

## Message from Pastor Jim

"For this is God. Our forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death."  
Psalm 48:14

How do you experience God daily? Some feel the daily encounter with God happens at the beginning of the day while the birds are just starting to sing, and the sun is just popping its head over the horizon. The daily reading of scripture helps to guide the day. Some are a little more ambitious and exercise or walk, praying as they go. Still, others have a long commute that allows them time to be in prayer with God.

How do you experience God? I would like to know. Is it through the daily routine of meeting people? Is it through a conversation with someone, and you look at them through the eyes of Jesus?

I spent a couple of weeks on the American/Canadian border. We were on a remote island with no cell phone service, no internet, no people, and no noise. My idea of a vacation is to work hard to find the true silence of nature. We paddle for hours in a canoe until we run out of a lake, then take all of our gear and go to the next lake. There are no hotels or restaurants. Only on occasion will we run into someone on one of the portages. We experienced un-spoiled land that the roads, buildings, mining, or drilling haven't interrupted. It is the most serene experience I know. That is where I can encounter God in a personal way. You only have time, time to spend with God, reading scripture, and sharing in its pureness. The time may sound like a real escape for some, and real torture for others. Regardless of the side you are on, the weather does not always co-operate. There were thunderstorms so bad this year that they made the ground shake. The rain was torrential, and the winds fierce. Looking to the skies, you could see the direction of the storms.

Our daily lives are just like this trip I describe. Some days it is warm and pleasant, and the sun is to your face, and the wind is to your back. Things are going the way that you planned. Your life is experiencing a time of Grace. Then there are times of the wind to your face, waves that are two feet high, and no end to the rain. Those are the days that you face turmoil and attack in your life. It is the days that when you look to the skies, you see storm clouds in all directions. It feels like God has left you; abandoned you. Prayer comes hard. The same scripture that we read yesterday has somehow changed to something different today, and looking for new passages seems like a chore. Where is God?

God is with us each stroke of the paddle. He is with us in good times as well as bad. Life is a mess! The things of nature help me see God more clearly, but I also see Jesus in each person I meet. The hands and feet of people working in the community remind me of the love that Jesus shared with us. The greetings and smiles, not so recognizable under the mask but still there, signify the Grace of Jesus.

I encourage you to reach out more in these times of seclusion. Don't let the pandemic get you down, but understand that this is a part of the world's creation. Things aren't always easy, but things aren't always hard either. May you be blessed in your encounter with God this month.

Peace,  
Pastor Jim

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## Missions and Outreach Ministries:

# Community Blessing Day

### Preparing:

Diane & Melinda led the sorting, carrying, hanging and organizing. So many trips up and down the stairs! As well, they took home items and washed them. Obtaining tubs, clothing racks, and making signs were all prepared. They and the volunteers prepared in every way possible!



### The event:

Our “Community Blessing Day” was held on Saturday August 22, 2020. The event provided free clothing and school supplies to residents of our surrounding communities. The event was held outdoors with all COVID precautions in place. We believe current events such as schools not reopening for fall classes kept attendance to our Blessing Day low. Although the event did not have the turnout that we expected, it was blessed in so many ways.

1. We were blessed with the donations of clothes for months prior to the event. (Several thousand pieces of clothing!)
2. We were blessed to receive donations of school supplies or monetary donations to purchase supplies resulting in 100 bags of supplies for various age children. (Special thanks to Deb Wagner, Jammie Black and Rennis Fox for bagging all the school supplies prior to Blessing Day!)
3. The weather was calling for rain showers but we had a rain free event.
4. On Blessing Day, a minister showed up unexpectedly to bless the event with the sounding of a Shofar, the Trumpet of Israel.
5. When you ask for help, the members of Bethel always come through! We were blessed to have 18 wonderful church members show up to help move heavy tables and racks of clothes and

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more. The volunteers were: Linda Barnhart, Paul and Stephanie Belella, Jammie Black, David Brandenburg, Marty and Pam Brubaker, Rennis Fox, Sue McAllister, Teresa Rossiter, Kellar Smith, Katie Smith, Tammy Smith, Melinda Smith, Randy and Diane Stevens, and Debbie and David Wagner. Melissa Metzger was also on standby to help. Our sincere thanks to each of them.

6. And finally, we felt blessed to help the people who did come for clothes and school supplies. Each of them left the parking lot loaded down with much needed items.

We want you to know that the remaining items will be put to good use. The school supplies will be delivered to elementary school children of our congregation and the rest will be distributed by one of our teachers, Kim Rishell. The Middle school bags will be delivered by Duane McNairn to his students in need. The High school supplies will be taken to Smithsburg High by Carrie Johnson-McClure

The Bethel Clothes Closet will continue in our church basement. Some of the Blessing Day clothes will be donated to another local charity and the rest of them will be returned to the basement on a smaller scale for winter. The Bethel Clothes Closet will have cold weather items such as coats, sweaters, and pants for all ages. The closet will also have baby items. Anyone in need of these items can contact our church at 301-733-8387.

Thanks again to all who have helped or contributed to our event in any way. And in closing, we would like to thank Pastor Jim who networked with other churches to start the clothing ministry months ago and for his support of our efforts throughout the summer months. We would also like to thank Deb Wagner who assisted with this event in so many ways.

~Diane Stevens and Melinda Smith (Co-chairs of the Clothing Closet)



## Women at the Well

The Women at the Well meetings will remain suspended for September. Normally monthly brunch outings are held on the third Wednesday at 11 am in local restaurants, this is also canceled for September. All are welcome.

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



## The Blessing Box & Food Pantry

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

*Matthew 25:35*

The Bethel Blessing Box has become a great service to the community, ablessing for many individuals and families. The box is being refilled at least every other day due to frequent use. Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessing Box and Food Pantry.

Our Food Pantry continues to supply the Blessing Box as well as several families in need on a regular basis. **If you know of a family in need or if you would personally like to deliver these items to a family, you know, please contact Deb in the church office @ 301-733-8387.**

**Currently our supplies are low.**

Your support has been amazing and has allowed this ministry to continue during a hard time. If you are able, please bring groceries by the office or if you would like to donate money, write a check to Bethel United Methodist Church and indicate it is for the food pantry in the memo section of the check. Grocery gift cards are also accepted.

Toiletries – all kinds

Baby wipes

Little Boxes of juice

Boxes of macaroni and cheese

Canned meat such as tuna or chicken

Spaghetti noodles & sauce

Canned soups

Canned fruits

Kids' cereals

Spaghetti-Os'

Thank you for your support of our food ministry and please contact Deb in the office at the 301-733-8387 for additional information.

Stevens

~Diane

# Caring Connection



# Supporting our Homebound

Psalm 91:4 (NIV)

his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. His faithfulness shall be your shield & rampart.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. His faithfulness shall be your shield & rampart.

Please continue to be in prayer for our Homebound.

If you need a new list, of phone numbers email Deb at Bethel Church [bethel.church@myactv.net](mailto:bethel.church@myactv.net) and she will email you a list. If you do not have a computer call Deb at church (301-733-8387) or Pam (240-734-1101) for addresses and phone numbers. Also, remember that we have a number of folks who are temporarily homebound due to COVID 19. Please be in prayer for them and consider sending a card or making a phone call to brighten someone's day. Thank you for all the prayers and concern in these last months!

Homebound Birthday info for this month is: Bill Luther on September 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Western Maryland Hospital Center  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

~Pam Brubaker



## Lay Readers – September 2020

Sept 6	Christy Phillips Kim Rishell
Sept 13	Jon Snyder Brian Smith
Sept 20	Elaine Snyder Judy Hoffman
Sept 27	Liz Weaver Heather Updegraff

**Micah's Backpack ministry is currently on hold until the end of the virus restrictions..** When school resumes, we will restart as well. If you would like to make a monetary donation, a check may be mailed to the church with a note in the memo line for Micah's Backpack. It truly does make a difference in the lives of the children!



## Stewardship Aug 2020

Date	9:00 am Worship Total	Online	Outdoor	Special Events
Aug 2	422	378	44	
Aug 9	415	375	40	
Aug 16	406	382	24	
Aug 23	407	372	35	Blessing Day
Aug 30	413	370	43	

Weekly offering totals are in the bulletin. A Treasurer's Report is always available in the office if more detail is desired. Just ask!

*Online giving is available through our website: [bethelumchurch.org](http://bethelumchurch.org)*

## September Birthdays:



- |                     |                      |                       |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Maria Axline      | 11 Brian Augustine   |                       |
| Dale Beard          | 12 Chris Smith       | Jon David Snyder      |
| David Newman        | 13 Diana Leatherman  | Amanda Stevens        |
| 2 Andrew Ritter     | 14 Kristen Akin      | 26 Linda Sokol        |
| 5 Ronald Shanholtz  | 16 Lou Bachtell      | 27 Rebecca Leatherman |
| Maureen Decker      | 17 Jacob McIntyre    | 28 Paul Gantz         |
| Madalyn Kershner    | 18 Shirley Herbert   | Christie Phillips     |
| 6 Danielle Kaufmann | Selene Stevens       | Isabella Kershner     |
| Abbie Barnhart      | 20 Stephanie Belella | Emma Eckard           |
| 8 Erin White        | Kian Roberts         | 29 Hanna Smith        |
| ** Bill Luther      | 22 Steven Young      | 30 Mike Morgan        |
| Hunter Smith        | 23 Gary Johnson      | Rachel Brashear       |
| Matthew McCartney   | 24 Connor Staley     | Cahlen Beard          |
| 9 Larry Belella     | 25 Debra Brandt      |                       |
| David Brandenburg   |                      |                       |

\*\* homebound - see Caring Connections for their address

## September Anniversaries:

- 2 - Brett & Erika Linden
- 3 - Dustin & Jaime Kennedy
- 7 - Bret & Lisa Sprecher
- 8 - Blair & Kim Rishell
- 9 - George & Debra Brandt
- 10 - Jon & Angie Backus
- 10 - Jeff & Laura Harbaugh
- 10 - Paul & Cathy Boyer

- 15 - Paul & Stephanie Belella
- 20 - Harvey & Connie Leisinger
- 21- John & Jeanne Dinterman



## Virus Task Force:



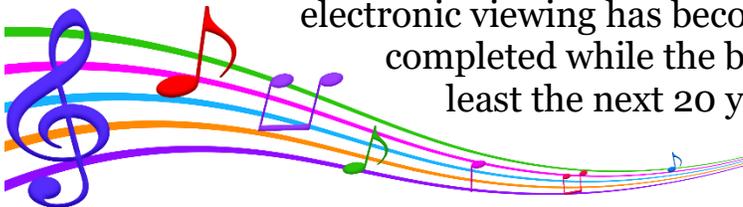
Please know that the Pastor has put together a task force of key members that have experience in the medical field, administrators and church leaders to collect all the different recommendations and make decisions about how and when we will open the building. a.m. Please pray that we make decisions that protect everyone. They will meet on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Blood Drive:** The Red Cross Blood Drive will be on **Friday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Reserve at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood>.



## Music Ministry:

The Ad Council has been meeting and discussing multiple options for updating the sound system. The goal is to get the Main Sanctuary and the Family Life Center Systems updated with audio and video. We have learned recently how important electronic viewing has become. We hope for the updates to be completed while the building is closed. This will serve us for at least the next 20 years. A special committee are now reviewing the bids. We hope to get this project started soon.



**Sermon by Phone: 301-298-1064**

A new service. Just dial the number. No codes or prompts to enter, just listen...it will be the most recent Sunday Service or any scriptures or announcements. Call it at any time.

## **SPRC :**

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) appointed for 2020 met for the first time this year on Monday, August 31st in the Family Life Center. The committee was prepared to meet at the end of March 2020 when the Covid19 pandemic abruptly closed access to our church. The S/PPRC's focus is on building strong relationships between the church staff and the congregation and between the congregation and the district superintendent. Your appointed committee members at the meeting included Pastor Jim, Valerie Kaufmann (SPRC Chair), David Brandenburg, Pam Brubaker, Cathy Boyer, Justina Bennett, Karen Keefer, Donna McCuin, and Sean Wolfe. I want to personally thank the members of the committee for their commitment going forward. The S/PPRC are your appointed representatives. Please connect with anyone on the committee to share your joys and/or concerns as we continue to support each other through these challenging times.

Valerie

## **Radio Station:**

Did you know that you can connect to the Sunday Service by radio FM station while on the property if you prefer to stay inside of your vehicle? The specific station will be announced at the beginning of each service.



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

Beginning Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> OUTDOOR Sunday School for children grades K-5 will meet on the front lawn at 9:00 a.m. while the parents are enjoying the Worship Service in the parking lot.

Just like the rest of us, they will remain socially distanced and wearing masks.

We are blessed to have Tammy & Teresa teaching them!



## **What you are seeing on Sundays:**

The COVID Taskforce has been hard at work.

While we are socially distanced and wearing masks until all are seated, the Outdoor Worship beauty is the focus. The still quiet and calmness makes it so special. The joy is in the way so many have come together to make it all happen.

The songs are being sung by the Praise team while the audience hums. The prayer requests, scripture readings and prayers continue. Pastor Jim leads us and offers sermons to enrich us.



## **It is almost Church Conference time!**

The annual Church Conference will be here before we know it! The event will be different this year as it will be held virtually. Preparation is beginning with forms to complete, budgets and evaluations to be done, meetings to vote on items must take place. This begins a busy time for your leaders and it must all be completed by Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Thank you:**

There are so many who give so much to serve their church. We are blessed by each of you. Many thanks for all those serving on committees.

### **How you can help:**

Now is the [time to speak up](#). To get involved in an area that interests you. Do you like working with children or crunching numbers? Perhaps painting or building repair is your talent. There is certainly a spot for using your talent in the church. Just call the office and we will be glad to talk with you.

Bethel Tidings

**\*\* All below is subject to the building restrictions being lifted.**

<b>September 2020</b>	31 Deb – vacation day 7:00 SPRC/FLC	1	2	3 7:00 COVID/FLC	4	5
6 9am Outdoor Service	7 Office Closed Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 9:30 Annual Conference for Pastor
13 9am Outdoor Service	14 7:00 Ad Council/FLC	15	16	17	18	19
20 9am Outdoor Service	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25 1:30- 7:00 Blood Drive/FLC	26
27 9am Outdoor Service	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

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 Worship 8:45 am

Contemporary Worship 11:00am

Sunday School 10:00 am

On line Sun 9:00 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 Yahoo Group, search for Connect @ Bethel.



## Bethel Tidings



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