

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

Aug 2025

“Everyone at the Table: The Depth of Our Shared Humanity”

There’s something deeply human about sitting around a table. Meals are more than food; they are a symbol of belonging, relationship, and community. But the truth is, far too often we decide—consciously or not—who gets to be at the table and who doesn’t. Who gets a full seat, and who we ask to sit quietly at the edge.

In our fractured world, it can be easy to surround ourselves with people who look like us, think like us, vote like us, or live like us. We might claim diversity because there are different skin tones in the room, but true inclusion goes deeper than color or culture. It asks: Are we giving everyone an equal place at the table? Are we recognizing the full, messy, beautiful humanity in each person, even those who make us uncomfortable?

Jesus did. Jesus saw people. Really saw them.

He didn’t just welcome the rich and powerful (though He dined with them, too). He shared the table with tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes, and zealots. He touched the lepers. He spoke with women others ignored. He crossed social, religious, and cultural lines—not to make a point, but to make people whole. And He did it without asking them to pretend to be anything other than who they were.

In Luke 14, Jesus told a parable about a great banquet. When the invited guests made excuses, the master of the house told his servant: “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” “Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”

Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.” (Luke 14:21–23) There’s always more room at God’s table. But here’s the challenge: we don’t all need to sit at the head. Some of us will be called to lead, to teach, or to speak boldly. Others will serve quietly, offer wisdom, or create space for others to thrive. Our value doesn’t depend on our visibility. When we understand this, we can stop scrambling for the best seat and start honoring the presence of others around us. We learn to listen, not just speak. We learn to share, not dominate. We begin to experience the depth of humanity as God sees it: diverse, complex, beloved.

So let’s build tables, not pedestals. Let’s welcome stories that are not our own. Let’s invite the ones who’ve been left out or pushed to the margins—not out of pity, but because we need them to be whole. Let’s follow Jesus’ example, who didn’t ask whether people belonged—He showed them they did. May we be the kind of community that reflects that grace. Where everyone has a seat. Where no one has to fight to be seen. Where we don’t just say all are welcome—we actually make it true.

Amen.

Continued Events:



Women at the Well

The Woman at the Well will gather for lunch at Schulas Grill and Crab House on Wednesday, August 20th at 11:00 am. All are welcome at this monthly gathering. Please let Beverly Miller know if you plan to attend and so she can add your name to the reservations. 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 will be ordered in August at a cost of around \$15.00 each. Please let Beverly Miller or Valerie Kaufmann know if you plan to attend and will be purchasing a book.

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 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...

Aug 11 – Deanie Moser
107 Monica Blvd, Rm 45
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Aug 14 – Evelyn Downs
20701 Emerald Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Attendance
June 2025

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
July 6	20/60/22	Keith Hoffman WMC – Jaime Anderson
July 13	16/53	John Wunderlich
July 20	13/72	Debbie House
July 27		



Pam Brubaker's birthday

Pam started her day with the family coming to honor her wish for them all to join her in church.

She is so blessed with such a loyal and wonderful family. It is so evident that she shared her faith with her children and now them with their children.

Thank you Pam for sharing your blessings with all of us!

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, Kellar, Alicia, Riley, Deb & Dave finished the office areas.

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 to be updated soon.

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 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.

Facebook homepage updates are in process. Carol Ewan is working on this.

The next Leadership meeting will be on Wed., Aug 20th, at 7 pm in the Office...Join us!

Some NEW LOOKS!

Carol has been gathering new pictures that will be placed on Facebook:



Bethel Tidings

**Children's Moments with
Keith !**



About Jesus being the gift!



Learning of the Shepherd!

Lay Pastor House



Bethel Tidings

Stepping up to sing! Isabella and Zakarri Wagner.



Opal was kept familiar with the office routine but really missed his Dad!

But got a car ride with Kellar and Deb each day.



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.

Aug. Birthdays:

1 – Gene Gross
1 – Laura Harbaugh
4 – Kathy Morrissey
4 – Michelle McCartney
5 – Jennifer Ritter
5 – Brady Boyer
6 – Colleen Barkman-Crowther
8 – Jayelynn Stone
11 - * Deanie Moser
11 – Lori Shifflett
14 - * Evelyn Downs
14 – Jason Phillips
14 – Makayla Phillips
15 – Benjamin Gantz
18 – Peggy Baker
18 – Anthony Perry-Roberts
18 – Kaleb Ritter
19 – William Harbaugh
24 – Katie Kelly
24 – Matthew Johnson
29 – Randy Stevens
31 – Martha Saufley



Aug. Anniversaries:

Aug 8 – Blair & Kim Rishell
Aug 17 – Mike & Marlene Young
Aug 20 – Michael & Donna Johnson
Aug 22 – John & Nancy Shank
Aug 28 – Keith & Judy Hoffman

Bethel Tidings

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

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:

Deb Wagner

Phone: 301-733-8387

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Telephone Prayer Chain:

Beverly Miller

Phone: 301-739-6270

Email: shanda@myactv.net

Bethel Connect:

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



Bethel Tidings



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Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville
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Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-733-8387



Donate with Venmo.

