

# Bethel Tidings

## Message from Pastor Jim

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Jesus then went to Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus (to His disciples):

Who do people say the Son of Man is?

Disciples:

Some say, John, who ritually cleanses people. And some say, Elijah. And some say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

Jesus:

And you? Who do you say that I am?

Simon Peter:

You are Christ, the liberating King. You are the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:13-16) The "Christ" title is not Jesus' last name. It is a declaration that He is the King, a king who came to free us and to liberate us from the bondage of sin and death. In doing so, He is making all things right in this world, restoring the Garden He created.

Jesus:

"Simon, Son of Jonah, your knowledge is a mark of blessing, for you didn't learn this truth from your friends or from teachers or from sages you've met on the way. You learned it from my Father in heaven. This is why I have called you Peter (Rock): for on this Rock I will build my church."

I have been fascinated with how many "Peter's" I have met. I have met several people whose actual name is Peter. I am not referring to these people, but rather to people who have been a solid rock where God's Kingdom is built. I am referring to the influential people in our lives who have demonstrated what it means to be a disciple and share God's love with the world. I'm sure as you are reading this, some people are popping into your thoughts. Have they shaped you so that you are a role model for someone else?

I am sharing these thoughts with you because we are celebrating the Sundays of Easter; until May 23, the day of Pentecost. We have spent all of Lent preparing, cleansing, and repenting so that we can be pure at the time of the Resurrection of Jesus. Now in the Easter season, we are blessed with the opportunity to proclaim Jesus the Son of the Living, Risen God. The living God, who offers salvation to all the world without cost. It is our job, just as it was Peter's, to make Jesus known. It is not through the prophecy that it is warning us what is to come. It is not John who goes through the visual motion of purification. Unless you change your heart, your inner being, no amount of water will wash away your sins.

Can you fathom the idea that Jesus died for your sins, specifically yours! We don't just turn on the television or

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the radio and become saved. It is through hard work. The yoke(work) is light when we partner with Jesus. Don't be cast aside. Proclaim the good news:

Christ has risen; Christ is risen indeed. As you continue through this Easter season, I pray you pause, hear the words of Jesus, and follow His way. If you aren't already, become the Rock. Be a Peter to those whom you meet on your journey of discipleship.

Pastor Jim



## What is Happening:

### Maundy Thursday

April 1<sup>st</sup> Bethel celebrated Maundy Thursday. Traditionally it would have been an evening of sharing a

private communion with a group of 12 in the Parlor. This year the event changed due to protective guidelines. Instead the Altar Committee created the "Garden of Gethsemane" in the Main Sanctuary Entrance.



### Good Friday

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Friday before [Easter](#), the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the [Crucifixion](#) of [Jesus Christ](#). From the early days of [Christianity](#), Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting. Pastor Jim led us in a noon-time service honoring Christ.

### Easter Service:

Easter Sunday was a beautiful celebration of The Risen Lord. The Sanctuary was dressed in beautiful white drapes and colorful flowers. The windows had white lilies, The communion table displayed the headpiece of Christ, the container of burial oils and the butterfly representing rebirth along with the cross.



**Egg Hunt:** This took place at 11:30 with hidden eggs, games and goodie bags, and a lite lunch. Eggs adorned the front yard along with little children. All activities were outside and were leisurely enjoyed.



Kim Rishell told the children the Easter Story using the Resurrection Eggs followed by Pastor Jim leading the march to the front lawn (prepared by Erica Rishell and family). Afterward Denise Gelsinger prepared and served a lite lunch. Dave Wagner set up the games and the parents and children played together. Thanks to all!



## Easter Baskets

The Bethel Food Pantry & the Caring Connections Committees would like to thank you for your generous donations for our Easter baskets. We provided 10 blessing baskets to families in need this Easter (containing Easter meal preparations) and 14 treat baskets for the homebound members.



## Women at the Well

The Women at the Well weekly meetings are normally at 11:00 a.m. in the church Parlor. Meetings will remain suspended. They are hoping to restart in June. Normally, monthly brunch outings are held on the third Wednesday at 11 am in local restaurants, this is also suspended. All are welcome when we return.

Call Beverly Miller for more info: 301-739-6270.



## Caring Connections Supporting our Homebound

Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Please pray for our homebound as well as our other members who have concerns and conditions that do not allow them to be out and about due to COVID19. The next birthdays are listed below with addresses. Cards and phone calls are always welcome. Call Pam Brubaker or the church office for addresses and phone numbers.

### Homebound Birthdays:

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

May 31 – Millie Miller  
Williamsport Retirement Village  
154 Artizan St.  
Williamsport, MD 21795



Now that students are in school, we are supporting Old Forge elementary with Micah's backpacks. The MD Food Bank has provided food for the project, but we can still use canned veggies and snacks for packing. Thanks for your continued support with this mission!

Linda Barnhart

# FILL THE TRAILER!



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all who donated items, money or helped with our “**Fill the Trailer**” weekend held on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The response we received from our church family, friends and neighbors was overwhelming and we were able to completely fill the trailer! When we planned the food drive, I never anticipated the response that we received. We had a constant flow of church members visit the trailer on both Saturday and Sunday. It was nice to see each and every one of you. You were a blessing to our event.

We also had a local business (“My Favorite Place Daycare Center” in Smithsburg), organizations (the volleyball teams that use our FLC), and another local church (St. Andrews) collect items for us and deliver

them to our trailer. We had an unexpected visit from the organizer of “Blessing Box Missions” which is part on the BWC of the Methodist Church based in Martinsburg, WV. They also donated items to the trailer. This organization learned about our Blessing Box through Pastor Jim’s posting of our event on the BWC site.

We are hopeful that the connections we made and the lessons we learned during this event such as how to advertise on WJEJ, Antietam Cable Channel 6, social media and post card mailings will serve us well for future endeavors. We also hope the event will not only help us serve our community but will help us will grow our Bethel family.

I would like to thank Pastor Jim for his support and dedication to this project as well as Elaine Snyder, Pam Brubaker and Randy Stevens for their hard work during the event. I would also like to thank Deb Wagner for her pre-event help with promotion and Kellar Smith for his post-event help in storing the items and Jordyn Phillips for making the banner for the trailer.

The items received will hopefully supply our Blessing Box and Food Pantry for many weeks to come and we will be able to continue to serve those families in need in our local community and surrounding areas.

Thank you again and Blessings to you,  
Diane Stevens



## Lay Readers – May 2021



<b>May 2</b>	Jeff Harbaugh
<b>May 9</b>	Duane McNairn
<b>May 16</b>	Val Kaufmann
<b>May 23</b>	Sue McAllister
<b>May 30</b>	Elaine Snyder

**Call Elaine to sign up! 301-991-9759.**

## May Anniversaries:



- 4 – James and Rachel Matlock
- 8 – Bill & Phyllis Harbaugh
- 13 – Jason & Christie Phillips
- 21 – Steve & Nancy Smith
- 22 – Jon & Kayla Staley
- 28 – Glenn & Maureen Springer
- 31 – Steven & Hannah Kimball

## Virus Task Force:



Please pray that we make decisions that protect everyone. The group meets as needed. Every Monday the Washington County statistics are reviewed.

### **In the building:**

Socially distancing, using hand sanitizer and wearing masks the entire time inside the building will continue.

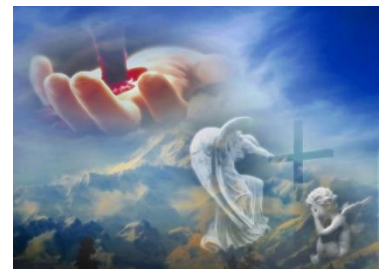
- Girl Scouts and Volleyball practices have restarted. Each group has provided COVID protocol for their distancing, masking and cleaning.

## The Communion Table ...

This table is now being used every Sunday. Of course for communion once a month, and now for visual displays that relate to the Sunday Sermons. The Sunday Bulletin will be including a brief note about the relationship.



## Stewardship February 2020



<b>Date</b>	<b>9:00 am Worship Total</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>In person S.S./Church</b>	<b>Special Events</b>
April 4	477	892	81	Easter
April 11	333	286	47	
April 18	306	250	56	
April 25	257	200	57	Fill the Trailer

## **Children's Sunday School:**

Currently Children's Sunday School for children grades K-5 restarted on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. The time has now **changed to 9:00 a.m.**



The COVID restrictions are being followed.  
We want to keep our little ones safe.

You can call the office 301-733-8387 to ask for a monthly lesson packet,  
Or  
You can see the online info @<https://tinyurl.com/y7g752ut>

## **Adult Sunday School:**

A combined adult class led by Pastor Jim is being held at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

## **The Nursery is open:**

Abbie is back with her helpers to tend to babies thru pre-k during Sunday School and during the church service.



## **Blood Drive**

The Blood drive at Bethel will be Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Reserve at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood>.

Thanks to all who continue to donate their gift of blood and to those who help by volunteering their time to serve in this mission.

## **Altar Flowers:**

### **Sign up!**

As we are coming back to the building...flowers can be ordered for use in the weekly service. Just call the office by the Monday prior to arrange. And let the office know by the Wed prior what you would like in the bulletin.



## May Birthdays:

2 Patrick Springer  
4 \*David Starleper  
Amber Forrest  
7 Tyler Barnhart  
8 Barry Sprecher  
Claire Kimball  
9 Sue McAllister  
10 Teresa Shafer  
Kaitlyn Beard  
11 Frank Morrisey  
JoAnn Bolton  
Paul Belella  
Kyle Akin  
14 Kathy Francis  
William Kershner  
Kelsie Linden

15 Lauren Rowe  
16 Tim West  
17 Leah Morrow  
Mary Gross  
Debra Hose  
18 Aaron Dinterrman  
P.J. Brashear  
19 Charles Mowen  
Kyle Dinterrman  
Alexis Jenkin  
20 David Wagner  
Jordan Phillips  
22 Becky Gildersleeve  
Joey Hoffman  
Kortny Green

24 Walter Shilling  
Jeanne Dinterrman  
Gary Green  
Lyla Kaufmann  
Ernest Paulsgrove  
25 Faith Osuji  
26 Joseph Mate  
27 Jeanne Carper  
Cathy Boyer  
28 Tucker Ziegler  
31 \* Millie Miller  
Bradley Spickler  
Zachary Smith



**\*Homebound  
Birthday. Please see  
address under Caring  
Connections.**

**\*\* All below is subject to the building restriction changes.**

<b>May 2021</b> Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship  FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	3 5-9:30 Volleyball	4 5-9:30 Volleyball	5 5-9:30 Volleyball	6 5-9:30 Volleyball	7 2 6:00 Girl Scouts/ Parlor & Up x 3	1/8 11:00 Meet w/ Gowin
9 Mothers Day Blanket Sunday 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship  FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	10 5-9:30 Volleyball  7:00 Ad Council	11 5-9:30 Volleyball	12 5-9:30 Volleyball	13 5-9:30 Volleyball	14	15
16 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship  FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 5-9:30 Volleyball	19 5-9:30 Volleyball	20 5-9:30 Volleyball	21 6:00 Girl Scouts/ Parlor & Up x 3	22
23 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship  FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	24	25 5-9:30 Volleyball	26 5-9:30 Volleyball	27 5-9:30 Volleyball	28	29
30 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship  FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	31 Memorial Day Office closed					

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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: [bethel.church@myactv.net](mailto:bethel.church@myactv.net)

Pastor: Jim Johnson

Email: [pastorjim@myactv.net](mailto:pastorjim@myactv.net)

### Administrative Assistant:

Deb Wagner

301-733-8387

Office hours: 9 am – 1 pm Mon.-Fri.

of a Email: [bethel.church@myactv.net](mailto:bethel.church@myactv.net)

### Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner

Phone: 301-733-8387

Email: [bethel.church@myactv.net](mailto:bethel.church@myactv.net)

### 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 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](mailto:Shanda@myactv.net)

### Bethel Connect:

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



Bethel Tidings



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Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville  
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Smithsburg, MD 21783  
301-733-8387

