

# Bethel Tidings

## Message from Pastor Jim

We have arrived at the end of the Easter Season. It has been a long, arduous journey. It started with the six weeks of Lent.

That time helped us to prepare ourselves for Jesus. Jesus was traveling to the cross to pay for our sins. The many weeks of Lent and the resurrection from the dead by Jesus focused mainly on the cross and its aftermath. We have forgotten the power of prayer in this and all other seasons that we live through as Christians.

Are we able to stop and prepare ourselves with prayer? Many use prayer continuously, and others find prayer to be an awkward practice. Let me offer five steps for contemplative prayer if you are hesitant to use this gift that God has given us.

The first step (1) is to become aware of God's presence. Take a few moments to breathe, relax, and invite God to be with you. Sometimes settling our body and mind is difficult, especially when our lives are full of activity and we have a lot going on. One thing that experts suggest is that you focus on your breathing. As you slow down, continue to breathe deep and slow, acknowledging God's presence with each breath. He is here with you, ready to share a conversation with you. He is waiting for you to call.

The second step (2) is to review your day with gratitude. Review your day as if you are watching scenes from a movie. What happened? What were you like? What were others doing around you? What are the good things that happened today? What can you give thanks for in this time? (Pause for a few moments)

Step three (3). Pay attention to your emotions. How did you feel at different points during the day? What moments throughout your day have been difficult or tense? When did you feel happy, excited, or at peace? (Pause for a few moments)

Step four (4) is to forgive and ask for forgiveness. It would help if you asked yourself questions like, "Who am I angry or frustrated at?" Are there things you can forgive and let go of to have peace? What would you like to be forgiven for? (Pause again for a few moments)

Step five (5) is the final step. Look toward tomorrow. How might tomorrow be different? What would you like to ask God to help with? (Pause for a few moments)

Take some time to wrap up your conversation with God silently. It can take practice to get comfortable with a contemplative prayer like this, especially if it is something new for you.

(Continue)

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I hope that this simple guide will help you in richer prayer life. With all of the things happening in the world, I think that we need to be able to go to the one thing that is unchanging-that is our loving God.

Have you sat with God today?

Peace,

Pastor Jim



**In the coming weeks:**

The next four Sundays we are going to be using "Living the Spirit Life" sermon series from Discipleship Ministries.

**Living the Spirit Life:**

Is Pentecost the birthday of the church? Maybe, or maybe that's when the church learned to walk on its own. Maybe that's when, empowered by fire and wind, the church spoke on its own, but used words learned from the one who gave it life. On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Spirit to raise the church out of hiding and out of despair and to give the church wind at the back and fire in the bones and to encourage the church to proclaim; no-to live the good news of Jesus Christ outwardly and invitationally.

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### **5 June 2022** “Overcoming Babel”

One moment you feel like maybe you are making some progress. One moment you have a big vision, a goal, and a plan. One moment everyone is on board and ready for the next steps. One moment you feel like maybe this thing will actually work—whatever this thing is. You feel as though you are on top of the world. But then the next moment comes, and it is all different. You’ve been there.

### **12 June 2022** “Does not Wisdom Call?”

“He will declare to you the things that are to come” (John 16:13b). You say that life surprises you? That you are caught out from time to time? How many of us had all that has transpired over these past few years in our long-range plans? Maybe we just haven’t been in tune with the Holy Spirit all these years. Maybe we haven’t prayed enough or listened enough. Maybe the gift of knowing was right there, and we just didn’t avail ourselves of it and were therefore doomed to stumble around in the darkness, constantly being surprised by the turn of events that constitutes our lives. But is that really what Jesus is saying here? “I’m sending your own personal oracle to let you in on the secrets of your own life. Just pay attention, and there will be no more surprises.” Really? I don’t think so. Let’s look again.

### **19 June 2022** “From Madness to Stillness”

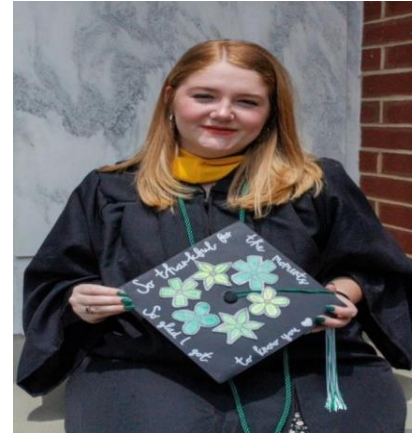
Why it is that sometimes Jesus asks obvious questions (like to blind Bartimaeus “What do you want me to do for you?”—Mark 10) and sometimes he just acts? “What have you to do with me, Jesus?” This question was asked after Jesus started to work. That’s kind of curious, don’t you think? The demons knew who Jesus was and what he could do. Indeed, Jesus had already spoken and told them to come out. But they played dumb, it sounds like. “What have you to do with us?” “Are you talking to me?” They recognize Jesus, but they don’t really want to obey him. They want to argue with him or negotiate. “You don’t really want me to go, do you? You aren’t really driving me out. This guy likes me. We get along well. Sure, he’s naked and living in a cemetery, but it’s a life, you know?” It makes some odd kind of sense. No, it doesn’t. Maybe to a demon, it makes sense. Living with brokenness, living with hatred, living in fear doesn’t make any sense. Not to Jesus. He didn’t ask any questions at first; he was just was trying to get rid of the problem—until the negotiation started. It’s almost as if Jesus was prepared to take care of it until the guy chimed in. Jesus knows what we need, but is always willing to let us self-determine, even if our choices make things worse. Jesus was going to send the demons out; they chose to ride the pigs.

### **26 June 2022** “Brought Home in the Spirit”

Sometimes even home isn’t home. The unreachable destination, the unrealized dream, the undiscovered country. Are we supposed to feel sorry for him with that “foxes and birds” thing? Are we really supposed to leave our parents to deal with their own end-of-life issues? Are we really just supposed to slip away, rudely, as though the people who know us best aren’t important enough to even bid farewell? Home has always been a moveable feast. Not this place or that place, but the accommodation created when followers journey together for a time. There’s no place like it.

## 2022 Graduates:

**Jordyn Phillips** graduated from York College of Pennsylvania on May 14, 2022 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Middle Level Education - Math and Science. Jordyn will be working for Washington County Public Schools when she begins teaching Math at Northern Middle School in Hagerstown this fall. Jordyn is the daughter of Jason and Christie Phillips and Karen Keefer. She is also the Granddaughter of Randy and Diane Stevens and Elaine Snyder.



**Makayla Phillips** graduated from Harrisburg Community College on May 10, 2022 with an Associate's in Applied Science Degree in Fire Science. While attending HACC she has also been attending Advanced EMT and Paramedic School. Makayla plans to continue her education at Columbia Southern University for a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She is currently working as an EMT at Adams Regional EMS. Makayla is the daughter of Jason and Christie Phillips. She is also the Granddaughter of Randy and Diane Stevens and Elaine Snyder.

**Nathanael Hunter Norman**, nephew of Kassie Symonds completed 6 months at the Maryland State Police Academy. Graduation exercises for the one hundred and fifty third Trooper Candidate Class was on March 30, 2022. The ceremony was held at Lifepoint Church in Reisterstown, Maryland. Aunt Kass and the entire Norman family are so proud and ask for prayers for safety during Nathanael's new career. Also pictured are Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III.







**Michael Robinette** will graduate in August 2022 from the Johns Hopkins University with an MS in Applied and Computational Mathematics. Michael is employed as a Data Scientist with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland where he works on various projects in Health Analytics Applications and Applied Neuroscience. He also serves as a mentor to a group of undergraduate students from Johns Hopkins who intern at APL. Michael resides in Silver Spring, MD with his rescue dog, Bonita, and is the son of Joe and Nancy Robinette.

**Ian Curtis Decker**, son of Maureen Stimmel Decker and nephew of Roni & Duane McNairn, graduated from IUP Magna Cum Laude with a Degree in Communications.



**May you all be blessed  
in your new ventures!**

## Spring Clean-up:

The Girl Scout Troop 15004 took charge and had 6 cadets who cleaned the blue children's classroom. They "Lysoled" it all and organized the shelves. They were the first group to respond after the Spring Clean-up message was sent.



## On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>...

The morning began with helpers that tended to grass and weeds outside. While others got to scrubbing inside. The refrigerators are sparkling clean. During the week the cabinets and drawers were cleaned and sorted. No more plastic containers without lids! Vases and baskets were condensed.

Then there was significant wood being washed as the pews, chancellor rails and doors were cleaned and disinfected. The FLC leather couch was also cleaned.

Women of the Well sorted and cleaned areas in the Parlor and their areas in the kitchen. Baseboards and cabinets were cleaned and repaired.

There is still a list of small projects that need completed and you can call the office to see how you can help. Deb loves crossing things off the list and Duane likes it even better. Anyone know a plumber? We have a leaky faucet and one bathroom closed.

So many thanks to all who continually give of themselves to meet the needs of the church.

## Women at the Well

Women at the Well continues with the Bible study, "The Chosen", Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.. In June, July & August, we will meet for brunch on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We will resume our study in September.

Brunch on Wednesday, June 15th, 11:00 at Ledos, Dual Highway. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Bev by e-mail [shanda@myactv.net](mailto:shanda@myactv.net), phone 301-739-6270, or in person, by Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> so we can call in a reservation.





### **Supporting our Homebound**

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

~Micah 6:8

Please continue to pray for and send cards to these folks and perhaps even phone or visit now that COVID restrictions have lessened. You can get an updated list in the church office or call me at 240-734-1101 for phone numbers or addresses.

If you know of folks suffering from cancer that need support and /or transportation please call the church office as the Caring Connection committee can provide help. Pam Brubaker.

The next homebound birthdays will be in July.

### **Blood Drive:**

Most recently, this was held on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Twenty units of blood were collected.



**F.R.O.G.** (Fully Rely On God) Sunday School for grades 4 - 8 has started a new venture... for youth grades 4 thru 8.

Youth Fellowship is **changing to Sundays after church** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays monthly from approximately 11:30 to 12:30.



You can call the office 301-733-8387 to ask for details.

Or

You can see the online info @ <https://tinyurl.com/y7g752ut>

### **Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update**

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



Thank you for your continued support of our community with your donations for our blessing box. Our church family has poured out so much love. You are a blessing to me also. We are always in need of chicken ramen noodles. Snacks, juices, Kool aide juice pouches, Children's sweetened cereal and canned chicken, Vienna sausages, tuna and canned spam or treet meat. Spaghetti sauce, canned fruit. Right now, we are in good shape for vegetables.

Thank you, your sister in Christ, Elaine Snyder



## Stewardship May 2022

Date	In person S.S./Church	Special Events
May 1	60	
May 8	53	
May 15	47	
May 22	58	
May 29		

## Lay Readers – June 2022

<b>June 5</b>	John Shank
<b>June 12</b>	Martin Brubaker
<b>June 19</b>	Tori Smith
<b>June 26</b>	Kim Rischell

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



## June Anniversaries:



14 – Lynn & Tric Harshman

- 1 – Ron & Peggy Snyder
- 2 – Jason & Becky Campbell
- 7 – Denny & Valerie Kaufmann
- 7 – Randy & Diane Stevens
- 7 – Chris & April Smith
- 9 – Derek & Jenny Ritter
- 9 – Tyler & Erin White
- 10 – Steve & Kathy Rice
- 13 – Steve & Lori Shifflett
- 18 – Larry & Joyce Belella
- 21 – Darryl & Alexa Keckler
- 22 – Chris & Michelle Phillips
- 24 – Joe & Aleta Mate
- 27 – Scott & Carrie Johnson-McClure

## June Birthdays:

- 3 – Linda Barnhart
- 7 – Torrie Smith
- 8 – Carole Pepple
- 10 – Brian Smith
- 11 – Harold Taylor
- 11 – Kelsi Harshman
- 13 – Scott McClure
- 13 – Mary Ann Mertz
- 21 – Ben Howes
- 22 – Michelle White
- 24 – Katie Green
- 24 – Carrie JohnsonMcClure
- 26 – Mike Sokol
- 29 – Jacob Broadwater
- 29 – Mary Pat Wolfe
- 29 – Frank Rucci
- 30 – Linda Langley
- 30 – T.J. Snyder

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

\*Homebound  
- see above for the address.

Bethel Tidings

June 2022	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday			1 Annual Conference 2022	2 Annual Conference 2022	3 Annual Conference 2022	4 9:00 A A 6:30 Piano recital
5 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	6	7	8	9	10 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & Upstairs	11 9:00 A A
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:30 F.R.O.G.	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & Upstairs	18 9:00 A A
19 Father's Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24	25 9:00 AA
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:30 F.R.O.G.	27	28	29	30		

# 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

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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)

## 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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