

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

July 2025

My favorite song from the popular musical “Wicked” (which wasn’t sung in the movie released last fall) is sung almost at the end. It is the final meeting of the two main characters who have been friends and enemies, partners and rivals throughout the show. When they meet, under less-than-ideal circumstances right before the end, they sing this song, knowing that they will probably never see each other again. It is an apology and an affirmation and an acknowledgment of a deep and lasting connection, of the impact that a person can make on another life. It is titled “For Good,” and composer Stephen Schwartz considers it one of the best songs he’s ever written.

“I’ve heard it said / that people come into our lives for a reason / bringing something we must learn / and we are led / to those who help us most to grow / if we let them / and we help them in return // Well, I don’t know if I believe that’s true / but I know I’m who I am today / because I knew you...”

Songwriter: Stephen Lawrence Schwartz

For Good lyrics © Universal Music Corp., Greydog Music.

The song recognizes the influence that others bring to our lives and the impact that they make, often in surprising, but permanent ways. The turn of the phrase of the title is that the beneficial (for good) influence from those close to us has a permanent (for good) effect. It stays with us. We are different because of the good that others bring to our lives. “You’ll be with me / like a handprint on my heart,” Elphaba sings.

This week, we conclude part one of our series “Dear Children of God” series by asking what it means to be a new creation. I have long maintained that to fully grasp Paul’s writing, you have to think in plurals. We tend to think in singulars: What can I do? How can I grow in discipleship? The new creation Paul describes is a relationship, a community. We are a new creation. My faith is wrapped up in your faith, my growth in your growth. Paul asks us in the sixth chapter of Galatians to measure our faith by our impact on the wider community and the folks around us. In the middle of our text for this week, we read this:

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. - Galatians 6:9-10 NRSV

What do you hear in these two verses? I couldn’t help but hear this one, simple phrase: “Let us not grow weary in doing what is right.” Pretty simple, really. “Just hang in there,” says Paul, “Just keep plugging away.” Service in the name of Christ is a marathon and not a sprint, as so many have written or said. So, keep at it.

Excerpt from Discipleship Ministries.

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will continue "The Chosen" in Sept. Currently we will study Max Lucado "How Happiness Happens" finding lasting joy in a world of comparison, disappointment, and unmet expectations. Lunch is Wednesday, July 16 at Western Sizzlin Steakhouse at 11:00 am, and August 20 in the Bethel Pavilion.

All are welcome to join us.

This study is open to all (men and women). Please contact Beverly Miller (shanda@myactv.net) or Valerie Kaufmann (kaufmval@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

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

Thank you so much for supporting this important program again this year. VBS contributed food products and \$500.00 in offerings to help start this program again next school year.

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 July, August, 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...

July 28 – Alvey Moser
30 Monica Blvd. Room 336
Lynchburg, VA 24502

July 31 – John Kalbflesh
P.O. Box 165
Chewsville, MD 21721

**Attendance
June 2025**

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
May 25	17/62	
June 1	20/63/23	WMC
June 8	25/82	
June 15	18/64	
June 22	15/65	

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:

Spiritual Formation- The group is encouraged to reach out and make individual contact with others in kindness as Jesus did.

Trustee: Tim Smith is preparing to paint the outdoor trim of the church this summer. Keith and Judy Hoffman will paint the offices.

The air conditioner in the FLC will cost approximately \$52,000 to replace. Repairs to the alarm system will be \$3,340. This is an old building and many replacements on heat and air units will be in the future. Currently \$26,000 will be removed from The UM Foundation for the deposit.

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 in October with Carol Ewan chairing the event.

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

HUB News- St. Paul's will be using the Pavilion June 29 for their church picnic.

SPRC Chairperson has changed to Carol Ewan. Many thanks to Karen Hays for her service.

The **next meeting** will be on Wed., July 16th, at 7 pm in the Office...Join us!



VBS

The 2025 VBS theme was “Knights of North Castle”

Under the leadership of Deb Wagner from Bethel and Tonya Freeman from New Beginnings Christian Fellowship the churches joined resources and led an average of 31 children and 28 teen and adults for one week. Each day a theme of “armor-up” was part of the teaching with Bible Stories, crafts, science and recreation. All volunteers and children were fed kid-friendly meals and snacks.

The cost of approximately \$1,000 was shared by both churches. This did not count the teachers and decorators absorbing most of their costs.

Then on Saturday Kellar Smith planned an Italian Meal that was served and followed by the Children's Program. The good-will donations of \$540.59 was donated to the furnace fund.



Bethel Tidings



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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.

Vacations are an important part of balancing our lives. We hope that you will find rest and renewal. Remember to include God as a part of your plans.



STAY SAFE!

July Birthdays:

1 – Peggy Snyder
4 – Marlene Young
4 – Billy McCartney
10 – Faith Palmer
12 – Helen Stone
21 – Valerie Kaufmann
23 – Celia Ausherman
23 – Pam Brubaker
24 – Beverly Miller
24 – David Lidie
25 – Madison Snyder
26 – Kassie Symonds
28 – *Alvey Moser
30 – Barbara Simmons
31 – * John Kalbflesh
31 – Lilly Ross



July Anniversaries:



July 4 – Brady & Kaelii Boyer

July 7 – David & Tammy Wagner

July 10 – Drew & Heather Ross

July 13 – Duane & Roni McNairn

July 14 – Tim & Teresa Rossiter

July 15 – Alvey & Deanie Moser

July 20 – Paul & Tammy Gantz

July 27 – George & Helen Stone

Bethel Tidings

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day –office closed	5
		6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC	12:30-3:30 Band	6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor		9am-1pm Haitian SDA Church 1:00pm AA Event/FLC
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital			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
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship		6:00 pm Lions/FLC	11:00 W@W lunch @ Western Sizzlin 12:30-3:30 Band 7:00 Leadership Council/Office	6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	12:30-3:30 Band	9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church 9am – Embroidery Guild/Pavilion
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	Newsletter Deadline		12:30-3:30 Band	6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor	12:30-3:30 Band 4pm Wagner/ Pavilion	9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service			12:30-3:30 Band	6:00 New Beginnings Bible Study/Parlor		

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



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



Donate with Venmo.

