

# THE OUTREACH

**A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.**  
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**BETHEL**  
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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Merry Christmas! One of the things I love about Christmas is the routine. At Bethel we have two big, annual events that tell us Christmas is here, the Christmas Cantata and our Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service. Our Cantata will be on December 22 during our Worship Service and our Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:30 pm. Both of these special services draw us together as a community of faith and, for me, they provide a comforting routine that rekindles special memories and offers fresh hope for the future. We also have family routines built around Christmas. Every Christmas morning all of our family gathers at my parents' for breakfast. On Christmas 1998 this routine was broken. That year had been a particularly tough year because my father in law passed away in May. The plan for the day was for us to pick up my mother in law, affectionately known as "Mama Dot," and drive to my parents'. The weather was nasty. It was cold and there were traces of ice on the road. We picked up Mama Dot and less than two miles down the road we hit a patch of ice. Our car did a slow motion slide into a ditch and flipped onto its side. With the car resting on its side, we began to assess the damage. Everyone was fine except Mama Dot. She had not worn her seatbelt and she fell to the other side of the car. She had a severe cut on her head. Long story short, Med Flight was called and she spent several days at MCV, but she recovered just fine, thank God!

There was at least one act of grace that day. While we were waiting on Med Flight there was a gentleman who stopped to help. My nearly three year old daughter, Elizabeth, was obviously shaken up by the accident and she was cold. This nice gentleman allowed Elizabeth to sit in his truck to keep warm. I didn't know the gentleman, but he mentioned that he lived about a mile from us on another road. Fast forward 26 years later to a lovely day this past May. My wife, Karen, and I went walking and saw a man struggling to get his lawnmower out of the ditch. It rained the night before and his lawnmower was stuck. So we stopped and I helped him pull the lawnmower out of the ditch. He thanked me and we

went on our way. As we walked further it hit me; that was the man that allowed Elizabeth to sit in his truck 26 years prior. I said to Karen, "Isn't that something! All those years ago, he sort of helped us out of a ditch and then here we are doing the same." It's like that act of grace came full circle.

That stuck with me. A few weeks later, during my sabbatical I visited a local church and guess who we saw in worship? Yep, it was the same gentleman! I told him the story of how he helped us years ago on Christmas and how I thought it was a wonderful, divine appointment we could offer him some assistance getting him out of a ditch. We both marveled at the situation.

Christmas is a time when we affirm one of the great truths of our faith, that Christ is Emanuel, which means "God with us." That day in 1998 Christ was "Emanuel" for us through the kindness of a neighbor. I think we were "Emanuel" for him as well. I suspect there are plenty of folks in our community that need some help getting out of their own ditches of life. I pray God will give us eyes to see, ears to listen and a heart to understand how we might be Emanuel to others. When that happens, every day can be Christmas Day. May God not only bless our days, but may He redeem all of our days, even the worst days, like Christmas Day 1998 for me. Have a very Merry Christmas and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our special Christmas Worship Services. Once again, Merry Christmas and may the abundance of God's blessings flow into your lives this New Year. May God bless you and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church. Amen! **With love....Todd**



# Bethel's Angel Tree

The Community Engagement Team is sponsoring an Angel Tree for two families this Christmas. One family is a grandmother raising five grandchildren and the other is an elderly couple who are destitute.

Please join us by taking a slip (or slips) off the tree located in the People of Hope Center and purchasing the item(s) listed. All items must be returned by December 15.

When returning item(s) for the children, please label each bag/box with the age of the child and list what is inside the package. You are welcome to wrap, or you can bring your items unwrapped and we will take care of them.

If you are purchasing gift cards for the adults, please put them in an envelope when you return them. WaWa, Wal-Mart, Food Lion, or Visa gift cards are requested.

If you prefer to make a donation and the Team make the purchases, feel free to give your money or check (payable to Sissy Dance) to Sissy or any one of the Team members: Sarah Oatman, Susan Reynolds, Pat Reynolds, Peggy Keatts, Heather DeShetler, Bob Moseley or Sherwood Dance.

Let's be a blessing to these families this Christmas. Thank you!



## Care Team Delivery

In late November Care Team representatives, Jane Ruehrwein and Jarry Jenkins started Care Team Christmas deliveries by dropping off eight Christmas wreaths to some of Bethel's homebound members. We certainly hope the delivery brought our special friends Christmas cheer and the knowledge they are cared about and supported.



## December Birthdays

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 - Clay Call         | 14 - Slate Baker          |
| 2 - Stephanie Blanton | 15 - Jeanette Napier      |
| 2 - Sherwood Dance    | 18 - Tina Hilbert         |
| 3 - Lynne Doughtie    | 18 - Jackie Carr          |
| 4 - Rose Mary Main    | 19 - Karen Bradbury       |
| 4 - Clara Justis      | 19 - Debbie Nellis        |
| 4 - Aaron Stagg       | 20 - Michael Brandon      |
| 5 - James Willis      | 20 - Shanna Call          |
| 6 - Roe Cole          | 21 - Diane Beasley        |
| 6 - Bill Rogers       | 21 - Susie Hilton         |
| 6 - Jeff Taylor       | 22 - Sarah Acree          |
| 6 - Kendel Wynne      | 22 - Robin Mead           |
| 6 - Shyanne Sanchez   | 23 - Mary Florence        |
| 8 - Isaac Gilbert     | 24 - Howard Stephens, Jr. |
| 9 - Drew Ratliff      | 27 - Evie Doughtie        |
| 10 - Laurie Haynes    | 29 - Christy Moseley      |
| 11 - Kayla Rider      | 30 - Barbara Burtchett    |
| 11 - Jamie Ellis      | 30 - Sissy Dance          |
| 11 - Ben Turner       | 30 - Brenda Jackson       |
| 13 - Matthew Moseley  | 30 - Joyce Hall           |

## Ministry & Missions Meeting Wednesday, December 4 at 7 pm



The quarterly Ministry & Missions Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 7 pm in the People of Hope Center. The meeting will be in person and also available via Zoom and will begin with communion. If

you are attending over Zoom, please have your communion elements available. The Book of Reports and the Zoom link will be sent electronically prior to the meeting and hard copies of the Book of Reports will be available at Worship on December 1 and the night of the meeting.

## Brotherhood Breakfast

The regularly schedule Brotherhood Breakfast for the fifth Sunday in December had been cancelled due to the timing of Christmas and New Years. The next Brotherhood Breakfast will be **Sunday, March 30**. We look forward to seeing you then!



The deadline for the January Outreach is December 11. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be dropped off in the church office or emailed to [karnold@bbc1817.org](mailto:karnold@bbc1817.org) before **December 11**. Thank you for your help!

# A Note from the Parish Nurse

December can be a wonderful yet stressful month.

Tips for reducing your stress include:

- Planning your activities and planning your spending.
- Learning to say no is another way to reduce stress.
- Don't try to do it all, ask for help and take time for yourself to relax.
- Pick a fun activity to enjoy! Go caroling. The Bethlehem Walk is back and a wonderful way to spend an evening. Plan a paint night, or maybe a shopping trip to Williamsburg with a friend.
- Respect other viewpoints and put your differences aside.

Remember the true meaning of Christmas and may we all have Hope, Joy, Peace, Love and Forgiveness always.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)**

I pray you all have a joyful Christmas.

Blessings,  
Cindy Luck RNFCN



## Ladies Fellowship Lunch Returns in January



The Ladies Fellowship Luncheons will resume in January. Mark your calendar now and join us on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at noon at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian. All women are

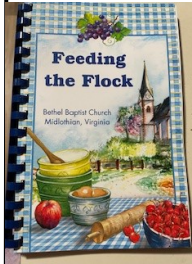
invited. If you would like more information or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can reserve a place for you.

## Wednesday Night Programs in December



- December 4 — Ministry & Missions Meeting, 7 pm, No Sacred Circle
- December 11 — Sacred Circle, 6 pm
- December 18 — Sacred Circle, 6 pm
- December 25 — Christmas, No Sacred Circle

# Bethel Cookbooks



The new Bethel Cookbook has arrived! The cookbooks will be sold before and after service from now and until Christmas (unless they sell out before Christmas.) The cost is \$15 per cookbook and checks should be made payable to Blessing Warriors. If you'd like to pay by cash, please have the exact amount ready as we can't easily make change. Remember, Bethel

Cookbooks make excellent Christmas gifts!

Questions? Contact Susan Reynolds at [socccergal01@gmail.com](mailto:socccergal01@gmail.com).

## Bethel Christmas Card Post Office

The Christmas Card Post Office will be open from December 1 to December 31. It will be located in the People of Hope Center. You can send and receive cards to and from your Bethel family and friends. Please check the post office each week to make sure you don't miss any holiday wishes for you and your family. Best of all...NO POSTAGE REQUIRED.



**DON'T FORGET** our homebound members love Christmas greetings, too! The box for our homebound members will be near the Christmas Card Post Office. Please drop these cards in the special box for guaranteed delivery. Homebound members include Myrna Perkins, Shirley Roberts, Peggy Heath, Linda Floyd, Marie Justis, Liz and Joe Atkinson, Joyce Bullock, Margaret and Bob Gillis, Lee Elam, Barbara Burchett and Betty and Margaret, Barbara's housemates at Harmony House.

Please put these cards in the box designated for the card team to deliver. Thank you all and Merry Christmas!

## Interesting Mail Fact

The United States Post Office issued the first Christmas Stamp on November 1, 1962. You can 'send' your Bethel friends a Christmas greeting, no Christmas stamp needed!

## Monday Small Group Sharing and Caring

The "Sharing and Caring" group meets each Monday morning at 9 a.m. in the People of Hope Center.

There will be a **Christmas brunch on Monday, December 16 at 10 am in the POHC**. The group will then be on a holiday break with Sharing and Caring group meetings restarting on Monday, January 6 at 9 am.

For more information, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.



# The Boxcast App

The AV Team has a way to view Bethel's complete church services on your Apple TV, Roku, or Smart TV, using the Boxcast app. The app will provide a simple, high quality way to view services on your TV so the entire family can watch together.



Simply follow these instructions:

1. Add the Boxcast app to your device.
2. Search for the church's channel by searching for Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian, VA. (NOTE: Spelling and punctuation is important when searching.)
3. Once you find the channel the church's logo will appear. Select this channel.

## Four Ways to Give at Bethel

1. **In Person:** Drop your check in the offering plate as it is passed in the People of Hope on Sunday morning.
2. **Send a check to our secure mailbox:** The address is: Bethel Baptist Church, 1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113.
3. **Online Giving:** On Bethel's website there is a link to give. Click on the link and you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. You may also use this link for online giving: <https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/>
4. **Text Giving:** Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804)361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction.

As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

## Charlotte's Pantry

**Upcoming Pantry Schedule:**

- December 11, 2024, 5 to 6:30 pm
- *Special Christmas Order Pick-Up-December 21, 2024, 11 am to 12 pm (Preorder Only—See Brenda Peck)*
- January 8, 2025, 5 to 6:30 pm



# Sunday School Classes

The following classes meets weekly:

- The Providers Class meets in the Providers Classroom in the People of Hope Center
- The Endeavors Class meets in the Endeavors Classroom in the People of Hope Center
- The Salt and Light Class meets in the last room on the right in the Education Building (it is marked Salt and Light)
- Students in grades K-5 meet in the Jigsaw Room, downstairs
- Students in grades 6-12 meet in the Youth Room, downstairs

The nursery is open during Sunday School for our younger children.

The Zoom class is from the Providers classroom.

**The Zoom link is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F0OEp4RUJNVHhK1pGRmIDQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 874 6134 9993

**Passcode:** 139739

## Opportunities for:

### Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir
- WMU (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 am)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (during worship)
- Friends of the Homeless (Meets 5th Mondays at 8:30 am. See Ardelle Florence)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 pm
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Cindy Wight)
- Care Team Ministry (See Jane Ruehrwein)

### Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch First Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch last Thursday of each month at noon (See Shirley Lewis)
- Youth Group Meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm (See Mary Florence)
- Sacred Circle meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm
- Sunday School Classes meet every Sunday at 9:30 am
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW Children's Ministry meets every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Sharing & Caring Group meets every Monday at 9 am in POHC (See Bruce Bartlam)

# Meet the Care Team Director

Jane Ruehrwein has lived in Powhatan for 13 years. When her husband was away in the Navy she became involved in various civic and religious groups and continues her volunteer work today. Jane and her husband have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Please contact Jane for Care Team visits. She can be reached by phone (716) 597-7342 and email jruehrwein4@gmail.com.

## Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for the multitude of texts, emails, cards and calls sharing your love, thoughts and prayers for our family during the past few weeks as our dear brother-in-law, Bill Andrew, went home to be with his Lord. Our sister, Debbie, was overwhelmed by the outpouring of blessings from Bethel. We are indeed privileged to be part of such a caring church.

With love and gratitude,  
Judy Barker and Ora Smith

Dear Bethel Friends,

While recuperating from my shoulder replacement, I can't thank everyone enough for all of your prayers, food, visits, calls and cards. I felt so cared for and loved.

Thank you from my heart to yours. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Aleta Jenkins

Dear Bethel Friends,

During Mac's recent hospitalization, we both were so thankful for the calls and support from Bethel. Mac is home recuperating and very much enjoyed the basket of goodies from the church. Thank you again for your prayers, well wishes and the goodie basket. What a wonderful feeling to know we are so cared about.

Mac and Pat Herndon

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, food, and most of all the prayers after my recent should surgery. I am doing very well and working over the next couple of months towards a full recovery. God bless you all.

Bruce Moseley



The Bethel Youth Group has a lot of fun events planned for December including:

- Sunday, December 8: Birthday Party for Jesus after Worship
- December 13 - 14: Overnight Christmas Outing to Great Wolf Lodge

And, a friendly reminder there will be no Youth Group on Wednesday, December 11 or Wednesday, December 25.

## Poinsettias for Christmas Forms Due by 12/8/2024

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out a form and drop it in the offering plate along with your payment or bring it to the church office before the deadline. Forms are available from the church office or on the round table in the People of Hope Center. The cost of each plant is \$11.00. **Checks should be made payable to Bethel Baptist Church.**

The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church during the Christmas season. Please take yours home after the service on December 24, unless you need it sooner. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Kagels at 804-514-3989.



**CHRISTMAS** EVE  
**service**  
CELEBRATING JESUS

**5:30 pm in the  
People of Hope Center**



# Preschool News

The excitement is in the air with Christmas quickly approaching! The children and staff are working hard to complete their holiday units before our Christmas break begins. There are so many fun projects and lessons to explore! This is such a magical time of year for children and adults alike, and we will be focusing on the true meaning of the season in our preschool, Jesus.

I would like to say thank you to all the preschool families who helped with our outreach program this year. The idea of doing unto others is sometimes a difficult concept for small children to grasp. To help them understand it is just as important to give as it is to receive, the preschool participated in both a food drive and shelter drive and collected items for the Powhatan Food Pantry as well as the Powhatan Animal Shelter. We were able to contribute many items that will certainly help bring joy to those (humans and furry friends) in our community in need.

Our preschool is thrilled to host our fourth-annual Christmas Fun Day on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Parents can drop off their Bethel Preschool students on Friday morning, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 and go Christmas shopping, wrap gifts, or just enjoy a moment of solitude before the mayhem of the holiday season. While here, the children will enjoy Christmas crafts, make and eat Christmas treats, and play together.

We will hold "Cookies, Cocoa, and Christmas Carols", our preschool Christmas production, on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We will sing Christmas carols, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies and I have heard there may even be a special visitor from the North Pole! We are so excited to spread the magic of the Christmas season with our students and families before they leave for break.

Our preschool will be closed December 20-January 5 for Christmas Break. We look forward to welcoming back our students and staff on Monday, January 6, 2025. The Bethel Preschool teachers, staff and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Heather Kerns, Bethel Baptist Preschool Director



# Test Your Knowledge!

How many of these true or false Christmas Bible trivia questions can you answer correctly? The answers are at the end.

1. The Bible says Jesus was born in December.
2. Christmas wasn't celebrated for over 300 years after Jesus died.
3. The story of the Little Drummer Boy is found in the book of Mark.
4. The Bible says sheep and other barn animals were present at Jesus' birth.
5. The three wise men were present at Jesus' birth.
6. Bethlehem is known as the city of Abraham.
7. Mary had other children after Jesus.

Answers: 1. False. The Bible does not state the exact date of Jesus' birth. 2. True. The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25th, 336 A.D. 3. False. The Little Drummer Boy is a fictional story. 4. False. No animals are specified. 5. False. They visited Him as an infant. 6. False. It is the City of David. 7. True. Mark 6:3 seems to suggest Jesus had brothers and sisters.

# Welcome Susie Hilton



Susie Hilton is the most recent new member of Bethel Baptist Church. We are so happy to have you as part of the Bethel family, Susie!

# Men's Fellowship Lunch December 5

The next Men's Fellowship Lunch is at noon on Thursday, December 5, at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan. If you have any questions, please call Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886. All men are welcome.





# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communion Sunday</li> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 am</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC</li> <li>● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs</li> <li>● WWU, 10 am, POHC</li> </ul>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Garden Club, 10 am, POHC</li> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Downstairs</li> <li>● Choir Rehearsal, 6 to 7 pm</li> <li>● <b>Ministry &amp; Missions Meeting, 7 pm, POHC</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Men's Fellowship Lunch, Italian Delight at Noon</li> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Group Returns from Great Wolf Lodge, Williamsburg</li> </ul>
<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 am</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC</li> <li>● Youth Group Birthday Party for Jesus, 12 to 2 pm, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs</li> <li>● <b>Deadline for Ordering Poinsettias</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharing and Caring, 9 am, POHC</li> <li>● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boy Scouts, 7 pm, POHC</li> <li>● <b>Deadline for January Newsletter</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Charlotte's Partry, 5 to 6:30 pm</li> <li>● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room</li> <li>● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm</li> <li>● Circle of Truth Rehearsal, 5:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bethel Preschool Fun Friday, 9 am to Noon, POHC</li> <li>● Youth Group to Great Wolf Lodge, Williamsburg</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Group Returns from Great Wolf Lodge, Williamsburg</li> </ul>
<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 am</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC</li> <li>● Choir Cantata Practice, 12 to 1 pm</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharing and Caring Holiday Brunch, 10 am, POHC</li> <li>● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Charlotte's Partry, 5 to 6:30 pm</li> <li>● Sacred Circle, 6 pm, Endeavors Room</li> <li>● Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Downstairs</li> <li>● Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting—5:30 pm</li> <li>● Bethel Preschool: Cookies, Cocoa and Christmas Carols, 11 am to 12:30 pm, POHC</li> </ul>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Charlotte's Partry Pre-Order Christmas Pick Up, 11 am to 12 pm (No Public Partry Pick-Up)</li> </ul>
<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 am</li> <li>● <b>Worship and Christmas Cantata, 10:30 am, POHC</b></li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 pm, POHC</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."</b> Isaiah 9:6-7</li> </ul>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA Meeting, 5:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sunday School, 9:30 am</li> <li>● Worship, 10:30 am, POHC</li> <li>● Girl Scouts, 5 pm, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ESL, 8:30 am, Downstairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p>				