

Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

Bethel Tidings

April 2025

The Journey to Easter: From Palms to an Empty Tomb

As the days lengthen and spring unfolds, we prepare our hearts for the most profound and joyful season of the Christian faith—Easter. The journey to Resurrection Sunday is marked by deep reflection, sacred traditions, and opportunities to walk alongside Jesus in His final days before His triumph over death.

Our Holy Week journey begins with Palm Sunday, when we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds waved palm branches, shouting "Hosanna!" as they welcomed their Messiah. Yet, in their joy, they did not understand that Jesus' victory would not come through military conquest but through the self-giving love of the cross. As we wave our own palm branches, may we remember that true discipleship means following Christ not just in celebration, but also in sacrifice.

On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' final meal with His disciples, the night He knelt to wash their feet and commanded them—and us—"to love one another as I have loved you." It is a time to reflect on humility, service, and the gift of Holy Communion. The bread and the cup remind us that Jesus gave Himself for us completely, calling us to do the same for one another.

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Christian calendar, as we stand at the foot of the cross and witness Jesus' ultimate act of love. The weight of our sin was borne by the sinless One, and as darkness covered the land, we were given the greatest gift—the atonement that makes us whole. This day reminds us that hope often looks like despair before resurrection dawns.

The grave could not hold Him! Easter morning fills our hearts with the joy of resurrection, the triumph of light over darkness, and the assurance that death is not the end. In Christ, we are given new life, hope, and the promise of eternal fellowship with God. We also at Bethel break-the-fast between the Son-rise service and the traditional service.

For our children, the Easter season is often marked by laughter and excitement during the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Some may wonder—how does this tradition connect to our faith? Eggs have long symbolized new life, a perfect reflection of the resurrection. Just as a chick emerges from the egg, so too, did Jesus emerge from the tomb, breaking the barriers of death. As we watch our little ones search for hidden treasures, let us remember that we, too, are seekers—always searching for the grace, joy, and hope that Christ freely gives.

As we journey through this sacred season together, may our hearts be open to the depth of God's love and the power of resurrection hope. Come and worship with us this Easter season, and may we all be renewed in the promise of new life in Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Recent Activities:

Sub Sale

Miss Teresa led us once more in the sub-making event. About 390 were made with help from the Lions, Volleyball, NBCF and the band. This will likely be the last sub sale until Fall. The profit totaled \$1,682.54 and was placed in the Furnace Fund.



Reach Shelter

The clipboard was passed asking for volunteers for the evening. An amazing 13 individuals signed up to help on Friday Feb 28th. Many others were involved by contributing food and also making subs that were part of the menu along with home-made soups and desserts. Thanks to the Lions and NBCF who also donated food.



Thanks to You All who choose to bless others!

Melon Party..Winter Picnic

Sunday March 9th we had fun with picnic foods and games with dessert being melons and fruits! T.J. Lange came up with this idea and sponsored the event. The children enjoyed “bowling with a cantaloupe” – Owen was the high scorer; Madison won the “seed spitting contest with her grandma Elaine just an inch behind her; and McKenzie was the quickest in the “watermelon eating” contest. Peggy Baker guessed the weight of the watermelon at 17 lbs 6 oz and got to take it home! Thanks to Teresa for manning the kitchen with Jon on the grill, and Miss Deb, Elaine & Keller helping with the games. Donations toward the furnace fund was \$80.00.



Lent

Ash Wed was March 5th with a 7 pm service.

Ash Wednesday was a beautiful calm, quiet and gentle service with responsive readings and scriptures. Ending with the Imposition of Ashes and departing in silence.

The 1st Sunday in Lent included the children singing in the worship service. Thanks to Linda for leading them.



Outdoor work:



The property was cleaned up with the hedge and lilacs being trimmed, many sticks picked up and placed next to a newly built fire pit beside the pavilion. The roof slate was moved inside the garage. All done by Corry Sprankle (Deb's grandson) who needed community service hours. Isn't it amazing how things come



together when needed...all because we believe!

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 is a world of comparison, disappointment, and unmet expectations. On Wednesdays at 10:00 on April 2,9,23 & 30. Lunch is Wednesday, April 16, 11:00 at Longhorn Steakhouse. 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!

Confirmation Classes

Pastor is preparing 4 youth to join the church on Palm Sunday. Please be in prayer for Abby & Madison Snyder, Bella Wagner and Hannah Smith. Classes will continue until their confirmation on Palm Sunday.

We are growing!

There will be 4 new pre-teen members soon. If you are interested in joining please let the Pastor or office know.

Micah's Backpack

Healthy Meals for Healthy Families



We continue weekly. 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.
Speak up!
Please contact the office if you could help with this.

For those keeping a homebound list: Please remove Phil Petry who passed away; Phil Baker and T.J. Lange are now home- please change the addresses.

Homebound birthdays...

April 8 – Jacquie Starleper
18900 Artillery Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

April 18 – Phil Baker
11836 Linbar Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Food Pantry/Blessing Box Update

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



**Attendance
April 2025**

| Date | In person Church S.S./ Worship | Special Events |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mar 2 | 23/65/20 | WMC |
| Mar 9 | 20/19/50/22 | Ash Wed Melon Party - |
| Mar 16 | 28/62 | |
| Mar 23 | | |
| Mar 30 | | |

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:

Greeters and Ushers are needed, Keith & Drew will be asking for volunteers.

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

Trustee: Tim Smith has volunteered to pain the outdoor trim of the church this summer. The Lions and New Beginnings Church are donating and installing a hot water heater in the basement.

Spring plans- The office is looking for volunteers who would like to be a part of the Egg Hunt and VBS this year. Make yourself known! We are planning a picnic and bonfire on Sat. May 24th.



The **next meeting** will be on Wed., April 23rd, at 7 pm in the Office...Join us!

Upcoming Events:

Riley's Recital

Wed April 16th

Riley

House

Senior

Recital

Wednesday



April 16,

2025 – 7pm

Solo piano by Riley and a duet with Dr. Joseph Yungen on organ.

Works composed by Brahms, Debussy, Mozart, and Rachmaninoff.

Reception to follow.

Egg Hunt

Sat April 19th

This will be the next large children/family event to be planned. We are already in touch with our co-sponsors from last year, Carol Ewan will be the leader. Easter is April 20th, 2025. Call Deb in the office if you can help.



VBS

June 23-27.

The theme this year is “Knights of North Castle”. Deb Wagner and Tonya Freeman will co-chair the event. Contacts have started for filling the classrooms with teachers. Meetings will begin on Wednesday, April 30th and continue weekly to prepare.

You will be able to help by praying for a success, or with donating food, or helping to serve by being a teacher or helper. Small things like helping in restrooms, providing security, helping in the kitchen or taking pictures makes everything flow smoother!

Holy Week

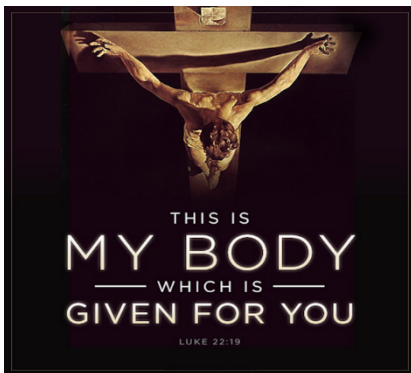
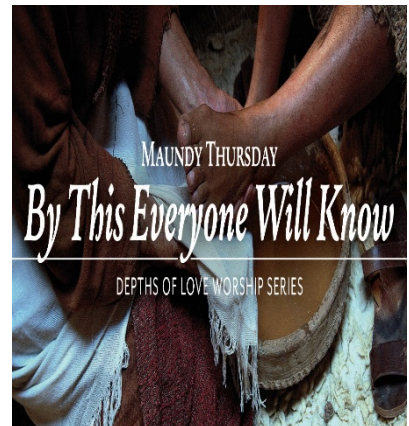


Palm Sunday is April 13th

New members will be received.

Maundy Thursday is April 17th

Worship will be at 7:00 pm.



Good Friday is April 18th

Worship at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunday is April 20th

Son - rise service @ 6:45 am

Breakfast at 7:30

Sunday School @ 9:00

Worship at 10:00 am



April Birthdays:

1 – Perry Miller
5 – Ronnie Snyder
7 – Debbie Johnson
7 – Kinsey Shifflett
8 - * Jacquie Starleper
9 – Alicia Guzowski
17 - Duane McNairn
18 – * Phil Baker
19 – Dalton Miller
20 – Walter Miller
28 – Katie Sprecher
28 – Callie Rishell
29 – Keith Hoffman
29 – Teresa Rossiter
30 – Ryker Guzowski



April Anniversaries:

Bethel Tidings



April 8 – Marty & Pam Brubaker
April 9 – James & Katie Kelly
April 10 – James & Debbie Johnson
April 16 – Mike & Linda Sokol
April 20 - Lacey & Barbara Simmons
April 25 - David & Mary Lidie
April 29 – David & Susan Brandenburg
April 30 – Gene & Mary Gross

Bethel Tidings

| April 2025 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday 1 | | 1 – Deb returns 6:00 pm Lions/FLC | 2- 10:00 W@W / 1 st floor class 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6:00 pm Girls Scouts/ Parlor & Upstairs | 3 5:30 Boomers | 4 9am Organ Tuning 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band | 5 8am Outdoor Clean-up 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church |
| 6 5th Sun in Lent Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship 2:00 pm Western MD Hospital | 7 12PM Pianocraft | 8 | 9 10:00 W@W /1 st 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6:30 Girl Scout Leaders/upstairs | 10 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC | 11 12:30-3:30 New Horizon's Band | 12 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church |
| 13 Palm Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship | 14 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC | 15 6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC | 16 11:00 W@W lunch 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 6:00 pm Girl Scout Parlor/Upstairs 7:00 pm Egg Meet/Zoom 7:00 Riley's Recital | 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30 Boomer VB/FLC 7:00 pm - WORSHIP | 18 GOOD FRIDAY 12:30-3:30 Band 7:00 pm – Worship Egg set up/FLC | 19 11:00 am EGG HUNT |
| 20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:45 Son-rise service 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service Worship | 21 Newsletter Deadline Easter Monday – office closed. | 22 | 23 10am W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB 6:00 GS/Parlor & Upstairs 7:00 Leadership Council/Office | 24 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC | 25 12:30-3:30 Band | 26 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church |
| 27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual Service | 28 6:00 pm Boomers VB Clinic/FLC | 29 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC | 30 10am W@W/ 1 st floor classroom 12:30-3:30 Band 5:30 Boomer VB 7:00 VBS/1 st fl. | May 1 5:30 Boomers VB/FLC | 2 12:30-3:00 Band | 3 9am-6pm Haitian SDA Church |

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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:

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301-733-8387
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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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Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville
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