

# Glade Weekly News

November 18-24, 2024



Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice.

## Lectionary Readings for the Week

2 Samuel 23:1-7 — Psalm 93 — John 18:3-37 — Revelation 1:4b-8

### Scripture for the Week

#### 2 Samuel 23:1-7 (Common English Bible)

<sup>1</sup>These are David’s last words:

This is the declaration of Jesse’s son David,  
the declaration of a man raised high,  
a man anointed by the God of Jacob,  
a man favored by the strong one of Israel.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The Lord’s spirit speaks through me;  
his word is on my tongue.

<sup>3</sup>Israel’s God has spoken,  
Israel’s rock said to me:

“Whoever rules rightly over people,  
whoever rules in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> is like the light of sunrise  
on a morning with no clouds,  
like the bright gleam after the rain  
that brings grass from the ground.”

<sup>5</sup>Yes, my house is this way with God!<sup>[b]</sup>

He has made an eternal covenant with me,  
laid out and secure in every detail.

Yes, he provides every one of my victories  
and brings my every desire to pass.

<sup>6</sup>But despicable people are like thorns,  
all of them good for nothing,  
because they can’t be carried by hand.

<sup>7</sup>No one can touch them,  
except with iron bar or the shaft of a spear.

They must be burned up with fire right on the spot!

### Word for the Week

Justice  
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## Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

David, the apple of God's eye, gives an autobiographical statement in this passage. David was not a perfect king by any stretch of the imagination, but he never failed to repent once he saw the error of his ways, no matter how grievous his mistakes. He was never too proud to admit when he was wrong. He always gave God the glory for the blessings bestowed upon himself and the nation of Israel and he strove to make amends for his mistakes.

God does not ask for perfection. God only asks for someone like David, one who is willing to be led as they hold their leadership position. A just ruler feels appropriate reverence and awe of God, and this is not restricted to kingships, but applies to power differentials wherever they occur – in homes, churches, classrooms, corporations, neighborhoods, or government. There is a possibility in all power differentials for abuses to occur, but true divine rule is just at its core. Just like the power of light, the sun, and the rain, just power benefits all people and not just the elite.

But unjust people in power – unjust rulers – are like thorns in the field. Thorns in the ancient Near East grew as tall as a man and couldn't be gathered with bare hands. They had no gloves, so many people, especially the poor that had to work in the fields, suffered when these thorns would become embedded in their hands and remained there for a long time. Thorns were cut down with sickles and burned in the field. These thorns – unjust rulers – caused grief and suffering to the poor that had to bear the brunt of living, working, and surviving while bearing injustice.

We may be forced to work with thorns, but in a democracy, there is always hope for just government with each election. We can face a term of injustice because the term is for a set period of time, during which God's people are to roll up their sleeves to keep damage to a minimum, care for the oppressed, and never give up in the fight for justice for all.

*Kelly Bryant*

**Office Day Next Week: Monday November 25<sup>th</sup>** Kelly isn't listing hours to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly outside of these days, please don't hesitate to contact them. 540-521-9993, [bryantkj@gmail.com](mailto:bryantkj@gmail.com).

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### **Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning**

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdzO9/#\\_success](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdzO9/#_success)

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### **Spiritual Formation Class and Youth Group meets again on November 17**

Spiritual Formation for adults and Youth Group meets on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Next meeting date is Sunday, November 17 at 9:45 AM. We hope you'll join us!

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### **Volunteers are needed for Kids Church and Youth Group**

There are leader slots available for youth, kids, and nursery. Session topic info is available on the sign-up link below. Youth Group is on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:45 AM. Kids Church is on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during worship service. Here is the link to sign up to serve our children: [Kids Church and Youth Group Volunteer Signup](#)

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### **Laundry Love**

**Sunday, December 1 from 2-4 PM at North Main Laundromat.**

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put "Words" into "Actions" of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. Click below to volunteer!

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

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## Potluck Lunch on Sunday 11/24!

We are having a potluck lunch after service this Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring a dish to share and we look forward to seeing everyone!

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## It's not too late to turn in your 2025 Pledge Card!

The 2025 Pledge Cards were due on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>, but t's not too late to turn in your pledge card! Pledging is important because it helps Council plan the budget for next year. Cards are available on the podium at the front and back of the Sanctuary. You are welcome to drop your card into the offering plate or email a digital copy to the church at [treasurer@gladeucc.org](mailto:treasurer@gladeucc.org). Thank you!

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## To Our House Volunteer Signups are OPEN!

Glade Church will be hosting To Our House from December 28, 2024 through January 11, 2025. Here's the link to sign up to volunteer: [To Our House 2024/2025](#)  
Our guests appreciate your care and support. Thank you!

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## Help provide an extravagant welcome

We are going to start having Greeters posted at the two main entrances to the church to welcome people as they arrive on Sunday mornings. Greeters will hand out a bulletin, make sure visitors receive a visitor card to fill out, and answer any questions they may have about the church service and the building. There will be a sign-up sheet posted soon, but in the meantime see Sandra Bryant for more information or to sign up to be a Sunday Greeter.

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## Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer. This time of fellowship is open to everyone, it's a time to gather for conversation, devotion and prayer. Come meet some people you may not know.

**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNURkdPaUNqUTo9>

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## Radical Conversations [RadCon] Meets Saturdays at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. RadCon is open to any and every interested individual. RadCon is currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

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## UCC Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements

**Purpose:** To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. (From the Gospel of Matthew)

**Vision:** United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

**Mission:** United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.



**John 17:21 is the scriptural foundation of the United Church of Christ**