March 2022

864-585-4801
bethelmethodist.org
Child Enrichment Program: 864-585-8356

February 6th, 2020 was a day that left a lasting impression on many around Spartanburg. An EF1 tornado ran through a 10 mile stretch of our community leaving destruction in its wake. The most obvious sign of the weather's wrath was seen high above Bethel's steeple as our cross was left damaged and bent. After the onset of COVID in March of 2020 and all the fallout that came with it, an insurance claim was made. The cross was finally taken down on October 24, 2020.

For 15 long months, the top of our steeple sat empty and bare. There is nothing in church doctrine that says a steeple must have a cross on top of it. In fact, some churches choose not to for a variety of reasons. But, given our prominent location, the high hill of downtown Spartanburg that we sit on, it was important for us to repair and replace the steeple cross. After more delays related to COVID, supply chain issues, and weather, we finally celebrated the re-installation of the cross on February 1, 2022, nearly 2 years after the initial damage. Once again, the highest points in all of Spartanburg is crowned in the glory of the cross.

Have you ever thought about the irony of the cross being the symbol of our faith? The Roman Empire used the cross as a means by which to torture the world into submission. It was a tool used to remind the conquered and the oppressed of the dominate power with which Rome ruled the day. It has been argued that the Romans perfected the ability to cause as much pain as possible for as long as possible before a person would succumb to the injuries. It was also used to embarrass and humiliate the tortured as they were stripped naked and left exposed for all the world to see. And yet, the cross has come to mean something so much more because of Jesus. What an amazing reminder for us that no matter how dark and evil things may appear in life, that with God, things can be changed for the better. Of the cross, New Testament theologian NT Wright says, "He (Jesus) had come to see it, too, in deeply symbolic terms: symbolic, now, not merely of Roman oppression, but of the way of love and peace which he had commended so vigorously, the way of defeat which he had announced as the way of victory…It was to become the symbol of victory, but not of the victory of Caesar, nor or those who would oppose Caesar with Caesar's methods. It was to become the symbol, because it would be the means, of the victory of God." (Wright, 1996)

I hope that as you celebrate the cross being back in its rightful place, you will not miss out on the larger reminder the cross offers us. That though the battle of good and evil rages on, never more closely than in our own hearts, the victory has been won once and for all through the cross and the empty tomb that followed.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brad

Stewarding our Resources

The Trustees and Building Committee have been extremely busy over the last year. We join you in celebrating the successful re-installation of the cross on top of the steeple. Some of you may remember we had to replace the air conditioning unit for the sanctuary last summer. While these two items are a big deal, we want to make you aware of some ongoing projects that have been accomplished and are on-going.

The stairwells and hallway outside the fellowship hall have been painted. The parking lot has been repaired, resurfaced, and restriped. The building committee and a group of volunteers pressure washed the sidewalks around the church as well as repainted the handrails.

Thanks to a generous gift, we are in the process of purchasing a new bus to replace one of our current buses. The other two will need to be addressed in the future because of their age. We are looking to improve the lighting outside around the buses as well to deter vandalism. We continue to experience issues around our aging building especially related to our HVAC system in the gym and education building.

A small portion of your tithes and offerings go to the Trustees' portion of the budget. We also have a separate checking account for the Trustees should anyone want to make a gift toward the continued work. Thanks to the Trustees and Building Committee for being good stewards with our physical resources here at Bethel.

In Christian Sympathy

...from the ministers and congregation to the family and friends who recently passed:

Vic Calvert, son of Tim & Janice Calvert
Jenny Morrison, mother of Lisa Benfield

Prayer Requests

Art Hartzog
Eric Robertson
Marion Robertson
Mike White
Curtis Anderson
Carolyn O'Dell
Richard Strawhorn
Charles Hudson
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Ignacio Rivera
Pat Fowler
Nancy White
Don O'Dell
Beth Brewer
Bob Parrott

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Joe Greenlee
Operating Fund:
Stuart & Anne Gilmer
Kim Bostwick
Robert & Stephanie Gauthier
Derek & Donna Sawyer
Chris Shealy
Shelley Winkler
Tim & Janice Calvert

In Memory of Vic Calvert
Operating Fund:
Olga Munn
Michael & Liz Jilling
Rick & Mary Scruggs
Montez Langford
Phil & Layne Stone

Trustee Fund:
Nita Parker
Charlie & Beth Martin

Altar Guild: John & Dot Robuck

In Memory of Ansel Bush
Operating Fund: Rick & Mary Scruggs

In Memory of Emma Grace Bryson
Children's Fellowship: Lori Emory

In Memory of Gail Allen
Trustee Fund: Pamela King

In Memory of Jerry Robuck
Operating Fund: Phil & Layne Stone

We are excited to announce a joint venture with our sister United Methodist churches located in Spartanburg. Every Wednesday during Lent, a brief worship service will be held at 12 pm. The location and preaching pastors are listed below:

March 9: Central UMC, 233 N. Church St., Spartanburg
Preacher: Sheila Elliott Hodge

March 16: Bethel UMC
Preacher: Andrew Wolf

March 23: Silver Hill UMC, 778 John B. White Blvd, Spartanburg
Preacher: Brad Gray

March 30: Trinity UMC, 626 Norwood St., Spartanburg
Preacher: Cam Treece

April 6: St. James, 213 N. Lanford Rd., Spartanburg
Preacher: Michelle Cockcroft

April 13: Silver Hill UMC, 778 John B. White Blvd, Spartanburg
Preacher: Cathy Mitchell

Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch, April 10th (Palm Sunday)
Join us at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall for a kid friendly lunch. Our egg hunt will begin at noon.

Mark your calendars for SonRise National Park VBS and find the true power of Jesus' promises! Beginning in May, sign up your child for any or all of the six sessions below.
Nighttime VBS: June 14 & 16, 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Daytime VBS : July 26 & 28 and August 2 & 4, 11:00 – 1:30 pm

❑ **PURCHASE ____ number of Lilies**
x $20.00 each = $ _____

Please make payment SEPARATELY from other tithes and offerings.

I would like to do this **in honor of** _____

and/or **in memory of** _____

Given by (your name as you would like it to appear in print) _____

Please include your payment with this form no later than Wednesday, March 16. Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary by Easter Sunday, April 17. You may take yours home after the Easter Sunday traditional worship service.

United Methodist Women

"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."
Luke 1:45 NRSV

Spring! A new season where God is all about making things new. Spring symbolizes new life, a time of rebirth, renewal, and awakening. Early flowers and trees are pushing through the earth and things are coming to life again. As we enter a new season, let us not forget to keep moving forward with our mission giving. Even though some circles do not meet monthly, missions continue. As we give through United Methodist Women, we are claiming God's grace and giving what we have because of our love for others. We grow in our faith and understanding of the meaning of mission when we are sharing with others doing God's work.

The Bethel UMW would like to thank the following. First, thank you to our circles for your recent support in assisting Matthew Benfield with his Mission Trip to Ecuador. Thank you to the Building Committee for assisting in helping to clean out the UMW room and better utilize the contents and the space. Lastly, thank you to Rev. Arthur Holt and Kathy Butler for speaking at our annual book brunch, it was an enlightening morning listening to how their ideas and stories inspired them to author a book, persevere to finish, and self-publish.

Save the Date: March 23, 2022. Embrace the future for women, children, and youth by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving. Join the live Facebook event on March 23 to find out how your pledges are being put to use. Ways to give are online @ unitedmethodistwomen.org/150 phone 800-278-7771 text 4144 and enter Legacy150 in the message area or check to UMW Attn: Legacy, 475 Riverside Dr. 15th Fl, NY, NY 101115 write Day of Giving in the memo section. This is a wonderful way to honor, memorialize, or celebrate a United Methodist Woman in your life.

UMW FYI: Rev. Arthur Holt's book "What I Have Come to Believe" is available through Amazon or the Advocate, and you can contact Kathy Butler for her book titled "Wisdom Lives Here."

Upcoming:

3/1: Circle 7 meets @ 2 PM **3/10:** Circle 8 meets @ 11:30 AM **3/15:** Circle 2 meets @6 PM

Only by grace,
Jan

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

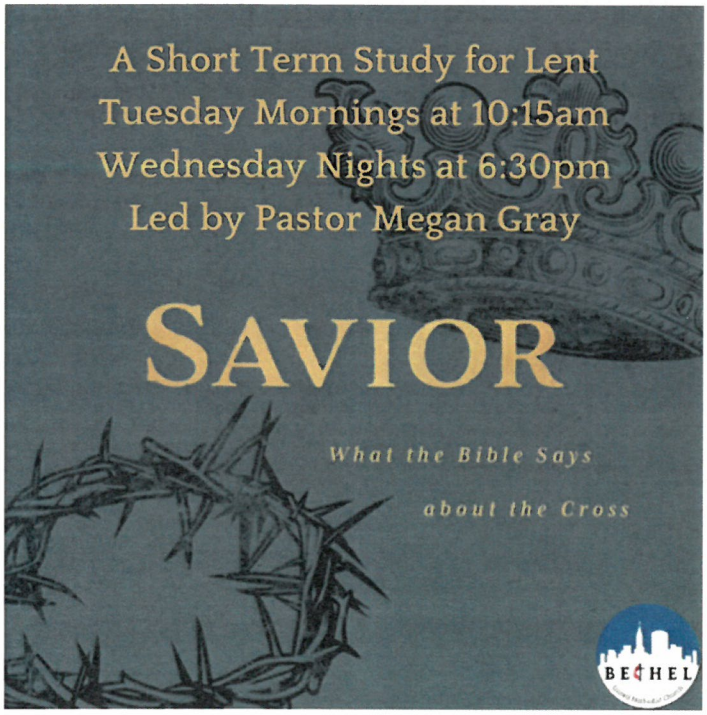
MARCH 2
Vegetable beef soup, chicken stew, broccoli cheddar soup, cornbread & muffins, toasted cheese sandwiches, salad, desserts

MARCH 9
Ham, pintos, cabbage, cornbread, salad, desserts

MARCH 16
Chicken & Rice, broccoli & cheese, glazed carrots, biscuits, salad, desserts

MARCH 23
Tacos, nachos & cheese, desserts

MARCH 30
Pork Tenderloin, hashbrown casserole, lima beans, salad, dessert



	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
5	January 30	Worship: 140 Children: 10	$14,932	$423
6	February 6	Worship: 167 Children: 11	$15,262	$130
7	February 13	Worship: 193 Children: 11	$18,305	$1666
8	February 20	Worship: 177 Children: 11	$13,203	$288

2022 Annual Budget:	***$1,093,673***
Goal per week:	*$21,032*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$168,257*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$123,908***
Remaining 2022 Goal:	***$969,765***

Executive Pastor
Rev. Brad Gray
Pastor of Discipleship & Belonging
Rev. Megan Gray
Director of Youth
Chad Deetz
Adam Rollins, Assistant
Director of Children's Ministry
Jana Mathis
Jennifer Bartless, Assistant
Director of Music
Dale Fischer
Organist
Dr. Kristine Lee
Business Manager
Colette Duncan
Church Secretary
Shannon Evans
Church Hostess
Lisa Donald
Building Superintendent
Bob Werner
Custodians
Jacob Sawyer
Carlos Cobo (every other Sunday)
Child Enrichment Program
Chella Hamrick, Center Director

Bethel United Methodist Church
245 S Church St
Spartanburg, SC 29306-3489

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 80
Spartanburg, SC

★**Office Hours:** Mon-Thu 8:30 am - 4 p.m. + Fri 8:30 am - 2 p.m.★

Sundays

Worship Services

Sunday School
8:45 am

Contemporary Worship
9:30 am, Gym

Traditional Worship
10:00 am, Sanctuary

Youth Group: 6 p.m.
for studies & activities
Fellowship Hall

Please check bethelmethodist.org for more information.

Wednesdays

Game Time, Fellowship Hall - 4:00 pm
Wednesday Night Supper - 5:30 pm
Children's Choir – 5:30 pm
Youth Choir – 6:15 pm
God Squad - 6:30 pm
Adult Choir - 7:00 pm
Youth Group - 7:00 pm

Short-term Lent Study
Savior: What the Bible says about the Cross
Facilitator: Megan Gray
Builders Classroom

Encountering God *by Kelly Minter*
Facilitator: Sue Ward
Discovery Classroom
For: Ladies

Other Weekday Studies

Savior: What the Bible says about the Cross
Facilitator: Megan Gray
Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 10:15 am

NT Book of Hebrews
Facilitator: Brad Gray
Zoom, Tuesdays 6:30 pm

John: The Gospel of Light and Life
Facilitator: Joe Locke
Conference Room, Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Dates to Remember

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2nd
6:30 pm, Sanctuary

Finance Meeting
March 14th
5:00 pm, Zoom

SPRC Meeting
March 21st
7:00 pm, Builders Classroom

CHOIR SCHEDULE

March 2nd – No children's or youth choir.
Sanctuary choir to practice after worship
NO CHOIR ON MARCH 23 AND APRIL 6
All other days will follow our regular schedule

March
BIRTHDAYS

1 Andy Cannon
1 Tim Powell
2 Cynthia Lanier
2 Beverly McNeely
2 Beth Vaughn
3 Pamela Patterson
4 David Zabriskie
6 Ruth Tweed
6 Gabriel Anderson
7 Art Hartzog
7 Amy El Sherif
8 Jared Pruitt
8 Lenza Jolley
9 Jane Lawrence
9 Cindy Thomas
9 Rob Watson
9 Evan Zell
9 Maggie Perez
10 Janice Calvert
10 Jennifer Pitman
10 Kevin Mason
10 Sarah Waters
10 Kara Shealy
11 Maura Bailey
11 Joya Miller
12 Brian Handell
12 Cara Thompson
12 Susanne Troutt
12 Lilly Hiltgen
13 Tina Bain
13 Dan Buckner
14 Mary Scruggs
14 Curt Nichols
14 Olivia Parker
14 Kady Moore
15 Chris Shealy
15 Carolyn Turner
15 Gary Douglas
15 Ella Bowen
15 Sarah Little
15 Brian Robson
16 Bruce Green
16 Preston Raines
16 Payton Whitlock
16 William Sanders
16 Sandy Fowler
16 Eddie Hulon
17 Trish McLeod
17 Ginger Pickren
17 Michele Beach
18 Ryan Tunstall
18 Barbara Richardson
19 Jim Moore
19 Pat Fowler
19 Harry Stathakis
20 Dena Campbell Cook
20 Charlie Deetz
20 Caroline Kellam
20 Beth Goodenough
21 Maureen King
21 Nancy Hope
22 David Dodd
22 Janet Cubbage
22 Kristin Cubbage
23 Vickie Gray
24 Susan Adolphson
24 Bill Dobbins
24 Elizabeth Watson
24 Richard Batton
24 J.B. Waters
25 Ellen Powell
25 Brad Summer
26 Hayley Melba
26 Ron Jameson
28 Mallory Robson
29 Alice Langford
29 Jillian Dillard
29 Jaylin Dillard
29 Meredith Carter
29 Ansley Somers
29 Jax Spears
30 Mike Ward
30 Lindsey Foster
30 Velma Humphries
30 Barry Romano
31 John Robuck
31 Donnie Love

April BIRTHDAYS

1	Nancy White	12	Rhonda Burns	21	Kent Smith
1	Coleman Force	13	Scott Smith	21	Anna Garrett
1	Trotter Chastain	13	Henry Turner	22	Irene Bohlman
1	Kevin Farmer	13	Chad Johnson	22	Brooklyn Shurburtt
2	Larry Barnette	13	Sam Dawson	23	Mike Green
2	Charlie Hudson	13	Matthew Gibson	23	Greg Pickeral
2	Cooper Towery	13	Morgan Zell	23	Jason Calhoun
2	Richard White	13	Frankie Grimm	23	Morgan Robson
2	David Adolphson	15	Karen Anderson Cannon	25	Nicholas Smith
2	Ray Sturm	16	Kevin Bobo	25	Lynne Sawyer
2	Allen Jacob	17	Jacqueline Cook	25	Joanne Anderson
3	Michael Bargar	18	Dot Robuck	25	Dawn Rollins
3	Shannon Wiley	18	Maggie Horton	26	Mary Cummings
4	Stacy Millwood	18	Jessica Bargar	26	Eric Stewart
4	Michelle Levine	19	Mary Jo Crites	26	Adam Rollins
5	Robert Strait	19	Pete Brown	26	Jordan Morris
6	Julie Merrill	19	Charlton Patterson	27	Doug Collins
6	Pamela Smithey	19	Trevor Anderson	28	Jackson Wiley
7	Matthew Smith	20	Phil Stone	28	Robert Bain
7	Gerald Pitts	20	Patrick Moore	28	Stephanie Chastain
9	Aria Surka	21	Steve Butler	29	John Keener
9	Jeff Wilson	21	Thelma Cubbage	29	Parker Bowen
10	Ann Ellstrom	21	Lori Emory	29	Suzanne O'Brien
11	Daniel Little	21	Marcella Macmillan	30	Thomas Kennington