

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings



April 2024

Living Acts of Compassion: Building Community Together

Scripture Reflection: Acts 4:32-35 (NIV)

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

In these verses from the Book of Acts, we see a beautiful picture of the early Christian community. They were united in their faith and shared everything they had, ensuring that none among them were in need. Their compassion and generosity were so profound that they sold their possessions to support one another. This spirit of selflessness and care for others is something we strive to emulate in our own community today.

Continuing Acts of Compassion: Our Food Pantry and Blessing Box

In our community, we have been blessed with the opportunity to extend this same spirit of compassion through our food pantry and blessing box initiatives. These endeavors have not only provided physical nourishment to those in need but have also served as symbols of hope and solidarity. Week after week, through the dedication of volunteers and the support of our community, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of many.

Extending the Invitation: A Community Meal

Building upon our commitment to compassion, perhaps it is time for us to take the next step in fostering community bonds. One way we can do this is by extending an invitation to the recipients of our food pantry and blessing box to join us for a community meal. This meal can be held either in the church or in a communal space like the pavilion, providing an opportunity for fellowship and connection beyond the distribution of goods.

(continued on page 2)

Forming Small Groups: Will You Join Us?

Additionally, as we continue to strengthen our community ties, we are excited to announce the formation of small groups catering to various interests and age groups. Whether you're a young person, a young adult, or someone with specific interests like gardening or any other hobby, there's a place for you to belong and connect with others who share your passions. We invite each one of you to consider being a part of these small groups, where friendships can flourish, and support can be found. Together, let us embody the spirit of Acts 4:32-35, as we share in love, compassion, and community. In closing, let us remember that our acts of compassion are not just gestures but reflections of our faith and commitment to one another. As we continue on this journey together, may we be inspired by the example set forth in Scripture and strive to build a community where no one is in need, and all are welcomed with open arms.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Jim

Recent Activities:

The first sign of spring at Bethel Wednesday Feb. 28th

The first blooming daffodil greeted us by the stone wall in front of the church by blooming in February! Those of us who are in the building frequently take pleasure of seeing the small things present on the property. We are so grateful for those who planted and tend to the grounds and the property. Thank you.



Reach Shelter

March 1st

March 1st Jeanne Dinterman led the team in preparing and staffing for this project. Several gathered the evening before to make Ziti and prepare foods for salads and desserts. Reports came back saying they loved the food and those who volunteered were grateful to have been there. This project involved so many from those who planned, supplied food, cooked and served. Bless you all!

Family Game Night

Sat March 9th

Family Game Night to be held on Saturday, March 9th was canceled as no one signed up.

F.R.O.G. Bowling

Sun March 10th

Miss Pam and Miss Deb took the group along with Jayelynn bringing a friend Lily. Bella, Cameron, Madison and Abbie divided into teams. We rolled 1 game without bumpers and the next one with them. Pam was the high scorer! Jon and Owen along with Becky, Christopher, Aurora and Amara shared the lanes next door.



Egg Hunt 2024

Sat. March 23rd

The day was cold and dreary outside but full of smiles and laughter inside of the church. The warmth of the Bethel and Lions volunteers welcomed everyone. The Family Life Center was decorated in bright colors and signs. The Egg Hunt Team did an outstanding job of thinking ahead and preparing, In attendance were approximately 30-35 children, special needs and seniors that joined the hunt that took place in the Nursery, the Parlor and under the Balcony. After the children gathered almost 1,000 eggs, they gathered and “paid it forward” by hiding two of those they gathered for the Seniors and Special Needs persons to hunt. Crafts, coloring pages, tattoos, and games were enjoyed in a casual setting. Ten door prizes of insulated cups full of candy were given away. The Lions and Bethel had welcome tables with gift bags to teach the children about Easter and The Easter Story was read to them before the Hunt. A lite lunch was served also.

Bethel Tidings



Palm Sunday Sun March 24th

This Sunday was celebrated with fresh palms on the altar, along with a palm leaf for each person attending. The children and youth made their own palms during Sunday School and waved them marching down the aisle while the words and music of Hosanna started the service. There were 60 in attendance that morning.



Maundy Thursday Thursday March 28th



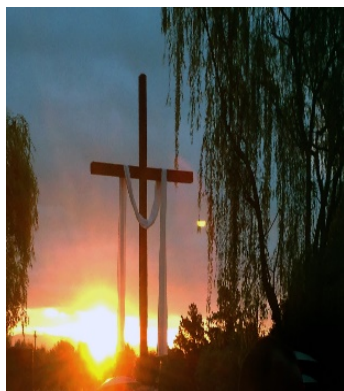
At 7:00 pm, 19 souls gathered for a special service that quoted scripture with extinguishing the candles of the Seven Stations of the Cross and singing a special song for each one. It was a reverent, quiet service and ended in complete silence as we exited while remembering the betrayal that occurred this night so long ago. Communion was shared.

Good Friday Friday March 29th

The sanctuary was bare, the flowers and candles gone. A black drape was on the cross and worship spoke of the day that the Last Supper took place. Then the terrible betrayal and the arrest followed by torture and pain. The guards mocking him, tearing his clothes, gambling for his robe. The crown of thorns and six inch nails, while He never shed a tear. Ending with the Savior dying on the cross. His last words... "It is finished".



Son-Rise Service Sunday March 31st



Preparations started the day before with men bringing their outdoor griddles, groceries being brought in and setting up the Family Life Center. Around 6am the bacon and sausage got started followed by pancakes, eggs and sausage gravy. Fruit cups and juices with coffee nourished the 20 persons that attended the outdoor service with the birds singing and a pink tint behind the clouds. We sang and took communion along beside of nature. A truly beautiful service. A cross, made of clouds appeared in the sky just as the service finished.

Easter Sunday



Bethel was buzzing with activity. The white cloths trimmed in gold and beautiful flowers adorned the altar and windows. Special white robes on the Pastor and Acolyte. The children's message was of the week of Easter told from a child's book and read by Bella Wagner. The boys and girls sang "Jesus Loves Me" with the help of Abby Barnhart. The Praise Team sang beautifully and all participated in the ceremony of baptism for Hazel Marie Kelly. Pastor Jim led all in a Reaffirmation of Faith. The sharing of Communion for all that desired was given. There were 96 souls here to honor the Lord that day.

Ongoing Programs:

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 in the parlor for the months of April and May, with the exception of the third Wednesday of each month when we meet for brunch at a local restaurant.

Our current bible study is from the Women of Faith series and is entitled "Receiving God's love". It's an interesting, easy study and we invite you to join us for an hour of Bible study and fellowship.

We also invite you to join us for brunch on Wednesday, April 17th, 11:00, at Olive Garden.



Bethel Coat Closet

The closet is now empty. Therefore we will throughout 2024. If you have any questions



again collect coats of any type anytime please contact Diane Stevens. Thank you.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Thanks to those who filled Easter baskets for our homebound members.

Thanks also for those who delivered baskets and/or pansies. Bethel has always been such a caring congregation. Ask, and we always receive!!!!

Please keep our homebound folks in your daily prayers.

If you, or someone in your family, need transportation to appointments, sitting with family members or other help please call me (301-992-7831) or the church office (301-733-8387). Pam Brubaker

Homebound birthdays...

April 8 – Jacquie Starleper
18900 Artillery Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

April 19 – Jean Detwiler
20009 Rosebank Way Rm 110
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

Our blessing box has continued to serve many. This has been such a great blessing to our church family to serve others. At this time we give many thanks to our wonderful volunteers. Melissa Metzger is now shopping for additional items when needed and Nancy Shank has agreed to fill the box on Fridays since Mary Gross has headed South! In addition, the blessing box could not work without your love and contributions. If you have any questions please contact me 301-991-9759.



Your sister in Christ, Elaine Snyder

Sunday School updates

The **Pre-teens** have named their class **F.R.O.G.** (fully rely on God) Pizza and Fun in the FCL is scheduled for April 14th. Plans are being researched for visiting Eyer's Valley Chapel, Roller Skating in June, and Camp Joy - July 14-20.

Empowering Our Youth: Addressing Needs, Wants, and Realities

Dear Bethel,

In the ever-evolving landscape of today's world, the concerns and aspirations of our youth take center stage. As we delve into the complexities of their experiences, it's evident that our young people are grappling with multifaceted challenges, shaping their mental health, socio-political consciousness, economic outlook, and environmental stewardship.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

The mental health crisis among our youth is a stark reality that demands urgent attention. The pressures of our fast-paced, interconnected world, compounded by social media influences and academic stress, cast a heavy burden on their shoulders. Anxiety, depression, and stress have become unwelcome companions for many adolescents. As caretakers of their well-being, it's imperative that we foster environments of support and understanding.

Challenging Current Events:

In an era inundated with information, our digitally savvy youth navigate through a barrage of news and opinions. The political discourse, in particular, shapes their worldview and sense of self. Discussions that marginalize identities based on race, religion, or gender inflict wounds on their psyche. We must recognize the intimate link between political rhetoric and mental health, ensuring that our young people feel valued and empowered in shaping their own narratives.

Economic Uncertainty and Future Employment:

The specter of economic instability looms large, leaving many families grappling with the harsh realities of poverty and deprivation. The cost of living crisis, coupled with food and housing insecurities, casts a shadow over our youth's aspirations. No child should endure the indignity of hunger or the chill of a cold home. It's incumbent upon us to address these systemic inequities and provide avenues for economic empowerment.

The World around Us:

As stewards of our planet, our youth stand at the forefront of environmental activism. The climate crisis ignites a passion for sustainable living and global cooperation. Their voices, infused with optimism and determination, call for tangible action and meaningful change. It's time to heed their call and forge a path towards a greener, more equitable future.

In Conversation with...

Despite the rhetoric of empowerment, there remains a glaring gap between intention and action. Our young people yearn for platforms where their voices are not just heard but valued. Let us commit to creating spaces of dialogue and inclusivity, where their aspirations shape the decisions that shape their lives.

In closing, let us embrace the potential of our youth as catalysts for positive change. Let us listen, learn, and act in solidarity with their dreams and aspirations. Together, we can build a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come.

With hope and solidarity,

Pastor Jim

Leadership News:

To be the people of God on the move for Jesus to transform the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Leadership Board Updates:



The Pastor led us in recognizing a new format that concentrates on our goals and leadership direction. The overall goal of spiritual formation is growing closer to God, be more like Jesus, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Financial status was discussed as weekly offerings are not meeting the budgeted amounts. Funds were withdrawn from the UM Foudation investment funds to supplement the monthly expenses. Your Leadership Team is keeping a close watch on this as well as planning fundraisers and the possible need for a special campaign for the new boiler.

Washington County School Summer Lunch site. We have been asked to allow the group to use our parking lot 1 day a week during the summer to distribute lunches to those children in need. The final School Board approval is in process.

Security & Alarm Systems These systems are designed to improve everyone's safety. We are considering adding a few more cameras in some blind spot areas. The Alarm System needs evaluated soon.

The Catalyst Team is focusing on helping isolated or homebound as their outreach.

Trustees are focused on getting estimates for repairing or replacing the boiler. Other projects needed are outdoor painting, possible removal of the cemetery fence, replace fiberglass areas, and removal of dead trees and brush. A Prayer Garden is in discussion.

Outreach to Small Groups and Young Adults was a large topic of discussion. Keith Hoffman will lead a separate group to come up with plans to gather information and create new plans to drawl more souls.

Readers:

If you would like to volunteer to read the scripture, contact Elaine Snyder at 301-991-9759.

Want to walk with us?

The Family Life Center is open from 8:30am to 8pm daily. Kellar and Deb walk from 8:30 to 9:00 before work. Open to community.



**Attendance –
March 2024**

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
Feb 25	22/52/17	No heat. Western MD Hospital
Mar 3	26/53	No heat.
Mar 10	26/53	No Heat
Mar 17	19/62	No Heat
Mar 24	29/60	No Heat Palm Sunday
Mar 28	19	Maundy Thursday
Mar 29	16	Good Friday
Mar 31	20	Son-rise
	20	Breakfast
	35/96	Easter

**Upcoming
Events:**

Sub Sale Thursday April 18th

Please consider ordering cold cut subs for \$7.00 each. They must be ordered by Monday April 8th. Order forms are on the hallway bulletin board.

Pot Luck Lunch Sunday April 28

Plans are to “make your own” cold cut sandwiches. We are hoping for some pots of soup, along with sides and desserts. This will be held following the Sunday church service.

All Girls Together Tea on Sat May 11th

Save the date for an upcoming event hosted by Women of the Church. More info will be forthcoming. Ask the ladies (and girls) of your family and friends and their friends to enjoy a special time with us. Tea attire along with hats & gloves if able.

April Birthdays:

- 1 – Perry Miller
- 3 – Ann Taylor
- 5 – Ronnie Snyder
- 7 – Debbie Johnson
- 7 – Kinsley Shifflett
- 8 - *Jacquie Starleper
- 9 – Alicia Guzowski
- 15 – Dominic Rucci
- 17 – Duane McNairn
- 18 – Phillip Baker
- 19 - *Jean Detwiler
- 19 – Dalton Miller
- 20 – Walter Miller, Jr.
- 20 – Michael Young
- 28 – Katie Sprecher
- 28 – Callie Rishell
- 29 – Keith Hoffman
- 29 – Teresa Rossiter
- 30 – Ryker Guzowski



* Homebound

- see caring connections for addresses

April Anniversaries:



- 8 – Marty & Pam Brubaker
- 9 – James & Katie Kelly
- 10 – James & Debbie Johnson
- 16 – Mike & Linda Sokol
- 20 - Lacey & Barbara Simmons
- 25 – David & Mary Lidie
- 29 – David & Susan Brandenburg
- 30 – Gene & Mary Gross

Bethel Tidings

April 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 1	Easter Monday Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:30 Pot Luck Meal	29	30				

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Our Mission: To be the people of God on the move for Jesus and to transform the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Vision: To be the Church of Jesus Christ to all God's children through discipleship grounded in God's Holy Word. We pledge to God and each other to accomplish our mission: Through prayer, worship and education, we will be seekers of God's will. Through witness, we will kindle the fire of spiritual and physical growth. Through Christian community we will love, nurture and support each other and those in need throughout the world.

Church Office:

Phone: 301-733-8387
Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

Pastor: Jim Johnson
Email: pastor@bethelumchurch.org

Administrative Assistant:

Deb Wagner
301-733-8387
Office hours: 9 am – 1 pm Mon.-Fri.
Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner
Phone: 301-733-8387
Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

Bethel Connect:

Be connected; join our Google Group, search for Connect @ Bethel.

Sunday Service Times:

Traditional mixed with Contemporary
Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Online Sun 10:00 am @ www.bethelumchurch.org

Family Care Ministry:

Please let us know if you or a family member wish a pastoral visit during a time of grief or hospitalization, including the birth of a child. We will pray & minister to you.

Telephone Prayer Chain:

Beverly Miller
Phone: 301-739-6270
Email: shanda@myactv.net



Bethel Tidings



Pastor Jim Johnson
Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville
21006 Twin Springs Drive
Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-733-8387

