

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

January 2025

“A New Year, A Renewed Spirit”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! As we step into January 2025, we are reminded that God is always at work, making all things new. At Bethel United Methodist Church, we are blessed to be part of God’s unfolding story. Together, we worship, grow, and serve, witnessing the grace of God in ways that transform lives and communities.

A Season of Worship

This past Advent and Christmas season has been filled with joyous worship. From the lighting of the Advent candles by the Bethel leadership team to the beautiful voices singing carols, our sanctuary has been alive with the hope and light of Christ. Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas Eve so special, from the musicians to those who shared their time decorating the sanctuary. As we move into the Epiphany season, we continue to lift our hearts in praise, seeking God’s guidance for the year ahead. Let us look forward to upcoming worship services that will inspire us to live faithfully in 2025. We are already planning a meaningful worship series for Lent and Easter, and I encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to join us as we grow together in Christ.

Fellowship and Connection

At Bethel UMC, we know that the church is more than a place of worship; it is a family. Our fellowship opportunities continue to bring us together in love and laughter. Whether it is through our small groups, fellowship meals, or Sunday coffee hours, relationships are being deepened and discipleship is growing. If you have not yet joined a small group or ministry, I encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so this year. It is never too late to connect!

Mission and Outreach

The heart of Bethel UMC is found in its commitment to mission. We continue to serve our neighbors near and far:

- Local Outreach: From providing meals for families in need to partnering with our local schools, your support makes a real difference.
- Global Mission: Through our state-of-the-art sound and video system, we remain connected to global partners, offering worship to those without a local faith community.
- Community Events: Our fall yard sale, trunk-or-treat, and Christmas outreach events brought smiles to many faces and demonstrated God’s love in tangible ways.

Looking ahead, we are excited about new opportunities for mission in 2025. Your prayers, hands, and hearts continue to make this work possible.

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A Call to Renewed Discipleship

As we enter this New Year, let us commit to deepening our discipleship and trusting God's provision. In a world that can feel uncertain, we know that God is our constant. I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In this spirit, I invite you to join us in our vision for Bethel UMC:

- Continue worshiping with joy.
- Connect through fellowship.
- Serve boldly in mission.

Together, we are building a church where God's love is made known and where all are welcome to grow in faith. Thank you for being part of this journey. I look forward to walking with you in 2025 as we celebrate the many ways God is at work among us.

Blessings for a joyful and Spirit-filled New Year,

Pastor Jim Johnson

Bethel United Methodist Church

Recent Activities:

Sunday **December 1st** was a beautiful afternoon with 15 adults and children joining Pastor Jim and Sue McAllister at Western Maryland Center and then traveling to Seaton Assisted Living and Hagerstown Healthcare to walk the halls **and sing carols** to the residents. The F.R.O.G. class painted wooden ornaments and gave to many. Thanks to Linda Barnhart for leading us. Jon Snyder made it a family event and his voice was a wonderful compliment.



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On Sunday **December 8th**, after worship, the Second Sunday of Advent we had a **Pot Luck/Ugly Sweater/Talent Show** event. We had 33 stay for the event. It was an afternoon of good food, sharing talents and door prizes. Sandy Hose and Kathy Morrisey demonstrated and made boxwood tree arrangements that were sold and monies donated to the Furnace Fund. Pam Brubaker found a poem in a book from her childhood and shared. The children were awesome. Abby Snyder and Owen Snyder sang, Madison, Jaye, and Zakarri played instruments. The audience became involved making marshmallow snowmen and playing a word game. Keith & Judy Hoffman tended to the food, Jon Snyder was there for the audio and Deb Wagner served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Sub Sale was held on **Dec 5th**. With help from Volleyball, the Lions, New Beginnings Church and New Horizons Band we made 450 subs. The remaining extra subs were taken to the Veterans Shelter on North Ave.

Bethel Baking Time was on **December 14th**.



With Teresa Rossiter leading us, Deb Wagner and granddaughters Bella and Jaye, worked hard to make many cookies that are being offered as Cantata refreshments and also bags to sell with profits going to the furnace fund.

The Cantata was **Sunday December 22nd**.

This was postponed after the evening of December 15th was uncooperative with snow and ice. Then on December 22nd evening 23 souls from Mount Lena and Bethel churches joined to bring us a beautiful evening of hand bells and many wonderful voices. Thanks to pianist Pam Lego, her son who played the drums and director Linda Barnhart.

The Altar Committee amazed us once again! Such creative minds and faithful hardworking ladies (and Kellar).



Sunday December 22nd at 10 am **The Children's Christmas Program** was the main event during the worship service. "Manger Tales" was a wonderful skit with scriptures and songs that educated us all thru a talk show host interviewing the animals that were a part of the birth and stable events. They were all AWESOME!



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Tuesday December 24th – Christmas Eve

2 pm – Pastor Jim and Sue McAllister Offered their talents with music and a message at the Western Maryland Center. They had 42 residents, staff and families attend. The live music and great songs and message were very appreciated.

7 pm – There were 37 and 11 pm 25 who attended worship that evening. Holiday songs, scriptures and communion blessed the services.



Continued Events:

Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will meet for bible study (The Chosen) on Wednesday, 1/8, 1/22, 1/29. No meeting on 1/01. Brunch on Wednesday, 1/15, 11:00 at Schulas. 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. Currently there are multiple dates open throughout the Winter. Please consider signing up. 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!



Hat & Mitten Tree

We have been collecting hats and mittens/gloves again this year for children (infants through 5 years old) for Head Start children in Washington County. Most needed this year are hats for children ages 3 to 5 years old. A mitten tree is in place under the balcony for you to hang your donations. A drop was made to Head Start on December 10th of 113 items and another one will be at the end of December. Let us help ensure that each Head Start child is given these clothing items and the opportunity to be warmer throughout the winter. On December 10th the tree was full and items taken to Head Start. The contributions once again filled the tree.

Bethel Coat Closet

We were able to provide free coats to those John's Lutheran Church in Hagerstown on there!

This has become an annual event for our families. The coat closet is always available to those in our local community during office hours, Please help us gather coats as well as any winter wear like hats, scarfs and gloves. Thank you so much for your past donations of coats over the years. They have been greatly appreciated!
Diane Stevens



in need as we joined Mama Dee at Saint December 7th. Thanks to Pam for being

church and has been a blessing to many

Micah's Backpack

Healthy Meals for Healthy Families



We began again on Sept 16th. If you see canned pasta, soups, tuna, etc. on sale, we are packing for 24 students .

Full lists of acceptable donations is in the file holder next to the bulletins. Money is also welcomed. Just write "Micah's" on the memo line. Thanks for your continued support to this program!
Linda Barnhart

Readers:

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



**Supporting our Homebound
Bethel Caring Connection**

This group is looking for a new leader, as Pam is ready to pass the torch.

Please contact the office if you could help with this.

Homebound birthdays...

Jan 12- Mary Warrenfeltz 628 Butler Ave. Winchester, VA 33601	Jan 19 – Phil Petry 9101 Second Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910	Jan 20 – Velma Filsinger 1175 Professionbal Ct. Hagerstown, MD 21740	Jan 26 – Sylvia Rider 20623 Emerald Dr. Hagerstown, MD 21742
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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.

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

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:

Fundraising is necessary as the budget continues to fall short.

- Jan 19 – Soup and Sandwich Sale – will take orders.
- Feb ___ - Sub sale – proceeds to benefit the General Fund.
- Feb 9 – possible Super Bowl event
-

The Boiler – The parts are installed in our old boiler and we currently have heat again. Although we had a large portion donated it was \$1,500 to get it working. We have no idea how long it will last so the capitol campaign for a new furnace continues.

The **next meeting** will be on Wed. January 15th, at 7pm in the Parlor...Join us!



The 2025 Board members:

Bethel UMC, Smithsburg (5135) 2024 Nominations Report - Unified Board

Printed: August 9, 2024

We, the members of Bethel UMC, present the following Nomination Report

'24 Status Description:

Inactive: Term ends in Dec. '23

Active: Start Date on/before Jan. 1, '24

Future: Term starts after Jan. 1, '24

Position	Member Name	Start	End	'24 Status
Chair	Keith Hoffman	01/01/24		ACTIVE
Pastor	Jim Johnson	01/01/17		ACTIVE
Children Ministries	Debra Wagner	01/01/24		ACTIVE
Communications	Jon Snyder	04/15/19		ACTIVE
Finance	Teresa Rossiter	01/01/14		ACTIVE
Financial Secretary	Linda Barnhart	01/01/21		ACTIVE
Lay Leader(s)	Drew Ross	01/01/23		ACTIVE
Lay Member(s)	Drew Ross	01/01/23		ACTIVE
Missions	Brady Boyer	10/25/22	01/01/24	
Secretary	Debra Wagner	04/10/18		ACTIVE
SPRC/PPRC	Karen Hays	01/01/20	08/07/24	ACTIVE
Treasurer	David Wagner	02/07/23		ACTIVE
Trustee	Tim Smith	01/01/24		ACTIVE
	Duane McNairn	12/15/16	12/31/23	INACTIVE
Youth Ministries	Debra Wagner	01/01/24		ACTIVE
Member(s) at Large	Celia Aushman	10/11/23		ACTIVE
	Phil Baker	02/02/18		ACTIVE

Attendance
Dec. 2024

Date	In person Church S.S./ Worship	Special Events
Nov 24	19/63	
Dec 1	11/60/30/15	WMC Caroling
Dec 8	18/70/33	Pot Luck/Talents
Dec 15	20/ 60/ 4	Cookie making
Dec 22	101/ 55	Children's Program Cantata
Dec 24	42/ 37 / 25	2pm at WMC 7pm 11pm

Do you know that with all the activities in December that we had weeks that over 100 persons were here in small groups. This did not include Sunday worship services. We are surely growing as a community. You are welcome to stop in anytime and introduce yourself and invite them to join us Sunday.

Upcoming Events:

So many wonderful opportunities

Think twice...where can you use your talents in service to the church?



Compassion Giving Tree

We will be supporting children and families in need by buying the paper ornaments that represent mission ventures. Helping those in poverty experience a full plate and a full stomach. This will be set up in the front of the sanctuary as it was last year.

Mission Shares

The connectional system and Mission Shares (formerly known as apportionments) are two of the defining traits of United Methodism. They allow local churches to reach beyond their walls and be in ministry in significant ways in their backyards and across the globe.

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Through the support of you, and your church, we fund hundreds of projects each year. [Learn more.](#)

WHY WE GIVE

We give to minister in Jesus' name. Together, United Methodists do remarkable ministry around the world. We care for survivors recovering from earthquakes and storms; we invest, long term, in vulnerable communities; we implement the most effective solutions to diseases like malaria; we equip the next generation to lead the church and society. In all of this, we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We give because God first gave to us. Thank you for your generous support and witness!

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR MONEY?

About 11 cents of every dollar put in the local church collection plate support General Church and Conference Mission Shares. Together, these pennies are transforming the world.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Forms and Reports](#)
- [Your Mission Shares In Action](#)
- [Narrative Budget 2025](#)
- [Detailed Budget 2025](#)

All of this – and so much more – is possible because when we take vows to become members of The United Methodist Church, we promise faithfully to participate in its ministries through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. By paying ALL of our Mission Shares at 100 percent, and giving faithfully to the six church-wide [Special Sundays](#), we become a part of something bigger than ourselves and accomplish wonderful things in Jesus' name. Read "[A Theology of United Methodist Giving: Apportionments](#)"

General Church and Conference Mission Shares are broken down into various groups. These groups are:

- [World Service Fund](#)
- [Africa University](#)
- [Black College Fund](#)
- [Episcopal Fund](#)
- [General Administration Fund](#)
- [Interdenominational Cooperation Fund](#)
- [Ministerial Education Fund](#)

Please note all Birthdays and Anniversaries have been updated with the current directory lists.

January Birthdays:

- 3 – Steve Shifflett
- 7 – Vivian Michael
- 7 – Donna Johnson
- 7 – Kellar Smith
- 8 – Cally Brandt
- 9 – George Brandt
- 9 – Bella Wagner
- 10 – Katie Gantz
- 10 – Hailey Wagner
- 11 – Martha Lynch
- 12 - * Mary Warrenfeltz
- 13 – Mary Mowen
- 18 – Gretchen Buddenhagen
- 19 - * Phil Petry
- 20 - * Velma Filsinger
- 21 - Judy Hoffman
- 24 – Gerald Anders
- 25 – Rose Bowser
- 25 – Priscilla Miller
- 26 - * Sylvia Rider
- 26 – Todd Roberts
- 29 – Stephanie Rossiter



January Anniversaries:



Jan 3 – Ron & Melissa Metzger

Bethel Tidings

Jan 2025 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
5 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital	6	7 6:00 pm Lions/FLC	8 New Year's Day Office closed 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & Up 6:00 pm GS Older/ Upstairs	9 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6:00 pm New Be Bible/Parlor	10 12:30-3:30 Band	11 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship	13 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC	14 6pm Leopard VB/FLC	15 11:00 W@W lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor & Up 6:00 pm GS Older/ Upstairs 7pm Leadership/Office	16 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	17 12:30-3:30 Band	18 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
19 Human Relation Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship Children Program	20 Martin Luther King Day Newsletter Deadline	21 6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC	22 10am W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC	23 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	24 12:30-3:30 Band	25 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service	27 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC	28 6pm Leopard VB/FLC	29 10am W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC	30 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC 6pm – New Begin Bible Study	31 12:30-3:30 Band	

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:

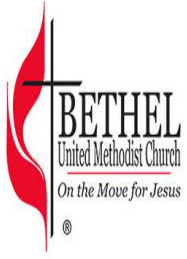
Please let us know if you or a family member wish a pastoral visit during a time of grief or hospitalization, including the birth of a child. We will pray & minister to you.

Telephone Prayer Chain:

Beverly Miller
Phone: 301-739-6270
Email: shanda@myactv.net



Bethel Tidings



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

