

# BETHEL beacon

NOVEMBER 2016

## worship

NOVEMBER 6

*All Saints Sunday*  
*Ephesians 1:15-21*  
Rev. Patricia Barth

NOVEMBER 13

*Consecration Sunday*  
*Psalms 145*  
Rev. Carolyn Richar

NOVEMBER 20

*Thanksgiving Sunday*  
*Deuteronomy 26:1-11*  
Rev. Patricia Barth

NOVEMBER 23

*Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 pm*  
*Arlington Church of the Brethren*  
Rev. Nancy Fitzgerald

NOVEMBER 27

*First Sunday of Advent*  
*Isaiah 2:1-5*  
Rev. Patricia Barth

10 am Worship  
11 am Fellowship

**BETHEL**

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

4347 Arlington Blvd. | Arlington, VA 22203  
www.bethelucc-va.org

BY PATRICIA BARTH

## ADVENT, a Time of Peace

On Sunday, November 27, we begin the season of Advent, when the Church awaits the coming of Christ. I especially love the candle-lighting and the theme of bringing light out of darkness, as we are confronted with the dwindling days and growing nights of the natural world.

Advent is a countercultural event: while the dominant culture swirls around us, saying BUY BUY BUY!, we wait and ponder true worth. Even though the world demands frenetic activity, we contemplate Sabbath and simplicity. In a world always at war, we pray for peace and celebrate love. As Madeleine L'Engle wrote so beautifully in 1974:



### *The Risk of Birth*

*This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.*

*That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn-  
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.*

(continued on page 2)

# all members of Bethel are the ministers staff & leadership

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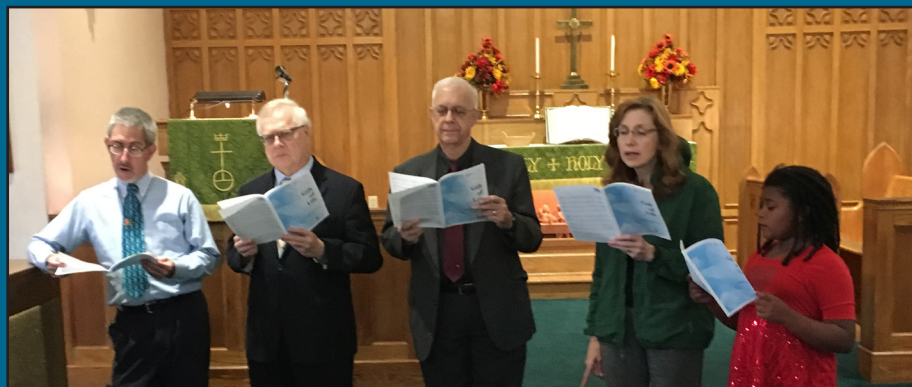


## Advent, a Time of Peace CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn-  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

May we all take the risk of new birth this Advent season—

Yours in Christ's love,  
Patricia



Bethel's Choir

## BE A BETHEL STEWARD

Please help us plan for the coming year, and please support our important work in the community and among the congregation. Pledge online using this case sensitive url:

<http://tiny.cc/Bethel>

Let Sam know if you need your prior year general giving level. All pledges and prior giving level are confidential.

# 2017

# A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

by Rev. Kathryn Anadein  
Used with Permission

All embracing God of the past,  
we give you thanks for all  
the people of this church who have gone before us;  
saints and sinner like us,  
who have nurtured each other,  
fed the hungry, visited the sick,  
and reached out to the world in your name.  
We lift them up to you O God, as we express our gratitude  
for their good work, their good stewardship,  
and the rich heritage they have left us.

All embracing God of our present,  
we give you thanks for each person  
who calls this their church home.  
Grant that we might, even in this time of transition,  
find grace to nurture each other  
as we seek to be good stewards of your church,  
between cherishing the traditions of a secure past  
and embracing the yet unfamiliar practices that will be our future.

Grant us grace in our disagreements and in our uncertainty.  
Grant us wisdom to understand that the vision we seek  
is nothing less than your own plan for us.  
Grant us patience to let the vision unfold  
as we pray and study and work together.  
As you lure us into the unknown,  
keep us secure in the knowledge that whatever the future holds,  
You will be there waiting for us.  
Grant us a joyful spirit so that this church  
might reflect your glory and goodness in our community.

All embracing God of the future,  
we give you thanks for tomorrow.



## Advent Traditions at Bethel UCC

Come decorate the church! Saturday, November 26 at 10 am. We will light the advent wreath each Sunday for worship. Please e-mail the pastor if you would like to read a short prayer and light a candle.

On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4, there will be an Advent Workshop during Fellowship with crafts for all ages.

The older children's Sunday School class is getting ready for a Children's Service on December 11, followed by the All-Ages Christmas Pageant on December 18.



## LIVING GIFT MARKET



November 27  
December 4  
December 11

**Tired of the malls? Consider purchasing a living gift!**  
Choose from Church World Service Best Gifts, Arlington Affordable Housing, or the Lighthouse Clinic in El Salvador.

## ONLINE



## GIVING

Online giving allows members and friends the option of keeping up with those pledges and giving regularly even if you cannot make it to church every Sunday.

As you click through you will enter a secure portal where you can give on a regular basis or for special collections. You will enter checking account information and your account will be debited for the amount and at the frequency you specify.

It is easy to use, so give it a try! Click through from the green button on the homepage or use this case sensitive url:

[bit.ly/BUCCdonor](http://bit.ly/BUCCdonor)





On Saturday, October 22, 2016 the following people walked for Bethel to help fight hunger: Pat Barth with Ed Scorza and their two dogs, Cheryl Falcone with Tim'Myiah, Terry LePage, Art and Judy Lipman, Susan Peters, Peter Rich, Carolyn Richar, and Laura Wells with Domenic and dog, Jeter.

So far our walkers have raised \$6,520, which means that \$1,630 goes to the Arlington Food Assistance Center to help supply groceries to needy families in Arlington. The rest of the money supports Church World Service in its program to fight hunger worldwide including food for people devastated by the hurricane in Haiti. Thank you to all who have donated to support our walkers.

If you have not already donated you may still do so by going on line to the Bethel UCC team page at:

<http://bit.ly/CROPBethelUCC>





# Conversation Sabbath

Arlington County's newly formed Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) has invited all faith communities to participate in Conversation Sabbath—a week-long event November 11-20 during which faith leaders will be teaching and preaching on the vital importance of having conversations about one another's wishes for care at the end of life.

Pastor Carolyn will preach at Bethel on November 13 on the consecration of our whole lives, including stewardship of our last days. She will also teach the Wednesday night Bible study on November 16.

## Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20

Let's decorate the Sanctuary with additional gifts of food for AFAC. Bring in any nonperishable food (no glass jars) and the children will bring it to the altar for blessing during the Time with Children.

## Update: AFAC + Bethel's 2016 Cereal Goal

AFAC began serving 300 families a week in 1988. The current projection for November 2016 is 3,000 families. The need for food donations continues to be a great demand. Bethel set a goal for donating 600 boxes of cereal this year. Currently through September 294 boxes have been delivered. That leaves 306 boxes.

**Can we meet our goal?** Let us try! **Thank you** for all that you have already donated. **Reminder** next bagging date is **Friday, December 2.**

# GODSPEED



Godspeed to Thabo Ntshakala who is joining the Army.



# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

# November 2016

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1	2 Transitions Group, 7:30 pm	3 Transitions Group, noon	4	5 ACOB Soup + Pie Bazaar, 9 am - 2 pm  Council for Jason at Emmaus, 10 am
6 All Saints Communion, 10 am  Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8 Vote!	9 Bible Study, 7:30	10	11 CIS Teacher Planning	12
13 Consecration Worship + Pot Luck	14	15	16 Conversation Sabbath, 7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 Worship + Food Drive Consistory, 10 am	21	22	23 Ecumenical Worship at ACOB, 7 pm	24 Thanksgiving	25 CIS Closed	26 Decorate Church, TBD
27 Advent Worship + Workshop, 10 am	28	29	30 Bible Study, 7:30 pm			