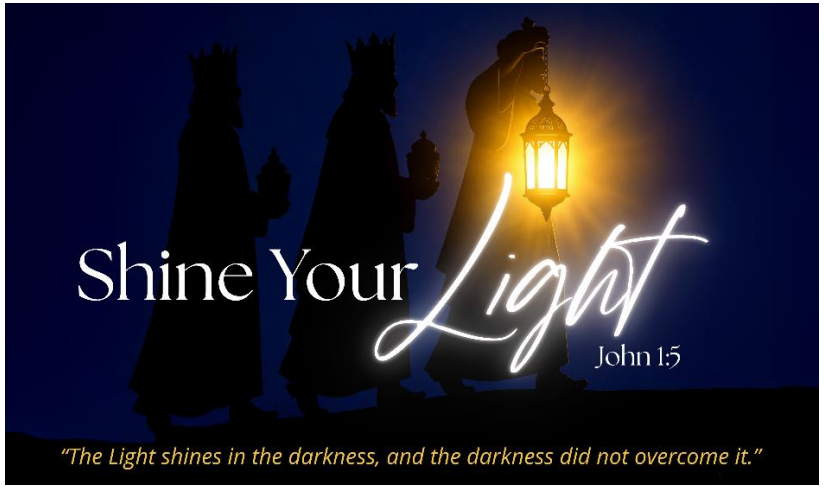
# Hope Crossing and Bethany Church of God




Two Churches – One Faith
United through God
**Welcome Home to God's House!**

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## PRAISE and WORSHIP CELEBRATION
**Sunday, November 29, 2026**
**First Sunday of Advent**

**CALL to WORSHIP and PRAISE**

"Joy to the World"

**PRAYER of WELCOME**

**GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT READING and LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE**

The Candle of Hope

**A TIME of PRAISE**

"Our King Has Come"
"Do You Hear What I Hear"

**A TIME of PRAYER**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Tammy Lochridge

"God's Given Emotions"

**MESSAGE** Pastor James Matt

"Jesus Is The Undefeated Light"

**SONG of RESPONSE**

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

**CLOSING PRAYER and BENEDICTION**



## MESSAGE NOTES

**Scriptures**

John 1:5

**The Power of a Single Flame** _____

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**The Light Shines in the Darkness – Not Around It** _____

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**Darkness Cannot Understand It or Extinguish It** _____

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**Advent Means Living as a People Proclaiming the Light** _____

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**Next Sunday – Second Sunday in Advent**

**"Jesus Lights Our Life-Path"**

Read John 1:5 and Psalm 119:105

## CHALLENGE for the WEEK

The Challenge for this week:

**PROCLAIM THE LIGHT OF JESUS**
**AND SHARE HIS HOPE!**

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Today – First Sunday of Advent**

**3:30 p.m.** 5th Sunday Unity Service @ Farmington Hills Church of God
**8:00 p.m.** AA Meeting @ Bethany

**Wednesday, December 2nd**

**5:00 p.m.** Dinner and Fellowship @ Bethany CoG
**6:00 p.m.** Bible Study @ Bethany CoG

**Sunday, December 6th – Second Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 a.m.** Contemporary Praise and Worship Celebration @ Bethany CoG
**10:00 a.m.** Adult Sunday School @ Hope Crossing
**11:00 a.m.** Traditional/Blended Praise & Worship Celebration @ Hope Crossing
**8:00 p.m.** AA Meeting @ Bethany



# CHURCH LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

## 5th SUNDAY UNITY SERVICE

Abba's Daughters present a **5th Sunday Unity Service**. Join us as we come together as the body of Christ to worship the Lord on **TODAY** at **3:30 p.m.** at **Farmington Hills Church of God**, 25717 Power Rd., Farmington Hills. The speaker for the event is Rev. Portia Davis-Mann. After the service, there will be a time of fellowship and light refreshments too.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that helped last Sunday with decorating the Church! It wouldn't have been possible without your help! The church looks beautiful!

## ADVENT MEDITATION JOURNALS

Each year we receive Advent Meditation Journals to help us prepare for the Christmas season. If you have not received yours yet, they are available in the foyer, or you can contact the Church office to receive yours. One per family please – thank you.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY

Join us for **Dinner** and **Bible Study** this **Wednesday** evening; **5:00 p.m.** for dinner and **6:00 p.m.** for Bible Study **at Bethany CoG!** Come and enjoy a time of feeding your body and soul! We are studying the book of **Acts**. All are welcome to attend!

## SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!

Please save your **clean** empty 1-gallon milk and water jugs! We need clean gallon milk and water jugs (Please remove the lids!) to make luminaries for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration. You can place them in the box in the foyer at Hope Crossing or in the box by the Welcome Center at Bethany. Thanks!

## WARRIOR WOMEN IN CHRIST

This Women's Life Group meets at **Chippewa Valley Church**, 41411 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Township. All women are invited to participate! Contact Mary Bader at (248) 935-5881 for more information about their current study and meeting times. Come join the fun!

## MEN'S STOREHOUSE

This Men's group meets for fellowship opportunities and service projects. All men are invited to take part in this ministry! If you have questions about Men's Storehouse, and when they meet, contact Glenn Hartshorn at (248) 318-3020.

# CHURCH LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

## GIVING TREE

Our Annual **Giving Tree** is up and ready for donations! This year we will be helping to support the work of the **Macomb Foster Closet!** They are an all-volunteer nonprofit 501c3 organization providing much-needed clothing and essential items free to children in foster care and the amazing families that care for them. Throughout the year they also provide additional services such as school backpacks with items needed for school, birthday party bags, Easter baskets, and holiday gifts. We will be helping to support their ongoing need of personal items by collecting **FULL-SIZE TOILETRIES**. A list with the needed items is available at the Welcome Center at Bethany or in the foyer at Hope Crossing. **We will be collecting items through Sunday, January 3, 2027.** You can drop off your donation at either Hope Crossing on Sunday mornings or at Bethany on Wednesday evenings. If you have any questions, please see Beth Matt or give her a call at (248) 542-9451. Thank you for helping to bless others this Christmas season!

## THE PANTRY

The Pantry is an on-going project at Bethany. We can help those in need because of your donations. We welcome the donations of non-perishable food items (**Please Remember to Check Expiration Dates!**), personal toiletry items, Kleenex, paper towels, and toilet paper for this Community Outreach. **Donations can be made on Wednesday evenings!** If you know of someone who is in need, please contact Pastor Jim or the Church office! Thank you for helping with this Community Outreach!

## STAYING CONNECTED!

Whether you are not feeling well, travelling, working, or just getting up late, it is important to stay connected to your Church family! You can still be a part of everything by connecting with us on one of our websites, bethanychurchofgod.org, hopecrossing.church or on Facebook. You can watch Sunday Morning Worships, Wednesday night Bible Study and keep up to date on all the things that are happening! It is a wonderful way to stay connected when you can't be here!

## SPEED LIMIT DRIVING SCHOOL

This is a Driving School in the Sterling Heights Community that meets at **Bethany CoG** during the week. If you know of someone who is ready to start driving, please encourage them to gather more information about this school. Brochures are available in the foyer. For more information, please call Sal Sinawi at (586) 339-5899.

# CHURCH LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

## CHRIST BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
John 1:5 (NRSV)

The tradition of Advent is to celebrate the birth of the Son of God and by joining together to continue the work He began in the world. Guided by the passage, "The Light Shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5, our theme for this year's Christ Birthday Observance is "***Shine Your Light***". This Scripture helps to remind us that the Advent story is an invitation to shine – to point toward the light so that all may believe. We are called to shine through our giving, our gathering, and our care for the world. This work of hope, love, restoration, and freedom that God has given to us is a privilege to carry on together. As you reflect on the meditations in your Advent journal this season, may you take some time to see how God calls you to Shine His hope, peace, joy, and love to those around you! On **Sunday, December 20th** during the Morning Worship, and at the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration**, we will have the chance to Shine our resources to worship Him as we unite with churches everywhere in giving to the **Christ Birthday Offering**. This special offering helps the Church of God to build a better world by reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ. This offering touches nearly every ministry in the Church of God. Please be in prayer about what God would have you give, above your tithe, to help support the work of the Church of God. Our goal this year is $1000!



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT CELEBRATION

You have two opportunities this year to celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve! We hope you, your family, and friends, will join us on **Thursday, December 24th** at **5:00 p.m.** at Hope Crossing **OR** at **6:30 p.m.** at Bethany CoG for a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration**. It is an incredibly special evening celebration of Carols and Candlelight!

The beautiful Poinsettias adorning Hope Crossing and Bethany this wonderful Advent Season are possible because of your generous donations. Thank You.

### Given in Memory of

Tony Barynas — by Kay Barynas

Those we hold in our hearts — by Dave & Amy

Zaiden Cheek — by Brenda Cheek

Jack & Joy Harper and Dennis Lockhart — by Roxann Lockhart

Our family, those no longer with us but always in our hearts! — by Pastor Jim & Beth

John & Bev Plevek — by Cherie Plevek

Gene Richards — by Charlotte Richards

Rolf Siegle — by Agnes Siegle



### Given in Honor of

God's Grace — by Roxann Lockhart

God's Wonderful Gift of Love and Blessings! — by Pastor Jim & Beth



### Given in Celebration of

The Holy Spirit — by Megan Berg

Life — by Dave & Amy

Great-granddaughter – Logan — by Roxann Lockhart

Our Children, Grandchildren, and the Joy of Christmas! — by Pastor Jim & Beth

Christ's Birth — by Linda Zavitz

## PRAISE and PRAYER CONCERNS

**Praises**

The Hope of Christmas – Jesus!

**Prayer Concerns**

Pastor Jim, Pastors, and Church Leaders
Church Health – Local, Regional, National
World Health
Disaster, Homeless &Violence Victims
Fire, Police, EMT & Military Personnel
Healthcare and Essential Workers
Henry Ford II High School and Students
Our Country, Communities & Their Leaders
MALU – **M**inisters **a**nd **L**aity **U**nited
All Schools and Students
Speed Limit Driving School & Students
Detroit House of Recovery

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|---|---|---|
| Gino | Margit A. | Marsha |
| Rose | Simon | Jack A. |
| Ken A. | Chad B. | Chris & Nedra B. |
| Dave B. | Debbie B. | Jackie B. |
| Judy B. | Megan B. | Jean C. |
| Mason C. | Pam D. | Josie G. |
| Allison H. | Dawn H. | Gary & Jean H. |
| Jack & Debbie H. | J. Keith & Joey H. | Jason H. |
| Maria H. | Dr. Suzanne H. | Louie J. |
| DeBorah L. | Roxann L. | Jennifer M. |
| Dave & Rita N. | Sherry N. | Tim N. |
| Tony N. | Cherie P. | Gasper P. |
| Barb R. | Charlotte R. | Chuck R. |
| Judith S. | Cathy W. | Shirley W. |
| Evelyn W. | Pam W. | Linda Z. |

Unspoken Requests

Please fill out a Prayer slip or contact Pastor Jim or the Church Office if you need a Praise or Prayer Concern listed above.



## Our Stewardship – Bethany CoG

**November 22, 2026**

To fulfill our General Budget, an average weekly offering is necessary. Please tithe in faith and as your response to God's blessings.

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|---|---|---|
| **General Tithes** | $ | 768.73 |
| **Weekly Need** | $ | 2,019.23 |
| **YTD Giving** | $ | 63,240.15 |
| **YTD Need** | $ | 94,863.81 |

BETHANYCHURCH OFGOD.ORG