

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

Sept. 2025

A Seat at God's Table – and What Comes Next

As the cooler days of September begin to settle in, we are reminded that seasons come and go, and with them, opportunities for new beginnings. Here at Bethel, we are winding down our sermon series, “A Seat at God’s Table”. Over these past weeks, we’ve explored what it means to be welcomed, fed, and sent by Christ Himself. It has been a season of reflection, challenge, and growth together.

But just as one series draws to a close, a new one is on the horizon. Beginning soon, we’ll enter into a fresh seven-part sermon series—“From the Mountaintop: Encounters with God Above the Clouds”, a time to dive deeply into God’s Word again, seeking wisdom and encouragement for the days ahead.

Around us, the world feels restless. We see anger bubbling up, voices clashing, and negativity multiplying on social media. In such a climate, the call of Jesus is more urgent than ever. We are not only invited to believe the good news—we are invited to live it.

That means being open to the new faces who are moving into our community, ready to welcome them with Christ’s love. It means shining brightly with the light of Jesus, even when the culture around us grows dim. It means showing, in word and deed, that our faith is more than a profession—it is a way of life.

As a church, God is stirring new things within us and around us. The Spirit is at work. Let’s step forward together, eager to see where God will lead, and bold to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

May this September bring with it not only cooler weather, but also hearts warmed by grace, community strengthened in love, and a witness that shines ever brighter in a world that so desperately needs Him.

Peace, Pastor Jim



Continued Events:



Women at the Well

The Woman at the Well will gather for lunch in the Bethel Pavilion at 11:00 am on September 17th. All are welcome at this monthly gathering. We encourage you to bring a friend along. The church will provide drinks and paper ware. Contact Bev to donate a dessert and bring your own “bag lunch” and of course one for your friend!

We will continue with the study of The Chosen- Season 5 on Wednesday, September 3rd. We are looking forward to continuing this dynamic video study of the life of Jesus and his followers. The group meets in the Sunday school room under the balcony to view the video one week, and the following week joins in a Bible study based on the video watched the week before. Companion study books have been ordered at a cost of around \$15.00 each.

Altar flowers:

Bethel continues to be blessed by the talents of the Altar Committee. Please consider signing up on the calendar by the offering plate. The cost is \$45.00 for both flower arrangements (not the vase) that you may take with you after the service. Be sure to let the office know a week in advance what you would like written in the bulletin. Thank you!

Micah's Backpack:



Healthy Meals for Healthy Families

This program will begin again soon.
Please see the list of items needed in the main hallway.

Readers:

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

Ushers:

Please let the office know if you can take a turn. Currently we have available openings in October, November and December. Thank you.

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update:

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

Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.





Supporting our Homebound
Bethel Caring Connection

This group is looking for a new leader.
Speak up!

Please contact the office if you could help with this.

Homebound birthdays...

Sept. 8 - T.J.Lange
1205 Potomac Ave. Apt b-1
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Sept 28 – May Crabb
20422 Holt Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Attendance
Aug 2025

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
July 27	10/63	
Aug 3	6/45/21	Western MD Center
Aug 10	7/58	
Aug 17	16/70	
Aug 24		

Coat Closet

Your help is needed.

Our coat closet only has a few coats. We are in need of coats for men, women and children. We are also asking for winter items such as hats and gloves for all ages. If you are part of any organization, please ask them to help us by donating or collecting coats. We will offer the coats to those in our community during our Halloween event and at our annual coat giveaway with another Hagerstown church in December. Thank you for supporting our coat mission!

Diane Stevens



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:

Aug. 20th updates:

Spiritual Formation- A devotion about how hospitality is the heart of Christianity.

Trustee: Tim Smith is preparing to paint the outdoor trim of the church this year. The air conditioner in the FLC will cost approximately \$52,000 to replace. The parts have been ordered and we hope to have a repair date soon.

Repairs to the alarm system will be \$3,340 are almost finished.

The Board voted to proceed with repairing the furnace as soon as it can be done.

This is an old building and many replacements on heat and air units will be in the future. Currently \$26,000 was removed from The UM Foundation for the deposit on the FLC air/heat unit.

We are looking at options for signs and/or speed bumps in the driveway.

Snow removal provider is being sought...please contact the office if you know of someone.

Child/Youth plans- the next event will be Trunk or Treat with Carol Ewan chairing the event.

The date is now set for Friday October 24th. Middle School class is preparing to do a coat drive.

The Health Minister Certificate course is being taken by Tammy Smith. Look for monthly blood pressure checks to restart in the fall.

Facebook homepage updates are in process. Carol has been gathering new pictures that will be placed on our Facebook homepage. Send the office any you have and we will see that she gets them.

Fundraising: Teresa will be leading us in making Soups and Subs this Fall/Winter.

Training for the audio/video system is looking for volunteers to learn. Contact the office.

The next Leadership meeting will be on Wed., Sept. 17 at 7 pm in the Parlor...Join us!

The Office Copier: will be updated with a new machine and a contact that is for less expensive.

Laity Sunday: will be on Sunday October 19th and the Leadership Board Members will lead the worship service.



New News:

The Annual Church Conference date has been set for October 18th at 8am for Bethel. We will also be hosting Deerfield & Mount Zion, Mount Bethel, Garfield and Saint Pauls at that same time.

Then at 10am Bethel of Rohrsersville, Mount Lena, Salem & Benevola, Mount Nebo and Mount Zion churches will be here for their conferences.

Bethel provides refreshments and meeting breakout areas.

The Leadership Council is asked to attend as they must sign documents at that time, along with anyone else who would like to be present.

Recognizing Youth:

The Herald Mail recently published the “Top 30 Washington County girls athletes of the last 25 years”. Decisions were made based on their high school careers. They considered choices from over 1,000 athletes that earned all-county first team honors over the time period. Bethel is very proud to be a part of the upbringing of #4

Sara Rishell.

Smithsburg Class of 2011.

She was the county volleyball player of the year each of her 2 final seasons as the Leopards went 38-0 over that time and winning state championships each season. She averaged 6.10 kills and 1.46 blocks per set as a junior; and 6.92 kills (a county record for rally scoring) and 1.58 blocks per set as a senior. She was also a two-time all-county first-team basketball player. She played college volleyball at American University and UAB.



Granddaughter of Cathy Grantham...

Gabby Grantham-Medley North Hagerstown Class of 2023

Gabby was named #1 in the Herald Mail recently published “Top 30 Washington County girls athletes of the last 25 years”. She was a two-time Herald-Mail volleyball player of the year – and that wasn’t even her best sport. That would be basketball, where she was a three-time all-county first-team honoree before signing to play at Duquesne. On the volleyball court, she led the Hubs to a 37-2 record and the 2022 Class 3A state championship her final two seasons; averaging 4.09 kills and 2.92 digs per set. Over her final two basketball seasons she averaged 21.2 points, 9.0 rebounds, 3.4 steals, 3.3 assists and 2.3 blocks.



Upcoming Events:

Most Children's events will begin again in August or September. We are looking at the use of the Family Life Center for more Teen related athletic events. If you would like to be a part of the planning please contact the office. The dates below are proposed but not finalized yet.

Sun - September 14 – Outdoor Worship & Bethel Church Picnic

Sun – October 13 – Pastor Appreciation Day

Sat - October 18 – Church Conference at Bethel

Sun – October 19 – Laity Sunday

Fri - October 24 – Trunk or Treat

Sun – Nov 2 – All Saints Day

Sun - November 16 – Harvest Home

Sat – November 22 – Pass out Thanksgiving baskets

Thur – Nov 27 - Thanksgiving

Sat - Dec 6 – Breakfast with Santa

Sun Dec 14 – Christmas Joy event

The Fall/Winter activities are beginning to be planned. Stay tuned...

Forever givers:

There are so many who diligently serve the church. Cathy Grantham slides in silently and takes charge of keeping us refreshed and updated on the main hallway bulletin board. We so appreciate her!



Sept. Birthdays:

1 – Maria Axline
1 – Dale Beard
2 – Andrew Ritter
5 – * T.J. Lange
6 – Abbie Barnhart
6 – Dee Bhowmik
8 – Matthew McCartney
9 – David Brandenburg
9 – Lyric Wagner
12 – Nora Boyer
12 – Hazel Kelly
14 – Carol Ewan
22 – Amara Ellis
23 – Ray Ewan
23 – Gary Johnson
25 – Debra Brandt
25 – Jon Snyder
26 – Linda Sokol
27 – David Wagner Jr.
28 – *May Crabb
28 – Paul Gantz
28 – Christie Phillips
28 – Emma Eckard
29 – Hannah Smith



Sept. Anniversaries:

Sept 8 – Blair & Kim Rishell

Sept 9 – George & Debra Brandt

Sept 10 – Jeff & Laura Harbaugh

Sept 11 – Paul & Cathy Boyer

Sept 20 – Harvey & Connie Leisinger

Sept 21 – John & Jeanne Dinterman

Bethel Tidings

Sept 2025						
Sunday	Monday 1 Labor Day Office closed	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
		6:30 Lions Club/Parlor	10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
7 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital Rossiter - Pavilion/FLC	8	9	10 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	11 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	12 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	13 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 Kelly b-day/FLC	15 Newsletter Deadline Conference report due to Deb	16 6:30 p.m. Lions Club/Parlor	17 11:00 W@W Lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 7:00 Leadership Council/Office	18 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	19 12:30-3:30 Band	20 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 Kelly b-day/FLC	22	23 Deb w/ vacation day	24 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band	25 6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	26 12:30-3:30 Band	27 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service	29 ** Conference Reports due 10/1	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: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

Pastor: Jim Johnson

Email: pastor@bethelumchurch.org

Administrative Assistant:

Deb Wagner

301-733-8387

Office hours: 9 am – 1 pm Mon.-Fri.

Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

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.

Newsletter Editor:

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Bethel Connect:

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



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Donate with Venmo.

