

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

Oct. 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Autumn has arrived—the season of golden fields, crisp air, and the rich colors of harvest. Everywhere we look, God's faithfulness is on display: the orchards heavy with fruit, the fields ripe for gathering, and the changing leaves reminding us of the beauty of God's timing.

As we close our sermon series "A Seat at God's Table," we've been reminded that God's table is wide enough for everyone. Each of us has a seat—welcomed, valued, and called to participate in His work. This series challenged us to see that coming to the table is not just about receiving God's blessings, but about sharing them, planting seeds of faith, and nurturing the growth of God's kingdom.

We now step into a new seven-part series, *From The Mountaintop*, guiding us to live fully in God's presence—on the mountaintop, through the valleys, and across every season of life. Just as a harvest comes from patient tending, prayer, and care, our spiritual lives bear fruit when cultivated with faith, hope, and love.

This fall, we will celebrate **Harvest Home Sunday on Laity Sunday**, a special time to give thanks for the abundance God provides and to honor the faithful service of our church family. It's a day to bring our gifts, our gratitude, and our hearts to God's table—to recognize that our time, talents, and treasures all have a place in His work.

Where is your seat at God's table this season? How are you celebrating your harvest? And how might you share it with someone in need of a place to belong? God's table is ready, the harvest is plentiful, and there is room for all.

Join us on Harvest Home Sunday! Bring a gift of food, an offering of thanks, or simply your presence. Together, we will celebrate God's provision, honor the work of our laity, and rejoice in the abundant life He calls us to share. Let's gather around the table, lift our hearts, and rejoice in the season of harvest.

With gratitude and joy,
Pastor Jim Johnson
Bethel United Methodist Church

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

We will continue with the study of The Chosen- Season 5 on Wednesdays in October. We are looking forward to continuing this dynamic video study of the life of Jesus and his followers. The group meets in the Sunday school room under the balcony to view the video one week, and the following week joins in a Bible study based on the video watched the week before. Oct 15th will be lunch at 11:00 at The Broad Axe.

Altar flowers:

Bethel continues to be blessed by the talents of the Altar Committee. Please consider signing up on the calendar by the offering plate. The cost is \$45.00 for both flower arrangements (not the vase) that you may take with you after the service. Be sure to let the office know a week in advance what you would like written in the bulletin. Thank you!

Micah's Backpack:



Healthy Meals for Healthy Families

Currently we are providing for 15. We usually build for the next month or so. Snack items are always good. Individually wrapped cookies, crackers, chips. Etc.

We only get pretzels or goldfish crackers from the food bank.

This program is back in full swing..
Please see the list of items needed in the main hallway.

Readers:

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

Ushers:

Please let the office know if you can take a turn. Currently we have available openings in October, November and December. Thank you.

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update:

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

Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.





Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection

Homebound birthdays...

October 4 – Gordon Crabb
20422 Holt Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21742

**Attendance
Aug/Sept
2025**

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
Aug 24	19/66	
Aug 31	10/56	
Sept 7	29/73/22	Western MD Center
Sept 14	22/75/105	In the Pavilion and Community Picnic
Sept 21		

Coat Closet

Your help is needed.

Our annual coat giveaway event for December has been cancelled by the host church. We were able to provide coats to those in need at the event for a number of years and are sad to see it go away.

However, we will still provide the coats to those in need in our local area at our Halloween event. Please continue to provide coats since our supply is very limited. Your help is appreciated.

Diane Stevens



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:

Sept 17th updates:

Spiritual Formation- A devotion focused on the importance of quiet guidance and teamwork in church administration.

Administrative tasks: Conference reports were reviewed and voted upon as needed.

Trustee: Tim Smith has begun to paint the outdoor trim of the church. The air/heat system in the FLC will be soon. The new unit will be outside on the kitchen side. The Sanctuary Furnace work has been started and we hope to have it finished soon.

There has been an anonymous donor who will be donating the cost of the Sanctuary Furnace. Therefore the current furnace fund monies will be channeled to the cost of the FLC air/heat system.

An additional private donor has donated \$25,000 toward the FLC system.

Repairs to the alarm system are finished.

We are looking at options for signs and/or speed bumps in the driveway.

Snow removal provider has been contracted with the Groundskeeper, Jim Luther.

Child/Youth plans- the next event will be Trunk or Treat with Carol Ewan chairing the event. The date is set for Friday October 24th.

Facebook homepage updates are in process. Carol has been gathering new pictures that will be placed on our Facebook homepage. Send the office any you have and we will see that she gets them.

Fundraising: Teresa will be leading us in making Soups and Subs this Fall/Winter.

The first Sub Sale will be Thursday October 16th. Soup will be Nov 15 & 16.

Training for the audio/video system is looking for volunteers to learn. Contact the office.

The Office Copier: We have a new machine and a contract that is for less expense.

Laity Sunday: will be on Sunday October 19th and the Leadership Board Members will lead the worship service. Pastor Jim will share the message as it is part of a series.

MomCo- a new group for mothers is in the planning stage. Pastor Jim and Kaelii Boyer will lead this.

A Pavilion Path- needs to be created for safety to get from the parking lot to the Pavilion. Several options are being considered.

Oil tanks: since the new furnace will be propane, we are looking for options of removing the full tank of oil under the portico.

The next Leadership meeting will be on Wed., Nov.19 at 7 pm in the Parlor...Join us!

The Church/Community Picnic:

Sunday September 14th Bethel celebrated its first Outdoor Worship in the Pavilion. The plans included a Church and Community Picnic following the service. At 9:45 I would never have expected to see the cars rolling in one after the other to give us an attendance of approximately 75 souls ready to sing and share and listen, all with an incredible peaceful surrounding.



Bethel Tidings



The crowd extended on either side of the Pavilion with members and visitors bringing their chairs and relaxing while enjoying a gentle breeze and hearing God's word. Pastor Rich Bower from the Western Maryland Hospital Center presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Keith Hoffman (Leadership Board President) and Carol Ewan (SPRC Chairman) for the continued support we show them by bringing a worship service to them the first Sunday of each month.



Children enjoyed playing quietly and eating apples given during children's moments during the service. There was an air of freedom, a sense of peace, and the spirit of welcoming several persons from the neighborhood as well as New Beginnings Christian Fellowship joining us for the food and games. Freshly grilled burgers and hot dogs led the menu of wonderful Pot Luck items and desserts. No one left hungry and left overs were shared to take home. Thanks to all who made this possible.





Forever givers:

There are so many who diligently serve the church.

Tim Smith is always here for us. Have you seen his excellent work on the Main Sanctuary entry doors? He started on Labor Day weekend and will be working his way around the building. We are so fortunate to have his strong steady hands.

He is promptly here to help when we have Trustee needs.

Thank you Tim.

New News:

HAT & GLOVE TREE. We will be collecting hats and gloves again this year for infants and preschool children through ages 5. This year, in particular, the most need is for hats for children ages 4-5, both girls and boys. Donations will be distributed through Head Start of Washington County. A tree will be placed in the Sunday School room under the balcony by November 1st and will remain until the middle of December for donations to be hung. We hope you will participate in this worthy project.



Upcoming Events:

The Annual Church Conference will be October 18th. We will also be hosting Deerfield & Mount Zion, Mount Bethel, Garfield and Saint Pauls along with Bethel UMC Chewsville. Then at the second round: Bethel of Rohrsersville, Mount Lena, Salem & Benevola, Mount Nebo and Mount Zion churches were here for their conferences.

Teresa Rossiter was the hostess that others expressed envy for. Fresh baked good, fruit and more! She has agreed to treat us again this year.

Bethel children will provide the special music for the service with the help of Linda Barnhart.

Most **Children's events** will begin again in August or September. We are looking at the use of the Family Life Center for more Teen related athletic events. If you would like to be a part of the planning please contact the office.

The Fall/Winter 2025 dates below are now finalized.

Sun Oct 12 – Pastor Appreciation Day

TBD: Cantata vs hymn sing- let the office know if you are interested.

Thur Oct 16 – Sub sale

Sat Oct 18th – Church Conference

Soup sale – date undecided

Sun Oct 19 – Laity Sunday/ Harvest Home lunch & bonfire

Fri Oct 24 – Trunk or Treat 5:30-7:30, Chewsville Trick or Treat

Sun Nov 2 – All Saints Sunday/ Communion/Daylight Savings Time

Sat Nov 15/Sun Nov 16 – Soup Sale

Fri Nov 21 - 9:00 am pass out Thanksgiving baskets –donations by Nov 19

Sun Nov 23 - Poinsettia orders due, Snyder BD Lunch for all/FLC

Thur Nov 27 – Thanksgiving - ? if interest in a breakfast

Fri Nov 28 – 9am - put up Christmas decorations

1st Sun of Advent – Nov 30 _____

Thur Dec 4 – Sub Sale

Sat Dec 6 – Breakfast with Santa

2nd Sun of Advent - Dec 7 - 2pm Carol at Nursing Homes, Western Maryland Worship

3rd Sun of Advent - Dec 14 –11:30 am –Christmas Joy: Pot Luck/Ugly Sweater/Talent

4th Sun of Advent - Dec 21 –@ 10am Children's program

Wed Dec 24 – Christmas Eve, 7 pm traditional service, 11 pm candlelight service

Thur Dec 25 – Christmas Day – Merry Christmas (No Services)

Thur Feb 5 – Sub sale

Oct. Birthdays:

1 – Fred Baker
3 – Martin Brubaker
3 – John Dinterman
4 - * Gordon Crabb
6 – Harvey Leisinger
7 – Owen Snyder
11 – Devena Dunkin
11 – Tara Brandt
13- Connie Leisinger
15 – Cathy Grantham
18 – Tulia Bhowmik
21 – Jerr Harbaugh
23 – Jane Edwards
25 – Charles Johnson
25 – Angela Bhowmik
28 – Ashley Miller
29 – Phyllis Harbaugh
30 – Sandy Hose
31 – Melissa Metzger



Oct. Anniversaries:

Oct 1 – Tara & Cory Brandt

Oct 1 – Dave & T.J. Lutz

Oct 5 – Beverly & Walt Miller

Oct 11 – Judy & Gerald Anders

Oct 20 – David & Deb Wagner

Oct 31 – Ted & Maria Axline

Bethel Tidings

Oct. 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday	Friday 3	Saturday 4
			10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	2 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor 7:00 Bethel Bible Study	12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
5 Communion World Communion Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	6 9:00 Piano Tuning	7 6:30 Lions Club/Parlor	8 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	9 6:00 New Beginnings Bible/Parlor 7:00 Bethel Bible Study	10 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	11 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
12 Pastor Appreciation Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	13 Columbus Day	14	15 11:00 W@W Lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 4:00 sub prep 7:00 Leadership Council/Office	16 4:00 Sub Sale 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor 7:00 Bethel Bible Study	17 12:30-3:30 Band	18 8:00 am Church Conference/FLC 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church/Sanctuary
19 Laity Sun/Harvest Home w/ lunch Catalyst visit 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30 p.m. Lions Club/Parlor	22 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	23 4pm – Deco Tunk or Treat 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor 7:00 Bethel Bible Study	24 5:30 Trunk or Treat 10 am Edwards memorial/Sanctu ary 12:30-3:30 Band	25 Mummies Parade 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
26 Deb on Vaca this week 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service	27	28	29 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band/FLC	30 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor 7 Bethel Bible	31 Halloween 12:30-3:30 Band	

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
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Pastor: Jim Johnson
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Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner
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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



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