings and follow-ups; and all of the many many other activities that made our Festival such a success! THANK YOU!

I know change was difficult, but we have set the stage for other Festivals to come. We celebrate the successes and will make changes to fix some of the issues. But mostly, it was wonderful to see our Beulah Family come together and host our families, friends, and community in a very fun day.

Enclosed is a summary of our Financial Report from the Fall Festival. Many of you have been asking me about this. One of our ladies selling the baked goods told me that they have never made so much money on their sales and run out of baked goods!! I think we have done well financially as well.

We are planning to have our Beulah Fall Festival again next year on Saturday, November 9, 2024. We are already planning some fun and exciting things for next year's Fall Festival! (More details on this in early 2024.) If you are interested in being on the Fall Festival Committee to have a role in what our 2024 Fall Festival will entail, please let me know!!



### BEULAH'S FALL FESTIVAL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 11/23/2023

Organization	Total Income	Organizations Received	Fall Festival Income (incl. 10% tithe)
Baked & Canned goods	\$2,281.13		\$2,281.13
Card Ministry	\$851.65	\$766.49	\$85.20
Chelou Creations	\$144.00	\$129.60	\$14.00
Choir / food sales inside	\$853.40	\$768.06	\$83.50
Collectables	\$304.84		\$304.84
Fall Festival / Stew & Chili sales outside	\$246.29		\$246.29
Julia Grisham, Mary Kay Consulting	\$50.00		\$50.00
Jammin' Scents	\$200.00	\$180.00	\$20.00
Mary E. Farmer Fellowship Circle of Love	\$779.39	\$701.45	\$76.97
Jann Niccoli	\$267.66	\$240.89	\$27.00
Popcorn	\$55.50		\$55.50
Quilt Drawing	\$209.00		\$209.00
Rebekah Fellowship	\$320.68	\$288.61	\$32.00
Ruth Robertson Fellowship Circle/Donuts	\$525.46	\$472.91	\$51.77
Sojourners Sunday School Class / Jewelry	\$211.09	\$189.98	\$25.00
Wesleyan Stratton Circle / Desserts	\$127.44	\$114.70	\$4.25
Women of Faith / books	\$36.00	\$32.40	\$3.60
Yard Sale Sales	\$586.82		\$586.82
Yard Sale Spots	\$730.00		\$730.00
	<b>\$8,780.34</b>	<b>\$3,885.08</b>	<b>\$4,886.87</b>

Apples Sales money collected	\$3,716.00
Cost of apples & transportation	\$2,956.50
<b>Total Profit from Apple sales</b>	<b>\$759.50</b>

Stew, BBQ, Baked Beans & Pork Rinds	
Money Collected = covers cost of making plus profit	
<b>Total given to NOW Missions</b>	<b>\$4,680.00</b>



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

During the month of November, Beulah handed out 100 shoeboxes to support Samaritan Purse Christmas Child and by November 12, all 100 shoe boxes returned filled with Christmas gifts. This is 25 more shoe boxes than last year. Many, many thanks to all who filled the Christmas Child shoe boxes. Your much appreciate generosity will have a lasting impact all around the world.



## BLANKET DRIVE RESULTS

A special thank you to all the loving, caring Beulah family for the successful blanket drive. We received a total of 67 blankets. Our friends in need will be warmed because of Christ's love though each of you.

## DISAFFILIATION UPDATE

Thank you for your faithful, prayerful, and generous support during the disaffiliation process. The funds, totaling \$587,052, have been wired to the attorney and we are set for closing on Tuesday, December the 5th. We firmly believe our future ministry at Beulah Church will be as rich and fruitful as the last 140 years; we will be the standard bearers of God's love and grace, and faithful to "speak scriptural holiness across the land".

## DECEMBER READING

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



## COMMUNION OFFERING

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Our December Communion Offering goes towards United Methodist Family Services. UMFS is a nonprofit organization that provides a comprehensive array of programs to support children, teens, and parents as they work to overcome challenges. We equip families with tools for success so they can achieve their goals. As a national leader in helping young people and families, we also proactively identify unmet social services needs and develop the necessary partnerships to address those needs.

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

In the month of December, Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of canned meat and other proteins. Your donation can be left on the wire rack at the Information Center or outside in the white Afterhours Donation Cabinet. Thank you for all you are doing to help us meet our pledge of 5,000 lbs. of food by the end of 2023.

## SHERBOURNE CHRISTMAS MEALS

Once again Beulah is helping Sherbourne UMC provide Christmas meals for the 100+ families they serve each week. Pick up a shopping list at the display in the narthex or at the Information Center, and follow the instructions given. The display shows the sizes of the items requested by Sherbourne. They should fit in one paper grocery bag, preferably with handles. Please double-bag your items and bring your completed bags to the collection area in the narthex by Sunday, **December 10**. Do not leave them at the collection area by the Information Center. If you would like to help Sherbourne with the meals but can't provide a completed bag, you can leave items from the shopping list at the food collection area by the Information Center. Questions? Contact Barbara Tuttle, 804-271-2289. Thank you for your generosity.

## POINSETTIAS

Honor a loved one with a Poinsettia. Poinsettias are \$15.00 each. The order forms can be found at the Information Center and then placed in the offering or given to the church office. The Poinsettias will decorate the church until after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service. The deadline to order is **Sunday, December 10**.



# United Women in Faith

## DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ADVENT SERVICE

If you are a member of the Beulah UWF unit or have supported our fund-raisers, have you ever wondered where our Pledge to Mission dollars go? Our unit gives \$2,500 annually to missions through our district and conference. The 2022 annual report for conferences in the US shows that the Virginia UWF gave \$383,094.43 for missions (almost

\$10,000 more than pledged), \$26,869.19 to designated projects, and \$15,905.03 to the Legacy Endowment, for a total of \$425,868.65. The grand total for all giving for all conferences across the US was \$8,697,283.04. Our dollars combine with others to change the lives of women, children, and youth in our country and around the world. Our money goes where we can't to be the hands and feet of the Risen Christ in a hurting world. We are blessed to be a blessing.

### 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

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- Romans 15:13

#### Witness

The saying, "God has no hands but our hands, and God has no feet but our feet," defines both our place and mission in the kin-dom of God. As a missionary with United Methodist Women, I have had the pleasure to travel and meet with many sisters from around the world in the context of worship. One of the things that has amazed me about these encounters has been the simple way in which worship brings people together and breaks down barriers of race, gender and. Worship has a tremendous power of making us one in the Spirit and indeed one in the Lord.

-Serna Samuel, United Methodist Women Regional Missionary serving in English-and French- speaking areas of the Caribbean, Women and Youth

#### Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Uruguay, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and our missionaries serving in the United States in Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

## BIRTHDAYS

### December

- 01 Ashton Payne
- 02 Joe Dilday
- Joe Schmierer, Jr.
- 03 Todd Huband
- 04 Kass Spitzley, IV
- 05 Martha Everett
- Claire Gibson
- 06 Bertha Davis
- 07 Emma Bradley
- Mary Hunt
- Alejandro Leon
- 08 Barbara Joyner
- Denny Quaiff
- Henri Shular
- 10 Fay Lion

- Mary 'beth Ramey
- 13 Louise King
- Maynard Totty
- 14 Marie Conner
- Sharon Robertson
- 16 Priscilla Bareford
- 17 Karen Eads
- 18 Suzanne Davis
- Lona Dilday
- Mike Edwards
- 19 Florian Costello
- 20 Cathy Turner
- 22 Diane Conner
- Donna Harper
- 22 Meredith Holland
- Patricia Lee

- 23 Mike Arthur
- Pat Compton
- 25 Steve Garton
- 27 John Harper, Sr.
- 28 Ron Mustain, II
- 31 Shannon Coyne
- Lois Lancaster

### January

- 02 Linda Mustain
- Mickey Williams
- 03 Pat Hart
- 04 Lynn Hamlett
- Laura Stonestreet
- 05 Stefanie Turner
- 07 Raymond Hodges

## BEULAH'S BEST

December 19, at 10:00 am  
in the Fellowship Hall

*A Christmas  
Sing-a-long*



### BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet **December 19, at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be a Christmas sing along, Following our program, we will have a luncheon. The meat will be furnished, please bring a side dish or dessert. Come enjoy our fellowship, our program and lunch.

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Please join us for worship during advent as we count down the days to Christmas on Sunday December 3, 10, & 24, at 8:30 am and 11:00 am and a combined service Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 am. The four candles representing the promises of Hope, Joy, Love, and peace are lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. Then at the Christmas Eve service the Christ candle is lit representing how Christ is the fulfillment of those promises. The Christ candle is then lit every Sunday for worship because Christ's light is always with us.

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Each year Beulah sends floral arrangements to our members who are homebound or going through a difficult time. We will be making the arrangements on **Friday, December 08, at 11:00 am**, in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at the Information Center as we will be providing refreshments.

## THE BEST PRESENT

The Beulah Players will present a Christmas Play on **Saturday, December 9** at 7:00 pm. This year's play is 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". Free Tickets will be available at the church office starting December 1. Save your ticket stub for the Cookie After Party and a chance to win a dinner for two at Riptides Seafood Restaurant.

## SHARING THE CAROLS

Sunday, December 10, at 2:00pm, we will be gathering at the church to travel to Commonwealth Senior Living Center to sing Christmas Carols. Please sign up at the Information Center if you would like to join us in song.

## CHRISTMAS IS REAL

This year's cantata, "Christmas Is Real", is presented by Beulah's Sanctuary Choir. Join us on **Sunday, December 17** for a combined worship service at 11:00 am. You will discover what the true meaning of Christmas is as shown through God's love and the birth of Jesus.

## LIVING NATIVITY

The Living Nativity is **Sunday, December 17, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. Sign up at the Information Center if you would like to help with the event. We are looking for actor and, people to serve cookies and hot chocolate.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING ADVENT**  
 Sunday, December 3, 10, & 24, at 8:30 am and 11:00 am.  
 Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 am.

**THE BEST PRESENT**  
 A CHRISTMAS PLAY  
**PERFORMED ONE NIGHT ONLY!**  
 Saturday, December 9, at 7:00 pm

Free Tickets will be available Starting December 1.

Stay for the Cookie After Party at 8:30 pm and a drawing for a dinner for two from Riptide's Seafood Restaurant.

**CHRISTMAS IS REAL**  
 A Christmas Cantata

December 17  
 a combined service  
 at 11:00 am

**LIVING NATIVITY**  
 AND PETTING ZOO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
 FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

SUNDAY,  
 DECEMBER 24  
 At 7:00 PM

# CALENDAR

## December

- 01 Mariner's Dinner
- 02 Bell's Concert at Lucy Corr
- 03 Farewell Reception for Pastor Daniel
- 05 UMM Dinner
- 08 Christmas Arrangements  
 Dress Rehearsal for play
- 09 Hearing loss Association  
 Christmas Play  
 Cookie After Party
- 10 Caroling at Commonwealth Senior Living
- 11 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 12 Mary Farmer Circle of Love  
 Finance Meeting  
 Rebekah Fellowship
- 17 Christmas Cantata  
 Living Nativity

- 19 Beulah's Best  
 Springdale Bible Study  
 Prayer Shawl
- 20 Wesleyan Stratton  
 Music Ministry Christmas Party
- 22 Church Office Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25 Church Closed for Christmas
- 26 Church Closed for Christmas
- 27 Prayer Meeting
- 29 Church Office Closed

## January

- 01 Church Closed for New Year
- 05 Mariner's Dinner

## REOCCURRING WEEKLY

- Sunday**
  - 8:30 Worship
  - Sunday School
  - 11:00 Worship
- Monday**
  - Card Ministry
  - Men's Bible study
  - Bells of Praise Rehearsal
  - Scouts
- Tuesday**
  - Cub Scouts
- Wednesday**
  - C&Y Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday**
  - Beulah Land Quartet Rehearsal
  - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal