February 2023

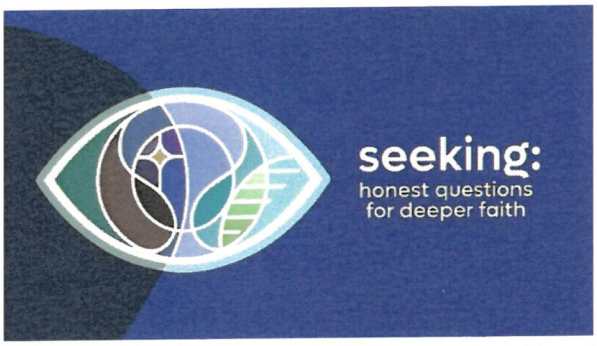
864-585-4801
bethelmethodist.org
Child Enrichment Program: 864-585-8356

This Lent we will be exploring stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows. And so, our Lenten series is founded on questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some feel like a charge or challenge ("Who will you listen to?"). Some questions are hopeful and curious ("How do we begin again?"). Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

Pastor Megan

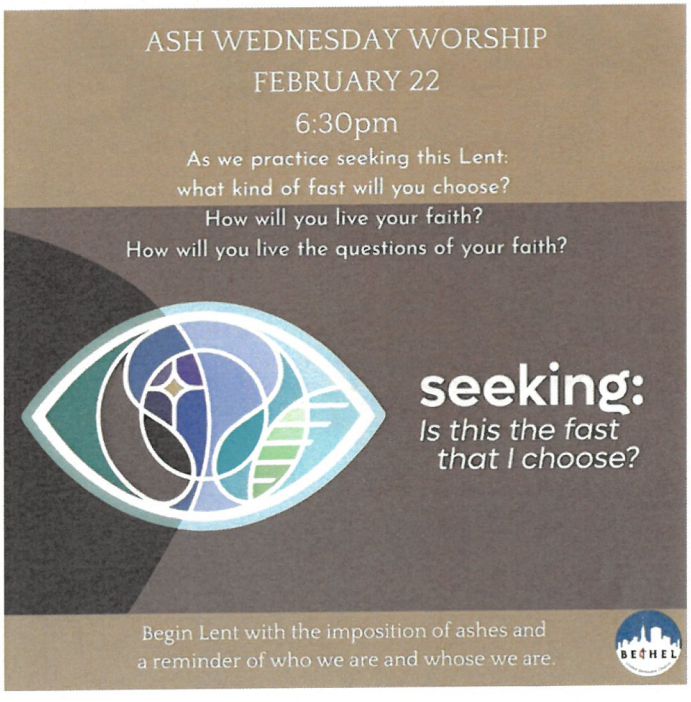


LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

A six week study exploring God through the ordinary

Sunday evenings at 5pm beginning February 26th
Tuesday Mornings at 10:15am beginning February 28th

Led by Pastor Megan



In Christian Sympathy

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

Ott Sizemore, member
Bernie England, member
Elizabeth Coggins, mother of Missy Powell
David Fischer, brother of Mark Fischer
Allen Smith, son-in-law of Chris Shealy

Prayer REQUESTS

Art Hartzog	Jerry Reitzel
Cathy Hanks	David Holder
Eric Robertson	Carolyn O'Dell
Richard Davenport	Arthur Cummings
Rick Gray	Mary Cummings
Martha Barnett	Bruce Green
Nancy White	Linda Seifert
Rita Petoskey	W. Ashley Long

A Special THANK YOU

To my Bethel Family,
I can assure you that I really looked forward to turning the calendar to 2023.

With my hospitalization and recovery last May, followed by the cancer diagnosis, surgery and radiation in the fall, 2022 will be most memorable for me.

But, for every valley – there is a mountain. You were my mountain. For the prayers, food, cards, texts and other expressions of love you bestowed on me, I will be eternally grateful.

Thank you, to our church family, for your grace, support and love. To Brad, Megan, Chad and Jana, your support for me was much appreciated.

May God bless us all with a healthy and happy 2023.

With love and gratitude,
Dale Fischer

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21
5:30-7pm

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun evening of celebration before the fasting of Lent begins.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

February 1
Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, salad, Texas toast, dessert, tea, water & coffee

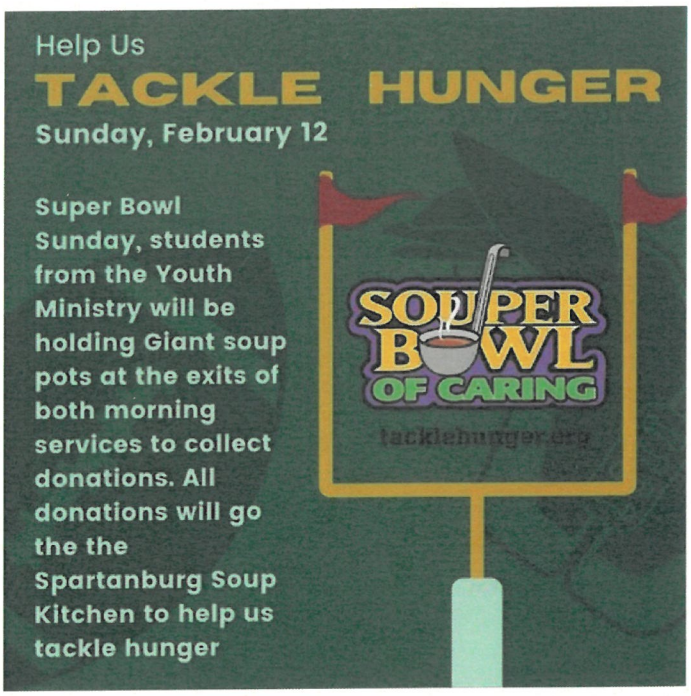
February 8
BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert, tea, water & coffee

February 15
Pork tenderloin, scalloped potatoes, sweet peas, salad, rolls, dessert, tea, water & coffee

February 22
Vegetable beef soup, broccoli cheddar soup, chicken stew, toasted cheese sandwiches, dessert, tea, water & coffee

If anyone is interested in purchasing altar flowers, please contact the church office at 585-4801 or bethelumcspartanburg@gmail.com. We still have several weeks throughout the year available.

On Mondays, our Altar Guild takes the flowers to members of our congregation who have been sick, shut-in or may need encouragement. These flowers are a blessing to many.



Coffee with the Pastors

This is a chance for non-members who have been visiting Bethel to find out more about our church and get any questions they may have answered. We meet the 4th Sunday of every month in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is February 26th at 10:15 am.

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
48	November 27	Worship: 200 Children: 16	$27,862	$418
49	December 4	Worship: 277 Children: 10	$47,295	$1,384
50	December 11	Worship: 305 Children:	$18,622	$3,481
51	December 18	Worship: 155 Children: 15	$12,322	$5,630
52	December 25	Worship: Children:	$12,463	$1,952
n/a	Dec. 26 -31	n/a	$16,416	$220

2022 Annual Budget:	***$1,093,673***
Goal per week:	*$21,032*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$1,093,673*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$924,096***
Remaining 2022 Goal:	***$169,577***

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
1	January 1	Worship: 128 Children: n/a	$8,541	$45
2	January 8	Worship: 196 Children: 13	$24,560	$1,315
3	January 15	Worship: 207 Children: 15	$25,630	$220
4	January 22	Worship: Children: 17	$11,123	$253

2023 Annual Budget:	***$1,080,381***
Goal per week:	*$20,385*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$81,538*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$69,854***
Remaining 2023 Goal:	***$1,010,527***

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 Durham
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 – Thurs 8:30 am – 4 pm, Fri 8:30 am – 2 pm♦

Sundays

Worship Services

Contemporary Worship
9:00 am, Gym

Sunday School
10:00 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am, Sanctuary

Youth Group:
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
for studies & activities
Fellowship Hall

Please check bethelmethodist.org for more information.

Wednesdays

Game Time – 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
Sanctuary Choir – 7:00 pm

Youth Group meets at 7:00 pm for studies and activities

Other Weekday Studies

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
10:15 am
Facilitator: Pastor Megan

Dates to Remember

February 6
UWF Planning Meeting
1:00 pm, Library

Trustees Meeting
7 pm, Builders Classroom

February 19
Camp Sunday

February 20
Church Council
7 pm, Fellowship Hall

February 21
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

February 22
Ash Wednesday Worship
6:30 pm

February 26
1st Sunday of Lent

UWF Fundraiser
Fellowship Hall

February BIRTHDAYS

1	Lynne Harrison	9	Cathy Padgett	18	Terry Trnavsky	26	Nancy Romano
1	Warren Snead	9	Jeff Kemp	18	Lindsay Horton	27	Carlon Steller
2	Scott West	10	Marc Rivera	19	David Rivera	28	Steve Atwater
2	Marie Keener	10	Cathy Siarris	20	Sammy Conard	28	Steve Bruce
2	Andrew Armstrong	10	Jenny Gresham	20	Bob Glenn	28	Buffy Kennington
2	Patrick Collins	12	Caroline Whitlock	20	Rich Gibson	28	Kristen Lawrence
4	Madison Benfield	12	Don Tate	21	Rusty Towery	28	Maxine Reynolds
4	Melissa Kimbrell	13	Matthew Shealy	21	Maira Ceballos	28	Merle Whistenant
5	Jim Payne	13	Cori Bryson	22	Daniel Locke	28	Larry Thomas
5	Bradford Mann	14	Debra Farr	22	Amanda Goodenough	28	Davis Huckabee
6	Corrine Fischer	14	Bill Hill	23	Tena Tillotson		
6	Gary Brewer	14	Riley Kennington	23	Cynthia Woodrum		
7	Nancy Campbell	14	Linda Seifert	23	Leigh Cubbage		
7	Elizabeth Gee	15	Adriana Folk	23	James Farmer		
7	Don King	16	Cathy Bonner	24	Bill Chidester		
8	Mark Carlisle	16	William Kemp	24	Billy Miller		
8	Joshua Smith	17	Riley Wilkin	24	Lesley Turner		
8	Rebecca Mann	18	Gene Jackson	24	Gabriel Hiltgen		
8	Karen Summer	18	Beth Martin	25	Thomas Labanick		
8	Bryan Worley	18	Zach Whitt	26	Jamison Kimbrell		

March BIRTHDAYS

1	Andy Cannon
1	Tim Powell
2	Cynthia Lanier
3	Pamela Patterson
4	David Zabriskie
5	Ryan Nichols
6	Ruth Tweed
6	Gabriel Anderson
7	Art Hartzog
7	Amy El Sherif
8	Jared Pruitt
9	Jane Lawrence
9	Cindy Thomas
9	Evan Zell
9	Maggie Perez
10	Janice Calvert
10	Jennifer Pitman
10	Kara Shealy
10	Kevin Mason
10	Logan O'Brien
10	Sarah Waters
11	Maura Bailey
11	Andrew Reitzel
11	Chad Reitzel
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	Kady Moore
15	Chris Shealy
15	Carolyn Turner
15	Gary Douglas
15	Ella Bowen
15	Sarah Little
15	Brian Robson
16	Michael Garrett
16	Bruce Green
16	Preston Raines
16	Payton Whitlock
16	Eddie Hulon
17	Trish McLeod
17	Ginger Pickren
17	Michele Beach
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	Janet Cubbage
23	Vickie Gray
24	Susan Adolphson
24	Richard Batton
24	J.B. Waters
25	Pam Deichman
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	Barry Romano
31	John Robuck
31	Donnie Love