

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

May 2026

There's something about May that feels like a deep breath. After the gray quiet of winter and the uncertain beginnings of early spring, May arrives with color, warmth, and life that seems to stretch in every direction. Trees that looked lifeless just weeks ago are suddenly full. Flowers don't ask permission—they simply bloom. And if we're paying attention, we realize that something similar is happening within us, too. Spring doesn't just happen around us—it happens in us. That's why I find this season so fitting as we move toward Pentecost, coming this year on May 24. Pentecost is often called the "birthday of the Church," but more than that, it's a moment of awakening. It's when the Holy Spirit moves not just gently, but powerfully—filling ordinary people with courage, clarity, and purpose. And if we're honest, we could use a little of that right now.

Life doesn't slow down in May. In fact, for many of us, it speeds up. School years are wrapping up, schedules fill, graduations approach, and we find ourselves pulled in a dozen directions. Yet right in the middle of that busyness, God is still doing something quiet and profound—growing something new.

That's what Pentecost reminds us: God is not finished. Not with the Church. Not with the world. Not with you. This month, I want to invite you into something intentional as we prepare our hearts for that moment. Each Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm, we'll gather for a Bible study leading up to Pentecost. It won't be complicated or overwhelming—just a space to slow down, reflect, and listen for the Spirit together. Because here's the truth: We don't experience Pentecost by accident. The disciples didn't stumble into it—they were waiting, praying, and open. And I wonder what might happen if we approached this season the same way. What might God stir in us if we made just a little space? What might come alive again?

As I walk around our church property this time of year—the pavilion, the playground, the spaces meant for community—I'm reminded that Bethel has always been more than a building. It's meant to be a place where life happens. A place where people can breathe. A place where faith isn't forced, but discovered. A haven of peace. A center for following. And that kind of place doesn't exist without the Spirit moving through it. So this May, I encourage you to notice the small signs of life around you—and within you. Step outside when you can. Sit a little longer than usual. Say a prayer you don't rush. Come on a Tuesday evening if you're able. Or simply pause in the middle of your day and ask:

"God, what are you growing in me right now?"

Because the same Spirit that moved at Pentecost is still moving today.
Still breathing life. Still calling. Still sending.
And just like spring itself—new life may be closer than you think.
Grace and peace,
Pastor Jim

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

Women at the Well Bible Study “Walking in God’s Promises” continues on Wednesdays, at 10:00 am. Lunch is normally the 3rd Wednesday of the month. However in May we will not meet on May 13th as we plan to attend the “All Women Together” banquet at 6pm that day. This session will end on May 27th for the summer and restart in September.

Altar flowers:

Bethel continues to be blessed by the talents of the Altar Committee. Please consider signing up on the calendar in the main hallway. 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:



We will be winding down for the end of the school year. A list of items that are needed remains in the file next to the bulletins. If any specific needs it will be listed in the bulletin.

Readers:

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

Ushers & Greeters:

Please let the office know if you can take a turn. Or you can sign up on the 2026 calendar in the hall by prayer request basket. Split a month with a friend! 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, cereals 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...

Alvey Moser – July 28
30 Monica Blvd. Rm 336
Runk & Pratt Senoir Living
Lynchburg, VA 24502

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.

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

2026

Date	In person Church S.S./Worship	Special Events
Mar 29	16/73/26	WMC
April 2&3	21/26	Maundy Thur. Good Friday
April 5	32/13/109/32	Son-rise,& BreakfastWMC
April 12	24/59	
April 19	18/62	
April 26		

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:

Placing barriers around the heating/air unit outside has been contracted.

A sidewalk between the parking lot and the pavilion is in process.

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

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.

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

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

The **next Leadership meeting** will be on Wed. May 20th at 7 pm in the Parlor...Join us as all are welcome!

New News:

A Missions day trip took place on April 11th. It was hard work cleaning and painting after a fire. Deb, Zakarri and Bella Wagner along with JayeLynn Stone and Jay Black represented Bethel. Getting to know others and for Zakarri getting taught how to hammer were highlights of the day.



Bible Studies:

Tuesdays at 6pm – Starting May 5 for 4 weeks ,a study led by Pastor Jim.
Wednesdays at 10am – Women of the Well -“Walking in God’s Promises”.
Thursdays at 6pm – New Beginnings Bible Study starting May 7 in the Parlor.

Egg Hunt:

April 4th was an outstanding Egg Hunt Event. It was very well attended by the community. Bethel church along with the Chewsville Lions hosted a day filled with games, prizes, lunch and of course EGGS! Carol Ewan led this time of fellowship and had a wonderful team of volunteers. Heidi Black took charge of the bake sale along with Bella Wagner to raise over \$800 that was given to the Capitol Campaign projects.



Easter Day 2026

The morning began with a crisp air, the smell of pancakes and sausage on the griddle.

The Pavilion was filled with 32 souls to worship the Lord with music, fellowship and communion.

Then a breakfast was shared among friends while laughing and sharing stories.



Three hours later the sanctuary was filled with 109 present.

The presentation of flowers started at the cross as you entered and continued throughout the sanctuary.

The music was incredible. The communion special and the sermon wonderful.

We are all so blessed.

Upcoming Events:

Friday Night Jam



Join us for a good time!

**Bring your instrument of choice, a comfy chair
& your voice!**

Every Friday from 6pm to 9pm

Contact Jaime Anderson.

The first session brought out about 10 pickers and approximately 12 others to listen and enjoy!

VBS:



Meetings will be starting Wed April 29 at 6pm in the Parlor. The theme is Camp Chaos.

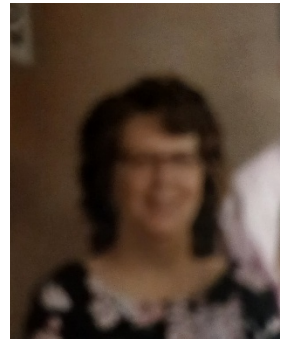
Tonya & Deb will lead again. Sign up to help on the Bulletin Board. Save the dates: Mon June 15 – Fri June 19 VBS...Camp Chaos.

Forever Givers:

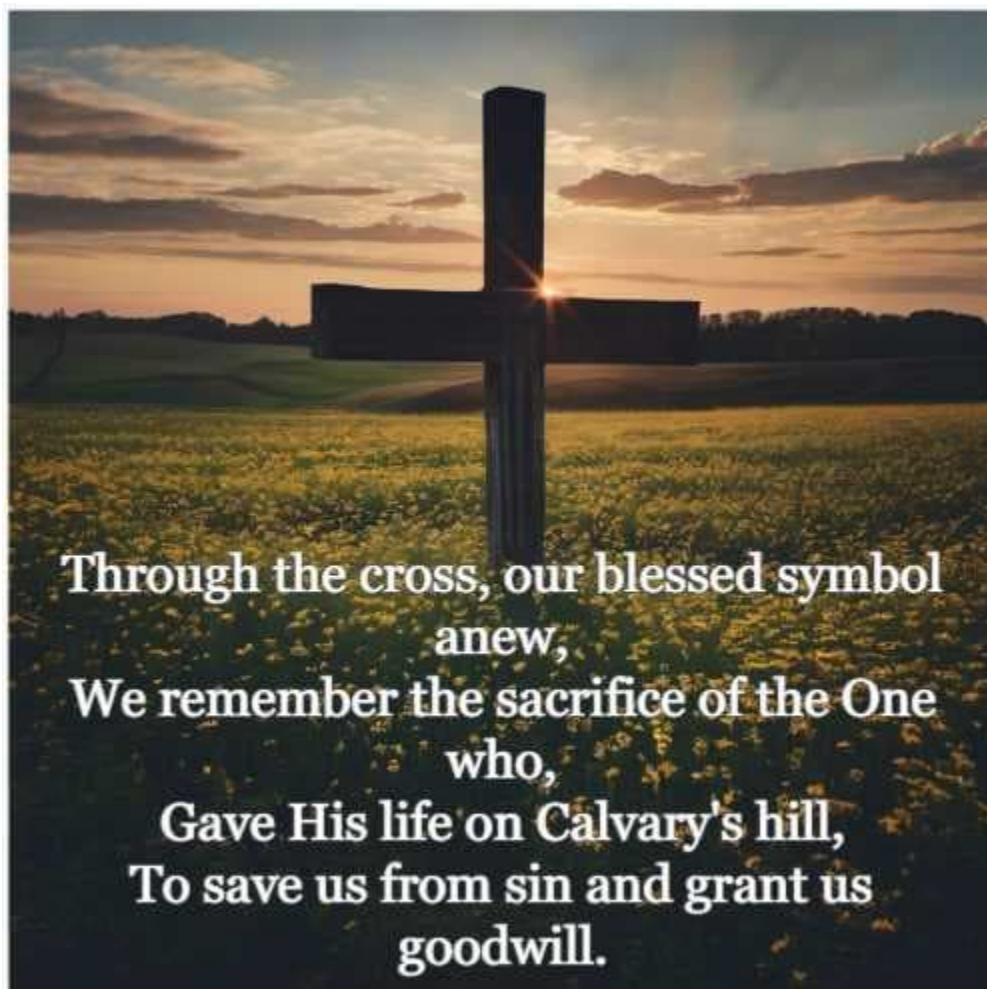


Tammy Gantz is a loving kind Sunday School teacher who has been a part of the Children's Ministry for many years – 41 years now! In addition to her employment as a librarian she is faithful to her church and the importance of teaching the elementary age students the all so important basics they need.

She was also a faithful niece to her aunts, Sylvia Rider and Velma Filsinger.



Sincere Gratitude,
Your Church



May Birthdays:

- 9 – Sue McAllister
- 11 – Frank Morrisey
- 11 - Jaime Anderson
- 11 - Anna McClure
- 15 - Laura Williams Rowe
- 17 – Mary Gross
- 20 - David Wagner
- 20 - Jordyn Phillips
- 24 – Jeanne Dinterman
- 27 – Cathy Boyer
- 30 – John Sounders



May Anniversaries



May 17 – Mr. & Mrs. Jaime Anderson

May 30 – May & Gordon Crabb

Bethel Tidings

May 2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday</p>					<p>1</p> <p>12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band</p> <p>6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC</p>
<p>Communion</p> <p>3</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship</p> <p>2:00 pm Western MD Hospital</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Cinco de Mayo</p> <p>6:30 Lions Club/FLC</p> <p>6pm Bethel Bible Study/office</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 W@W/Parlor</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6:00 MomCo/Parlor</p> <p>6pm VBS meet/FLC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band</p> <p>6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion</p>	<p>9 Onion Delivery</p> <p>9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC</p>
<p>B/P Screening</p> <p>10 Mother's Day</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm VBS Meet/FLC</p> <p>6pm Bethel Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm All Girls Together Banq/FLC</p> <p>6pm VBS meet/FLC</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm Bethel Bible Study/Parlor</p> <p>6:30 Lions Club FLC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 W@W / Parlor</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>7pm Leadership Board/Parlor</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church</p>
<p>24 / 31</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day – office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BWC Conference</p> <p>6pm Bethel Bible Study/office</p> <p>6pm VBS Meet/FLC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>BWC Conference</p> <p>10:00 W@W /Parlor</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm / VBS /F</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BWC Conference</p> <p>7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church</p>

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
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Newsletter Editor:

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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 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



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Donate with Venmo.

