

Message from Pastor Jim



Exodus 17:1-7 Contemporary English Version The Lord Gives Water from a Rock

1 The Israelites left the desert and moved from one place to another each time the Lord ordered them to. Once they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink.

2 The people started complaining to Moses, "Give us some water!"
Moses replied, "Why are you complaining to me and trying to put the Lord to the test?"

3 But the people were thirsty and kept on complaining, "Moses, did you bring us out of Egypt just to let us and our families and our animals die of thirst?"

4 Then Moses prayed to the Lord, "What am I going to do with these people? They are about to stone me to death!"

5 The Lord answered, "Take some of the leaders with you and go ahead of the rest of the people. Also take along the walking stick you used to strike the Nile River, 6 and when you get to the rock at Mount Sinai, I will be there with you. Strike the rock with the stick, and water will pour out for the people to drink." Moses did this while the leaders watched.

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7 The people had complained and tested the Lord by asking, "Is the Lord really with us?" So Moses named that place Massah, which means "testing" and Meribah, which means "complaining." "Do you want to survive, or do you want to live?"

I'm intrigued by the story that we read in Exodus. If you read the entire story, this isn't the first time we encounter the people questioning God. They are so used to surviving in the work camp as slaves. The rations may not all be so great, but at least they had "three squares and water." They had gotten so used to the condition that they were living that they forgot who came and offered them salvation.

Sometimes in life, we know that if we take the easy way out, we may not reap all of the benefits, but at least we won't starve to death, or not die of thirst. In the uncertainty of the pandemic and the coming elections, we need to look forward to Jesus. What is going to happen if we retreat and ignore all that is in our presence? We are much more like the Israelites in the desert than what we want to believe. When the world is turned upside-down, and we do not get what we want when we want it, we reminisce. We remember what it was like when everything seemed familiar, and we had more control than we do right now. We demand from those leading us answers. We forget that God has a plan and is working it. Because we don't understand what the project is, we want to control it. We want to sit in the driver's seat and make things visibly happen. We want to make God understand that God is not doing it right. We want the water while we are standing in the desert. We want our leaders to produce something that only God can provide. Are we trying to survive, or are we trying to thrive? There is a big difference between the two.

The first difference is if you are surviving, you will do just about anything to remain what many would call "flying under the radar." You will not step out on faith to follow what Jesus has called you to do. You have gainful employment, a house, food, and clothing. You aren't able to do many things with your life except survive. Another difference is when you are thriving, you are stepping outside of the box. You are enjoying the life that God gives each of us. It's not a matter of getting by with life, it is about living out the enjoyment and expectation that God has set before you. We can cry to the leaders until they strike the rock to get accessible water, or we can, with faith, continue living the life that Jesus instructed us to live.

We have been following the parables in Matthew the last three weeks. The central theme has been to work to bring others the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus searches us out just like the merchant in the busy marketplace. We will share in the abundant life that Jesus promised us if we will follow Him. We can't earn that salvation. Only through faith and proclaiming the Word of God to all will get us that life.

So we need to quit grumbling. We need to come to grips with faith and cast it on Jesus. We can't wait for signs to make our decision. We must move past the sense of persecution and receive the grace of God's love. Today is the day that we must become the followers of Jesus, entirely relying on Jesus' grace and mercy. We don't need to question our God; he has promised us salvation today.

Peace, Pastor Jim

Info on Bethel Youth:

With Washington County Public Schools starting through virtual distance learning, 14-year-old Paige Updegraff offers encouraging words for her classmates. "COVID has been hard on everyone, especially students," Paige said in a message posted Aug. 17 on the WCPS Facebook page. "Eventually, we will get back to school, but during distance learning, I want to take a moment to encourage my fellow students.

"We will face a lot of challenges in our lives, but we can rise to the occasion, supporting each other during this one. We are the most resilient, most tech-savvy generation ever." Paige said students shouldn't hesitate to ask for help. "Reach out if you're having a hard time". "We can support each other, and be successful. One day, we are going to look back, and we can either say 'we beat COVID or COVID beat us.' We can do this."

A freshman at Smithsburg High School, Paige said in an interview that she was asked by parents to post an encouraging message on Facebook for all WCPS students. "I wanted to show parents and students how we can deal with the coronavirus, and get people motivated to start distance learning". Paige said because of the risks associated with the virus, she supports the Washington County Board of Education's decision to start the 2020-21 school year virtually from home. "I think it's actually helpful with the type of situation we're in now" she said. "The virus is contagious, and this is the safest option."

Though Paige said she is prepared to start her high school freshman year virtually, it wasn't a situation she ever imagined. "I didn't plan on this," she said. "It's an adjustment we all have to make. It's not how anyone planned for school to go. But it's the best option." Paige said it also was "disappointing" not to have had an eighth-grade graduation from Smithsburg Middle School in the spring. Starting school virtually also means that Paige won't be able to play volleyball since all school sports this fall have been canceled due to COVID-19. "I was going to try out, but there were no tryouts," she said. "I'm definitely disappointed. A lot of people were excited for fall and winter sports."

Bethel Tidings

Paige will have the opportunity to play for Washington County's Liberty Elite Volleyball Club. "They're doing a fall league, so I'll be able to play," she said. "We've already started practices twice a week." Games through the league are played on Thursday and Friday nights.

Paige also will have a full load of classes her first semester in high school. All of her classes, which include English, math, science and social studies, are honor courses. Paige has advice for other students navigating virtual learning. There were practices she put in place during distance learning in the spring. "Have a schedule," she said. "Getting all my work done early in the morning also helped a lot." Paige is the daughter of Heather and Jim Updegraff of Smithsburg.



Jimmy Updegraff, officially became a United States Marine, on Saturday, September 19th, 2020, after successful completion of recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. The title of United States Marine is earned after recruits complete “The Crucible” and are officially awarded their Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. Jimmy will be graduating on October 2nd, 2020, as a Private First Class. Jimmy earned his first class stripe meritoriously during recruit training by being selected as a platoon squad leader. This honor is given to recruits who show exemplary leadership skills. Jimmy will also be honored at graduation as Delta Company “Top Gun” for having the highest marksmanship scores on the rifle range. He will leave immediately after graduation for Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, in Jacksonville, NC, where he will be for 4 weeks before then leaving for his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training. His proud parents are Heather and Jim Updegraff.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH:

Women at the Well

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

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



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

Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Thank you Bethel Congregation for your amazing support of the Bethel Food Pantry and Blessing Box with food and monetary donations. This mission has served many families in our local communities due to your help!

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.

Please contact Deb Wagner at the 301-733-8387 for additional information or if you know someone who is in need of food.

Caring Connection



Supporting our Homebound

Psalm 91:4 (NIV) He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. His faithfulness shall be your shield & rampart.

Please continue to be in prayer for our Homebound.

If you need a new list, of phone numbers email Deb at Bethel Church, bethel.church@myactv.net and she will email you a list. If you do not have a computer call Deb at the church (301-733-8387) or Pam (240-734-1101) for addresses and phone numbers.

Also, remember that we have a number of folks who are temporarily homebound due to COVID 19. Please be in prayer for them and consider sending a card or making a phone call to brighten someone's day.

Thank you for all the prayers and concern in these last months!

Homebound Birthday info for this month on October 1st is:
Gwennella Kalbflesh.


P.O. Box 165
Chewsville, MD 21721

~Pam Brubaker



Lay Readers – September 2020

	Oct 4	Christy Phillips Kim Rishell
	Oct 11	Jon Snyder Brian Smith
	Oct 18	Elaine Snyder Judy Hoffman
	Oct 25	Liz Weaver Heather Updegraff

 **Micah's Backpack ministry is currently on hold** until the end of the virus restrictions.. When school resumes, we will restart as well. If you would like to make a monetary donation, a check may be mailed to the church with a note in the memo line for Micah's Backpack. It truly does make a difference.

Stewardship Sept 2020

Date	9:00 am Worship Total	Online	In person	Special Events
Sept 6	411	367	44	
Sept 13	437	370	67	Last outdoor
Sept 20	365	330	35	First indoor
Sept 27	172	141	31	

Weekly offering totals are in the bulletin. A Treasurer's Report is always available in the office if more detail is desired. Just ask!

Online giving is available through our website: bethelumchurch.org

October Birthdays:

1 Fred Baker	13 Connie Leisinger	
** Gwennella Kalbflesh	14 Fred White, III	
2 Bradley Johnson	Wayne Deibert	
Dante Rucci	Ericka Linden	
3 Martin Brubaker	Isabella Smith	
John Dinterman	15 Chloe Eckard	
Shane Ganley	16 Greg Spickler	
4 Glenn Eccard	Katherine Phillips	
Meredith	17 Brandon Sprecher	
Richardson	19 Logan Kennedy	
5 Amy Mitchell	21 Jeffery Harbaugh	
6 J B Campbell	Tyler Forrest	
Harvey Leisinger	22 Caitlyn Wilson	
7 Heather White	23 Jane Edwards	
Owen Snyder	Landen Kennedy	
9 Alan Sokol	24 Brett Linden	
11 Devena Dunkin	25 Janice Reeder	



Charles Johnson
 26 Braylen Price
 27 Jonathan Hose
 28 Ashley Miller
 Eran Reed
 29 Phyllis Harbaugh
 30 Sandy Hose
 Kelsey Sprecher
 31 Melissa Metzger

** homebound - see Caring Connections for their address

October Anniversaries:

5- Walt & Beverly Miller
6 - Justin & Julianna Morgan
9 – Sam & Brittany Buhrman
12 – Brian & Colleen Augustine
18 – Jim & Holly Luther
18 – Michael & Kayla Rishell

20 – Dave & Deb Wagner
22 – Joe & Denise Boward
30 - Brad & Jennifer Leisinger
31 – Ted & Maria Axline



Virus Task Force:



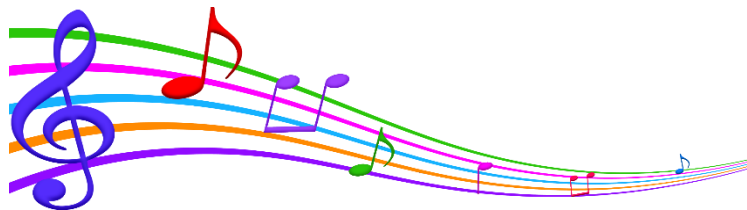
Please know that the Pastor has put together a task force of key members that have experience in the medical field, administrators and church leaders to collect all the different recommendations and make decisions about how and when we will open the building. a.m. Please pray that we make decisions that protect everyone. The COVID Protocol was mailed to each family. Extra copies will be on the welcome center counter.

Blood Drive: The Red Cross Blood Drive was on **Friday September 25th 1:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Reserve at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood>.



Music Ministry:

The Ad Council has been meeting and discussing multiple options for updating the sound system. The goal is to start with the Main Sanctuary and then have incremental updates with audio and video systems. A special committee is now revising plans. We hope to get this project started soon.



Choirs:

We invite all of our choir members to actively volunteer your talents to the one service that is currently taking place. As much as we would love to hear the choirs and music return to the church, precautions must take place for the safety of all. Contact our Music Committee Chairperson, Joyce Belella.



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.

Nominations Committee:

The Nominations team met to discuss the positions of the church. I recommended that since there was no activity during the COVID-19 shut-down that we would ask all of the members that had been elected for this year to stay in place for the continuity of church business. Deb Wagner, Administrative Assistant, sent out a request to all of the chairs of the various committees to check on the availability of their committees. There were no responses except for the children's ministry. There were also several people who asked to be replaced. Those positions are:

Financial Secretary

Administrative Council Chair

Lay Member to the Annual Conference

The nominations bring the following names before you for those positions:

Financial Secretary: Linda Barnhart

Ad Council Chair: David Wagner

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Shaun Wolfe

These positions were voted on and approved by The Administrative Council and will begin their new roles Jan 1st, 2021. ~Pastor Jim

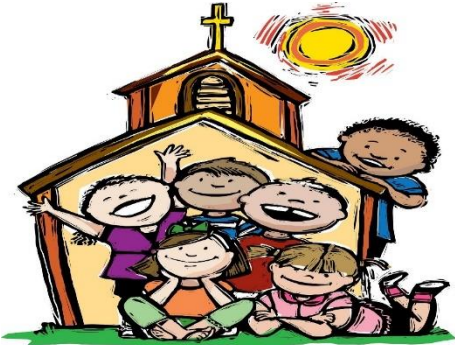
Radio Station:

Did you know that you can 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 will be announced at the beginning of each service.



Children's Sunday School:

Beginning Sunday September 20th Indoor Sunday School for children grades K-5 will meet upstairs at 9:00 a.m. while the parents are in the FLC Worship Service.



Just like the rest of us, they will remain socially distanced and wearing masks.

We are blessed to have Tammy & Teresa teaching them!

What you are seeing on Sundays:

The COVID Taskforce has been hard at work.

While we are socially distanced and wearing masks covering the nose and mouth the entire time we are inside. The joy is in the way so many have come together to make it all happen.

The songs are being sung by the Praise team while the audience hums. The prayer requests, scripture readings and prayers continue. Pastor Jim leads us and offers sermons to enrich us.

Ushers will be seating you to help maintain 6ft. separation. Entering and exiting one way will be the current routine. Unfortunately no refreshments will be served.

Please bring your personal Bible.

Thank you:

There are so many who give so much! Somedays there are “givers” in and out of the church! Filling the blessing box, mowing the lawn, pulling the weeds, tending to clothing and food donations and giving rides to those in need. So many are so strong and silent!

A special thanks to those retiring from their stations within the church.:

Bret & Brandon Sprecher who served as the Lay Members to Annual Conference.
Lay Members to Annual Conference.

Mary Gross who served many years as the Finance Secretary.

Keith Hoffman who served as Administrative Council Chairperson.



Bethel Clothes Closet

**Bethel Clothes Closet
Special thanks to all who have
donated clothes to the Bethel
Clothes Closet!**

**Currently the Clothes Closet has
cold weather clothing items like
coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and
blue jeans available to those in
need.**

**Donations of clothing items
continue to be accepted. Bags or
boxes of clothing can be dropped
off anytime by placing them under
the lower portico on the side of the
church.**

*Please contact Deb Wagner at the 301-733-8387
for additional information or if you know someone
who is in need of clothing.*



It is almost Church Conference time!

The annual Church Conference **will be here on Sunday November 1st @ 4:00 pm.** ! The event will be different this year as it will be held virtually. Preparation is beginning with forms to complete, budgets and evaluations to be done, meetings to vote on items must take place. This begins a busy time for your leaders and it must all be completed by Oct 1st.

How you can help:

Now is the **time to speak up- it is not too late!** To get involved in an area that interests you. Do you like working with children or crunching numbers? Perhaps painting or building repair is your talent. There is certainly a spot for using your talent in the church. Just call the office and we will be glad to talk with you.

**** All below is subject to the building restrictions being lifted.**

Oct 2020 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 9am FLC Service 9am Child Sunday School	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Pastor Appreciation Sunday 9am FLC Service 9am Child Sunday School	12 Columbus Day 7:00 Ad Council/FLC	13	14	15 Deb off	16 Deb off	17
18 Laity Sunday 9am FLC Service 9am Child Sunday School	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24 FLC blocked
25 Harvest Home 9am FLC Service 9am Child Sunday School	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

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

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

Bethel Connect:

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



Bethel Tidings



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

