Bethel Baptist Church 🕝

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher

B uilding Hope

B uilding Relationships

C hanging Lives



November 2024 - January, 2025

Volume #17







Oh, send out Your light and Your

HAPPENINGS













eNotes From the Pastor's iPad:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2025 Theme: "Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers"

Emphasis: "A Time to Build"

Scriptural Foundation: Nehemiah 2:17-18; Ecclesiastes 3:1-3



Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. I am filled with excitement as we begin the new year. As I write this article for our first quarterly

e-newsletter for this year, I am filled with gratitude for the officers, leaders, and members who continue to work together to enable us to be the church God is calling us to be. Before moving forward, I extend special thanks Bro. Jemal, Rev. Deb and all those who contributed articles for this edition. Please read each article to see how we have let our light shine since the last edition of eLights of Hope.

We thank and praise God for bringing us through our many challenges as a church family last year. Our church family worked together to overcome those challenges and to continue to pursue our vision, mission, and ministry to be a beacon of hope to individuals, families, the community and the world. We especially thank you, Bethel family and friends, for the financial support that enabled us to achieve our sacrificial pledge campaign and budget goals. We give God all the praise and the glory for the great things He has done!

(Pastor eNotes continued on page 12)











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- 1/19 Ministers Fellowship Council Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Calvary Baptist Church at 5 p.m.
- 1/20 Slater Center MLK, Jr. Breakfast at 8 a.m.; AAMW MLK, Jr. Awards Luncheon Sleepy Hollow Hotel and Conference Center at 11:30 a.m.
- 1/29 Central Hudson Baptist Association 2nd Quarterly Session New Hope Institutional Baptist Church, Tarrytown, NY at 9:00 a.m.
- 2/16-2/17 Empire Baptist Annual Congress Retreat Concert 2/16 at Beulah Baptist Church 7 p.m.; Retreat 2/17 at Poughkeepsie Convention Center 9:00 a.m.
- 3/16 Bethel Annual Women's Day
- 3/29 Central Hudson Congress Session Baptist Temple Baptist Church at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome from County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins

Dear Neighbors,

Hi, I'm Ken Jenkins and I am thrilled to be serving as Westchester County's 10th County Executive. Westchester is more than just where I serve – it's my home for the past 43 years. It is where I have dedicated my life to public service, and I am personally invested in making this County a destination where all people can thrive and succeed.

Located just north of New York City, our mass transportation system can get you into the heart of Manhattan in less than an hour, but we are far enough away to maintain our peaceful tranquility. In all of its beautiful diversity, our County offers bustling cities, hometown villages, nationally-accredited parks, and places that are deeply rooted in our nation's history.

We serve as home to an immensely talented workforce and a population of over one million people, with headquarters for U.S. corporations and Fortune 500 companies like IBM, Mastercard, Morgan Stanley and Regeneron. We boast a

best-in-class public school system, along with a multitude of higher education institutions. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy cultural art exhibits, unique dining experiences and more.

Our mission is to give Westchester County's residents the effective, forward-thinking government they deserve, at a cost everyone can afford. As County Executive, I promise to work closely with the Westchester County Board of Legislators and other local officials to do the very best I can for all of you.

I hope you will join me in celebrating Westchester for all that it has to offer – a unique tapestry of people, places and cultures that when blended together, create the County we all love to call home.

Please contact me directly with any ideas, questions or concerns you may have at . I can't wait to hear from you.

Sincerely, Kenneth W. Jenkins

Westchester County

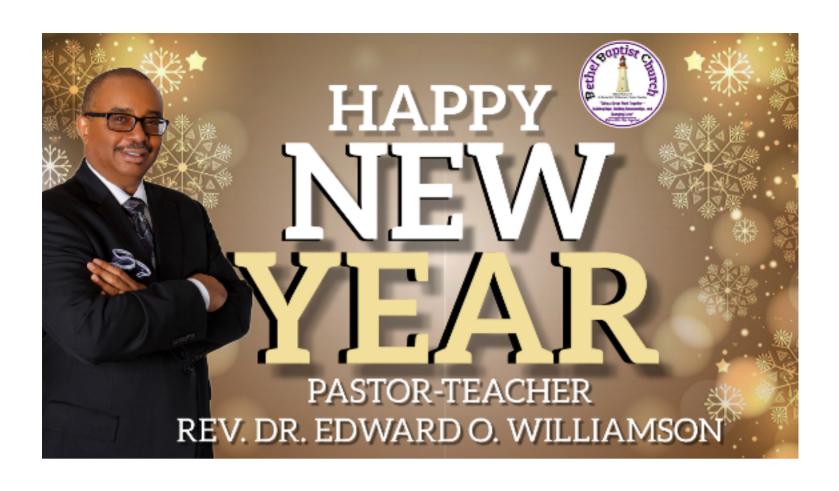
Recognition of Veterans

"To all our troops, veterans, and military families on this Veterans Day: Thank you for all that you have given to keep America safe. You have our deepest gratitude and our everlasting commitment to continue to uphold the values that you defended!"

"Our service members and veterans chose to put service before self. That ethos extends beyond their years in uniform. Many of our veterans continue to serve their communities after serving their country and



enrich our democracy as leaders, teachers, coaches, mentors and more,"



Bethel Baptist Church



OUR NEW APP

IS READY TO ROLL!

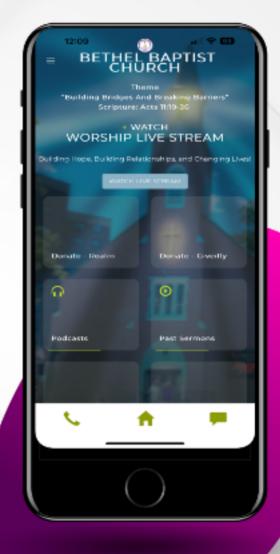
Download it here:











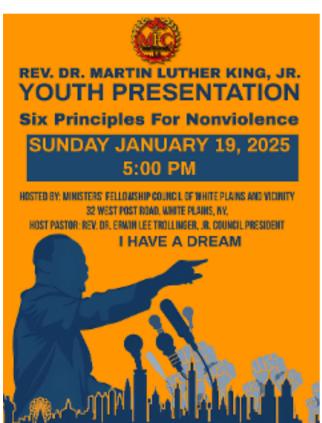


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CHURCH BETHEL BAPTIST



ALLARE WELCOMEI



Dr. Edward O. Williamson



SEVERY WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 PM Prayer meeting starts at 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL CLASS

MEETING ID: 891 0938 0700 ZOOM CALL IN NUMBER: (646) 558-8656



1 FISHER COURT WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601 914-949-2792



BethelBaptistChurchWP



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

🗪 🗪 MOON BIBLE STUDY **EVERY THURSDAY** 2:00 PM

WITH PASTOR-TEACHER DR. EDWARD O. WILLIAMSON

MEETING ID: 815 3155 4194 CALL IN NUMBER: (646) 558-8656

WWW.BETHELBAPTISTCHURCHWP.ORG

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY



SCHOOL

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

II TIMOTHY 2: 15 (NKJV)

Every Friday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm EST

INSTRUCTORS: DEACON PATRICIA SIMPSON & DEACON WALLACE MCIVER & FIRST LADY, REV. DEBORAH WILLIAMSON

1 Fisher Court, White Plains, NY Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher www.BethelBaptistChurchWP.org

MEETING ID# 878 0084 7929 Call In Number 1-646-558-8656

Yoga At Vethel

Just wanted to share some pictures of the yoga program. We are making such great progress connecting the mind, breath, and body to make the poses "easier". It truly is a joy to watch their confidence grow! They all balanced in tree pose with a duck on their head and discovered they are stronger than they think they are when they tried "L" shape with their bodies! Enjoy your evening and thank you for all that you do to make these programs happen!



















Teens Ebersole Ice Rink Trip

On Friday, January 3, 2025, Bethel Baptist Church Teens and Ministry Leaders braved the brisk winter chill to

enjoy an evening of Faith, Friends, Fellowship and Fun at Ebersole Ice Rink located in Delfino Park on Lake Street. Yes, it was cold! There were slips, trips and even some falls but joy and laughter filled the air! The BBC Teens offer a friendly reminder that Christian perseverance a community venture. "We Are All In This Together, Being The Church That God Has Called Us To Be"! If you are interested in joining, volunteering or sponsoring the BBC Children and Youth Ministry, please contact Youth Coordinator Evangelist Camille Holmes at holmescamille4@gmail.com or Dir. of Christian Education, Min. Latisha Robinson at latisha.robinson@outlook.com Be on the lookout for our next warm family fellowship for all generations!



eNotes from Pastor's iPad continued from page 1

This is a milestone year for our church family. We will be celebrating our church's 140th Church Anniversary. Our emphasis for the year will be a time to build. In Nehemiah 2:17-18, Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city. After assessing the situation, he shared with the people the situation and his need to rebuild the walls; he shared that the hand of



the Lord was with him. The people responded by being willing to work. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us of times and seasons. We are in a season of building. It is a time to build.

We need everyone to join us in this season of building. We are establishing a Strategic Plan Development Team under the leadership of Bro. Mike Young that will work with church leaders and members to develop a strategic plan to guide our congregation for the next 3-5 years. Sis. Tina Mays has stepped up to lead in the reorganization of the Women's Ministry and serve as the chairman of our Annual Women's Day Celebration to be held on March 16th.

Thom S. Rainer writes, "Membership is not having your name on a roll...Ultimately, membership is about belonging and contributing. We belong to a local community of believers. And we are expected to be a contributing and serving part of that community." Rainer observes that "meaningful membership" is an element of churches that have chosen to change instead of die. We want to encourage all our members to pursue meaningful membership by becoming part of a small group or ministry in order to grow and serve. Remember our motto: "We're all in this together being the church God has called us to be."

Peace and Blessings,

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher



Upcoming Events:

1/19 - Ministers Fellowship Council Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration - Calvary Baptist Church at 5 p.m.

1/20 – Slater Center MLK, Jr. Breakfast at 8 a.m.; AAMW MLK, Jr. Awards Luncheon – Sleepy Hollow Hotel and Conference Center at 11:30 a.m.

1/29 – Central Hudson Baptist Association 2nd Quarterly Session – New Hope Institutional Baptist Church, Tarrytown, NY at 9:00 a.m.

2/16 - 2/17 – Empire Baptist Annual Congress Retreat – Concert 2/16 at Beulah Baptist Church 7 p.m.; Retreat 2/17 at Poughkeepsie Convention Center 9:00 a.m.

3/16 - Bethel Annual Women's Day

3/29 – Central Hudson Congress Session – Baptist Temple Baptist Church at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Service

On December 22, 2024, the Youth, Children, and Praise Team of Bethel Baptist Church displayed Jesus' birth





unto God, inviting the congregation to worship Christ the Savior. Worship and praise filled the house as scriptures were read and a recitation was recited. We were also blessed to hear the scripture recited in Spanish. Digital Christmas cards and blessings were projected and we were all blessed by the Bethlehem story, expressed through worship.







Watch Night Service

A Night of Reflection and Renewal



As the final hours of 2024 ticked away, members and friends of Bethel Baptist Church and the community gathered not with party hats and noisemakers, but with hearts full of reflection and anticipation. The annual Watch Night Service, a tradition steeped in history and hope, proved once again to be a powerful and moving way to usher in the new year.

The evening began in the welcoming embrace of the Christine Mitchell Fellowship Hall. There, a spirit of warmth and camaraderie filled the air as attendees enjoyed light finger foods and beverages. It was a time for shared smiles, heartfelt conversations, and the comfortable connection that comes from a community bound by faith. This relaxed fellowship was a beautiful precursor to the more solemn, spiritual journey that awaited them.

As the clock approached 10:00 PM, the atmosphere subtly shifted. The congregation, filled with anticipation, made its way into the sanctuary. The transition was seamless, from the joyful chatter of fellowship to the hushed reverence of the sacred space.

The service commenced with a poignant and deeply moving memorial. Acknowledging the losses of the past year, the congregation paused to remember those individuals who had transitioned in 2024. It was a time for quiet reflection, offering solace and strength to those grieving while honoring the lives lived and legacies left behind.

Following this heartfelt remembrance, the Deacons and Deaconesses took the lead, guiding the congregation in a period of devotional worship. The familiar comfort of Scripture, the power of collective prayer, the uplifting melodies of songs, and the vulnerability of personal testimonies wove together a tapestry of faith and hope. It was a time for spiritual renewal, for grounding oneself in the enduring strength of their shared beliefs.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the meaningful word and sermon delivered by our Pastor-Teacher, Dr. Edward O. Williamson. His message resonated deeply with the congregation, offering guidance, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose as they stood on the cusp of a new year. His words served as a beacon, illuminating the path ahead and encouraging them to embrace the challenges and triumphs that awaited.

Finally, as the clock struck midnight, the congregation united in prayer, collectively offering their hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the year ahead to the divine. This shared moment of prayer, on the threshold of 2025, was a powerful symbol of unity and faith, a testament to the enduring strength of our community.

The Watch Night Service was more than just a gathering; it was a ritual of reflection, renewal, and hope. It was a reminder of the importance of community, the solace of faith, and the promise of new beginnings. As the congregation departed, they carried with them not just the memories of the evening, but a renewed sense of purpose and a faith-filled heart ready to embrace the new year.



7 DAYS OF PRAYER & CONSECRATION

A "7 Days of Prayer and Consecration" refers to a dedicated period of intense prayer and spiritual focus,



usually lasting for seven days, where individuals set aside time to deepen their relationship with God by actively dedicating themselves to His service through prayer, fasting, and studying scripture, essentially "consecrating" their lives anew to God's will.



Men's Tailgate Fellowship

Men's Ministry Tailgate Football Fellowship

The Men's Ministry of the church recently hosted a fantastic Tailgate Football, Fun, and Fellowship event for the men of the community, and it was a grand success. The event was a great opportunity for men to come together, share their love for football, and build meaningful connections. The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and friendly competition, making it an enjoyable experience for all in attendance.

One of the highlights of the event was watching NFL Redzone, which showcased certain teams in the red zone, about to score. The excitement was palpable as the men cheered for their favorite teams, hoping to see them put points on the board. It was a thrilling experience, and many were elated when their teams scored, while others were disappointed when their teams fell short. However, the mood remained upbeat, and everyone appreciated the unifying power of sports.

The Tailgate Football, Fun, and Fellowship event also provided a platform for the men to engage in meaningful conversations about their favorite teams. It was a chance to share their knowledge, opinions, and strategies about the game, promoting a sense of community and belonging. The event was a great reminder that sports can bring people together, regardless of their differences.

Moreover, the Men's Ministry's commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all men from the church and community was commendable. The event was an excellent example of how the ministry is working towards building a stronger community by fostering relationships and creating opportunities for men to connect with one another.

In conclusion, the Tailgate Football, Fun, and Fellowship event was a resounding success. The event not only provided an opportunity for men to come together and enjoy their shared love for football, but it also highlighted the importance of building relationships and creating a sense of community. By promoting a positive atmosphere, the Men's Ministry has created an event that will be remembered for years to come. Here's to many more successful events in the future!









Annual Men's Day



Theme: "Faithful Men Teaching Other Men"

II Timothy 2:2

This year's Annual Men's Day was a powerful and uplifting experience, marked by an inspiring sermon and the recognition of two dedicated members. The event, a time for fellowship and spiritual growth, featured Rev. James A. Furman of Mt. Zion Christian Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, NY, who delivered a compelling message centered on the need for faithful men within the community.

Drawing from the scripture of II Timothy 2:1-3 (NKJV), Rev. Furman's sermon, titled "A Call for Faithful Men," urged attendees to be strong in Christ Jesus and to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the Lord's will. He emphasized that God's calling is always accompanied by divine grace. "God doesn't call you to an assignment without giving you the grace you need to handle that assignment," Rev. Furman declared. "He will not leave you on your own, but will give you what you need to do, what you need to do. It is God's grace!" This message resonated deeply, encouraging the men present to embrace their roles with confidence and reliance on God's support.

The service wasn't solely focused on spiritual guidance, however. This year's event also marked a significant moment in honoring those who exemplify unwavering dedication and service. In a joyous ceremony, the first ever "President's Award" was presented to two outstanding individuals: Brother Tommy Bouyer and Brother Lenny Hadley. These men were celebrated for their consistent support and for their tireless contributions to the ministry, setting a high standard for others to follow. Their recognition served as a tangible example of the principles preached by Rev. Furman – faithfulness in action.

The presentation of this award underscored the importance of putting faith into practice through service and commitment. It served to highlight the invaluable contributions of ordinary individuals who quietly, powerfully, and consistently support their ministry. Brother Bouyer and Brother Hadley were applicated not only for their past efforts but as a source of inspiration for others to step forward and make a difference in their own way.

The Annual Men's Day event, through its compelling sermon and heartfelt awards, successfully reinforced the vital role that faithful men play in the community. It emphasized that strength in faith, coupled with dedicated service, creates a powerful force for positive change and offers a pathway for faithful living. The message of "A Call for Faithful Men" and the recognition of Brother Bouyer and Brother Hadley resonated far beyond the proceedings, leaving a lasting impact on all who were present. The event served as a challenge and encouragement to embrace their God-given responsibilities with grace and unwavering dedication.















As many of you may already be aware, Vimeo is the parent company of Livestream.com and they have officially phased out Livestream.com platform. With that being said, our Livestream online viewing link is now www.Vimeo.Com/BethelBaptist ChurchWP. There

www.Vimeo.Com/BethelBaptist ChurchWP. There is **no subscription fee** to the viewers. You also **are not** required to register if you don't desire to do so, in order to chat with other online viewers. You can just enter your desired name and chat along with your fellow worshipers. You are also still welcomed to view our online worship on YouTube and Facebook as well.

www.Vimeo.com/BethelBaptistChurchWP



Mobile Food Distribution

ВВС Арр













UPCOMING DATES (9:00 AM - 11:00 AM) SLATER CTR (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM)



MAY 11 - BBC JUNE 8 - BBC JULY 13 - BBC AUG. 10 - BBC

NOV. 9 -DEC. 14 - SLATER JAN. 11 - SLATER FEB. 8 - SLATER

BBC MARCH 8 - B
R CTR APRIL 12 - B
R CTR MAY 10 - B
R CTR JUNE 14 - B

BC SS

DR. 1 FISHER COURT, WHITE PLAINS, NY DR. EDWARD O. WILLIAMSON, PASTOR-TEACHER WWW.BETHELBAPTISTCHURCHWP.ORG













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In Loving Memory of our departed

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them." Revelations 14:13



Sis. Mary Watson
Bro. Jacques Yves McAdams



Special prayers and condolences to all those who have lost loved ones.

Men's Prayer Line: Every Thursday at 6:00 AM - (712) 775-7000 Access Code: 225429#
Women's Prayer Line: Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM - (515) 606-5118 Access Code: 912814#
Congregational Prayer Line: Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM - (712) 775-7000 Access Code: 225429#



Birthdays & Anniversaries

To Bethel Baptist Church Family & Friends Happy Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

January		
Shirley Hall	Jan. 1	
Gail Gregg	Jan. 2	
Lisa Bennett	Jan. 4	
Seriana R. Bennett	Jan. 4	
Shinea Smith	Jan. 4	
Leonard Hadley	Jan. 5	
Audrey Hardy	Jan. 6	
Marisa Marquis	Jan. 6	
Sheran Lyons	Jan. 9	
Rosemary Young	Jan. 11	
Martha Rogers	Jan. 13	
Brandon Moore	Jan. 15	
Malinda White	Jan. 16	
Beverly Powerful	Jan. 17	
Faye Gordon	Jan. 17	
Mildred Patricia Blackwell		
	Jan. 18	
Desiree Smith	Jan. 19	
Anthony Smith, Jr.	Jan. 20	
Debbie Alvarez-Brown	Jan. 20	
Dominique Hudson	Jan. 22	
Natasha Jackson	Jan. 23	
Stefanie Powell	Jan. 27	
Min. Latisha Robinson	Jan. 27	
Schneider Thompson	Jan. 30	
Betsy Mitchell	Jan. 30	
Janeen Perkins	Jan. 31	
Jocelyn Perkins	Jan. 31	
Bertha Keller	Jan. 31	
Dolores Manigault	Jan. 31	

February	
Danesha Johnstone	Feb.
Sydney Jenkins	Feb. 1
Darrell Watson	Feb. 4
Brook Lawrence	Feb. 4
Deaconess Gwendolyn Ric	lgway Feb. 5
Nicole Gooden	Feb. 6
Tatyana Mitchell	Feb. 6
Pamela Vample	Feb. 7
Helen Callaway	Feb. 8
Carol Tribble	Feb. 8
Sean A. Lampkin	Feb. 8
Michael Young	Feb. 10
Barbara Carelock	Feb. 12
Patricia Mann	Feb. 12
Carolyn Carelock-Bowens	Feb. 1
Monet Jackson-Wilson	Feb. 20
Shani Tromp-Brice	Feb. 2
Shatera Weaver	Feb. 2
Deacon DeWitt R. Smith	Feb. 25
_oma Williams	Feb. 20
Emma Cheese	Feb. 26
Candace Tabbs	Feb. 2

March				
Alma Daugett	March 1			
Rose Adams	March 1			
Wendy Dallas	March 1			
Diane Hadley	March 1			
Geneva Benton	March 2			
Deaconess Audrey Seay	March 3			
Mary Watson	March 4			
Pamela Earl	March 5			
Rosa Nelson	March 6			
Dyrick Houston	March 6			
Kimberly Brown	March 7			
Louise Hamme	March 9			
Bryce Mitchell	March 10			
Dionna Coleman	March 14			
Kenndi Leak	March 15			
Shamalle Upton	March 18			
Julia Anderson Lee	March 19			
Ervan Caesar	March 20			
Amaya Mebane	March 22			
Stephanie Coaxum	March 22			
Janice Perser	March 22			
Rev. Delores Patterson	March 24			
Doreen Dozier	March 24			
Marea Bagley	March 25			
Deacon Randy Abraham	March 26			
Michelle Gordon Bartley	March 28			
Michael Martin	March 28			
Hans Peter Accus	March 29			
Shyanne Johnstone	March 29			
Melvin Smith	March 31			

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



<u>January</u>

February
Debbie & Bay Brown
Feb. 21

<u>March</u>

Doreen & Gregory Dozier

March 26



Amaya Elise Camp born 11/6/2024
Parents: Dwane and Adria Camp
Grandparents: Paul and Gilda Strudwick





Avery Sinclair Perkins born 12/27/24 - 5lbs 17.75 inches long Parents: Jonathan & Aleshia Perkins (San Diego, CA) Grandparents: Wayne & Mary Frances Perkins



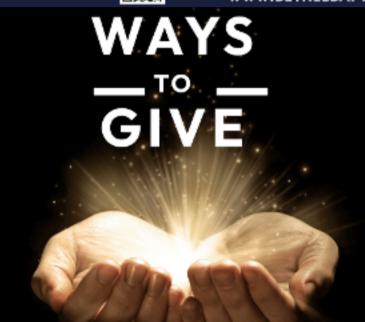








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IN-PERSON

Deposit your offering in the box near the exit on Sundays or Monday - Wednesday from 9AM -1PM in the office



ONLINE

Givelifu

(Bethel Baptist Church of White Plains, NY)



MAIL IN

1 Fisher Court, White Plains, NY 10601



CHURCH APP

Download our App from Google Play or App Store





Each member is encouraged to give their regular tithes and general offerings (percentage giving), based on individual/household income. Listed below are the special giving and sacrificial offerings for the year. Please select the tier of partnership which you and/or your household will give.

AMOUNT \$150/\$100
\$125
\$50/\$25
\$50/\$25
\$150
\$125
\$50/\$25 \$50/\$25
\$125/\$100
\$125/\$100
4

DESIGNATED FUNDS Missionary Day Passage to Excellence Scholarship	AMOUNT \$100 \$100 \$100
Million Dollar Fund Memorial Funds	\$100 \$100
TOTAL	\$500

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

TOTAL \$1000/\$800



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Meeting ID# 891 0938 0700 CALL IN # (646) 558 8656 Every Wednesday: Prayer @ 6:30 PM EST Bible Study @ 7:00 PM EST



Meeting ID# 878 0084 7929 CALL IN # (646) 558 8656 Every Friday: 7:00 PM EST

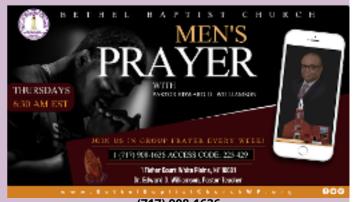


(515) 606-5118 Access Code: 912 814









(717) 908-1636 Access Code: 225 429