

MARCH 2024

BETHLEHEM  
UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

BEACON

**Because He Lives  
I can Face Tomorrow**

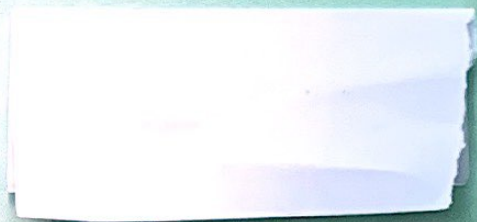


PITTSBURGH PA 150

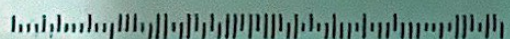
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BETHLEHEM UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
45 CHAPEL ROAD  
WHEELING, WV 26003-4815



26003-260077





## SESSION MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2024

An informal meeting of the Session of the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) was held on Monday, January 22, 2024 in the Church library. The moderator was not present.

Bill Syphers opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 PM.  
It was determined that a quorum was present.

ELDERS PRESENT: Eydie Garvin, Bob Mengeu, Bill Syphers, Jody Werner

ELDERS EXCUSED: Sue Johnson, Bob Young

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's reports for November and December 2023 were reviewed and placed on file.

MINUTES: Minutes of the November 27, 2023 Session meeting were presented for review. Eydie moved to accept, someone else seconded, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: OUR OFFERING TO GOD THROUGH SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE: Eydie Garvin

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Bob Mengeu

1. Bob reported that two new microphones had been ordered.
2. He asked that the hand-held microphones be utilized, so that the person speaking can be heard and that more attention be paid to taking care of the sound system.
3. He reported that new toilets will be installed in the restrooms.

BY-LAWS: Committee is not active at this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sue Johnson

1. Sue continues to insert things into *The Beacon*.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Syphers

MISSION/OUTREACH: Bill Syphers

NOMINATING: Committee is not active.

PARISH LIFE: Jody Werner

WORSHIP: Bob Young

CORRESPONDENCE:

CHURCH RECORDS:

Communion:

Home Communion:

New members, Baptism, Deaths

0  
None

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: Bill closed the meeting with prayer at 7:45 PM. The date for the next regular Session Meeting is February 26, 2024 in the Church library.



Hello God, I called tonight  
To talk a little while  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.



You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own.....  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep  
My family safe and sound,  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.



Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day,  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love you, too.  
And I'll call again tomorrow!



Author Unknown -

## WORSHIP SERVICE

at 10:45 A.M. Communion when we have a  
Presbyterian, Lutheran, or Episcopal Minister.

Church Phone & Fax: 304-242-4407

Email: [secretary@bupcwheeling.org](mailto:secretary@bupcwheeling.org)

===Church Staff===

Music Director & Organist ~ Cliff Elliott

Custodian & Grounds Keeper ~ Dan Burns

Treasurer ~ Eydie Garvin

Secretary ~ Sue Lane Johnson



March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FEBRUARY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	<b>APRIL</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
10:45 a.m. WORSHIP Service				8am Men's Breakfast		
3	4	5:00 Friendship Diners	5	6	7	8
Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:45 dst a.m. WORSHIP Service						TURN CLOCKS ahead! 9
NEW 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
St. Patrick's Day 10:45 a.m. WORSHIP Service Deacon's meet		First Day of Spring		8am Men's Breakfast		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Palm Sunday 10:45 a.m. WORSHIP Service					Good Friday	
24						
Resurrection Day 10:45 a.m. WORSHIP Service	7:00 Session FULL 25	26	27	28	29	30





11th Mike Moore  
 17<sup>th</sup> Susan McAninch  
 19<sup>th</sup> Zachary Werner  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Amy Habak Kiene  
 Olivia Mengu

An Egg full of jelly beans,  
 colorful and sweet  
 is a prayer,  
 is a promise,  
 is everyone's treat;



Red is for the blood He gave,  
 Green is for the grass He made,  
 Yellow is for the Sun so bright,  
 Orange is for the edge of night,  
 Black is for the sins we made,  
 White is for the grace He gave,  
 Purple is for His hours of sorrow,  
 Pink is for our new tomorrow.

## IN OUR HEARTS and PRAYERS

### General, Long-term, and Special Health Concerns

Dorothy Werbecki, health concerns  
 MaBelle Sligar, health concerns  
 Rev. Homer Harden, health concerns  
 Sara Farley (Helen Roberts' daughter), health concerns  
 Joellen McNeil, health concerns  
 Nancy Elliott, health concerns  
 Carolyn Dye, health concerns  
 Wayne Cunningham, health concerns  
 Gretchen Cunningham, health concerns  
 David Waites, health concerns  
 Camden Brown, eye/health concerns  
 Beckie Habak, health concerns  
 John Adams, health concerns  
 John Habak, care giver  
 Nancy K. Mumley, health concerns  
 Eydie Garvin, health concerns

### NURSING HOME & RETIREMENT HOME

Eydie Garvin, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center  
 20 Homestead Avenue ROOM 408-2  
 Dorothy Werbecki, Continuous Care Center, Room 248,  
 236 Hullihen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003  
 Peggy Foster, Good Shepherd Nursing Home,  
 159 Edington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003  
 MaBelle Sligar, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Room 347B,  
 159 Edington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003  
 Craig Garvin, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center,  
 20 Homestead Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003  
 Tom Hostutler, Moundsville Healthcare Center, Room 307,  
 2200 Floral Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041

### *Show Them the Way*

Look closely now and see the pain,  
 See the trouble the world is in.  
 "It is too much," I hear you say,  
 But God has planned a better way.

You are here to show His light,  
 To be a beacon in their dark night.  
 God has not abandoned man,  
 He needs your heart and helping hands.

Reach out today and shine your light,  
 Dispel the darkness in their lives,  
 Lift them up - show them the way,  
 Bring them to a brand-new day.

Mary Ann Jameson

For I kept the ways of  
 the Lord; I was not  
 disloyal to my God.  
 Psalm 18:22





# MARCH PUZZLE:



## ADD A "J"

Each of these "mixed up" words is missing a "J" so see if you can unscramble the letters, add the missing letter, and find the answer from the clue.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ROHECI Its wall came tumbling down.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ HOAUS After the death of Moses, he took over.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ USSE He was also called the Messiah.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ REELASUM You'd find the Mt. of Olives close by.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ LAIEH He battled the priests of Baal.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ HOAN He ran away rather than preach to Nineveh.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ DESUG This Bible book has the story of Samson.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ LOE 11th book from the end of the Old Testament.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ BO All his children were killed in a storm.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ SAME One of the "sons of thunder."
11. \_\_\_\_\_ SEW The group of people God chose as his own.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ HAAINOD The fourth son of David.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ THOANAN David's favorite companion.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ SHOPE He went to prison unjustly.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ ASHIO The temple was cleansed during his reign.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ BLEEEZ She wanted Elijah to die.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ DAUH He was the fourth son Leah and Jacob.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ HUE Known as a fast driver.

*So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.*

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

## RELATIONSHIPS

Match the correct relationships with the names given

- |               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Adam       | <u>4</u> Husband of Jezebel        |
| 2. Timothy    | <u>10</u> Wife of Uriah            |
| 3. Moses      | <u>20</u> Son of Ruth              |
| 4. Ahab       | <u>1</u> Father of Cain            |
| 5. Benjamin   | <u>14</u> Daughter-in-law of Jesse |
| 6. Naomi      | <u>11</u> Brother of Peter         |
| 7. Qrpah      | <u>13</u> Grandfather of Manasseh  |
| 8. Zebedee    | <u>2</u> Grandson of Lois          |
| 9. Martha     | <u>17</u> Father of Joshua         |
| 10. Bathsheba | <u>7</u> Sister-in-law of Ruth     |

- |             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11. Andrew  | <u>15</u> Aunt of Ephraim            |
| 12. Laban   | <u>18</u> Great-grandfather of David |
| 13. Jacob   | <u>9</u> Sister of Lazarus           |
| 14. Abigail | <u>19</u> Mother of Timothy          |
| 15. Dinah   | <u>5</u> Son of Rachel               |
| 16. Aaron   | <u>12</u> Father-in-law of Jacob     |
| 17. Nun     | <u>8</u> Father of James and John    |
| 18. Boaz    | <u>6</u> Mother-in-law of Ruth       |
| 19. Eunice  | <u>16</u> Uncle of Gershom           |
| 20. Obed    | <u>3</u> Son-in-law of Jethro        |

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Had prayed and prayed for something special to end this March/Easter Beacon. Nothing from our library filled the bill. But as usual God heard and answered my clumsy attempt calling for help. This last time I quickly scanned a row of books and found a book by Catherine Marshall, The First Easter. Maybe something in it would satisfy my quest. Little did I know I would find what I thought worthwhile in the Introduction of the book!

At first reading, I was not going to include much of the author's introduction until I realized who this minister would be. So, Catherine Marshall begins by writing: For me the word "Easter" conjures up a procession of pictures. One of the most vivid is a scene from my Georgia college days. On a particular Easter Sunday, I was one of a group of girls who bumped along for fifteen miles on a slow streetcar to attend Easter service at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. The almost-square church with its high vaulted ceiling and huge stone pillars, was packed to the doors. The atmosphere was charged with expectancy interlaced with the heavy fragrance of Easter lilies. Through open windows crept a soft Spring breeze; for Spring came early to Georgia. The young man in the pulpit made us see and feel and smell the Spring. Even in his pastoral prayer, he spoke of balmy air, budding trees, and songs of birds. He referred several times to the azaleas - white, pink, coral, magenta - and to the fairyland of dogwood blossoms and redbud out Druid Hill's way. Yet a crowded church at Easter, a whispering Spring breeze, poetic imagery in a prayer would scarcely have been enough to make a lasting impression on a school girl. To this service something extraordinary was added. What had happened in a certain Garden almost two thousand years ago was obviously real to this young preacher, Peter Marshall, and he seemed resolutely eager to make it as real to us who listened.

"What do I mean by a resurrection?" he asked. He made it clear he did not mean "just the perpetuation of a dead man's ideas or influence." "This", he said earnestly, "is something we dare not water down by what we call 'spiritualizing' it. It must be so authentic that you and I can see it. . . " suddenly, at a given time between sunset and dawn. . . there is a rustling as of the breath of God moving through a garden. A man rises up from the cold stone slab where He had been laid. We must see Him as He walks to the threshold of the tomb, stands swaying for a moment on wounded feet and walks out into the dewy garden, alive forevermore! We must be able to see in mind's eye the discarded graveclothes lying there, like a glove from which the hand has been removed, the fingers of which has been removed, the fingers that still retain the shape of the hand lying there, collapsed, a little deflated, because there was between rolls of bandages a considerable weight of spices. . . We must be able to *hear* it - catch a whiff of the strange scents that must have drifted back to the Man from that tomb of linen and bandages of spices - myrrh and aloes - and close air of blood. . . " We who listened were no longer in Atlanta. We were back in a Garden. What was this strange ability of the man in the pulpit to enlist not just our minds, but our imaginations and even our sensory perceptions? I didn't know. All I knew was that this was a new kind of preaching to me. And why was this young preacher so anxious to make this resurrection a reality to us? Why was he excited about it? He made the reason quite clear. . . Because of what had happened on the first Easter, we had a LIVING LORD. We could each have vital communion with Him right then, tell Him our problems, get His help and direction for our lives. Moreover - and here a note of exultation came into the preacher's voice - because we could prove Christ's aliveness for ourselves by our contact with Him, we could have the proof we needed of life after death. Not a one of us



need ever fear death again. That was good news, wasn't it? Then it was important that the good news get out.

We college students walked out of the church that morning aglow with concepts that had gotten through to us for the first time. Nor was the spell broken by the traffic on Ponce de Leon, nor by the rumbling old streetcar with its straw seats that carried us back to Decatur. Not Sunday dinner with chicken and grits, nor a history term paper to be written could break the spell. Else why would I remember the details of that Easter service even now?

I could not have known that my life was to be intertwined for all time with the preacher's, nor that I would hear a procession of his Easter services through the years to come. Yet no matter how many I heard – the glow, the excitement, the something special was always there. And apparently not just for me, but for many another.

I had a chance to glimpse another of Peter's Easter services six years later through the eye of someone else. This time the setting was the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. where Peter and I had come in the Fall of 1937. A young women's life was changed that a.m., and this is the way she described it: "she would never be the same again." There was nothing stuffy about the Christianity found. In fact, it was as exciting as Peter had always found it himself. Joy returned to life, as the enthusiastic teen-age girl put it. . . . "Peter was nearly my idol and would have been if I hadn't seen him step out of the way and let me catch a glimpse of the Savior. I met Him through Peter Marshall."

*In the years since Mr. Jones, Meet the Master was released, there has been a steady stream of requests for Dr. Marshall's sermon material. When I began seriously to consider what should go into such a book, I thought of the fact that to Peter, the compass needle of Christianity pointed inevitably and always, to Resurrection morning. Therefore his best thinking, most careful preparation and all his gifts for sermonizing he had lavished through the years on his Easter sermons. In those sermons his ability to paint a picture in words, to enable his listeners to see and hear and feel an incident, rose to its greatest height. I found in my possession 96 Easter manuscripts from 18 years and 4 months of preaching. In re-reading these sermons covering the events of Passion Week, I quickly found myself caught up in drama – sheer drama, engrossing, at times tender, at times terrible – and always and always I found myself moved by Peter's ability to enlist the emotions on the side of faith.*

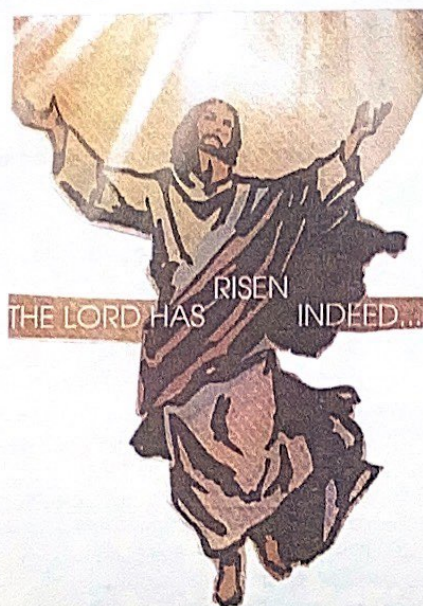
Thus, The First Easter unfolded itself. My only part in it has been to take from the many sermons Dr. Marshall's re-creation of each scene, as event followed event, and edit the material only where it was necessary to weave it together.

Here, then, is Easter seen through the eyes and described from the heart of one man.  
(Washington, D.C. October 19, 1958 – Catherine Marshall)

What is this mysterious, strange, joyous influence that seems to permeate everything at this time of the year. . . that lingers, like a sweet perfume, delicate and clean, to touch us all with its magic? It is an intriguing thing . . . intangible, yet real. We feel it. . . sense it. . . thrill to it. There is more to it than bunny rabbits and colored eggs and gay, new clothes. Easter is more than a celebration because the sap is rising in the trees. . . and the bare branches are slipping bright green rings on bony fingers . . . and blossoms are turning wood and garden into



**fairylend. Easter is more than a Spring festival. So far as the church is concerned, the message of Easter is contained in the declaration "CHRIST is RISEN!"**



**Peter Marshall -- May 27, 1902 – January 26, 1949--An American Preacher at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C., and Chaplain to the United States Senate.**

**A Man Called Peter – 1951 biography by widow Catherine and 1955 film of the book, was nominated for an academy award for its cinematography.**

**He was born in Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire, Scotland, a poverty-stricken coal-mining community, where he was reared by his mother and step-father. From 1916-1921 he studied electrical engineering at Coatbridge Technical School. He enrolled in evening classes to study for the ministry, while working in the mines by day, but his progress was slow. In 1927, a cousin paid for him to study for the ministry in the United States. He graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary 1931. His first church was First Presbyterian Church, was in small, rural Covington Georgia. After a brief pastorate, he accepted a call to Atlanta's Westminster Presbyterian church in 1933.**

**In Atlanta, he met his future wife Catherine Wood who was a student at Agnes Scott College. Married November 4, 1936. (One son, Peter John Marshall January 1940 – September 2010.)**

**Peter Marshall died of a heart attack January 4, 1947 at age 46.**



## Another BACKWARD GLANCE:

# Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church Wheeling, W.Va.

Pastor: No current pastor  
*same - 2024*

Clerk of Session: Nancy Hinton

Year Founded: 1950

Membership: 172  
*40 - 2024*

Average Weekly Attendance: 65  
*20 - 2024*

**Other information:** Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church was organized in 1950 by the Presbytery of Wheeling following a house-to-house survey conducted in Bethlehem by the Greater Wheeling Council of Churches.

The first organized Sunday school work took place in the Village of Bethlehem back in 1876. Bethlehem Union Sunday school began in 1905 and Bethlehem Union Chapel, which still stands today, was dedicated in 1914.

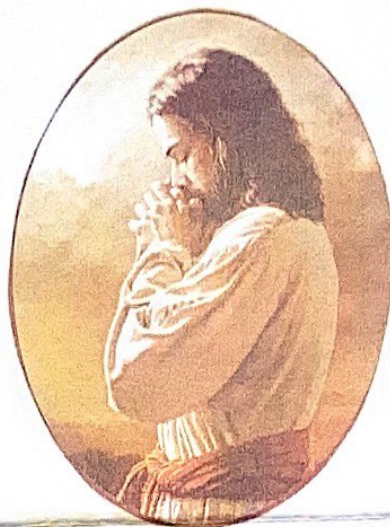
Today the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church is proud of its music program under the direction of Bryan Sable and organist Cheryl Dougherty. The Calvin Choir and the ROHO Ringers (Ringin' Our Hearts Out) Bell Choir, both give much inspiration during worship services.

This past fall the bell choir, which was formed in 1995, held a fund raiser for the purchase of choir robes. The drive was launched in late October 1999 during a congregational dinner. With hopes of a delivery date by January 2000, the choir had its work cut out for them. The first collection was taken during the congregational dinner and by that very evening a phone call was received with an offer to pay for the entire purchase of the new robes. The robes arrived with not one day to spare, just in time for Christmas Eve candlelight services.

The Bethlehem congregation celebrates its 50th anniversary this fall.  
(Information submitted by Nancy Hinton)



It only took a day to raise the funds needed for the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church Bell Choir's new robes. The new garments arrived just in time for candlelight services



*The same everlasting Father  
who cares for you today  
will care for you tomorrow  
and every day.*

*Either He will shield you from  
suffering or give you  
unfailing strength to bear it.*

*Be at peace then  
and put aside all  
anxious thoughts  
and imaginings.*

*-St. Francis de Sales*





If you wish to order Easter Lilies, in Memory of, or in Honor of, a loved one, please complete the order form below and deposit in the offering plate or mail to the office BEFORE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024**

The lilies will be placed on the Chancel, Easter Sunday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Price \$10.00 per plant

Number of Easter Lilies ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_