

From the Pastor's Desk:

As we move from the great celebration of Easter into Pentecost, I have found myself reflecting on the quiet ways God speaks to us—not always through thunder or fire, but sometimes through moments in creation that seem to linger in our hearts.

During my recent vacation, three things seemed to appear again and again: butterflies, dragonflies, and cardinals. I honestly don't know if they were signs in the strict sense, but they certainly became reminders. They caught my attention enough that I began to wonder what God might be whispering through them.

Butterflies have long symbolized transformation and new life. It's hard for Christians not to see resurrection in them. Something enclosed and hidden emerges into beauty and freedom. After the heaviness that so many people carry—grief, stress, uncertainty, exhaustion—the butterfly reminds us that God is still in the business of renewal.

Pentecost itself is a story of transformation. Frightened disciples became bold witnesses. A scattered group became the Church. Dragonflies are often associated with change, adaptability, and light. What fascinated me most watching them was how quickly they moved and how they reflected the sunlight. They seemed almost weightless. In many ways, they reminded me of the movement of the Holy Spirit—unpredictable, alive, impossible to control.

Jesus once compared the Spirit to the wind: you can't see where it comes from or where it's going, but you know when it is present. Sometimes the Spirit moves in dramatic moments; other times in gentle nudges, conversations, or unexpected peace.

And then there were the cardinals. Bright, unmistakable, impossible to ignore. Many people connect cardinals with remembrance and the nearness of loved ones. Whether or not that's true, seeing them brought comfort and joy. Scripture often points us toward paying attention to creation because creation itself speaks of God's care and presence. Cardinals reminded me that God has not abandoned us. Even in ordinary days, grace still flashes before us in vivid color.

This month we also enter an important season in the Church Year: Pentecost and what is traditionally called "Ordinary Time" or the "Common Era" of the church calendar. After the major festival seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, Pentecost launches us into the long season of discipleship and growth. The word "ordinary" here does not mean boring or unimportant. It comes from the idea of counting or ordering the weeks. This is the season where we learn what it means to live daily life empowered by the Holy Spirit. The green paraments in the sanctuary symbolize growth, life, and spiritual maturity. Pentecost reminds us that the Church was not created simply for one emotional moment, but for faithful living in the everyday world.

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In many ways, that may be the true connection between butterflies, dragonflies, cardinals, and Pentecost itself: God is still moving in ordinary places. The Holy Spirit still transforms people. New life still emerges. Beauty still surprises us. Hope still breaks through.

As summer begins and the pace of life shifts a little, I encourage you to pay attention. Watch for the places where God may be speaking quietly into your life. It may not come through fire from heaven. It may simply come through a conversation, a moment of peace, a child's laughter, a sunrise, or even a butterfly crossing your path.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jim Johnson

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. 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, call 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.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection Homebound birthdays...

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

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.

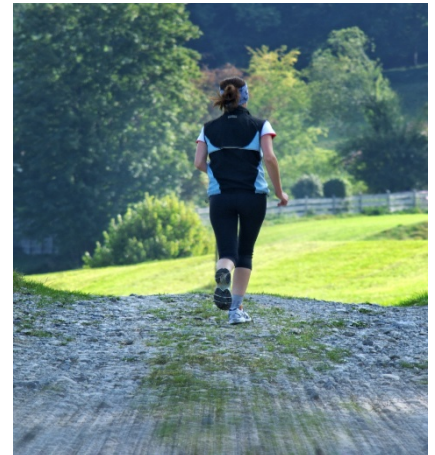
Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products are always welcome.



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

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. She has also started “ Together We Stride, Heart & Soul”. This group invites all to meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm at Bethel to pray and then go to Smithsburg Veterans Park to walk.



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
April 26	16/76	
May 3	23/72/24	WMC
May 10	10/45	
May 17	17/55	
May 24	18/70	

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. Installing 6 more security cameras is the next project once funds are raised. Repairing a basement window, putting up more outside light and placing a door in the main hallway are being worked on.

Trustee:

Placing barriers around the heating/air unit is almost finished. A sidewalk between the parking lot and the pavilion is done. Waiting for the grass to grow.

Child/Youth plans- This will be the main focus of the church in the upcoming months. VBS planning has begun, teacher positions are filled, making decorations has started, and food tabs are on the doors.. Thank you for what has been taken so far.

Church Picnic- On Sunday June 28th at 4pm we invite everyone to gather in the pavilion for a picnic including fresh grilled hotdogs, drinks, and homemade ice cream.



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Those attending should bring a covered dish to share.

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. July 15 at 7 pm in the Parlor...Join us as all are welcome!

All Girls Together:



The ladies enjoyed an evening of fine food, wonderful music, a few stories and making their own tea cup flower arrangements.



Deb Wagner was the M.C. and the New Horizon's senior orchestra played live music for about 45 minutes. With Jay Black, John Souders, David Lutz and Keller Smith tended the food. Jon and Owen Snyder came to help clean up.

Elaine Snyder helped Deb decorate while Kathy Morrissey and Sandy Hose made teapot arrangements as door prizes and led the ladies in making their own floral teacup arrangements.



We so appreciated all of the fine home-made food and the donations that covered the

Bethel Tidings



costs. Hope we can repeat this next year !

Thanks to All!



Bible Studies:

Tuesdays at 6pm – About the Holy Spirit. a study led by Pastor Jim.

Wednesdays at 10am – Women of the Well -“Walking in God’s Promises” ends May 27.

Thursdays at 6pm – New Beginnings Bible Study started May 7 and continues in the Parlor.



We are 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!

New News:

VBS:



Meetings Continue on Tuesdays at 6pm in the Parlor. Next on June 9. We will begin decorating the beginning of June .

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:



Mary Gross is a valued member of our church. She celebrated her birthday on May 17th and had her anniversary on April 30th. Mary joined the church March 23, 1997; 29 years ago. She lives just down the street and is always available along with her husband Gene.

Currently she is the wonderful, quiet elf that tends to the food pantry. Many times her offering is in the form of trips to the grocery store and filling the pantry. She purchases most of these items as her offering to the church.

Helping in the office when she sees things are very busy is just one of her blessings. Her gift is recognizing things like this and pitching in. You will find her and her hubby in the front row most Sundays.

Over the years you might find her at Women at the Well bible studies and lunches. She will often serve at funeral receptions and every so often she will deep clean the kitchen and organize its belongings. Her love of family, children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren always makes her smile.

Join me in saying thanks for all that she does to help at Bethel.



June Birthdays:

- 3 – Elaine Semler
- 3 – Linda Barnhart
- 6 – Bernie Semler
- 13 – Scott McClure
- 19 – Bradley Rishell
- 24 – Carrie Johnson-McClure
- 26 – Mike Sokol
- 28 – Tammy Wagner
- 30 – Linda Langley
- 30 – Teri Lutz



June Anniversaries



- June 1 – Ronnie & Peggy Snyder
- June 7 – Denny & Valerie Kaufmann
- June 7 – Randy & Diane Stevens
- June 13 – Steve & Lori Shifflett
- June 25 – Cokey & Char Robertson
- June 27 – Scott & Carrie McClure

Bethel Tidings

JUNE 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6PM – Walk & Stride	2 6:30 Lions Club/FLC	3 12:30-3:30 Band 6:00 MomCo/Parlor 6PM – Walk & Stride	4 7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor	5 12:30-3:30 New Horizon’s Band 6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion	6 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC	
Communion 7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	8 6PM – Walk & Stride	9 6pm VBS meet/Parlor	10 12:30-3:30 Band 6PM – Walk & Stride	11 7:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor	12 12:30-3:30 New Horizon’s Band 4pm VBS decorate 6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion	13 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church/FLC 4pm – VBS decorate
B/P Screening 14 Flag Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	15 5:30-8 VBS 6PM – Walk & Stride	16 5:30-8 VBS	17 5:30-8 VBS 12:30-3:30 Band 6pm Walk & Stride	18 5:30-8 VBS	19 5:30-8 VBS/program 12:30-3:30 Band 6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion	20 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	22FLC blocked for election Newsletter Deadline 6PM – Walk & Stride	23FLC blocked for election 5:30am Primary Election Day/FLC	24 FLC blocked for election 12:30-3:30 Band 6pm VBS Clean up 6PM – Walk & Stride	25 6:00 New Begin Bible Study/Parlor	26 12:30-3:30 Band 3pm Busey wedding/sanct. 6pm – Fri. Jam/Pavilion	27 9am-5pm Haitian SDA Church
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service 4pm Ice Cream Social/Pavillion	29 6pm Walk & Stride	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
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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



Bethel Tidings



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Donate with Venmo.

