

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

Dec. 2025

Dear Beloved Bethel Family,
December has arrived, and with it comes that holy mixture of wonder, reflection, and anticipation that only the Christmas season can bring. The sanctuary feels a little warmer, the world seems a little softer, and our hearts bend more naturally toward hope. As we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—the Light who shines in the darkness and is never overcome—we also find ourselves at the close of another year of ministry together.

Over these past months, our sermon series has invited us to examine what faithful living looks like in a world often complicated, noisy, and unruly. From Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians, to the Gospel's reminders of perseverance, community, and the call to live purposefully, we have been learning together what it means to stand firm in Christ. We have explored themes of steadfastness, grace, responsibility, and spiritual vision. And like the early church, we've been reminded that faith is not idle—faith moves, serves, hopes, and reaches.

As we bring the year to a close, I am struck by how these themes flow naturally into the message of Christmas. The birth of Jesus is God's bold declaration that love is not passive. Love enters the world. Love puts on flesh. Love gets involved. The Incarnation is the ultimate example of God stepping into our story—into our work, our struggles, our fear, and our longing—with compassion and purpose. And it is this same spirit that calls us forward as a congregation.

Though we have faced challenges this year—financial ones, cultural ones, and the ongoing challenge of strengthening a community with many generations—we have also seen God at work in powerful ways. Our growing heart for outreach continues to shape our identity. Whether it's the ministries shared through our Family Life Center, our partnerships beyond our walls, our emerging small groups, or new gatherings forming around discipleship, we are continually being drawn back to the same truth: the church doesn't exist for itself. We are here to reflect Christ's love into the world.

I am especially grateful for the ways new ministries are taking root. One of those is "Momco", which continues to create connection and community for mothers seeking encouragement and support. This ministry embodies what we've been preaching—faith that moves, faith that lifts others, faith that makes room at the table. Their presence is a gift not only to those who attend but also to the life of Bethel as a whole.

As Christmas approaches, I invite us to carry forward the spirit of our recent sermon series into the coming year. Let's persist in doing good. Let's pursue Christ-centered community. Let's share our faith with courage and tenderness. Let's look for the places where God is already stirring hearts and join in. Let's be a church where strangers become family, where grace is practiced, and where the light of Jesus Christ burns bright in every season.

(con't.)

Bethel Tidings

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts this Advent. May the joy of His coming renew your strength. And may the hope of His presence guide us as we step boldly into a new year of ministry, mission, and love.

Merry Christmas, Bethel. Christ is born—hope has come. Pastor Jim

Continued Events:

Women at the Well

Women at the Well Bible Study (The Chosen) will continue on Wednesdays, at 10:00 am. In December we will meet on the 3rd and 10th, Brunch for December will be on December 17 at 11:00 am...destination to be announced. There will not be meetings on December 24th and 31st. See you next year!



Mitten Tree. A tree was placed in the area under the balcony for donations of mittens, gloves and hats for preschool age children infants through age 5. This year, in particular, the most in need are hats for boys and girls ages 4-5. This is a project we have participated in the past number of years with Head Start of Washington County. Items will be collected through December with a drop off on December 12th and another the end of December. A special thanks to Mickey Forrest who crochet/knitted multiple hats. Thank you!



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. Currently we could use boxes of individual oatmeal packets, short stacks of Ritz or Club crackers and individually wrapped cookies, chips. Etc. 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. A new 2026 calendar will be put up in the hall by the offering plate. Thank you.

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update:

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

This ministry continues to aide those in need.

Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.

Currently we are a bit low on cereals.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection Homebound birthdays...

Martha Lynch – Jan 11
1304 Pennsylvania Ave
Hagerstown, MD 2142

Mary Warrenfeltz – Jan 12
628 Butler Ave.
Winchester, VA 22601

Attendance

| Date | In person Church S.S./ Worship | Special Events |
|--------|---|----------------------|
| Oct 26 | 17/61 | |
| Nov 2 | 14/73/28 | Western MD Center |
| Nov 9 | 15/55 | Blanket Sunday |
| Nov 16 | 17/71 | |
| Nov 23 | 16/80-60 | Birthday Lunch |

2025

Coat Closet

Your help was such a blessing to those in our community who were in need of winter coats. First at our Halloween event. Then as the “word got out” we have had multiple calls and community members coming by.

Diane Stevens



Trunk or Treat 2025:

Hello Bethel Family,

I want to thank everyone who came out to our Trunk or Treat Friday, October 24th. It was a tremendous success again this year. We had over 250 children and with adults and volunteers we had over 300 people who attended this year. During the event we gave away free coats, children's books, Antietam Dairy ice cream, hot dogs from Dixie Diner, popcorn, cookies, chips and water and we had crafts for the children too. We had a costume contest for ages zero to adult with prizes and a car decorating contest too. We also had the Leitersburg Fire department attend with their fire truck again this year, the Washington County Sheriff had their police car and the Community Rescue Ambulance was decorated to the nines.

We had 11 sponsors this year that gave generously for the event. I want to thank everyone who volunteered at this year's event, who gave candy, coats, books and helped to make this a huge success. I also want to thank the Chewsville Lions Club and the New Beginnings Church for all their help in making this a wonderful night for the community too.

God Bless you all for your help.

Carol



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:

Nov 19th meeting:

Administrative tasks:

Trustee: The **air/heat system in the FLC** is operating now.

The new unit is outside on the kitchen side and the FLC is quieter now.

We will be looking at placing barriers around the unit.

The Nursery/bathroom/welcome area heat/air unit has failed. We will be getting an estimate to make this the next project.

The **Sanctuary Furnace** work has been completed.

Child/Youth plans- the next event will be Breakfast with Santa on Dec 6th 7-10am.

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 led us in making **Soups and Subs** this Fall/Winter. Proceeds have been going to the Furnace Fund. In Oct \$1,179.65 for subs and Nov \$1,170 for the soup.

The next **Sub Sale** will Thursday Dec 5.

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

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

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

Carpet: The hallway is starting to buckle so we are getting estimates to replace it.

Drinking Fountains in the FLC hall no longer work, We will look into prices for replacement.

AED unit has expired. Carol will look into a possible grant to replace it.

The next **Leadership meeting** will be on Wed Jan 21st at 7 pm in the Office...Join us!

Here is the new unit for the heat & air system for the Family Life Center. The new unit was placed outside which should make for a much quieter system inside and better acclimated for future service.



Bethel Tidings

MomCo- We are excited to introduce **Momco**, a new small group here at Bethel designed specifically for mothers of *all ages and stages*. Whether you're navigating the newborn season, adjusting to empty-nesting, or anywhere in between, you are welcome.

Momco is a place to **fellowship, connect, and grow alongside other mothers** who understand the joys and challenges of the journey. No matter where you find yourself in motherhood, there is a seat for you and a community ready to walk with you. We invite you to take a look at the poster included and consider joining us. Come as you are—there's a place for you here.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the office,

Kaelii Boyer or Pastor Jim: 301-733-8387 or 410-688-4089 to RSVP.

MOMS CONNECT GROUP

CALLING ALL MOMS!

JOIN US!

Next Meeting:
Wednesday,
December 10th!

6pm-7pm

Bethel United Methodist Church
21006 Twin Springs Drive
Smithsburg, MD 21783

Need community? Encouragement?
A little break?

Join us at MomCo—a space where every mom is welcomed, supported, and celebrated.

All mothers are welcome!
CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED IF NEEDED.

RSVP by filling out the QR code!
See you there!





Forever Givers:



There are so many who diligently serve the church.

Jay Black is always here for us. He voluntarily took over mowing, weeding and trimming the property. He is willing to plant and mulch, too!

As well, he has become a valuable builder (making a fence around the oil tank) and then stepping up with cooking and serving in the kitchen.



So glad you retired and chose to keep busy around here!
Thank you, Jay.

New News:

Fri Nov 21 - **Thanksgiving baskets** –a total of 12 families were blessed with the contributions from you, the Lions, and New Beginnings church.

Sun Nov 23 - Snyder **Birthday Lunch** for all in the FLC was actually a surprise birthday party for Pastor Jim as he turned 65 years young! Visitors from the Conference and Western MD center were here to join us. No one went away hungry and the lunch was quite a feast with approximately 60 in attendance.



Upcoming Events:

Thur Dec 4 – Sub Sale

Sat Dec 6 – Breakfast with Santa 7-10am. **A BAKE SALE** will be held during the Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6, from 7-10 a.m. If you would like to add to the table of goodies, we will be accepting items in the Family Life Center on Thursday, December 4, during the sub sale, 3-5 p.m., and Friday, December 5, from 4-6 p.m. Please call Heidi Black at 240-217-1200 if you have questions.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH | 7-10AM

PRICES:
\$10: ADULT - 13 yrs.
\$5: 12 yrs - 5 yrs.
FREE: 4 yrs and under
ALL YOU CAN EAT!

BREAKFAST INCLUDES:
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE,
BACON, COFFEE
HOT COCOA, JUICE

FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL FIRST RESPONDERS
21006 TWIN SPRING DR. | SMITHSBURG, MD

#WE SERVE



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS
BEAVER CREEK WARD
AND
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CHEWSVILLE

**COMBINED
CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
5:00PM-7:00PM**

POTLUCK DINNER
HOMELESS KIT ASSEMBLY
ACTIVITIES
LIVE NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

LOCATION:
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21006 TWIN SPRINGS DRIVE
SMITHSBURG, MD 21783

**DONATIONS FOR THE
HOMELESS KITS MAY BE
PURCHASED VIA THIS QR
CODE (PLEASE PURCHASE
NO LATER THAN NOV 30TH)**



Combined Pot Luck 5-7 pm with the Church of Latter Day Saints.

2nd Sun of Advent - Dec 7 - 2pm Carols 2pm-Western Maryland Worship, 2:45 Brookdale Assisted Living, 3:30 Hagerstown Healthcare. Sign up on the bulletin board.

3rd Sun of Advent - Dec 14 -11:30 am -Christmas Joy: Pot Luck/Ugly Sweater/Talent Impromptu event with shared meal and “talent as we go”.

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

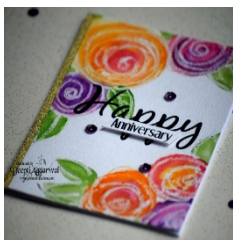
Wed Dec 24 – Christmas Eve, 7 pm traditional service, 11 pm candlelight service

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

Dec. Birthdays:



2 – Diane Stevens
3 – Penny Sprecher
3 – Elizabeth Johnson
4 – Devin Keefer
5 – Daniel Rishell
7 – Paul Boyer
7 – Luke Leisinger
10 – Cameron Oden
13 – Karen Hays Riley
14 – Deb Wagner
16 – Kaelii Boyer
27 – Sadie Leisinger
31 – Ruth Clevenger



Dec. Anniversaries

Dec 16 – Frank & Kathy Morrissey
Dec 30 – Barry & Penny Sprecher



Bethel Tidings

| Dec. 2025 | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | 6:30 Lions Club/FLC | 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 4:00 Sub prep | 4:00 sub Sale/FLC | 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band 4pm – set up for program Sat. | 7am – Brakfast w/ Santa & Bake Sale/FLC 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church – 12-4 FLC |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 2 nd Sunday of Advent 7 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 1:00 pm SYA Cheer Awards/FLC 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital | | | 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 6:00 MomCo/Parlor | 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC | 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band | 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 14 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship | | 11:00 W@W Lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7pm - leadership | 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC | 12:30-3:30 Band | 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 21 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2pm – Band concert & Pot Luck/FLC | Newsletter Deadline | 7pm – traditional Service 11pm – Candlelight service | Christmas Day Happy Birthday ! JESUS | 12:30-3:30 Band | 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | New Year's Eve 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band | | | | |

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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

Newsletter Editor:

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



Donate with Venmo.

