

July 2021

Bethel Tidings

Message from Pastor Jim

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I was sitting next to Lake Superior. The wind was howling, churning up waves that looked about four to six feet high. It was roughly 44 degrees out, May 27, 2021. I was sitting in the parking area of the safe harbor between Duluth and Two Harbors, Minnesota. As I was sitting there, there was a group of kayakers going out into the water. The vessels are so small and made me wonder how they can be in the water. The sky was grey and cloudy. It didn't look like there was going to be a storm. Just windy.

The group set out in the harbor, and it didn't appear that they were going out in the lake. There was one person who stayed behind at the dock, ready to launch. The vast open expanse of water of Lake Superior was churning, and the waves looked insurmountable, it would seem. There is a stone wall holding all of that back. There was an area of water that is calm. There were small waves, one foot or so, but the paddlers can be in the area; a challenge but not life threatening.

I reflect on the way that we see God in our lives.

The world is available to all people. You aren't held back at all. There is an area that you can exit the safe harbor waters, the calm waters of life. The only thing that is holding you back is you. God will give you a safe harbor if that is what you desire. If you want to challenge the world, the channel is open for you to go through to get to where you want to be.

We challenge that thought daily. We stand on dry ground, get into our kayak, and set out to experience the boundaries of our lives. The challenge is that when we decide to "handle it" ourselves, we get into trouble. Just think if we are satisfied to paddle the safe harbor? We would never know what is out in the heavy seas. We are tempted to believe that we are more capable than what we are and take on ourselves. We want to show the world that we are the person who can do this ourselves. Quickly finding out, we try to get back to safe harbor. Sometimes we make it, and sometimes we crash into the stone wall because we cannot find our way back through the canal. God is still there.

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We blame the water, wind, or current for our present predicament. The thing is, God is still there! A change of mind is a good thing, but that doesn't guarantee our safe passage. There is a lot of work that we must do to get back to where we know there is safety. Does that mean that God is not present? No! What it means is that just because you changed your mind doesn't mean that we will be immediately transported to the safe harbor. There are steps that we have to accomplish to get back there. It is not things that we do that reward our work. Those things are necessary to get us to understand and bring us to God. It's not a reward, but it is a benefit. It gives us a chance to be in the arms of God, in the presence of His Grace.

So the safe harbor of God can go away, but we can find the haven as we do our part. The water and God are always here. It is up to us to determine what we are going to do with it. Be careful what your choices are because they can change your whole life.

Peace,
Pastor Jim

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well weekly meetings are normally at 11:00 a.m. in the church Parlor. Meetings will restart in September. On July 21st and August 18th at 11:00 a.m. we will gather for brunch. The place will be announced later. This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join in fellowship 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. 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: Jackie Manuel – July 13th
103 Sunflower Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Betty Johnson – July 20th
Williamsport Retirement Village
154 Artizan St. Room 109B
Williamsport, MD 21795

The Spotlight is on:

Volunteers helping take care:

We have wonderful women who love to garden. They saw a need and proceeded! Many thanks Sandy Hose and Cathy Grantham! **Any volunteers for the shrubs?**



Mission Serve:



The church van and trailer will be leaving on Saturday July 17th to travel to South Carolina in "Mission Serve". As in years past, they will take part in work camps to assist the underprivileged with their needs.

Often some simple repairs can make such a difference in the daily lives of others. At other times, they may be scheduled to work with other

groups of volunteers who believe in the same mission!

Our part will be to support them thru prayer that they travel safely, remain healthy and spread their faith to others. Come help us see them off on July 17th... time will be announced closer to the date.

The Smith Family:

A rugged belief carves out assurance and trust. It chips open a doorway in faith for God to enter at any point of need. It keeps that believer available and pliable, and God establishes the believer. Adversity merely toughens the person who believes in God. He is not like a tumbleweed bounding across the prairies touching down here and there. His roots are down into something which will hold him when circumstances blast him.

There is always a backstage crew with any production. The people are the force behind what people see, but the show won't go on and be visible to anyone without the folks in the shadows.



The Smith Family continued...

We are highlighting a family this month that fits the description well. It is a hardworking, goal-oriented, solid family of the church. Tim and Tammy started coming to the church together thirty-something years ago. Tim has been a church member all of his life, and when Tammy came onto the scene, they both attended Bethel.

Tim works for B.J.Builders full-time and has a side gig of landscaping and cutting lawns. We have been told by the people who know Tim's work that it is an art and a ministry. Tim has been an active member of the trustees in the church and various other activities in the life of the church.

Tammy has been a solid rock in the nursery and working with the children's ministry. She is a member of the Bethel Caring Connection Ministry team. At home, Tammy works in the health and wellness industry.



Katie is also a mainstay in the nursery and children's ministry. She works with the children at Bethel and has also been working at the Gateway Daycare Center. Katie has been in the church all of her life, participating in the youth group and going on mission trips in her teen years.

Kellar is probably the most visible in the family. When he was hired at the church to take over half of the custodial work, he knew he had big shoes to fill. Mel Weaver is the leader that set the standard and paved the way for Kellar. Kellar knows that before anything, what people see first coming into the church will determine the first impression. His dedication and hard work show; we never have to worry that a visitor's first impression will be anything but positive. Kellar also lends his hands to the children's ministry, food and clothing ministry, outside maintenance, and, as you will be able to see, with the landscaping ministry of the church. Anytime anyone needs a helping hand, Kellar is the first to volunteer. He is a true example of a disciple and a friend. Kellar continues to be a positive role model, going from 310 pounds to, at last check, 234 pounds. We have something to shoot for in our lives, and Kellar will be there to cheer you on in your struggle.



Hannah is Katie's daughter. Hannah is the youngest of the bunch, but don't let that be the judge of her. As you can see in the pictures, she follows her grandmother and mother in donating her hair to the "Locks of Love"-a cancer recovery program. Hannah is active in the children's programs of Bethel. She sings in the children's choir and a member of the acolyte team. She is too young to be a candle lighter; she will be a communion bearer-bringing the communion elements into the sanctuary on communion Sundays.

Bethel is blessed to have a family that is trailblazers and leads by example. You may not see them in the front of the church leading, but you know that they have led the way to prepare us for worship.

Greet the family when you see them; they are in the front pew most Sundays.

Thank you to the Tim Smith family for being such a shining example.

Lay Readers – July 2021



July 4	Abby Snyder
July 11	Kellar Smith
July 18	David Brandenburg
July 25	Martin Brubaker
Call Elaine to sign up! 301-991-9759.	

The Visual Entry Table...

This entry table in the main hallway is now being used for visual displays that relate to the Sunday Sermons. The Sunday Bulletin will be including a note about the relationship of the items displayed. This one honors the graduates and speaks of how seeds give the gift of wheat.



Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25



The Blessing Box has seen increased use since summer began. Items remain available in our Food Pantry due to your generous donations during our “Fill the Trailer” week-end in April.

However, we have depleted the supplies of a few popular items. We have recently had to purchase the following: children’s juice boxes, Dinty Moore dinners, Dollar Tree shampoo and body wash. If you would like to donate these frequently used items, they would be greatly appreciated. Thanks so much for your continued support of our food ministry.



The Bethel Coat Closet:

He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none.

Luke 3:11

The Bethel Coat Closet is continuing to collect winter coats (and winter accessories like gloves, hats, and scarfs). A decision has been made to have them available for our families in need later in the fall instead of before school begins.

We found out last year that people of all ages are looking for coats when the weather turns cold instead of in August before school starts. We would like to remind you to check the back of your closets and keep an eye open at yards sales for adult and children's coats. They can be dropped off under the church portico at any time. Thanks so much for your support of this project. *Additional details will be provided in a future newsletter.*

Diane Stevens



Celebrating with our Seniors...

**Riley House,
Pastor Jim
Katie Phillips
Cheyenne Price**

The graduates were honored during the worship service on 6-13-2021 with words of wisdom and spiritual advice for the new chapter of their lives that is beginning.

Congrats!

Stewardship June 2021

Date	9:00 am Worship Total	Online	In person S.S./Church	Special Events
June 6	217	163	54	
June 13	196	143	53	Honor Graduates
June 20	194	150	44	Father's Day
June 27	174	126	48	



Virus Task Force:



Changes In the building:

Socially distancing, using hand sanitizer and wearing masks if you have not been vaccinated while inside the building remain in place for protection of those still vulnerable. Girl Scouts and Volleyball practices have restarted. Each group has provided COVID protocol for their distancing, masking and cleaning.

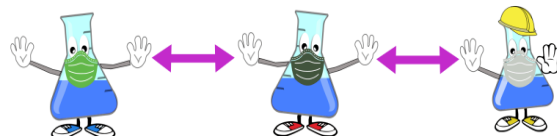


Masks may be removed once seated ... if you have been vaccinated.

Use hand sanitizer.

Social distance, please

The COVID Taskforce thanks you in protecting others.



Children's Sunday School:

Currently Children's Sunday School for children grades K-5 restarted on Feb 21st. 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 next Blood drive at Bethel will be Friday July 30th 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. Let the office know by the Wed prior what you would like in the bulletin.

July Anniversaries:



- 5 – Tim & Carrie West
7 – Daniel & Erica Rishell
10 – Ron & Lori Mertz, Jr.
Duane & Ronnie McNairn
14 – Tim & Teresa Rossiter
15 – Alvey & Deanie Moser

- 19 – Patrick & Courtney Eckard
20 – Paul & Tammy Gantz
27 – Billy & Michelle McCartney
27 – Ron & Mary Ann Mertz, Sr.
28 – Ernest & Connie Paulsgrove
29 – Cullan & Taylor Ganley



July Birthdays:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Peggy Snyder | 18 Jeanne Avey | |
| 2 Alketa Mate | 20 * Betty Johnson | |
| Andrew Dinterman | Rhonda Forrest | |
| 4 Marlene Young | 21 Valerie Kaufmann | 29 Jeff Guzowski |
| Rick Hose | 22 Sam Palmer | 30 Victor Springer |
| Billy McCartney | 23 Celia Ausherman | Barbara Simmons |
| 5 Cullan Ganley | Pam Brubaker | 31 John Kalbflesh |
| 9 Nancy Robinette | Joan White | Steven Rice |
| 10 Faith Palmer | Joe Robinette | Daniel Brechbill |
| 11 Terry McKinney | 24 Beverly Miller | |
| Robert McGhee | David Lidie | |
| 13 * Jackie Manuel | Lewis Reed | |
| Rebecca Ziegler | 25 Madison Snyder | |
| Emma Broadwater | Kassie Symonds | |
| 17 Carissa Belella | 28 Alvey Moser | |

**Do you see a name of
someone who is a
member but has not
been here?**

**Reach out and give them
a call!**

*Homebound – see
Caring Connections

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

July Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00 Girl Scouts/ Parlor & Up x 3	3
4 Communion Independence Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	5 Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	12 7:00 Ad Council	13	14	15	16 6:00 Girl Scouts/ Parlor & Up x 3	17 Mission Share leaves
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24 Mission Share returns
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship FM 97.9 Sermon by Phone	26	27	28	29	30 1:30 Blood Drive	

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:

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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

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 of a child. We want to pray and minister to you.

Telephone Prayer Chain:

Beverly Miller

Phone: 301-739-6270

Email: Shanda@myactv.net



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