

Almost Heaven West Virginia



Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic community in Appalachia that strives to transform lives through serving the local community and teaching sustainability.

We enable volunteers to join us in living out the Gospel cornerstones of prayer, community, simplicity, and service.



“Thank you folks for all the wonderful works you do in our towns helping others.

But more importantly, thank you for sharing God’s love and goodness with everyone you come in contact with.”

-Judy - Bethlehem Farm neighbor

"The Cornerstones will be forever ingrained within us."

- Matt, Notre Dame

Service

Prayer

Simplicity

Community

Sustainability



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"My trip to Bethlehem Farm helped me find an inner peace that I lost this year in the hustle and bustle of city life."

- Kate - Loyola Chicago



*** SERVICE * PRAYER * COMMUNITY *
* SIMPLICITY * SUSTAINABILITY ***

Our Cornerstones

At Bethlehem Farm, we start and end each day with **prayer** to stay centered on the real purpose of our activities. We believe that prayer leads to action in the service of God.



Because we choose to live in a manner which respects the Earth and its natural resources, we practice **simplicity & sustainability**.

We currently compost, garden organically, clean our house without the use of harsh chemicals, conserve electricity, and use rainwater to flush our toilets. In the future, we hope to heat the house with a clean-burning wood boiler, run our vehicles on waste vegetable oil, and replace our coal-fired electricity with solar or wind power.



The Church has a vision for our common destiny, in which we care for the least among us, treat all life with utmost dignity, and exercise stewardship of Creation. Fully one-quarter of the residents of Summers County live below the poverty line. Our **service** within the local community naturally flows from our Gospel call to love one another.

During service retreat weeks, caretakers and volunteers form an intentional Christian **community** of trust, commitment and faithfulness. We seek to “be the change we wish to see in the world.” At the same time, we strive to learn from our neighbors the wisdom of working cooperatively with the land and the gift of hospitality, since we all are impoverished in some way.

Volunteers

On a group week, you will:

- enjoy Bethlehem Farm’s exquisite natural surroundings.
- join us as we journey toward a more sustainable lifestyle.
- lend your energy to our community through service projects.

During your group week, ways you might serve Bethlehem Farm’s community are:

- working with our neighbors on their farms or in projects on their homes.
- serving at the local food pantry.
- working in the community garden.
- doing chores around the Farm or serving on Home Crew.
- Community development projects, such as historical preservation.
- wherever the Spirit may lead us.



Come join us for a service retreat week!

Group week schedules & registration forms are posted on our website, www.bethlehemfarm.net