

Bethel Tidings

January 2021

Message from Pastor Jim

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A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...

We are coming upon the New Year. Many will say thank goodness that 2020 is gone and in the history books. I'm certainly happy that we can look forward to a fresh start this year. So many things have happened that we need to stop and take a breath.

We are in a time of transition. All churches experience times of building and times of decline. We fully expect that to happen because life happens.

Life in its infancy is exciting. New people coming to the church bring vitality into the life of the community church family. They come because of the history and the leadership of what came before the new people arrived. Established ideas are rewritten to fit into the context of the age of the congregation. The old traditions are observed, but with new excitement.

The second stage is the developing/adult stage. Just as it says, the church becomes a place to grow in the church's established function. At this stage, people are raising their children together and enjoying the available fellowship through church functions.

The final phase is the maintaining stage. The congregation ages and begins to start, "just getting things done." The time to live in the accolades of the achievement of the church is now here. The community can see the accomplishment of this group. A lot of ministries have taken place and have blessed many people. It is time to take those accomplishments and rewrite the story.

Covid-19 helped us to start the writing process. Can you believe that it has almost been one year since we last had a worship service in the sanctuary? Our lives have been rewritten in unbelievable ways. At first, we thought we would get by for a little while. No one has ever lived through such a pandemic. It is inconvenient, but a short break doesn't hurt anyone, we told ourselves. We were wrong.

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The little break has turned our world upside down. Not being in contact with friends and family at the most critical times of our lives has taught us the importance of fellowship. There was a time that I would hear people say that they can worship at home just as easily as at church. That statement, although real, is not the way that we want to live our lives anymore. We want to hug people, sing with them, and have other interactions.

I empathize with those that have gotten Covid-19 and recovered without any issues. Thank you, God, for sparing those that recovered without incidence. I pray daily for the hospital workers and front line staff who treat those who have severe symptoms or who have died from Covid-19. Living with the pain and no support system must be almost unbearable. It inconveniences the healthy while overburdening the caregivers.

We are also under the dark cloud of our political system. The threat of death for proclaiming allegiance to Jesus isn't a problem for us, but in other parts of the world, people are in constant fear of persecution. We have religious freedom and do not fear for our lives as we gather in worship. There is a lot of other stress that our community is feeling because of the unknown, and it takes its toll. We are going to be making some changes, and I want you to be aware of them.

The changes that we are making are not drastic, but it is necessary. Phyllis Harbaugh retired after 60 plus years of service. We appreciate her dedication and continued availability if we need her. Paul Belella stepped down from worship leader for the contemporary service and has offered to help if needed. After twenty-some years as a worship leader, he feels a call to pursue other ministries. Larry and Joyce Belella have both resigned their positions as Lay Leader and Music Chairperson. They are leading worship in another church as they are called and proclaiming the Good News outside the church's walls. They remain available for assistance where necessary. I want to thank all of our musicians for the dedication and leadership they have provided over this season of ministry at Bethel.

This leads us to the decisions that we now face. We still have an excellent praise team. It is just changing in its mission at this time. Riley House is still playing with us until he leaves for college. If you have heard the Advent worship services, you have listened to Riley play. Sue McCallister is still playing the organ; the worship service for Christmas Eve was her debut back to the organ since the shutdown.

Our music team is vital. It is just a different face with new leadership. We are going to be combining the two worship services into one when we re-open to be together. It will be a blended service, with both music and worship styles combined to create a worship experience that will praise God. We will continue to "live" stream, record, and provide an FM transmission into the parking lot. The quality will soon be more professional because of new equipment. We are nearing the completion of a new sound/video system in the sanctuary. You may see some changes in the space, but you will be pleasantly surprised that you can hardly tell the differences. We are going to be coming back to the church shortly. Once we have the vaccine protection, and the threat of infection is diminished, "we will be back."

Changes are happening, but we are the people of God. We don't need to fear what is presented to us; we have already endured so much up to this point. Continue to be safe and pray for the safety of all that are on the front lines.

Our mission work to our immediate community requires help. We see an uptick in using the Blessing Box. We need to fill it two to three times a day sometimes. So please remember the food/pantry ministry when you are putting together your tithe for this year.

Happy New Year! I look forward to being in worship with you soon.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

In the news:

Virus Task Force:



Please know that the Pastor has put together a task force of key members to collect all the different recommendations and make decisions about how and when we will open the building. Please pray that we make decisions that protect everyone. The group meets as needed. Every Monday the Washington County statistics are discussed.

When the building reopens:

- Socially distancing, using hand sanitizer and wearing masks the entire time inside the building will continue.
- Sports teams and community groups are not permitted at this time.

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well meetings will remain suspended for January. Normally monthly brunch outings are held on the third Wednesday at 11 am in local restaurants, this is also canceled. All are welcome when we return.

Call Beverly Miller for more info: 301-739-6270.



Caring Connections Supporting our Homebound

Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Please pray for our homebound as well as our other members who have concerns and conditions that do not allow them to be out and about due to COVID19.

Cards and phone calls are always welcome. Call Pam Brubaker or the church office for addresses and phone numbers.

Homebound Birthday: Mary Warrenfeltz, January 12th.
Elmcroft of Hagerstown, 1175 Professional Court, Hagerstown, MD 21742

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Micah's Backpack ministry began packing bags the first Friday in November. At this point, the only thing we are allowed to do (per WCPS) is to have the bags at the meal sites. We are going to drop our bags at Pangborn where there is more need (at least until all kids go back to school and then we will deliver once again to Old Forge).

Kim Rishell & Linda Barnhart

BREAKFAST ITEMS – Individual boxes of cereal and oatmeal



LUNCH/DINNER ITEMS – Small cans of spaghetti and meatballs and ravioli; individual packs of Ritz crackers; individual servings of peanut butter; cans of chicken and/or tuna fish; chicken noodle soup, mac and cheese



SNACKS - Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, Individual packs of goldfish and pretzels



VEGETABLES – Small individual servings of corn, green beans, peas and carrots



JUICE BOXES





The Blessing Box & Food Pantry

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35

When looking back at 2020, there are so many to thank for their amazing support of the Blessing Box/Food Pantry Ministry. From Tom Smith who first came up with the idea of the Blessing Box and then built it with Brett Sprecher to the many people who have donated food and money over many months. The need for food in our local area and the use of our blessing box has increased weekly. We are proud to say that we have been able to help many families. We hope to continue to do so over the next year if we are able to sustain the increased use. If anyone knows of other organizations that may want to assist us with food or have a food drive for this endeavor, please contact Pastor Jim or myself. Also, later this year after COVID begins to wane, I will be seeking volunteers to help with the almost daily replenishing of the Blessing Box. With sincere thanks and appreciation, may you be blessed with a happy, healthy new year.

If you would like to donate food items here is a list of frequently needed items:

- Toiletries – (shampoo, body wash & toothpaste)
- Baby wipes
- Little juice boxes
- Macaroni and cheese boxes or cups
- Spaghetti noodles and sauce
- SpaghettiOs
- Ramen Noodles
- Kids' Cereals
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, spam)
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables (corn, peas)
- Paper goods (Toilet Paper, Paper towels, tissues)

If you would like to donate money, write a check to Bethel United Methodist Church and indicate, it is for the food pantry in the memo section of the check.

Diane Stevens



Lay Readers – January 2021

Jan 3	Christie Phillips Kim Rishell
Jan 10	Jon Snyder Brian Smith
Jan 17	Elaine Snyder Judy Hoffman
Jan 24	Liz Weaver Heather Updegraff
Jan 31	



Stewardship December 2020

Date	9:00 am Worship Total	Online	In person	Special Events
Dec 6	158	158	0	Church closed
Dec 13	151	151	0	Church closed
Dec 20	168	168	0	Church closed
Dec 24	169	169	0	Church closed
Dec 27	175	175	0	Church closed

January Birthdays:

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|----|---|
| 3 | Steve Shifflett | 14 | John Staley | 25 | Rose Bowser |
| 4 | Graci Johnson
Chase Wilson | 15 | Ken Wiles | | Priscilla Miller |
| 5 | Lisa Morgan
Michael Bennett
Jason Kaufmann | 16 | Edward Gelsinger
Melinda Smith | 26 | Sylvia Rider
Todd Roberts |
| 7 | Vivian Michael
Bill Warehime
Donna Johnson
Kellar Smith
Ian Decker | 18 | Gretchen
Buddenhagen
Julie Beard
Tric Harshman
Ronald Mertz, Jr. | 27 | Heather Rucci |
| 8 | Amy Smith
Peyton Belella | 19 | Phil Petry
Ronald Poffenberger | 28 | Tracy Reed
Jack Young |
| 9 | George Brandt | 20 | Velma Filsinger | 29 | Stephanie Rossiter |
| 10 | Katie Gantz | 21 | Barb Trolley | 30 | Steven Ganley |
| 11 | Martha Lynch | 22 | Brandon Morgan
Brodren Green | 31 | Joseph Boward
Kathy Rice
Logan Bachtell |
| 12 | Mary Warrenfeltz * | 23 | Alexis Spickler | | |
| 13 | Mary Mowen
Courtney McGhee | 24 | Mitchell Belella | | |

***Homebound
Birthday. Please see
address under Caring
Connections.**

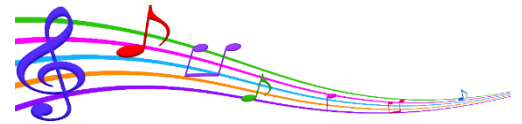


January Anniversaries:



- 3 – Ron & Melissa Metzger
- 7 – Mark & Kerry Claiborne
- 8 – Jason & Melissa Broadwater
- 23 – Harold & Ann Taylor
- 25 – Michael & Lisa Morgan

Music Ministry:



The sound system updates include changes in both the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center. This should improve the sound and update us for electronic viewing. While the choir is not meeting...individuals and families are encouraged to sing at Sunday Services...just contact Pastor Jim.



Sermon by Phone:

301-298-1064

A new service. Just dial the number. No codes or prompts to enter, just listen...it will be the most recent Sunday Service or any scriptures or announcements. Call it at any time.

Radio Station:

Did you know that you could connect to the Sunday Service by radio FM station while on the property if you prefer to stay inside of your vehicle? The specific station is 97.9 and has recently been updated. If you were a parking lot attendee...please try again!



Altar Flowers:



Jan 3	
Jan 10	
Jan 17	
Jan 24	
Jan 31	

Children's Sunday School:

Currently Children's Sunday School for children grades K-5 has been suspended.



The rising COVID numbers are affecting all. We want to keep our little ones safe.

You can call the office 301-733-8387 to ask for a monthly lesson packet,
Or

You can see the online info @ <https://tinyurl.com/y7g752ut>

Blood Drive

The next Blood drive at Bethel is **Friday Nov 27th**,
1:30 to 7:00 p.m. Reserve at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood>.
Please consider helping...call the office.



**** All below is subject to the building restriction changes.**

Jan 2021 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 Communion 9am Traditional Service 10am FLC Service 6pm Holiday Joy/ FLC	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9am Traditional Service 10am FLC Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9am Traditional Service 10am FLC Service	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21	22 1:30 Blood Drive	23
24 9am Traditional Service 10am FLC Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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: bethel.church@myactv.net

Pastor: Jim Johnson

Email: pastorjim@myactv.net

Administrative Assistant:

Deb Wagner

301-733-8387

Office hours: 9 am – 1 pm Mon.-Fri.

of a Email: bethel.church@myactv.net

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner

Phone: 301-733-8387

Email: bethel.church@myactv.net

Bethel Connect:

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

Sunday Service Times:

Traditional Worship 8:45 am

Contemporary Worship 11:00am

Sunday School 10:00 am

On line Sun 9:00 am @ www.bethelumchurch.org

Family Care Ministry:

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

Telephone Prayer Chain:

Beverly Miller

Phone: 301-739-6270

Email: Shanda@myactv.net



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Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville
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