

# Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

## Bethel Tidings

### March 2025

#### **“Expanding the Kingdom, Overcoming the World”**

*“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” Luke 14:11*

As we step into the month of March, we find ourselves in a season of transition. Winter’s grip begins to loosen, and signs of new life emerge. This is the time when we reflect on the hardships we’ve endured, the challenges still ahead, and the way Christ calls us to respond—not by retreating in self-preservation, but by stepping forward in faith, humility, and love.

The Gospel of Luke is rich with stories of Jesus overcoming adversity, not by wielding power as the world does, but by leaning into His divine purpose. In Luke 4, Jesus begins His ministry after overcoming temptation in the wilderness. In Luke 22, He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, facing the weight of the cross but choosing God’s will over His own comfort. Adversity is part of our journey, but Christ shows us that our response should not be fear or withdrawal—it should be faith and movement.

Many of us face struggles: economic hardships, illness, discouragement in ministry, and even personal doubts. Yet, as a church, we are not called to stand still. We are called to grow, to expand our vision, and to trust that God is leading us into new opportunities for discipleship and service.

Luke 18:9-14 tells the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector—one full of pride, the other humble before God. This passage challenges us to recognize the dangers of self-centeredness, whether in leadership, relationships, or our spiritual lives. The world tells us to build ourselves up, to seek influence, and to ensure our own comfort before all else. But Jesus calls us to something greater: self-denial, servant leadership, and a heart oriented toward others. Narcissism is not just a personal issue—it is a cultural and spiritual one. When churches become focused on their own survival rather than their mission, when leaders prioritize status over service, and when individuals pursue personal gain at the expense of community, the church loses sight of its purpose. Jesus reminds us that true greatness comes in laying ourselves down for others.

Luke 16:19-31 recounts the story of the rich man and Lazarus—a powerful reminder that ignoring the needs of others has eternal consequences. Jesus speaks again and again about the necessity of caring for the least among us. Whether it is through direct service, advocating for justice, or simply refusing to turn a blind eye, the church must be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that too often looks away. As we look around our own community, who are the Lazaruses at our doorstep? Are we willing to see them, to serve them, to love them as Christ does? At Bethel UMC, we continue our outreach efforts, but we must always ask ourselves: What more can we do?

Expansion is not just about numbers—it is about impact. In Luke 5, Jesus calls His disciples to cast their nets into deeper waters. Their obedience leads to an overwhelming catch. What would happen if we stepped out in faith, believing that God is calling us into something bigger than what we can currently see?

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At Bethel UMC, we are not content to simply maintain. We are called to grow in discipleship, in outreach, in generosity, and in boldness. This month, let's ask ourselves:

- Where is God calling us to expand?
- How can we reach more people with the message of Christ?
- What steps can we take to move forward, even in the face of difficulty?

As we journey through Lent and approach Easter, may we remember that the story of resurrection is one of victory over all obstacles. Christ's kingdom is expanding, and He invites us to be part of it. Let's not stand still—let's move forward together.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Jim Johnson  
Bethel United Methodist Church

## Recent Activities:

### Spuds Lunch

On Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> we had a lovely time of fellowship in the Family Life Center. Approximately 36 souls gathered to share a lunch of baked potatoes with all the toppings, salad and desserts. A short movie was also shown on the large screen. This raised \$535.00 that was placed in the Furnace Funds.



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## Sub Sale

Miss Teresa led us once more in the sub-making event. About 383 were made with help from the Lions, Volleyball, NBCF and the band.



## Reach Shelter

The clipboard was passed asking for volunteers for the evening. An amazing 13 individuals signed up to help on Friday Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Many others were involved by contributing food and also making subs that were part of the menu along with home-made soups and desserts. Thanks to the Lions and NBCF who also donated food.

## Continued Events:

### Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will continue "The Chosen" on Wednesdays at 10:00 on March 5, 12, and 26. Brunch is Wednesday March 19, 11:00 at Bob Evans on the Dual Hgwy. All are welcome to join us.



This study is open to all (men and women). Please contact Beverly Miller ([shanda@myactv.net](mailto:shanda@myactv.net)) or Valerie Kaufmann ([kaufmval@gmail.com](mailto:kaufmval@gmail.com)) if you are interested in joining us.

### Altar flowers:

Bethel continues to be blessed by the talents of the Altar Committee. Currently there are multiple dates open throughout the Winter. Please consider signing up. 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!

### Confirmation Classes

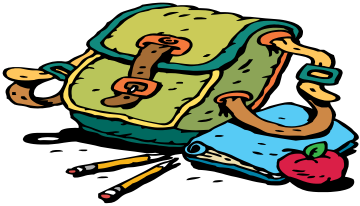
Pastor will be preparing 4 youth to join the church on Palm Sunday. Please be in prayer for Abby & Madison Snyder, Bella Wagner and Hannah Smith. Classes will be during the Sunday School hour beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### We are growing!

There have been approximately 7 new faces that have been joining us the past few months! Welcome Heidi Black, Bernie & Elaine Semler, Kelli & Jay Black, and Kelli & John Souders and Denese Fisher. Reach out and make them feel welcome.

## Micah's Backpack

### Healthy Meals for Healthy Families



We began again in Sept. If you see canned pasta, soups, tuna, etc. on sale, we are packing for 24 students . Full lists of acceptable donations is in the file holder next to the bulletins. Money is also welcomed. Just write "Micah's" on the memo line. Thanks for your continued support to this program! Linda Barnhart

### Readers:

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



### Supporting our Homebound Bethel Caring Connection

This group is looking for a new leader, as Pam is ready to pass the torch. Please contact the office if you could help with this.

### Homebound birthdays...

March 14 – Elizabeth Weaver  
11951 Comanche Dr.  
Smithsburg, MD 21783

April 8 – Jacquie Starleper  
18900 Artillery Dr.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

### 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. If you have any questions please contact me 301-991-9759. Your sister in Christ, Elaine Snyder



## Attendance Feb 2025

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
Feb 2	17/60	WMC - 14
Feb 9	22/65	Spuds Lunch - 36
Feb 16	10/51	
Feb 23		

### Winter Poem:

Let us think back just weeks ago to the glow from Christmas while you read this.

The poet has written:

When the song of the angels has stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princesses are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

- To find the lost,
- To heal the broken,
- To feed the hungry,
- To release the prisoner,
- To bring peace among the brothers,
- To make music in the heart.

With all the need, let's keep Christmas. But how do we do that?

The poem summarizes the meaning of Christmas, or a song says, "The real meaning of Christmas is to give love every day."

## 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:

**Fundraising** is necessary as the budget continues to fall short.

- Feb 27 - Sub sale – proceeds to benefit the General Fund.
- March 9 – A Melon Party.



**Greeters-** The Board members will be taking turns monthly to be the greeters on Sunday mornings.

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**Spiritual Formation-** The use of the building on Saturdays by the Haitian Seventh Day Adventist group is going well.

The Homeschool group that would like to be here 1 day a week is still working to become chartered and then obtain insurance before this can happen.

A Bible/Book study for the parents of Volley ball players is being considered.

**Spring plans-** The office is looking for volunteers who would like to be a part of the Egg Hunt and VBS this year. Make yourself known!

The **next meeting** will be on Wed. March 19th, at 7pm in the Parlor...Join us!

## Upcoming Events:

### Melon Party...Winter Picnic

On Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> we will be having fun with picnic foods and games with dessert being melons and fruits! T.J. Lange came up with this idea and is sponsoring the event. Can't wait to see those seeds.

### Lent

Ash Wed is Wed March 5<sup>th</sup> with a 7pm service.

March 9<sup>th</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. Followed by March 16, 23, 30 and April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday is April 13<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday is the 17<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday is the 18<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Riley's Recital

Wed April 16<sup>th</sup>

His senior recital.

### Egg Hunt

Sat April 19th

This will be the next large children/family event to be planned. We are already in touch with our co-sponsors from last year, Carol Ewan will be the leader. Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Call Deb in the office if you can help.



### VBS

We often hold this in mid to late June or early July. Currently (weather depending) the last day of school will be June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## March Birthdays:

- 1 – Joe Leisinger
- 2 - Mary Lidie
- 3 – Aubrianna Guzowski
- 4 – McKenzie Wagner
- 5 – Andrew McCartney
- 9 – Zakarri Wagner
- 10 – Cokey Robertson
- 10 – Tammy Smith
- 12 – Kayla Wagner
- 13 – Tim Smith
- 14 - \* Elizabeth Weaver
- 14 – Iris Kresge
- 22 – Michael Rishell
- 23 – Caroline Boyer
- 25 – Cory Brandt
- 27 – Charlene Robertson
- 27 – Blair Rishell
- 29 – Aldine Moser, Jr.
- 30 – Carter Bhowmik
- 31 – Whitfield Gildersleeve



## March Anniversaries:



March 2 – Tim & Tammy Smith

March 8 – Fred & Peggy Baker

Bethel Tidings

<b>March 2025</b> Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1
<b>2 Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	3	4 6:00 pm Lions/FLC	<b>5 ASH WED 7pm</b> 10:00 W@W / 1 <sup>st</sup> floor class 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6:00 pm Girls Scouts/ Parlor & Upstairs	6 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6:00 pm New Be Bible/Parlor	7 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	8 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
<b>9 1<sup>st</sup> Sun in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:15 Melon Party	10 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC	11	12 11:00 W@W lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC	13 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	14 12:30-3:30 Band	15 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
<b>16 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 1:00 Jenkins B D /FLC	17 St. Patrick's Day Newsletter Deadline	18 6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC	19 10am W@W/ 1 <sup>st</sup> floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB 6:00 GS/Parlor & Upstairs 7pm Leadership/Office	20 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	21 12:30-3:30 Band	22 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
<b>23 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service	24 Deb starts Vaca 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC	25	26 10am W@W/ 1 <sup>st</sup> floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB	27 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	28 12:30-3:00 Band	29 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
<b>30 4<sup>th</sup> Sun in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service	31					



## 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](mailto:secretary@bethelumchurch.org)

Pastor: Jim Johnson

Email: [pastor@bethelumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethelumchurch.org)

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### Newsletter Editor:

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### 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](http://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](mailto:shanda@myactv.net)



Bethel Tidings



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