

“The only thing more powerful than hate is Love”

The Cost of Discipleship in Chaotic Times/ March 2026

It doesn't take much effort to feel unsettled these days. Wars and rumors of wars. Political division. Economic uncertainty. Cultural confusion. The headlines shift, but the anxiety remains. Jesus spoke of such things plainly in Gospel of Matthew 24—reminding His followers that turmoil would not be the exception, but part of the human story.

There is, in truth, nothing entirely new under the sun.

What is always new is the call to faithfulness.

As we turn our hearts toward Lent, we are reminded that discipleship has always carried a cost. It costs attention in a distracted age. It costs courage in a fearful culture. It costs compassion when resentment feels easier. It costs humility when pride is rewarded. And sometimes it costs comfort when Christ calls us to walk the harder road.

Lent does not create hardship; it clarifies it. It invites us to examine where we have drifted, where we have grown numb, and where we have confused convenience with commitment. In chaotic times, the temptation is to either panic or withdraw. But the way of Jesus is neither. The way of Jesus is steady faithfulness.

The cross stands as our reminder that God does not abandon the world when it trembles. Christ enters into its trembling. And those who follow Him are called not to hysteria, but to endurance; not to despair, but to disciplined hope.

As we approach this holy season, may we consider again the quiet, daily cost of discipleship—and may we discover that what we give up for Christ is never greater than what we receive in Him.

Faithful in small things. Faithful in uncertain times. Faithful still.

Peace,

Pastor Jim

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

Women at the Well Bible Study “Walking in God’s Promises” started Feb 15th and then continue on Wednesdays, at 10:00 am. Lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Red Lobster will be reserved for 11:00 am.

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 in the north entrance. 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:



Currently we are providing for 15. We usually build for the next month or so. Snack items are always good. Currently we could use boxes of individual oatmeal packets, short stacks of Ritz or Club crackers and individually wrapped cookies, chips. Etc. 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. A new 2026 calendar will be put up in the hall by the offering plate. Thank you.

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update:

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

This ministry continues to aide those in need. Cereal, Tomato & Chicken noodle soup, canned – Tuna, Chicken, Vienna Sausages, and canned peas are current needed items.

Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.

Expired food cannot be used if dry goods are outdated by 3 months or canned foods by 6 months.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection Homebound birthdays...

Elizabeth Weaver – March 14
11951 Comanche Dr.
Smithsburg, MD 21783



Healthcare Ministry

Tammy Smith has begun to offer confidential Blood Pressure Screenings in the office on the 2nd Sunday monthly. This will be before or after the 10am worship service. You can share with her if you have medical needs and she will help to find assistance.



Health Ministry News

Hello everyone. I just wanted to give a few tips for staying healthy year round.

Make sure to keep your hands clean by washing them regularly. This will help with the prevention of getting sick and spreading germs to others.

When we cough we should cough into our elbow or tissue and sanitize our hands after. We want everyone to stay healthy and safe.

Eating healthy is the best way to eat. I know with families being busy more all the time it isn't easy to cook at home all the time. Fast food or junk food isn't the best for us but limiting this will help to be healthier people. Eating unhealthy foods will cause you to be over weight, sluggish, and have little energy. This is also true with a lot of sugar and unhealthy fats. When you eat healthy you get better sleep, more energy, and you will overall feel better.

Here are some of the best things to try out:

- **Fruits and vegetables have vitamins, fiber, and minerals in them.**
- **Lean protein helps with weight loss and build muscle. Ex. fish, poultry, beans and nuts.**
- **Healthy Fats to use are Olive oil, avocado, and nuts for a few.**
- **Whole grains- oatmeal and whole wheat bread are some.**

Keeping your body hydrated is also important to being healthy. The best hydration is water. You should drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water a day. Drinking other things is ok too. When you aren't hydrated well you could become dizzy, get a headache, have a dry mouth and fatigue.

Long term lifestyle habits can also help prevent chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.

Exercising also helps with living a healthy life style. It makes you feel better and helps with weight loss.

MomCo- on the 1st Wednesday monthly at 6pm in the Parlor, is a place to **fellowship, connect, and grow alongside other mothers** who understand the joys and challenges of the journey. No matter where you find yourself in motherhood, there is a seat for you and a community ready to walk with you. We invite you to consider joining us. Come as you are—there’s a place for you here. Free childcare is available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the office, Kaelii Boyer or Pastor Jim: 301-733-8387 or 410-688-4089 to RSVP.

Attendance

Date	In person Church S.S./Worship	Special Events
Feb 1	14/57/0	WMC closed
Feb 8	18/54	
Feb 15	14/69	Ash Wed 18
Feb 22	17/52	

2026

Flowers for



Valentine's Day

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:

Administrative tasks:

Capital Campaign Poster: This is now on the hallway bulletin board. You can see what has been done and what is on the list coming up.

Trustee:

We will be looking at placing barriers around the heating/air unit outside.

Child/Youth plans- This will be the main focus of the church in the upcoming months.

Facebook homepage updates are in process. Carol and Pastor Jim will be updating our Facebook homepage. Send the office any pictures you have and we will see that they get them.

Fundraising: The next Sub Sale will be March 26 with orders due by March 15. Carol Ewan led us in the **Pancake Breakfast** raising \$410.79 and Heidi Black in the **Bake Sale** raised \$769.79. All proceeds will be donated to the Capitol Campaign Fund Training for the **audio/video system** is looking for volunteers to learn. Contact the office.

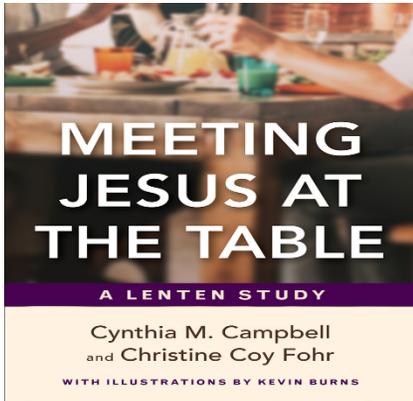
Carpet: The hallway and FLC Welcome Area carpet is to be replaced on Monday March 2nd.

Drinking Fountains in the FLC hall will be replaced soon. The Lions will donate half of the cost. Total is approx. \$1,500.00.

AED unit has expired. Carol has applied for a grant to replace it.

The **next Leadership meeting** will be on Wed. April 15th at 7 pm in the Office or Parlor...Join us as all are welcome!





New News:

Pastor Jim started a Lenten Bible Study on Mondays at 7pm in the Parlor.

The Valentines Breakfast & Bake Sale

Look at all the beautiful decorations and smiling faces. Many thanks to Carol, Teresa and Heidi for leading the venture. That morning raised \$1,180.58. Better yet...we opened the doors to the community and they responded.



Bethel Tidings



Some New faces in the kitchen!

Thank you to all who helped and attended.

Upcoming Events:

Fri. Feb. 27 – Reach Shelter

Thur. March 26 – Subs for sale. Order by Sun March 15th.

Sat. April 4 – Egg Hunt – a wonderful community event.

Carol & Deb will begin planning this soon. Let them know if you can help. Most of the planning can be done at home with just 1 or 2 meetings. Then on that morning, we will need extra people for just a few hours to help with food and games.

Forever Givers:



Beverly & Walt Miller have been faithful servants to Bethel for many, many years.

I understand she has been coming here since she was “a babe in arms”. Her friends describe her as being the most faithful person they know.

Together they have helped so many. Agreeing to be Power of Attorney for at least two persons and always giving of themselves. Walter, Phyllis Rice, Russell, Phil Baker and Kathy are just a few names that were mentioned.

Shortly after Women of the Well was started Beverly joined the group and has been a diligent leader, preparing and teaching along with Valerie. She arranges the monthly outings and shares a devotion. As well, she teaches her Sunday School class. This quiet, gentle, strong woman blesses all of Bethel in so many ways.

Sincere gratitude,
Your Church

March Birthdays:

- 1 – Joe Leisinger
- 2 – Mary Lidie
- 3 – Aubrianna Guzowski
- 5 - McKenzie Wagner
- 5 – Jay Black
- 9 – Zakarri Wagner
- 10 – Cokey Robertson
- 10 – Tammy Smith
- 12 – Kelli Black
- 12 – Kayla Wagner
- 13 – Tim Smith
- 14 - * Elizabeth Weaver
- 14 – Iris Kresge
- 23 – Caroline Boyer
- 25 – Cory Brandt
- 27 – Charlene Robertson
- 27 – Blair Rishell
- 29 – Aldine Moser, Jr.



March Anniversaries



March 2 – Tim & Tammy Smith

March 8 – Fred & Peggy Baker

Bethel Tidings

March. 2026 Sunday 1 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:00- Surprise Lunch/FLC 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	Monday 2 Carpet installation 7:00 Lent Bible Study/Parlor	Tuesday 3 6:30 Lions Club/FLC	Wednesday 4 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 6:00 MomCo/Parlor	Thursday 5 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/office	Friday 6 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	Saturday 7 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church /FLC
8 B/P Screening Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 1:30 Girl Scouts/FLC	9 7:00 Lent Bible Study/Parlor	10	11 10:00 W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC	12 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/office	13 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band	14 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	16 Sub orders due Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Lent Bible Study/Parlor	17 St. Patricks Day 6:30 Lions Club/FLC	18 11:00 W@W Red Lobster 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC	19 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/Office	20 12:30-3:30 Band	21 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	23 7:00 Lent Bible Study/Parlor	24	25 10:00 W@W 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 3:00 Sub prep 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC	26 5:30 Boomers V Ball/FLC 1:00 Sub Sale 7:00 Bethel Bible Study/Office	27 12:30-3:30 Band	28 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	30 7:00 Lent Bible Study/Parlor	31				

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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: 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

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner
Phone: 301-733-8387
Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

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 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



Bethel Tidings



Pastor Jim Johnson
Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville
21006 Twin Springs Drive
Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-733-8387



Donate with Venmo.

