

January 2024

Bethel Tidings

Dear Bethel Family,

As we enter the crisp and promising month of January, our hearts are filled with anticipation and hope for what lies ahead in the coming year. At Bethel Church, we are a community bound together by faith, love, and the shared journey of spiritual growth. It is with great joy that we present our first newsletter of the year, brimming with inspiration, reflections, and exciting updates.

In the spirit of the New Year, let us take a moment to reflect on the blessings and challenges that shaped us in the past year. Our faith community has overcome hurdles and celebrated victories together, and we emerge stronger and more united. As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter, we look forward to the opportunities for growth, service, and fellowship that await us.

January is a time of renewal and gratitude. In our newsletter, we celebrate the beauty of worship and the power of gratitude. Join us in exploring how we can deepen our connection with the divine through prayer, meditation, and the shared worship experience. Let us cultivate an attitude of gratitude that permeates every aspect of our lives, fostering joy and contentment in our hearts.

Bethel Church has always been a beacon of hope and compassion in our community. In this month's newsletter, discover the exciting initiatives and opportunities for service that await us. From local outreach programs to global missions, let us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, making a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

Stay informed about the upcoming events and gatherings that will strengthen our sense of community. Whether it's a fellowship dinner, a special worship service, or a study group, these occasions provide valuable opportunities for connection, growth, and mutual support.

In times of uncertainty, our faith serves as a source of strength. Find encouragement and inspiration from the pastor and fellow members in this month's newsletter. Let these messages uplift your spirits and guide you on your faith journey.

As we embark on this New Year together, let us be a source of hope for one another and the world. May our collective faith illuminate the path ahead, and may the love of Christ continue to bind us in unity. Wishing you a January filled with hope, joy, and the abundant blessings of our Lord.

In Christ's love, Pastor Jim

Church Advent Activities:

Giving for Children

This year we will be participating in the *Giving Tree* "Compassion" program. It is designed to help release children from poverty in Jesus' name. A tree filled with "Giving Ornaments" will be present with ornaments (cards) of various denominations to provide various items such as Food for a Child or Seeds, Goats, Water Supply, etc. All checks should be made payable to Bethel UM Church with a **note on the memo line "Tree"**. This will be collected for the last time on December 31st.

Dec. 3 – 2nd Sunday of Advent –

Caroling at area Nursing Homes

The visit to the Western Maryland Center was canceled as they were shut down due to COVID.

Linda Barnhart led us in caroling at Hagerstown Health Care and Seaton Healthcare.

There were 11 that joined the fun even with an out of tune piano. The residents were singing and smiling and expressed their appreciation.



Dec. 10 – 3rd Sunday of Advent –

Movie Night for all ages at Bethel

The event was cancelled as there were none that could attend.



Coat Closet:

He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none. Luke 3:11

Thanks to Jayelynn and Bella for helping to give away coats to needy folks on December 16th. Bethel takes part in the Christmas dinner and give away that Momma D and the It's a Blessing group provide for homeless and others in need every year. We collect coats every year and this year we gave away more than 150 coats, thank you all for your unending generosity. Please bring any unneeded coats to Bethel throughout the year.

Giveaway Sat Dec 16th



December 17

Poinsettia Sunday

Volunteers helped take them to the homebound. Thank you to all the volunteers who were blessed by surprising our homebound when they were able to spend a few unscheduled minutes with others while delivering the flowers.

We have already received notes of thanks.



Dec. 17 – 4th Sunday of Advent –

Christmas Joy with Cantata



The theme “**Behold, Emmanuel, Love is with Us**” was offered by the choir and the hand bells. Light refreshments and fellowship were shared following the service. Sincere thanks to all who prepared and served us during the service.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

The morning started with a traditional service with great hymns and special music by Riley and vocals by Hannah from the Frostburg Choir. The children had a surprise when asked to put on decorated boxes and enter the sanctuary as gifts to Christ. They sang two songs and symbolically gave the words of Christ’s gifts back to him in the manger. Attendance of 78 souls came together in worship.

The 7:00 pm traditional candlelight service had 42 in attendance and the 11:00 service had 16. Communion was shared along with beautiful songs and candlelight.



Pot Luck Meal

January 28th @ 11:30

A Pot Luck Covered Dish Meal will become a quarterly event after Sunday Church Services. Next will be Sunday January 28th. Watch for a sign-up page soon!

Women at the Well

There were 85 items taken to Head Start the first week of December. Thank you for participating to keep the little ones warm.

Won't you consider joining us for the Bible study, "The Chosen", in the parlor at 10:00 on Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 24 & 31? And - all are invited to join us for brunch on Wednesday, January 17th, 11:00 at Fireside.



Supporting our Homebound

Bethel Caring Connection

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. (Psalm 91:4)

Thanks to all who brought gifts for the cheer boxes, delivered boxes and poinsettias, and sent cards to our homebound members. It is greatly appreciated. The smile on the faces of folks just as the result of a brief visit is heartwarming. If you, a family member, or friend need transportation to an appointment or someone to sit a short time with a shut-in, or other help please call the church office or me at 301-992-7831.

Blessings, Pam

Homebound birthdays...

Jan 12 – Mary Warrenfeltz
628 Butler Ave.
Winchester, VA 22601

Jan 19 – Phil Petry
9101 Second Ave. Regency Care
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Jan 20 – Velma Filsinger
1175 Professional Court, Room 159
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Feb 6 – Walt Fynn
750 Dual Highway, Room 107
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update

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



Our blessing box has continued to serve many. This has been such a great blessing to our church family to serve others. At this time we give many thanks to our wonderful volunteers. Melissa Metzger is now shopping for additional items when needed and Nancy Shank has agreed to fill the box on Fridays since Mary Gross is heading South! In addition, the blessing box could not work without your love and contributions. If you have any questions please contact me 301-991-9759.



Your sister in Christ, Elaine Snyder

ALTAR FLOWERS

The new calendar is in the hallway above the offering plate. Please stop by and sign up.

The current cost of the arrangements is \$45.00.

Please inform the office what you would like printed in the bulletin 2 weeks prior to your date.

Sunday School updates

The **Adult SS class** (in the Parlor) has started a new study that began on Dec 3. It is an Adult Bible Study "God Abides".

The **Pre-teens** have named their class **F.R.O.G.** (fully rely on God) and are redesigning the basement. They also joined to see the movie "Wish" as a group. That trip was enjoyed with the group requesting we have more outings. Maybe bowling in February???

The Leadership Board:

VISION STATEMENT

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:

New Board positions for 2024:

Council Chairperson – Keith Hoffman

Finance Chairperson – Teresa Rossiter

Treasurer (for banking only) – David Wagner

Lead Trustee – Tim Smith

Nominations Chairperson – Celia Ausherman



The Pavilion

The Financial status was discussed as weekly offerings are not meeting the budgeted amounts. Your Leadership Team is keeping a close watch on this.

Security System is completed to ensure the well-being of our members and visitors, and we continue to monitor and adapt to changing circumstances. This is bringing more updated monitoring as well as providing improved security for building entrances. There will be doorbell access as well as key fobs for frequent building visitors. The system is designed to improve everyone's safety.

A Hospitality Committee remains a much needed concern. Speak up if you can help. A leader or perhaps two to share.

Attendance –Dec. 2023

| Date | In person Church | Special Events |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Dec 3 | 56 | 11 caroling |
| Dec 10 | 54 | |
| Dec 17 | 63 | 83 Cantata |
| Dec 24 | 78 | |
| Dec 24 | 42/ 16 | 7pm/11pm |

Lay Readers – January 2024

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Jan 7 | Cameron |
| Jan 14 | Bella |
| Jan 21 | Madison |
| Jan 28 | Abby |
| | |

Call Elaine to sign up! 301-991-9759.



Jan. Anniversaries:

3 – Ron & Melissa Metzger

3 – T.J. & Dave Lutz

Jan. Birthdays:

3 – Steve Shifflett
7 – Vivian Michael
7 – Heather Ross
7 – Kellar Smith
8 – Cally Brandt
9 – George Brandt
9 – Judy Anders
9 – Isabella Wagner
10 – Katie Gantz
10 – Hailey Wagner
11 – Martha Lynch
12 - * Mary Warrenfeltz
16 – Ed Gelsinger
18 – Gretchen Buddenhagen
18 – Julie Beard
19 - * Phil Petry
20 - *Velma Filsinger
21 – Judy Hoffman
24 – Gerald Anders
25 – Rose Bowser
26 – Sylvia Rider
26 – Todd Roberts
27 – Heather Rucci
29 – Stephanie O'Shen
30 – Steven Ganley
31 – Logan Bachtell



Please note that in January the Anniversary and Birthday lists have been changed to reflect the updated membership roster.

* Homebound

- see caring connections for addresses



Want to walk with us?

The Family Life Center is open from 8:30am to 8pm daily. Kellar and Deb walk from 8:30 to 9:00 before work. Open to community.

Bethel Tidings

| Jan 2024 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Monday 1 NEW YEARS DAY Office Closed | Tuesday 2 6pm Lions/FLC | Wednesday 3 10am W@W/Parlor | Thursday 4 | Friday 5 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2 | Saturday 6 |
| 7 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital | 8 5:30- VB/FLC | 9 6:30 – Catalyst Zoom Meet/Office 7pm – Statistical Training/Zoom | 10 10:00 W@W/Parlor 5:30- VB/FLC 6:30 Girl Scout Leaders- upstairs | 11 5:30- VB/FLC | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship | 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING Day 5:30- VB/FLC | 16 6pm – Lions/FLC | 17 10:00 W@W/Parlor 5:30- VB/FLC 7pm – Leadership Board/Parlor | 18 5:30- VB/FLC | 19 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & upstairs x 2 | 20 |
| 21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship | 22 Newsletter Deadline 5:30- VB/FLC | 23 | 24 11:00 W@W /lunch @ Fireside 5:30 VB /FLC | 25 5:30- VB/FLC | 26 | 27 8am – Gantz party/FLC |
| 28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 11:30 Pot Luck Meal/FLC | 29 5:30 – VB/FLC | 30 | 31 10am W@W/ Parlor 5:30 VB/FLC | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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

Email: secretary@bethelumchurch.org

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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