

“Come and See... and Return to the Lord”

February always feels like a season of holy turning.

We are still basking in the light of **Epiphany**, that season when God’s glory is revealed—not in fireworks or fanfare, but in quiet moments of recognition. A voice says, “Look.” A heart responds, “Come and see.” Throughout our Epiphany worship, we have been reminded that faith often begins not with having all the answers, but with the courage to notice where God is already at work and to take the next faithful step.

Epiphany teaches us that Christ is revealed in ordinary places: along the riverbank, in shared meals, in simple acts of compassion, and in the questions we dare to ask. The light of Christ shines not just for a moment, but to guide our daily lives—calling us to deeper trust, wider love, and faithful witness.

And then, almost quietly, **Lent** arrives.

This year, **Ash Wednesday falls on February 18**, marking the beginning of a season that invites us to slow down, reflect, and return. The ashes remind us of both our fragility and our hope: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” These words are not meant to shame us, but to free us—to tell the truth about who we are and whose we are.

There is a gentle connection between Epiphany and Lent. Epiphany asks us to see Jesus more clearly. Lent asks us to follow Him more honestly. One season reveals; the other refines.

Together, they shape us into people who live with humility, grace, and purpose.

As we move through February, I invite you to hold both seasons together:

- To keep your eyes open for signs of God’s light in unexpected places.
- To make space for prayer, repentance, and renewal.
- To let go of what distracts us from loving God and neighbor more fully.

No matter where you are on your faith journey—curious, confident, weary, or searching—this season is for you. God is still revealing Himself. God is still inviting us to return. And God is still doing something new among us.

Grace and peace to you in this season of light and reflection.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

Women at the Well Bible Study (The Chosen) will continue on Wednesdays, at 10:00 am. Lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

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. Cereal, Tomato & Chicken noodle soup, canned – Tuna, Chicken, Vienna Sausages, and canned peas are current needed items.

Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.

Expired food cannot be used if dry goods are outdated by 3 months or canned foods by 6 months.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection Homebound birthdays...

Walt Finnin – Feb 6

750 Dual Hwy. Room 107
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Healthcare Ministry

Tammy Smith is now certified in this venture and is beginning by offering confidential Blood Pressure Screenings in the office on the 2nd Sunday monthly. This will be before or after the 10am worship service. You can share with her if you have medical needs and she will help to find assistance.

MomCo- on the 1st Wednesday monthly 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 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.

Attendance

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events	2026
Jan 4	15/62/12	WMC	
Jan 11	19/70		
Jan 18	24/84	Baptisms & New Members	
Jan 25	0/0	Snow storm	

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:

There was no meeting in December.

Administrative tasks:

Capital Campaign Poster: This is now on the hallway bulletin board. You can see what has been done and what is on the list coming up.

Trustee:

We will be looking at placing barriers around the heating/air unit outside.

The **Nursery/bathroom/welcome area heat/air** unit has been replaced .

Child/Youth plans- the next event will be Breakfast For Valentine's Day on Feb 7th from 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 a **Sub Sale** on Thursday Jan 29.

Carol Ewan will lead us in the **Pancake Breakfast** and Heidi Black in the **Bake Sale** on Feb 7. All proceeds will be donated to the Capitol Campaign Fund

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 now have a plan for removing the full tank of fuel oil under the portico.

Carpet: The hallway and FLC Welcome Area carpet is to be replaced on Monday Feb 23rd.

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

AED unit has expired. Carol has applied for a grant to replace it.

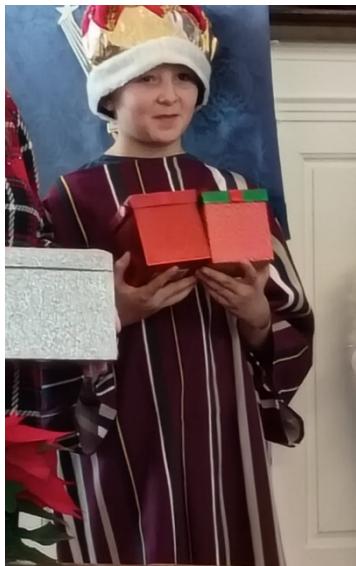
The next **Leadership meeting** will be on Wed. Feb. 18th at 7 pm in the Office or Parlor...Join us as all are welcome!



New News:

Children's Christmas Program

This year the program was “No Fuss, No Stress”. It was the traditional Nativity story told in a more relaxed way with the congregation adding to the program by singing hymns representing the angels, the birth, the animals, the wise men and of course; Mary, Joseph and Jesus. While the program was narrated, the children in costume entered and stood to worship the newborn King!



Christmas Eve



Upcoming Events:

Sat. Feb. 7 – Valentine's Breakfast

Fri. Feb. 27 – Reach Shelter

Sat. April 4 – Egg Hunt

New Members and Baptisms

On January 18, 2026 Bethel proudly accepted 6 new members and baptized 2 children.

Members:

Bernie & Elaine Semler

Meredith and Michael Coutts

Iris Kresge

Helen Stone

Baptized:

Luka Stone

Ryker Guzowski



Forever Givers:



Linda Barnhart

Did you know:

- Linda is a retired teacher.
- She is part of the Bethel Music Team.
- She works every week to supply children at Old Forge School with meals from Micah's backpack.
- Her church service is to record all offerings and supply reports at the end of the year.
- To choose and order the offering envelopes.
- To distribute the envelopes.
- She works with children individually who wish to play music or sing for the church.
- She has led the music portion of VBS for years.
- She is an avid skier.

Quiet and humble describes her (most of the time!) in so many things she volunteers to do. Thank you dear lady!

Feb. Birthdays:

4 – Susan Brandenburg
4 – Allyson Palmer
6 - * Walter Finnin
7 – Heather Ross
8 - J R Dunkin
9 – Judy Anders
10 – Roni McNairn
13 – Ed Hose
14 – Tammy Gantz
15 – Nancy Shank
17 – Natalie Phillips
24 – Derek Ritter
25 – John Shank
28 – Denny Kaufmann



Feb. Anniversaries



Feb 1 – JR & Devena Dunkin

Feb 9 – Ed & Sandy Hose

Feb 10 – Robert & Cathy Grantham

Bethel Tidings

Feb. 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	2 6:00 Broadfording VB/FLC	3 6:30 Lions Club/FLC	4 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 6:00 MomCo/Parlor	5 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/office	6 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	7 Deb starts Vaca 7-10 Valentine's Breakfast/FLC 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church /FLC
8 B/P Screening 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	9 6:00 Black Rock VB/FLC	10	11 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC	12 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/ office	13 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	14 Valentine's Day 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 12pm Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby/FLC	16 President's Day Newsletter Deadline	17 6:30 Lions Club/FLC	18 Deb returns 11:00 W@W Lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7pm – leadership	15 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/ Office	20 12:30-3:30 Band	21 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship (Cub Scout Rain Date)	23 6:00 pm Black Rock VB/FLC	24	25 11:00 W@W Lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC	26 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/Office	27 12:30-3:30 Band 5:00 pm Reach Shelter	28 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church



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

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner

Phone: 301-733-8387

Email: secretary@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

Bethel Connect:

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





Pastor Jim Johnson

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



Donate with Venmo.

