



Bethany Banner

Bethany Community Church, 201 Birch Avenue, Grandview, Washington- December, 2021

A Note from Elder Robin Smith:

Advent 2021 – Time to turn our hearts and minds to our Saviors birth!

As we enjoy the many decorations, Christmas lights, Children programs, family and friends gatherings, shopping for the perfect gift, and deciding on the perfect menu we need to keep the true reason for the season – our Savior's birth.

I have many Christmas memories from my childhood. Being a member of an Air Force family that was stationed throughout the world, Christmas was celebrated with just my sister and parents. I was in high school before we celebrated Christmas with extended family. We decorated our home with the many decorations we gathered from the different areas of the world. We would try to add something new each year and enjoyed each one remembering where they had come from. We enjoyed the boxes of goodies from Grandparents adding them to our tree. The season was filled with activities including each Christmas Eve attending the candlelight service at base chapel where we attended services each Sunday. Christmas was made special by my parents wherever we were living. One Christmas we did have to wait until my Dad returned from a trip.

The one thing I looked forward to each year was the unwrapping of our Nativity scene. Each piece was wrapped in white tissue paper and each evening a person was selected to pick a piece to unwrap and place where they wished it to be. On Christmas Eve after returning from the candlelight service the final piece wrapped in colored paper was unwrapped and baby Jesus was placed within the manger completing our Nativity scene.

I guess this memory may be why I now have a collection of Nativity scene. By hosting a Christmas around the World party one year I was able to purchase a manger scene reminiscent of that Childhood one, I love unwrapping each of the many Nativity scenes I now own and placing them throughout my home. I have scenes made with Mt. St. Helen ash, glass ones, paper ones made by my sons in children's church, wood ones for the kids, hand carved pieces from Tim, and just this weekend a wood laser cut one from the high school bazaar. Friends and family have gifted me with many; as well I love to share them with family members.

Another way we can remember to keep Our Savior's birth in our heart this season came from a facebook post last year and again this year – Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FROM JOAN SOUDERS, VISITATION PASTOR

November a month to pause and give thanks. This month I have visited people who are not on my usual list. While standing in the greeting card section of a local store. I saw beautiful Thanksgiving greeting cards. Guess what? You got it! I purchased them and mailed them to the regulars on my list and some others...who I have not seen for a long time. Who doesn't like getting a hand written card in the mail. In the card I reminded them of how Thankful I am that we can give Thanks every day. Psalms 7:17 is a great reminder. "I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High." Those I visited in person continue to "Give Thanks."

Surviving the Holidays classes by "Grief Share" will be given by Pastor Joan Souders on the following dates:

December 2: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

December 7: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

December 9: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Please call the church office for your reservation since each class is limited.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, DECEMBER , 2021

HEAD USHER: Tim Smith

LAY ASSISTANTS - Please no handshaking, DECEMBER GREETERS:

Dec. 5: Terry Dahlstrom

Dec. 5: Kent & Irene Beaulaurier

Dec. 12: Robin Smith

Dec. 12: Joanie Bertram

Dec. 19: Kathy Ellertson

Dec. 19: Polly McKinney

Dec. 26: Barbara Olmstead

Dec. 26: Peggy Brewer

CHILDREN CHURCH LEADERS: December 5, Judy Rice

December 12: Robin Smith

December 19: Terry Dahlstrom;

December 26: Mari Larney

PLEASE PRAY

Praying in these difficult times is so important to keep us connected. If you have prayer needs, please call (1) the church office (882-3576) or (2) Joanie Bertram (882-3468) or (3) call your Deacon.

Assisted care: At Sun Terrace, Prosser—Billie and Suzie Oliver; at Orchard Park, Yakima—Blanche King and Evelyn Floyd; at Fieldstone, Yakima—Jean Wyckoff; at Sunnyside Care Center—Edith Higgins; at Brookdale, Richland—Bea Galey.

For church: Session, and Deacons.

For the Youth Ministry: Mari Larney, Terry Dahlstrom, and youth.

For our Nation and World: Strength and wisdom in fighting the Coronavirus.

Medical Issues: Maxine Ballinger, Dave Ballinger, back surgery; Gay Brewer- recuperating from two back surgeries.

Amy Nunez---in bad accident (and children).

From Christian Education:

Who needs Christmas??

Please join us for our Advent Sunday School study at 9:00 a.m. on November 28, 2021. Are we so familiar with the Christmas story that we rarely dig into the details? But what if we did?

We might find that it stops sounding like a far-fetched fairy tale. In fact, the improbable details of this story might even start to sound like real life—maybe even your life.

In “Who Needs Christmas?” Pastor Andy Stanley explains how the remarkable details of the Christmas story are what make it so believable. And he tells us why, after so many years, it took something unexpected to get people’s attention. This is a video and discussion study with neither pre-reading nor homework are required. (Actually, there is a suggested reading, but it is not required to enjoy the study and fellowship.)

Mid-Week Youth

We want to thank all of our volunteers who have graciously volunteered to provide food for the Youth on Wednesday evenings. If you would like to provide financial support that would be gratefully accepted. In order to connect with our Youth, on the third Wednesday of each month we are going to have a Potluck Supper with the Youth. Followed by a short devotion for the adults while the Youth do their activities with Mari.

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!





OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

Many thanks for all people who filled Christmas Shoeboxes. Janet delivered 38 boxes. God's love around the world-----Yeah!!!

Pastor Seeking Update

The Team has been reviewing multiple resumes looking for the right person to fill our position of pastor. We have had some zoom meeting where we have been able to learn more about the candidates, their walk with the Lord and their hopes if they came to Bethany.

One candidate that we were seriously considering was called to another church here in Washington. Others we have interviewed have been sent to Director of Ministry for ECO consideration. In January ECO conference will be held and we are hoping to find more candidates to consider. We ask that all continue to pray for that candidate that God has for our church.

The pastor seeking team: Richard, Dave B, Gretchen, Terry, Alix, Robin, and Kathy as clerk.

*Thank You from Ballingers
On behalf of the Hallman family
Dave and I would like to thank
our church family for opening up
the church for the celebration of life
for my brother, Lawrence, (Larry).
We were overwhelmed by the
generosity of the ladies providing
the lunch and everyone's help
including Mike Clark.*

*We love you all very much and
thank you for the food, cards and
prayers. We really appreciate
continued prayers as we recover.
We will be back to church as soon
as the doctor says we can.*



BETHANY DECEMBER, 2021

Wednesday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. "Hanging of the Greens"

Sunday, December 12: Congregation meeting after worship to elect new church officers.

December 15, 4:00 p.m. Deacon meeting

December 15, 6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas program, followed by a light dinner.

December 20: 2:00 Christmas "Goodie" Time

**December 21, 6:00 p.m. Session and Deacon dinner and meetings.
Hosted by the Elders.**

December 24: 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship service

Be a Study Buddy

Many kids in Grandview have fallen way behind due to the pandemic. You can help by becoming a study buddy at Smith School! They will train us and give us the materials to tutor. Choose the time you want to go each week—during or after school. Sign up now so we can be cleared to start in January. Call Alix for more information. (439-2527)

Christmas Goodie Time

We have oldies but goodies in music, but we also have and oldies but goodies in people. We want to celebrate the goodies in Grandview with a special Christmas party on Monday, December 20 at 2 o'clock. This is especially for those goodies who are feeling lonely and isolated at this time of the year and/or by Covid. Let us know if you would like to be included or know of somebody that we should invite. There will be goodies and games and good fellowship! Here is an invitation for you to share with a goodie you know!

-----Cut here-----



Christmas Goodie Time Invitation

We have oldies but goodies in music, but we also have and oldies but goodies in people. Are you feeling lonely or isolated by covid or just wanting to do something fun? This party is for you!



Who? Oldies but goodies!

When? Monday, December 20, at 2:00

What? Special Christmas Party with Goodies, Games, New and Old Friends

Where? Bethany Community Church, 201 Birch, Grandview Call the church office (882-3576) to sign up or if you have questions. Transportation is available. See you on December 20th!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Ed Erickson**
- 3 Aggie McPherson**
- 3 Samaya Nunez**
- 9 Barbara Olmstead**
- 14 Brianna Diaz**
- 14 Norma Grow**
- 26 Kathy Ellertson**
- 27 Orfey Diaz**
- 29 Dave Copeland**
- 30 Pauline Shenyer**



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gay & Peggy Brewer**
- 29 Vern & Bev VanNostern**

DECEMBER, 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 1:30 pm <i>Women's Bible study</i> 6 p.m. <i>"Hanging of Greens"—all hands</i>	2 9 am Prayer Team	3	4
5 9 am Sunday School- all 10am Worship Communion	6	7 8 am <i>Men's Bible study</i>	8 1:30 pm <i>Women's Bible study</i> 5:30-7:30pm <i>Youth</i> 7 pm <i>Zoom Bible study</i>	9 9 am Prayer Team	10	11
12 9 am Sunday School- all 10am Worship Congregational Meeting after worship. Christmas Goodie Time at 2:00	13	14 8 am <i>Men's Bible study</i>	15 1:30 pm <i>Ruth Circle</i> 4:pm <i>Deacon's</i> 6 p.m. <i>Youth Christmas program</i>	16 6:30 am <i>Priscilla Circle</i> 9 am Prayer Team	17	18
19 9 am Sunday School- all 10am Worship	20	21 8 am <i>Men's Bible study Session/ Deacon dinner-meeting</i>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve--- 4:00 p.m. Worship	25 CHRISTMAS
26 No Sunday School 10am Worship	27	28 8 am <i>Men's Bible study</i>	29	30	31	

