

# Bethel United Methodist Church Chewsville

# Bethel Tidings

## September 2024

### **Strengthening Our Faith and Unity in Small Groups**

As we navigate through this election year, it's impossible to ignore the divisive atmosphere that seems to permeate every corner of our society. From social media debates to heated discussions in our communities, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and disheartened. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers, bridge builders, and disciples in every season of life, including the challenging ones. One of the most powerful ways we can live out our faith and stay grounded during such times is by engaging in small groups. These intimate gatherings offer us the opportunity to grow deeper in our relationship with God, build meaningful connections with others, and find the support we need to navigate the complexities of life.

### **Discipleship in Community**

Discipleship is not a solitary journey. Jesus Himself modeled the importance of community by surrounding Himself with a small group of disciples. In these groups, we have the chance to study the Word together, pray for one another, and hold each other accountable. We learn from each other's experiences and insights, growing in our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus faithfully.

### **Unity in Diversity**

Small groups are also a beautiful expression of unity in diversity. In a world where political and ideological divisions can easily separate us, our small groups become places where we can come together despite our differences. They remind us that our primary identity is in Christ, not in any political party or societal label. Through honest and loving conversations, we can learn to see each other as God sees us—beloved children of the same Father.

### **A Safe Space for Reflection**

In this election season, where tensions may rise and opinions may clash, small groups provide a safe space for reflection and dialogue. They allow us to process our thoughts and feelings in a supportive environment, helping us to respond to the world around us with grace and wisdom. Together, we can discern how to engage in the public square in a way that honors God and reflects His love to others.

### **A Call to Action**

I encourage each of you to consider joining or forming a small group this season. Whether you are looking for a space to deepen your faith, connect with others, or simply find some peace amidst the noise, there is a place for you. Our church offers a variety of groups, each with its own unique focus, but all united in the goal of growing as Disciples of Christ. As we move through this election year, let us not be swayed by the divisions of the world, but instead, be strengthened in our unity as the body of Christ. Let us commit to walking this journey of faith together, supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way.

### **Present Small Group offerings**

1. Women of the well- Meets at 10 AM Wednesday mornings
2. An on-line Book Club group: a. Life After God: Finding faith when you can't believe anymore. Beginning in October.
3. A small group surrounding loss: a. We will be using the book: Beautiful and Terrible Things, a Christian struggle with suffering, grief, and hope by Christian M.M. Brady

## Recent Activities:

### CH Youth

On Wednesday August 21, 6-8 pm at Rehoboth UMC in Williamsport Pastor Jim & Miss Deb took the youth for "Water Works". Some others chose to bring their additional children as it was an all ages event.

### Treats under the portico

This was hosted by the F.R.O.G. pre-teen Sunday School Class with the treats hosted by the F.R.O.G. Sunday School Class.. Min-Pizza with fruit, pound cake and brownies were served with infused water.

### Capitol Campaign Fundraising

Teresa Rossiter had a **Soup Sale** of her well-known wonderful chicken corn soup on August 17 & 18<sup>th</sup> and is thinking perhaps again in October. All proceeds of 57 quarts were donated to the Furnace Capitol Campaign.

### Washington County School Board Summer Lunch Program:

On Wednesdays this summer, the Washington County Board of Education uses the Bethel parking lot to distribute free lunches for the week to families of the children who normally get free lunches during the school year. It is very rewarding to see our property being used for the community. As school restarts this program will end. Hope to see them again next year!

## Continued Events:

### Altar flowers:

Bethel continues to be blessed by the talents of the Altar Committee. Currently there are multiple dates open throughout the Fall. 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!

### Women at the Well

The Women at the Well will continue their study of The Chosen on Wednesday, September 4, from 10:00 to 11:00 am in the church parlor. Recently completing its fourth season, The Chosen, is a highly acclaimed video series based on the life and teachings of Jesus and his followers. The fourth season begins with the death of John the Baptist. Threatened by the reality of Jesus' growing influence, religious leaders do the unthinkable and ally with their Roman oppressors.



We invite you to join us on Sept. 4, at 10:00 as we view the first episode, followed on the following Wednesday by a discussion and study using the guide God's Goodness to the Chosen. We will follow this pattern each week, with the exception of the third Wednesday of each month, when all are invited for fellowship and lunch at various local restaurants. This study is open to all (men and women). Please contact Beverly Miller ([shanda@myactv.net](mailto:shanda@myactv.net)) or Valerie Kaufmann ([kaufmval@gmail.com](mailto:kaufmval@gmail.com)) if you are interested in joining us. We need a count of how many are planning to attend so that study guides can be ordered ahead of time. Lunch is Aug 21, 11am at the Long Meadow Diner.

**Bethel Coat Closet**

The closet is slowly growing. Therefore we throughout 2024. If you have any questions



continue to collect coats of any type anytime please contact Diane Stevens. Thank you.



**Supporting our Homebound**

**Bethel Caring Connection**

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 NIV

Thanks to everyone who has been praying for and sending cards to our home and nursing home bound members. If you need addresses or phone numbers, please call me (301-992-7831) or the church office. Blessings in Christ, Pam Brubaker

**Homebound birthdays...**

**The next birthdays will be in November.**

**Micah's Backpack**

**Healthy Meals for Healthy Families**

We will begin again this month. If you see canned pasta, soups, tuna, etc. on sale, we are packing for 21 students which will be adjusted after school starts. 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



**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



**Marquee volunteers**



Kellar and his Mom Tammy Smith have been changing up the message on the board to reflect what Pastor Jim is emphazsizing in his weekly messages. They recognized something that needed done and volunteered to take charge of it.

What a blessing.

Thanks you two!

**Readers:**

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

**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:**

**New Ideas:**

Bev Miller has suggested a **Fall Yard Sale** – This is scheduled for Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>.

This will be a community event with the opportunity to rent tables and spaces. Of course, there is no charge if you plan to donate your profits to the furnace fund. Contact the office if you have items to donate but need transportation.

Sandy Hose has asked for a **Fall Cleaning Day** – Has been scheduled on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>. We will asking for you to “ADOPT A ROOM”. Basically house clean it and make a list of any needed repairs. Even use touch up paint or caulking for small fixes. You could also take an area to paint or trim and clean-up outside.

All things to consider and pray for guidance about. You may see some temporary changes as we “try out” some of the ideas and would appreciate your feedback to any of the Board Members.

The next meeting will be on Wed. Sept 18, at 7pm in the Parlor...Join us!



**Attendance –**

**July 2024**

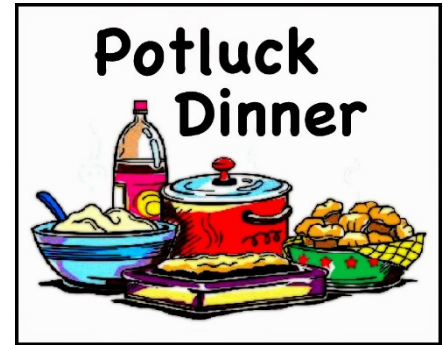
<b>Date</b>	<b>In person Church S.S./ Worship</b>	<b>Special Events</b>
<b>July 28</b>	13/51	
<b>Aug 4</b>	19/59	
<b>Aug 11</b>	26/64	
<b>Aug 18</b>	16/66	Teacher Appreciation Sun. Treats on Portico
<b>Aug 25</b>		Backpack blessings

## Upcoming Events:

### Potluck Lunch

Sunday, September 22, at 11:30 we will come together for a Potluck Lunch after the worship service.

There will be a sign-up page by the entry doors.



### So many wonderful opportunities

There are so many events planned (See the next page) that give each of a chance to ask ourselves how we can show our faith. While many are limited physical as we age, they can still do something small, like bake a cake, make a craft, wrap a few gifts, or be a host or hostess for an hour. What is your talent?

On Oct 5 – in addition to yard sale items we would like to have a food table with baked goods or other home-made foods to sell. Of course collecting and donating items for the sale is so important. We will arrange pic-up if needed. You can start placing items in the Parlor. Maybe you could price them for us!

On Sat Oct 12- please attend the church conference at 8:00 am. We will need a hostess and treats for 8:00 am and 1:30 pm as we host 2 clusters of churches.

Sunday October 13 is Pastor Appreciation Day. You are welcome to speak or give gifts to honor our minister. He and wife Debbie really like homemade cooking too!

Saturday October 19 is a very important day. We plan for volunteers to “adopt a room” to fall houseclean. There are 33 different areas in the building that could use a good cleaning and maybe even some small repairs. Of course, if you are better outside...we can use you there also. Bring your supplies and do your part at a time convenient for you sometime near that date. If you need help (like getting the baseboards) just say so and we will arrange it. Then end your room by giving feedback if you need other supplies like caulk or paint and if you will finish that room.

Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> is the last “Treats on the Portico” for the year and wide open for you to provide or host the 30 minute event after worship.

Friday October 25 from 5 to 7pm we will host “Trunk Or Treat”. Please contact the office if you can help plan this.

Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> is Harvest Home with donations of food and a lunch following the service.

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

## “Fall/Winter of 2024 Events”



Wed Sept 4 – W@W restarts & 11am All Women Together meeting.

Sun Sept 22 – Potluck Lunch & recognition in the Pavilion

Sun Sept 29 – Back to Church Sunday

Sat Oct 5 - Community Yard & Soup Sale (Steam & Craft on 9/28, Colorfest 10/12)

Sat Oct 12 – Church Conference

Sun Oct 13 – Pastor Appreciation Day    Oct 16 – Boss’s Day

Sat Oct 19 - Fall Clean-up inside and outside

Sun Oct 20 – Laity Sunday and Treats on the Portico

Fri Oct 25 – 5- 7pm, Trunk or Treat (Halloween -31<sup>st</sup> is Thur) (Mummers Parade Oct 26)

Sat Oct 26 - Decorate for Harvest Home

Sun Oct 27 - Harvest Home

Sun Nov 3 – All Saints Day

Sun Nov 24 –4pm - Community Thanksgiving Meal (with Lions)

\*\*\* Sub Sales will need added.

**Advent plans will be in the Nov. Newsletter.**

**\*Reserve Dec 15 for the Cantata.**

## September Birthdays:

- 1 – Maria Axline
- 1 – Dale Beard
- 2 – Andrew Ritter
- 5 – Timothy Lange
- 5 – Madalyn Kershner
- 6 – Abbie Barnhart
- 8 – Matthew McCartney
- 9 – David Brandenburg
- 9 – Lyric Wagner
- 12 – Hazel Kelly
- 14 – Carol Ewan
- 22 – Amara Ellis
- 23 – Gary Johnson
- 25 – Debra Brandt
- 25 – Jon David Snyder
- 26 – Linda Sokol
- 27 – David Wagner Jr.
- 28 – Paul Gantz
- 28 – Christie Lee Phillips
- 28 – Isabella Kershner
- 28 – Emma Eckard
- 29 – Hannah Smith
- 30 – Mike Morgan
- 30 – Cahlen Beard



## September Anniversaries:



- 5 – Walt & Beverly Miller
- 10 – Jeff & Laura Harbaugh
- 20 – Connie & Harvey Leisinger
- 21 – John & Jeanne Dinterman

Bethel Tidings

Sept. 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday 1 <b>Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &amp; Virtual Service Worship</p> <p>2:00 pm Western MD Hospital</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 W@W/Parlor</p> <p>11:00- All Women Together</p> <p>11:00 lunch drop</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor &amp; Up</p> <p>6pm Girl Scouts Info/Pavilion</p>	<p>7 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>8:00 – Kelly b-day/FLC</p>
<p>8 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &amp; Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>9 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>10am Pianocraft</p>	<p>10 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p>	<p>11 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>Vaca</p> <p>10:00 W@W/Parlor</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6:30 G.S. Leaders</p>	<p>12 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>Vaca</p>	<p>13 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6pm Girl Scouts Info/Pavilion</p>	<p>14 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p>
<p>15 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &amp; Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>16 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p>	<p>17 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Lions Club/FLC</p>	<p>18 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>10:00 W@W/Parlor</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>7:00 Leadership Council/Parlor</p>	<p>19 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>Vaca</p>	<p>20 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts/Parlor &amp; Up</p>	<p>21 <b>Pastor on Vaca</b></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &amp; Virtual Service Worship</p> <p>11:15 Pot Luck/Recognition Pavilion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 W@W lunch</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30-3:30 Band</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 Kelly b-day/FLC</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary &amp; Virtual Service Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Chruch Conference Forms Due</p>					



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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](mailto:secretary@bethelumchurch.org)

Pastor: Jim Johnson  
Email: [pastor@bethelumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethelumchurch.org)

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Office hours: 9 am – 1 pm Mon.-Fri.  
Email: [secretary@bethelumchurch.org](mailto:secretary@bethelumchurch.org)

### Newsletter Editor:

Deb Wagner  
Phone: 301-733-8387  
Email: [secretary@bethelumchurch.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:shanda@myactv.net)



## Bethel Tidings



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