

# BETHEL beacon

DECEMBER 2016

## worship

DECEMBER 4

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
*Isaiah 11:1-10*  
*"Peace with Justice"*  
*Holy Communion*  
*Rev. Patricia Barth*

DECEMBER 11

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Isaiah 35:1-10*  
*"Visions of Hope"*  
*Rev. Carolyn Richar*  
*Voices of Bethel*  
*Congregational Meeting +*  
*Potluck*

DECEMBER 18

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*Luke 2:1-20*  
*"God with Us"*  
*Christmas Pageant*

*10 am Worship*  
*11 am Fellowship*

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**BETHEL** UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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

BY PATRICIA BARTH

## WELCOME TO THE HUMAN RACE

Sooner than we imagine, we will be through the days of Advent and celebrating the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Christianity is unique among major world religions in that we rejoice in an eternal God who is both divine and human. As a human being, Jesus was born as a baby, grew up a child and youth, worked as an adult, and died just like us. But we believe that at the same time, he is/was also the Almighty God. And to make it even more difficult, we believe he rose again after death, was reunited with God and the Holy Spirit, yet is also present to us in our hearts. A conundrum to be sure; one that might make your head hurt if you think too hard about it, especially if you are a concrete thinker. As I often say to the children, who are developmentally concrete thinkers, "It's a mystery."

When I was pondering this mystery of our faith, as well as the results of the presidential election, I came across an article of Parker Palmer's from two years ago entitled "Five Simple Things to Reweave Our Civic Community." He prefaces his writing by a delightful story from poet Naomi Shihab Nye, "Gate 4-A" from *Honeybee: Poems and Short Prose*. You can find it at <http://bit.ly/5simplethings4community>

The five simple things Palmer suggested two years ago will help us all today as we cope with the political disagreements and hate that are springing up around the coun-



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DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve  
Candlelit Lessons + Carols  
7 pm

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day  
Arlington Forest UMC  
10 am

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day  
Matthew 25:31-46  
"Truly I Tell You"  
Rev. Patricia Barth

**all** members of  
Bethel are the ministers

staff &  
leadership

Rev. Patricia Barth  
Senior Interim Pastor  
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Rev. Carolyn Richar  
Associate Pastor  
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Whit Wheeler  
Church President

Angie Stevens  
Director of Music  
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## Welcome to the Human Race, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

try since the election. Here is a quick summary of his five points, but I encourage you to read the whole blog:

1. People watch. Enjoy diversity. Practice empathy.
2. Start a conversation with a stranger in a coffee shop or on the Metro. Ask questions to draw them out instead of arguing. Let them feel heard.
3. Introduce yourself to new neighbors. Say you want a neighborhood that watches out for each other and offer to do so.
4. If you talk with someone of different political beliefs, "...ask questions that lead to the real-life stories about people and events that shape what they believe. Don't comment, just listen and learn."
5. If you hear a hateful comment, tell the commenter you find their remark personally hurtful. "Say that you value everyone's humanity, and find it painful to live in a world where we tear each other down rather than build each other up. Tell them you want a world where we can all say to each other, 'Welcome to the human race.'"

If you're an introvert like me, you may find some of these more challenging than others, so I offer them with all humility. I personally am practicing #5, so that I can respond with love rather than anger or more hate. As Martin Luther King, Jr said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Patricia+



Planting mustard seeds.

celebrating!  
75

# WINTER SOLSTICE

by By Kate McIlhagga



Small birds  
blowing like ash on the wind  
preparing to leave,  
as nights draw in  
and days are short.

Small children,  
bouncing like corks on water,  
prepare for our parties  
as tempers fray  
and tasks mount up.

But the darkest and the coldest time  
is also the brightest time:

O Christmas Christ,  
the radiance around the moon  
is not as fair  
as the radiance  
around your head.

O holy one  
the majesty of the winter sea  
is not as glorious  
as your majesty.

At the departing times,  
the coldest times  
of our lives;  
and the times of expectancy,  
at the times of intersection  
when hard choices  
have to be made  
be with us

Prince of Peace.

Grant us warmth

Grant us calm  
Grant us hope  
On our journey  
into a new year.

# Faro De Luz (Lighthouse) Free Medical Clinic Update!

Rev. Carolyn Richar, Associate Pastor

Andres is a 3 year old with impetigo – a common childhood skin infection that can be very uncomfortable. Andres' family lives in poverty in San Luis Talpa – they cannot afford to pay the local doctor \$5 for a visit and then additional money for the medicine needed to treat Andres' infection. Andres' mother is grateful that she was able to get Andres' diagnosed and treated at the Faro de Luz clinic recently – he is now impetigo free, happy and comfortable – thanks to donations from people at Bethel!

Felicita is 71 years old in pain from severe arthritis. She also did not have the money to pay the local doctor nor for the medications at the local pharmacy. Her choice was either to eat for a week or go to the doctor and get medicine. Thank heaven she did not have to make this choice because your gifts provided her medical care and some medicine for her arthritis when she visited the Faro de Luz Free medical clinic.

Because you share your gifts of treasure for the doctor's salary at the Faro de Luz (Lighthouse) free medical clinic in San Luis Talpa, La Paz, El Salvador, Dr. Lissette Mendoza cared for just under 600 patients from July through September. People have a variety of needs and illnesses that are treated at the clinic– from your garden-variety colds and viruses through debilitating diabetes and cancer. Dr. Lissette also provides ongoing well child visits and provides much education on healthy diets, exercise and sanitary cooking/cleaning to a population without much formal education. For \$650 a month, Dr. Lissette provides clinic hours 20 days a month and accompanies local pastors into more rural

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## 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](https://bit.ly/BUCCdonor)

# Faro De Luz

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areas a few days a month to provide care in areas without a local physician.

This Advent, you can give the gift of health, comfort and healing through your donations to the Faro De Luz Medical Clinic in honor of loved ones. This clinic is one of the charities you can support in our Alternative Gift Market. Every gift of \$30 covers a day of Dr. Lissette's visits to see on average 12-15 patients. Most of us pay a copay of \$30/doctor's visit –and that only covers a portion of the cost of our one visit.

You can also help the clinic with donations of chewable vitamins for children, prenatal vitamins, and other over the counter medicines such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. For people who live off of a few dollars a day, the gift of these medicines makes a huge difference in their lives.

Thank you, this Christmas season, for your gifts of money and medicine for the Faro de Luz Free Medical Clinic! You are a light shining in the darkness for those in need!



## The Spirit of Giving at Bethel

Visit the **Living Gift Market** after worship in Fellowship Hall on,

November 27

December 4

December 11.

**Give a gift that will help others worldwide** in place of adding "stuff" to yours or others homes. You may make donations through Bethel to any of the following three charities that Bethel supports in honor or in memory of friends & family:

**Church World Service** (CWS) – Catalogues will be available to select items such as seeds and gardening tools, literary classes, emergency food packets and many more items.

**Arlington Academy of Hope** (AAH) in Uganda- Help support schooling for Joshua as he continues his education. Bethel pays for his yearly elementary tuition, currently \$400 per year.

**Lighthouse Clinic** in El Salvador- All Bethel donations support the clinic doctor's current monthly salary of \$600.

Visit the Living Gift Market to learn more of each of these charities. **Gift Cards are available.** Please join us in supporting these wonderful organizations this year at Bethel.



## PROPERTY WISH LIST

The Property Team (Bill Graver, Becky Ballenger and Donna Zadnik) spends a lot of time getting estimates and supervising major repairs and maintenance of the church buildings. This doesn't leave a lot of time for minor repairs and odd jobs, so they are soliciting help. One project is to repair the hymn board that holds hymn numbers for worship. Contact Bill Graver if you can help out in this way.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kristen Wheeler will chair the committee, which needs to find people to fill the President, Vice President and Secretary positions on Consistory. Please consider serving.

## CHANGE IN E-MAIL ADDRESS

I received this note from Amy Mills this week:

“Good morning and happy Sunday! I am writing to update you with our new email address - mills.amy.jeanette@gmail.com. We will be in Ottawa until summer 2018, and looking forward to our return to the region and Bethel then. We love staying on top of things via email and wish all the best holiday season from afar.

All the best,

Amy, Kyle, Avery and Riley Mills”

# Congregational Meeting, Potluck + Farewell to Angie Stevens, Dec. 11

The congregation is called together on Sunday December 11. After almost seven years with us, Angie is moving on to another position that will allow her more time with her loved ones. Be sure to come on December 11 to say “God-speed” during the service and extend your best wishes during the potluck following worship. A sign-up sheet for potluck dishes is posted on the bulletin board.

After the potluck and time with Angie, we will meet as a congregation to pass the 2017 budget, hear an update about the search process and talk about the parking situation. If you have not signed up yet to participate on a Transition Committee, please do so. Everyone is needed.



## AFAC

Cereal needed! How close can we get to our goal of 600 boxes by December 31? We were at 356 boxes towards the end of November. Non-sugar types are preferred.

Join us for packing other foods on Friday December, 2nd.



## OFFENDER AID AND RESTORATION

Thanks to all who contributed toys and gift cards. We sent in fifteen items!



## CROPWALK

Bethel's Crop walkers raised \$6735 in the 2016 Arlington CROP walk. Pastor Pat, Ed Scorza and their two dogs, Cheryl Falcone, Tim'Myiah Cunningham, Terry LePage, Art and Judy Lipman, Susan Peters, Peter Rich, Carolyn Richar, and Laura Wells with Domenic and dog, Jeter did the legwork to raise the funds. Thus \$1683.75 goes to the Arlington Food Assistance Center from Bethel's walkers. The rest goes to Church World Service to aid in its fight against hunger world wide. Thank you to our walkers and special thanks to all who donated to support them.

AFAC distributes groceries to nearly 2,200 families each week.



Noon transitions study.

# December 2016

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 World AIDS Day	2 AFAC Packing, 7 pm	3
4 Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am Advent Workshop	5	6	7 Bible Study, 7 pm	8	9	10
11 Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am Cong Meeting Potluck	12	13	14 Bible Study, 7 pm	15 Third Thursday Lunch, 12 - 1:30 pm CIS Christmas Show, 4 - 5:30 pm	16	17
18 Worship (Pageant), 10 am Fellowship, 11 am	19	20	21 Bible Study, 7 pm	22	23 CIS Closed	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm
25 Christmas Day Worship at AF- UMC, 10 am	26	27	28 No Bible Study	29	30	31