

Glade Weekly News

November 4 – 10, 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

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 — Psalm 127 — Hebrews 9:24-28 — Mark 12:38-44

Scripture for the Week

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Common English Bible)

- ⁸The Lord’s word came to Elijah: ⁹Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you.
- ¹⁰Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, “Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink.” ¹¹She went to get some water. He then said to her, “Please get me a piece of bread.”
- ¹²“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I’m collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We’ll eat the last of the food and then die.”
- ¹³Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that.
- ¹⁴This is what Israel’s God, the Lord, says: The jar of flour won’t decrease and the bottle of oil won’t run out until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.”
- ¹⁵The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow’s household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour didn’t decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the Lord spoke through Elijah.

Word for the Week

Neighborly Miracles
NEIGHBORLY MIRACLES



Pastor Kelly’s Comments on the Scripture

The climax of the story involves a “big ask” and a willing participant. A desolate widow and her child are starving. Although her child is male, we have to assume that he is a young child and not yet old enough to work and earn a living, or perhaps he’s disabled. Whatever the case, he’s unable to provide for himself and his mother. They have enough flour and oil left for one last meal before they will certainly starve and perish.

I feel that I must push back on dangerous assumptions of sacrifice – offering up the very last of what we have in a world that is most likely to take what we have without return. There have been far too many

instances of churches taking money from people who could scarcely afford to give up their offering. But the people gave the last of what they had fully believing that God would provide a miracle for their finances.

God does NOT operate on a quid pro quo basis! Yes, it is good to invest in your church. It is good to be a part of its growth and maintenance. It is not good, though, to give until you have absolutely nothing left.

What we can take away from this story is the understanding that there is the potential for miracles in day-to-day life. For instance, one of our neighbors has fallen on hard times – they have nothing left. And people (family, friends, or their church community) show up with help. Miracles seem to be something that happens when we all pitch in and participate, just as Elijah came to the widow's home and, with his help, the widow and her son survived the drought.

Kelly Bryant

Office Day Next Week: Friday November 15th 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.

In Other Words

Taken from:

Good Neighbor

By: Evan Craft, AJ Pruis, Matthew West

We may not look the same
Ya might talk different too
Got a long, long list of differences
Between me and You

Different colors different stories
Even different politics
But He's calling us now
To lay it all down

Get back to the heart of it
And be a good neighbor
Learn to love each other with
The love of the Savior

Make room at the table
And share the hope that we got
'Cause there's room for everybody in
The family of God

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=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

Ecclesiastical Council for the Examination of Kelly Bryant for Ordination

On Sunday, November 3rd, the Ecclesiastical Council unanimously voted to approve Kelly for ordination! The next step is the Ordination Ceremony, which is in the initial planning stage (date is TBA). We had a watch party at the church so everyone could participate! David and Eva also joined in on the Zoom call.



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!

Volunteers 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](#)

Laundry Love Coffee Fundraiser

We are doing a coffee sales fundraiser to support Laundry Love! An order form is included in the email with this newsletter, and we hope you will help by sharing the sale with your family and friends. Coffee makes a great Christmas gift! Each bag of coffee is \$15, and \$4 of each bag sold will go toward Laundry Love at Glade Church. Each type of coffee is available in whole bean or ground. Completed order forms and payment are due on 11/17. Checks should be made out to Glade Church.

	laundry love.	Each 12oz bag of Love Coffee supports Glade Church's local Blacksburg Laundry Love location that washes the clothes and bedding of low-income persons and families.
+		The Tumbler - Dark Roast This is a full-bodied, dark roast featuring notes of roasted nut and caramelized sugar.
=		Top Loader - Medium Roast This is a rich coffee from Guatemala featuring notes of toasted oak and orange peel.
		Super Wash - Espresso Roast A robust three bean espresso blend that delivers a vibrant yet balanced espresso shots and great with all other brewing methods.

Laundry Love

Thursday, November 14 from 6-8 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](#)

2025 Pledge Cards are due this Sunday

To help Council plan for next year's budget, the 2025 Pledge Cards are due on Sunday November 10th. Cards are available on the podiums at the front and rear of the Sanctuary. A digital version is also included in the email with this newsletter. You are welcome to drop your card into the offering plate or email a digital copy to the church at treasurer@gladeucc.org. Thank you!

Many Mini Marshmallows!

Glade Church volunteers provided at least 450 bags of mini marshmallows for the Interfaith Food Pantry. Thanks to all who donated and thanks to Jill for delivering them!



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=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNUckdPaUNqUTo9>

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.

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