

Message from Pastor Jim

Christmas is upon us.

"As we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that enables rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken." Desmond Tutu

This year our theme for the Christmas season is "Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 Years of Joy to the World."

The phrase from the Psalmist, "joy comes in the morning," could also be "joy comes in mourning." Joy is not about denying suffering, but rather it is the embracing of the depths of all of life's emotions that is the very thing that allows us to feel the heights as well. Joy is possible when we understand suffering. It is the school of compassion and love.

"Joy to the World," a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song" - and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion - all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

Blessings and Merry Christmas

Pastor Jim



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Missions and Outreach Ministries



Micah's Backpack ministry continues until the end of the school year. If you would like to make a monetary donation, just drop it in the collection plate with a note in the memo line for Micah's Backpack.

They are supporting 18 children at Old Forge School. As always, thank you for your kindness and generosity. It truly does make a difference in the lives of the children! ~ Kim Rishell



Missions:

Donations were collected for Promise Purses in November for the Reach program. December we will be collecting toys for homeless children...details will follow. For more info contact *Candice Castillo: 240.500.8085*

Caring Connection

This committee blesses our Homebound Souls with cards and visits. Many thanks for this new group and all they do. If you are aware of anyone needing to be added, please contact Pam Brubaker at 301-992-7831. The Sunshine Baskets were distributed in November. Many thanks for all the donations and those who helped deliver them. A new list of homebound will be distributed Dec 1st. Please take a moment to send some cards and add to your daily prayer lists. Homebound Birthday info is listed in the bulletins. January 12th is Mary Warrenfeltz.

Supporting our Homebound

Women at the Well

By: Beverly Miller

The Women at the Well Bible study, "Wonder Struck", continues on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Next is Dec 4 and 11. All are welcome!

Monthly brunch outings are held the 3rd Wednesday at 11 am in local restaurants. Next will be Dec 18th at 11:00 at the Fireside. Call Beverly Miller for more info: 301-739-6270.



A **hat, mitten tree** will be in the welcome center for infants to age 4 are needed for Head Start by Dec 15th. Other sizes are welcome up to Dec 22nd and be given to others in need.

Altar Flowers – December 2019

The 2019 sign-up sheet is posted outside the sanctuary. Please consider ordering flowers to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate an event. The cost is \$45 for both vases and they can be taken home with you following the worship service or can be given to one of our homebound members.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Dec 1	Open
Dec 8	Mike & Sue McAllister Ted & Marian Axline
Dec 15	Gretchen Buddenhagen
Dec 22	Phil Baker
Dec 29	Open

If you have a specific kind of flower or color you would like, please contact Sandy Hose (240-527-5167) or Melissa Metzger (410-251-8439). All orders are called in the Wednesday before the Sunday you've signed up.

Let Deb Wagner know the message you would like included in the bulletin by the Tuesday prior to the service. Thank you!

Lay Readers – December 2019



<u>Date</u>	<u>8:45 am/11:00 a.m.</u>
Dec 1	Elaine Snyder Joyce Belella
Dec 8	Christie Phillips Daniel Rishell
Dec 15	Liz Weaver Heather Updegraff
Dec 22	Martin Brubaker Brian Smith
Dec 29	Mary Gross Kim Rishell

Greeters – December 2019

Traditional Service

Alvey & Deanie Moser
Sylvia Rider and Velma Filsinger

Contemporary Service

The Updegraff Family

Stewardship Oct/Nov 2019

Date	8:45 am Worship	Sunday School	11:00 am Worship	Special Events
Oct 27	combined	none	127	Harvest home
Nov 3	98	51	65	
Nov 10	86	47	51	
Nov 17	90	59	57	
Nov 24	107	52	42	



The church Administrative council voted to remove the financial information from the monthly Newsletter as they did not feel this information should be placed on the internet. The weekly bulletin will continue to keep you informed of the weekly offerings. A Treasurer's Report is always available in the office. Just ask!

Online giving is available through our website: bethelumchurch.org

Nursery – December 2019

Contact Abbie Barnhart at 240-818-7543/ abbie.barnhart@yahoo.com
Volunteers are needed weekly for both services and Sunday School.

December Birthdays

2	Diane Stevens	Pamela Deal	23	Joe Purcell
	Randy Crist	13 Karen Keefer		Grayson Belella
3	Penny Sprecher	Becky Campbell		Jackson Belella
	Elizabeth Johnson	14 Deb Wagner	27	Sadie Leisinger
4	Devin Keefer	15 Erika Johnson		Michael Staley
5	Daniel Rishell	17 Jensen Bachtell	28	Tom Edwards
7	Paul Boyer	McKenna Luther		Conner Purcell
	Luke Leisinger	18 Dillon Smith	29	Roxanne Terry
8	Makiya Claiborne	19 Ronnie Harshman	30	Joyce Belella
10	Larry Lipsitz	20 Madison Bachtell	31	Ruth Clevenger
11	Glenn Springer	Olivia Keckler		

December Anniversaries:

- 4 – Mike & Justina Bennett
- 16 – Frank & Kathy Morrissey
- 23 – Rick & Debra Hose
- 30 – Barry & Penny Sprecher
- 31 – David & Pamela Newman



Make your ideas known:

If you have worship needs that are not being met or have ideas about a new program... let us know! The office is always open to exploring new ventures. Just call or stop by, do not worry that you will be asked to lead a new program and we will keep it confidential!

Sunday School is available for all @ 10:00 am

Happy
Holidays!

Nursery: Ages 0 – 3 years
(beside Family Life Center)
Age 4 – Grade 2 - Upstairs Room 2-03
Grades 3 – 5: Upstairs Room 2-04
Youth: Grade 6 – Grade 12: Downstairs

Adult Classes:
Bethel Believers – Parlor
Spiritual Fitness – Under the balcony
One Loaf – Upstairs behind balcony

Sharing Bethel News:

Children's Ministry:

Family Fun in November was an evening of BINGO.

December will combine with **Parents Night Out** on December 13th at 5:45 for a family pot-luck dinner and Christmas Caroling followed by hot chocolate and a holiday visitor. Let us know if you want to be part of the team. Call to register 301-733-8387.

Youth gathered with many volunteers from Bethel and those groups using the FLC to make nearly 700 subs. The profits will go to the Youth Missions Funds.



Harvest Home

Bethel celebrated the harvest on October 28th with more than 50 attending lunch and many donations were received to help fill the food pantry. Fresh vegetables were included as well.



Music is such a blessing here at Bethel! A beautiful combined service.
The Altar Committee outdid themselves this time!



Thanks to all!

Trunk or Treat

October 25th Bethel joined Smithsburg Valley Church, Ringgold Church and Trinity Lutheran Church to provide outreach to over 2,000 children and parents that participated. Along with candy, games, bounce houses and a fire pit area for the teens was accompanied by Christian music and individual contact as Pastor Jim and Larry greeted the children. Next year the town of Smithsburg will be joining as well.





ADVENT PLANS:

Sunday, December 1 – 12:30 pm: The Joy Begins

(After Contemporary Worship Service)
Address cards for Homebound
Wreath Making
Cookie baking
Children's Crafts
Pizza provided!

Sun. Dec 8th - 7:00pm -the Cantata "The Star Still Shines"

Fri. Dec 13th - 5:45 - 8:30 -Family Fun Pot Luck with Caroling



Sun. Dec 15th – 6:00 – Christmas Joy w/ Children's program

**Tue. Dec 24th – 4:00 Family Service
7:00 Traditional Service
11:00 Barn Service**

Bethel celebrates that pianist Pam Lego will continue with us until the end of the year. We are actively looking for a replacement as she would like to retire!

If you know anyone that would enjoy being a part of our music program...please contact Pastor Jim.



Bethel Tidings

December						
1 ADVENT BEGINS Communion 8:45 Traditional 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary 12:15 – The Joy Begins	2 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC 7:00 Child Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 Nominations Education/Office	4 10:00 W@W/Parlor 5:30 VB/FLC 7:30 AA/Upstairs 7:00 CSU/Parlor	5 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 Adult Choir w/ Child Choir	6 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC 6:00 Girl Scouts/Upstairs & Parlor	7 9:00 AA/Lower 9:30 CSU/Parlor 10:00 Child Choir Rehearsal
8 8:45 Traditional 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary 2:00 Potomac VB/FLC 7:00 Cantata	9 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC 7:00 Ad Council/Parlor	10 5:30 VB/FLC	11 10:00 W@W/Parlor 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 AA/Upstairs 7:00 CSU/Parlor	12 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 Adult Choir	13 5:45 Family Fun/FLC Caroling	14 9:00 AA/Lower 9:30 CSU/Upstairs 2:30 Potomac VB/FLC 6:00 Black Rock VB/FLC
15 8:45 Traditional 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary 6:00 Christmas Joy	16 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC	17 5:30 VB/FLC	18 11:00 Fellowship Brunch @ Fireside 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 AA/Upstairs 7:00 CSU/Parlor	19 5:30 VB/FLC 7:00 Adult Choir	20 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC 6:00 Girl Scouts/Upstairs & Parlor	21 9:00 AA/Lower 9:30 CSU/Parlor 2:30 Potomac VB/FLC 6:00 Black Rock VB/FLC
22 B/P screening 8:45 Traditional 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 family Service 7:00 Candlelight Service 11:00 Barn Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 5:30 VB/FLC	27	28 9:00 AA/Lower 9:30 CSU/Parlor
29 8:45 Traditional 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary	30 5:30 Potomac VB/FLC	31 New Year's Eve 5:30 VB/FLC				

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:

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301-733-8387

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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

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 Yahoo Group search for Bethel Connect





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



Sunday Worship

8:45am - Traditional Services

10:00am - Sunday School for all ages

11:00am - Contemporary Services