

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings



May 2024

Cultivating Community:

The Power of Small Groups in Light of Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear Friends,

In a world where connections seem fleeting and genuine relationships are increasingly rare, the call to community is more vital than ever. As believers, we are not meant to journey alone but to walk alongside one another, encouraging and uplifting each other in our faith. One powerful way to foster this sense of community is through small groups.

Small groups provide a unique opportunity for deeper fellowship, spiritual growth, and accountability. They create a space where we can share our joys and struggles, pray for one another, and study God's Word together. But beyond these practical benefits, small groups embody the very essence of what it means to be the body of Christ.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, we find a compelling exhortation: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

This passage encapsulates the essence of small group dynamics. It highlights the importance of intentional fellowship, mutual encouragement, and collective edification. Let's delve into the key principles outlined in these verses and explore how they relate to our experience within small groups.

Stirring Up Love and Good Works: Small groups provide a platform for us to inspire and motivate one another to love and serve both within the church and in the wider community. Through sharing testimonies, discussing scripture, and engaging in acts of service together, we spur each other on to live out our faith in tangible ways.

Not Neglecting to Meet Together: In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to prioritize individual pursuits over corporate worship and fellowship. Yet, Hebrews reminds us of the importance of regular gathering. Small groups offer a consistent opportunity to come together, share life, and grow in unity as we pursue Christ together.

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Encouraging One Another: Life can be challenging, and we all face moments of doubt, fear, and uncertainty. Small groups serve as a support network where we can bear one another's burdens, offer words of encouragement, and provide comfort in times of need. Through genuine relationships built within these groups, we experience the love of Christ in tangible ways.

As we reflect on the timeless wisdom of Hebrews 10:24-25, let us recommit ourselves to the practice of small group fellowship. Let us be intentional in nurturing relationships, spurring one another on in love and good works, and faithfully gathering together to encourage and uplift one another in our walk with Christ.

In the weeks to come, we will be launching new small groups within our church community. I encourage you to prayerfully consider joining one and experiencing the transformative power of authentic Christian fellowship. Together, let's journey deeper in our faith as we heed the call to community.

Blessings, Pastor Jim

Recent Activities:

F.R.O.G.

On 4-14-23 this class hosted a Pizza and Family Fun games in the FLC. This was a fun relaxed time and we had 3 families along with Pastor Jim and Ruth Clevenger. The board games were a big hit for many of the older children. Volleyball using a beach ball was enjoyed by various 2x2 competitors. Time was also enjoyed on the playground. Pizza was shared and again things were made simple with the children sitting on the floor and being our little goblins!

We sure hope that more will consider staying for the next one. There were various games...chess to domino's and Connect 4. Really, choices for all ages and the little ones loved when an adult took time to sit and play with them.

Sub Sale Thursday April 18th

The sub-sale resulted in making 324 subs. This resulted in \$1,197.97 that will be placed in the church General Funds. Thanks to Volleyball, Girl Scouts and Bethel family and friends for the orders. Also to Celia Ausherman and Teresa Rossiter for leading this venture and all who helped.

Pot Luck Lunch Sunday April 28

Watch for more info on this in the next Newsletter.

Ongoing Programs:

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 for bible study, "Receiving God's Love", on May 1, 8, 22, 29. This will end our bible study for the summer and resume with a new study in September. Brunch will be at BJ's, Valley Mall, on Wednesday, May 15th at 11:00. And during the summer months, brunch will be held the 3rd Wednesdays of June, July, August & September. We do hope you will join us.



Bethel Coat Closet

The closet is now empty. Therefore we will throughout 2024. If you have any questions



again collect coats of any type anytime please contact Diane Stevens. Thank you.



Supporting our Homebound Bethel Caring Connection

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:34

Bethel Caring Connection is a ministry of Bethel Church that serves home and nursing home shut-in members, as well as members and those in the community suffering from cancer. We will sit with folks, take them to appointments, and provide food when needed. Some of our Caring Connection members are now shut-ins or are caring for family members which has reduced our number. If you can help us with this ministry of love or have a need, please call me at 301-992-7831 or the church office at 301-733-8387.

Thanks to all who so faithfully send cards to our homebound. Just this week I witnessed a member open cards from church members with a big smile of appreciation!!!

Blessings,
Pam Brubaker

Homebound birthdays...

May 4 - David Starleper
18900 Artillery Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740

May 19 - Millie Miller
124 Artizan St, Rm. 226
Williamsport, MD 21795

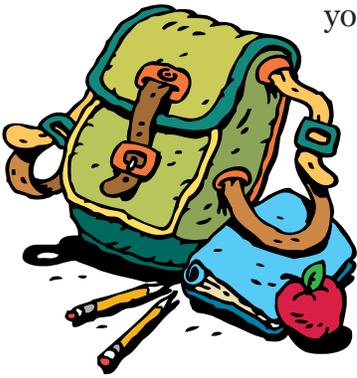
Sunday School updates

The **Pre-teens - F.R.O.G.** (fully rely on God).
Roller Skating in June, and Camp Manidokan - July 14-19.

Micah's Backpack

Healthy Meals for Healthy Families

A friend of mine was teaching Kindergarten and had a student with behavior challenges. She started to notice that Monday's were a struggle for him. One Monday he came in and ate 12 pancakes. If you've ever tried school pancakes, you know he had to be hungry. She realized he was coming in hungry and once she got him Micah bags, she saw much improvement in his overall behavior especially on Mondays.



That said, we have 7-8 more weeks to pack. If you see canned pasta, soups, tuna, etc. on sale, we are packing for 21 students. Money is also welcomed and we can do the shopping.

Thanks for your continued support to this program!

Linda Barnhart

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. Melissa Metzger is now shopping for additional items when needed and Nancy Shank has agreed to fill the box on Fridays. 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



Bethel Marquee



Did you notice? This marquee has been changing. Not only are there flowers blooming around it but a volunteer, Kellar Smith, has taken over the task of finding new statements and updating them.

Did you know that we have other "behind the scenes" volunteers that are dedicated to keeping things flowing here at Bethel but are not always present on Sundays?

Makes us think...Church is not just on Sundays!

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:



A New Band

The New Horizons Band of Hagerstown will be joining us for their practices on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 3:30. This is a group of older folks that still have a love of music and playing their instruments. They give concerts at Homewood Nursing Home and the Washington County Senior Center. We will be inviting them to join us in our activities.

The Financial status was discussed as weekly offerings are not meeting the budgeted amounts. Your Leadership Team is keeping a close watch on this as well as planning fundraisers and the possible need for a special campaign for the new boiler.

Washington County School Summer Lunch site. We have been asked to allow the group to use our parking lot 1 day a week during the summer to distribute lunches to those children in need. The final School Board approval is in process.

The Catalyst Team is focusing on helping isolated or homebound as their outreach. They have their last meeting on May 11th. This includes a presentation from the Bethel team.

Trustees are focused on getting estimates for repairing or replacing the boiler. They have had three that are near \$50,000.

Other projects needed are outdoor painting, possible removal of the cemetery fence, replace fiberglass areas, and removal of dead trees and brush. A Prayer Garden is in the design stage.

Outreach to Small Groups and Young Adults

A group from the Board gathered and met. They spoke with the younger adults in the area to gather thoughts. Overall people want to feel welcomed and that they are attending a joyous worship. Would a Worship Leader to help with songs and inspiring the crowd help? Do we need more hospitality and refreshments before or after the service? Should sermons be designed to relate the Bible to present everyday struggles in life? Do we need to change the time of the services.

All things to consider and pray for guidance about. You may see some temporary changes as we “try out” some of the ideas and would appreciate your feedback to any of the Board Members.

Readers:

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

Attendance – March 2024

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
April 7	24/53	No heat.
April 14	25/69 18	No heat. F.R.O.G. Fun
April 21	20/57	No Heat
April 28		No Heat

Upcoming Events:

Vidalia Onion Delivery

The Lions will deliver the pre-ordered onions on **Thursday May 9 and Friday May 10 from 3-6 pm.** Contact Sharon at 301-667-7549

All Women Together Tea on Sat May 11th

We hope you will join us for the Ladies Spring Tea Party from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Saturday, May 11th in the Family Life Center. A sign-up sheet will be circulated each Sunday until May 5th. We invite all ladies (and girls) of your family, and friends and their friends to enjoy a special time with us. This special occasion allows for dressing in your spring finest including hats and white gloves if you like! (Hats and white gloves optional).

CH Youth

This will be the **1st Wednesday of June, July and August** at alternating churches. Our turn will be August 7 at 6pm. We will need to provide a pot-luck meal and create games. Last year we had approximately 40 youth and adults. It is open to the community...pass the word!

Breakfast for the Men

For Father's Day **on Sunday June 16 at 8am** we would like honor the Men of Bethel by providing them with a hearty breakfast in the FLC or Pavilion (weather permitting). Look for a sign-up sheet for hosting, cooking and providing food at the entryway soon.

May Birthdays:

- 4 - *David Starleper
- 7 - Tyler Barnhart
- 8 - Barry Sprecher
- 9 - Sue McAllister
- 11 - Frank Morrisey
- 11 - Jaime Anderson
- 11 - Anna Johnson-McClure
- 15 - Lauren Williams-Rowe
- 17 - Mary Gross
- 19 - Alexis Jenkins
- 20 - David Wagner
- 20 - Jordyn Phillips
- 24 - Jeanne Dinterman
- 27 - Cathy Boyer
- 31 - *Millie Miller



May Anniversaries:



- 8 - Bill & Phyllis Harbaugh
- 13 - Jason & Christie Phillips
- 17 - Mr. & Mrs. Jaime Anderson

Bethel Tidings

May 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday			1 10:00 W@W/Parlor 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30- VB/FLC	2	3 12:30-3:30 Band 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2	4 Deb on vaca 1:30 Youth kickoff @ Grace
5 Communion Cinco de Mayo Deb on vaca 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	6 Deb on vaca	7 Deb on vaca 6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC	8 Deb on vaca 10:00 W@W/Parlor 6:30- G.S. Leaders/upstairs	9 Deb on vaca 4:00 Lions Onions/Portico	10 Deb on vaca Lions/Onions /Portico 12:30-3:30 Band	11 Deb on vaca 1:00 All Women Together/FLC
12 Mother's Day Deb on vaca 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	13 Deb returns from vaca Election prep/FLC CLOSED	14 Elections FLC CLOSED	15 Pastor away 11:00 W@W/lunch @ 12:30-3:30 Band 7:00 Leadership Council/Parlor	16 Pastor away	17 Pastor away 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2	18 Pastor returns
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 1:30 Piano Recital Sanctuary/Parlor	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC	22 10:00 W@W /Parlor 12:30-3:30 Band 6:00 Youth @ Rehoboth-Campfire Night	23	24 12:30-3:30 Band	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	28 Pastor at Church Conference	29 Pastor at Church Conference 12:30-3:30 Band 5:00 Girl Scouts/Pavilion or FLC	30 Pastor at Church Conference	31 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
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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
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