

November 2023

Bethel Tidings

All Saints Day: A Timeless Tradition of Faith

Dear Friends in Faith,
As November unfolds, we find ourselves at the cusp of a special day in the Christian calendar - All Saints Day. While the rest of the world may have bonfires and fireworks on November 5th, for those who hold dear the teachings of John Wesley and the tradition of Methodism, All Saints Day on November 1st carries a profound significance.



It's a day to reflect on the spiritual gifts of the past and present, and to recognize the everlasting legacy of Christian faith that transcends generations.

All Saints Day was not just another holy day for John Wesley; it was one of his favorites. His affection for this day was rooted in a profound understanding of the importance of tradition and continuity in the Christian faith. It serves as a reminder that our faith is not a solitary journey but a continuous thread woven through time, passed down from generation to generation.

Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was deeply committed to the idea that the living and the dead are part of one grand community of faith. All Saints Day resonated with his belief that we stand on the shoulders of all those faithful witnesses who have gone before us. As he once wrote, "The commemoration of All Saints, November 1, and the following holiday, All Souls Day, presents an opportunity to remember and honor those who have come before us, whose lives have left an indelible mark on our faith journey."

The verses from 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 perfectly encapsulate the essence of All Saints Day, Passing on the Gift of Faith: "For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory."

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These verses remind us of the continuous effort and sacrifice put forth by those who have come before us, those who have handed down the precious gift of faith. Their lives were a testament to the Gospel, just as Wesley believed ours should be. This is the legacy we celebrate on All Saints Day.

All Saints Day calls us to acknowledge and appreciate the tapestry of faith that has been carefully woven throughout history. It reminds us of the enduring connection we share with Christians who have preceded us and those who will follow. It's a day to honor the saints, both known and unknown, who have enriched our lives and deepened our understanding of God's grace. In commemorating All Saints Day, we not only remember those who have passed away but also recognize the living saints among us—those who continue to inspire, teach, and guide us in our spiritual journey.

As we approach November 1st, let us carry in our hearts the wisdom of John Wesley and the lessons of All Saints Day. It's a day to remember, reflect, and recommit to our faith, recognizing that we are part of a grand and unbroken tradition. It is a day to celebrate the profound connection that binds the living and the dead in the eternal fellowship of faith.

May All Saints Day be a time of profound spiritual reflection and an opportunity to give thanks for the remarkable gift of faith passed down through the ages. Blessings and peace as we celebrate this sacred day.

Yours in faith,
Pastor Jim

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will continue with "The Chosen" bible study on Wednesdays, 10:00, November 1st, 8th, & 29th. (no meeting on the 22nd).

Brunch will be Wednesday, November 15th, 11:00. All are welcome.



Head Start of Washington County partners with local churches to help keep little heads and hands warm during the winter. Please consider participating in this worthy cause by donating hats/gloves for children, infant through 5 years old (hat sizes most needed this year are for both boys and girls ages 3-5). The hat/ mitten tree will be set up the end of October for you to hang your gifts. Items will be taken to Head Start the first week of December and again the end of December.





Supporting our Homebound Bethel Caring Connection

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you,
"Do not be afraid, I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

The the above quote from Isaiah speaks of God's love and presence in our lives every moment of every day. Let us share God's love with our homebound family and friends with prayers, cards and/or a visit.

Please call me {301-992-7831} or the church office if you need an updated list of addresses and phone numbers for our homebound members. Thank you for caring for others.

Homebound birthday: Nov 12
Janet Deibert
8507 Mapleville Road
Boonsboro, MD 21713

The Altar Committee updates:

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please applaud Sandy Hose and Kathy Morrissey and Kellar Smith who have made the fresh flower arrangements for the Altar.

The current cost of the arrangements is \$45.00.

If you desire to use a commercial florist (and that is perfectly fine), please contact Sandy at 240-527-5167 for specific directions to provide the florist. The yearly order sheet to request flowers is on the wall in the main hallway above the offering plate. Remember to notify the office with what you want in the bulletin at least 1 week prior to your request.

Church Advent Preparations:

Preparation of the church for Advent will begin immediately following the service on November 26th. Some assistance assembling the Christmas tree and hanging the wreaths would be greatly appreciated. We would love you to join us and share in the joy of decorating the church.

This year we will be participating in the *Giving Tree* "Compassion" program. It is designed to help release children from poverty in Jesus' name. A tree filled with "Giving Ornaments" will be present with ornaments (cards) of various denominations to provide various items such as Food for a Child or Seeds, Goats, Water Supply, etc. All checks should be made payable to Bethel UM Church with a **note on the memo line** "Compassion".



Coat Closet:

He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none. Luke 3:11

I would like to thank the members of our church for their continued support of our Bethel Coat Closet. Donations of coats have been less this year than in previous years. (Many of our members had cleaned out their coat closets in previous years and just have no more coats to donate.) However, we have received some coats and winter items recently. We currently have approximately 70 adult coats and 10 children's coats as well as some adult/teen hats and gloves. We hope to receive more coats throughout the month of November. The coats are always available to anyone in need in our local area. We will also be giving away coats again this year at:

St. John's Lutheran Church "Cold Hands, Warm Hearts" event in Hagerstown on Dec. 16, 2023. Our church members and our coat closet ministry continue to be a true blessing to those in need.
Diane Stevens

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. In addition, the blessing box could not work without your love and contributions. Your generosity during Harvest Home was above and beyond. If you have any questions please contact me 301-991-9759.



Your sister in Christ, Elaine Snyder



All Women Together:

Fall and Winter activities.

New Activities: A Game/Movie night will become a quarterly activity.

A Pot Luck Covered Dish Meal will become a quarterly event after Sunday Church Service.

Special Dates:

Nov. 5 – All Saints Day.

Nov. 18 – Deliver Thanksgiving baskets.

Nov. 26 – Decorate the church after the service.

Dec. 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent – Caroling at area Nursing Homes.

Dec. 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – Movie Night for all ages at Bethel.

Dec. 16 – Coat Giveaway @ St. John's.

Dec. 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Christmas Joy with Cantata.

Dec. 23 – Poinsettia delivery and placement of flowers.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve, normal Sunday School and Church, 7 & 11 pm candlelight services.



Thanksgiving Sharing:

This year we will be collecting food for Thanksgiving meals while partnering with the Lions Club who will provide the turkeys. Recipients will be the families supported by Micah's backpack for 23 students, 16 families. Adopt a Box pages are in the entryway with instructions.

The Leadership Board:

VISION STATEMENT

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 Pavilion was dedicated on 10-22-23 along with all the other improvements at Bethel. The Hoovers and Smiths were recognized.

The Financial status was discussed as weekly offerings are not meeting the budgeted amounts. Your Leadership Team is keeping a close watch on this.

Security System is completed to ensure the well-being of our members and visitors, and we continue to monitor and adapt to changing circumstances. This is bringing more updated monitoring as well as provide improved security for building entrances. There will be doorbell access as well as key cards for frequent building visitors. The system is designed to improve everyone's safety.

A Hospitality Committee remains a much needed concern. Speak up if you can help. A leader or perhaps two to share.

Charge Conference for Bethel will be held on Wednesday Nov 15th at 7pm in the Parlor. All members are welcome to attend as a vote will take place regarding salary changes.

Harvest Home and Dedications

On Sunday October 22nd Pastor Jim led us in a wonderful service to pay tribute to the generosity of Bethel members. The congregation was brought up to date on what all improvements have taken place along with a walk to the Pavilion to recognize the Hoover and Smith families. The Chewsville Lions Club contributions were acknowledged and welcomed. The Altar Ladies created a beautiful Fall display on the altar. A delicious Pot Luck Lunch in the decorated Family Life Center followed this.



Bethel Tidings



Attendance – Oct. 2023

Date	In person Church	Special Events
Oct 1	54	10 @ WMC
Oct 8	46	
Oct 15	51	
Oct 22	62 + 47	Harvest Home Dedication Service Pot Luck Lunch
Oct 29		

Lay Readers – November 2023

Nov 5	Abby Snyder
Nov 12	Elaine Snyder
Nov 19	Karen Keefer
Nov 26	Deb Wagner

Call Elaine to sign up! 301-991-9759.



Nov. Anniversaries:

- 5 – Jeff & Linda Barnhart
- 10 – Dale & Julie Beard
- 15 – Mike & Sue McAllister
- 25 – Tom & Jane Edwards

Nov. Birthdays:

- 3 – Ally Boyer
- 6 – Becky Brown
- 6 – Betty Englehart
- 7 – Cary Smith
- 7 – Cole Shifflett
- 9 – Shirley Shanholtz
- 9 – Mike McAllister
- 12 - *Janet Deibert
- 14- Lacey Simmons
- 14 – Drew Ross
- 16 – Elaine Snyder
- 17 – John Langley
- 17 – Kim Rishell
- 18 – Ron Metzger
- 18 – Tim Rossiter
- 18 – Abigail Snyder
- 19 – Jeff Barnhart
- 20 – Jeremy Dunkin
- 23 – Ted Axline
- 24 - Lori Mertz
- 24 – Taylor Belella
- 27 – James Johnson



- * Homebound
- see caring connections for addresses
- *** none until November



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.

Bethel Tidings

Nov. 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 W@W/Parlor	2	3 6 pm Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2	4 11 am SYA Cheer/FLC
5 Daylight Saving Time Change All Saints Day Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	6	7 Election Day 6pm – Lions/FLC	8 10:00 W@W/Parlor	9	10	11 Veterans Day 8am- Wagner baby shower/FLC 9am Catalyst retreat / Fulton MD
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	13	14	15 11:00 W@W/lunch 7:00 Leadership Board/ Parlor	16 Pastor Off	17 6 pm Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2	18 7:30 am AA MD General Service/FLC 10am make & Deliver boxes to Micah's
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship Take baskets to homebound	20 Newsletter Deadline 6pm – Lions Club/FLC	21 6pm Catalyst Cohort/Office	22 10:00 W@W /Parlor	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 1pm – Alpha club Parlor
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:15 – Decorate Church	27	28	29 10am W@W/ Parlor 7pm Catalyst Cohort/ Office	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

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.

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner

Phone: 301-733-8387

Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

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
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301-733-8387

