March 2023

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

Dear Bethel Church Family,

By now, many of you have heard about our Church Council's recent decision to wait until after General Conference in May of 2024 before making any decision regarding the future of Bethel. The only official body that can make any changes to the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church is General Conference. The leadership of Bethel believes that to make such a hasty decision would negatively impact the congregation at this time. Based upon the process that our Conference Board of Trustees put into place, the initial decision to engage the process must start at the Church Council level. This is a group of nearly 50 people representing every ministry related area of our church. They are the leaders that have been elected by our Charge Conference each year following the guidance of our Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee. We are grateful for their service and their faithfulness to Bethel UMC.

This decision was not made haphazardly. We know that with a church Bethel's size, a variety of beliefs exist on what we should or should not do. The thought is that the prudent thing is to be patient with each other and to wait and see what the future brings in relation to any changes that may or may not occur. We know this will not please everyone. I am reminded that the path of leadership is often found in those difficult decisions that have to be made. Regardless of any decision that has been made or that will be made, everyone will have to decide for themselves what their path holds. We hope that through prayer, discernment, and study, Bethel and her members will make the best decision to live into God's preferred future for us together and as individuals. As always, we are available to spend time speaking with you or your small group if needed. After Easter, we will begin having some intentional time in small groups and studies that look at all facets of the UMC and its future, as well as studies about human sexuality and Biblical interpretation. Thank you for your patience.

In the meantime, we are extremely hopeful that the momentum will continue to head in the positive direction that we have recently seen. More people are attending worship and are getting plugged into Sunday school classes and small groups. We had an amazing night of fun at Shrove Tuesday and saw a larger than average group gather for Ash Wednesday. We have a lot of positive energy as we head into the Lenten Season.

We thank you for your faithfulness and look forward to all that God has in store for us together.

We hope to see you soon,

Pastor Brad and Pastor Megan

Every Wednesday during Lent, a brief worship service will be held at 12 pm followed by lunch. The location and preaching pastors are listed below:

March 1: Central UMC, 233 N. Church St.
Preacher: Pastor Megan

March 8: Bethel UMC
Preacher: Sheila Elliott Hodge

March 15: Silver Hill UMC, 778 John B. White Blvd.
Preacher: Cam Treece

March 22: St. James UMC, 213 N. Lanford Rd.
Preacher: Michelle Cockcroft

March 29: Trinity UMC, 626 Norwood St.
Preacher: Andrew Wolfe

April 2
Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt

April 5
No Wednesday night supper

April 6
Maundy Thursday Worship
6 pm, Fellowship Hall

April 7
Stations of the Cross
12 pm – 6 pm, Fellowship Hall
Good Friday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

April 9
Easter Sunday

In Christian Sympathy

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

Nancy Smith, member
Nancy White, member
Eric Robertson, member
James Ball, father of Melissa Al-Khalil

PRAYER list

Martha Barnett
Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Libby Davenport
Richard Davenport
HJ Fleming
Rick Gray
Vickie Gray
Brian Handell
Cathy Hanks
Art Hartzog
David Holder
W. Ashley Long
Carolyn O'Dell
Jerry Reitzel
Linda Seifert
Sheila Worley

CHILDRENS CHOIR

March 8 – Regular rehearsal, 5:30 – 6:10
March 15 – Regular rehearsal, 5:30 – 6:10
March 22 – Regular rehearsal, 5:30 – 6:10
March 26 – Sing at Contemporary Worship, 9 am and Traditional Worship, 11 am
April 5 – NO REHEARSAL/Activities, Spring Break

We have set up our next Bethel Tournament for Friday afternoon, March 24, beginning at 12:30 pm at Links O'Tryon. We will play a Captains Choice with prizes going to the winning team as well as closest to the pins and longest drive. We will set up teams by handicap in order to make the teams as equal as possibel. The cost is $45 which includes you green fees. Please contact Bill Dobbins by March 3 if you would like to participate.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

March 1
Beef tips & gravy, rice, broccoli & cheese, lima beans salad and biscuits

March 8
Chicken tenders, green beans, mac & cheese, salad and rolls

March 15
Make it Yourself Tacos with nachos and cheese

March 22
Pork BBQ w/buns, baked beans, slaw, seasoned potato wedges and salad

March 29
Chicken & rice, glazed carrots, butter peas, salad and biscuits

Easter Lilies

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

Please make payment SEPARATELY from any 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 15. Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary by Easter Sunday, April 9. You may take yours home after the Easter Sunday traditional worship service.

Thank you to everyone who donated yarn and fabric for the Third Thursday Ladies fundraiser. They collected 13 large shopping bags of yarn and 3 bags of fabric!

The items were donated to the Bethlehem Center's *Sewing to Sow* group which provides hand knitted, sewn, or crocheted items to child care centers, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, hospices and cancer centers.

Children's Ministry

April 2, Palm Sunday

Children will process into 11 am worship waving palms. Please bring your child to the fellowship hall to gather and get palms by 10:50 am
After the service, we will enjoy a family friendly lunch at noon in the fellowship hall followed by our annual egg hunt! Sign up your family by March 22 at jmathis.bethel@gmail.com. Cost is $6/person or $20 for a family of 4 or more. We are collecting 1 dozen filled eggs per child for the hunt. Drop off your eggs outside the Children's Ministry office by March 29.

United Women in Faith Happenings

Thank you

- What a wonderful morning Circle 4 hosted - our annual Valentine Book Brunch with guest speaker Jessica Brodie from the Advocate and Circle friends from Central UMC. There is a list of Advocate Press books located in the library, along with our United Women in Faith Reading Program list of books for this year.
- Circles 1 and 4 for collecting items for the Bethlehem Center Food Pantry
- Circle 8 for starting our Unit mission project for UMCOR
- Bethel members and friends for supporting our Spaghetti Lunch fundraiser for local missions

Upcoming

Our Easter sides fundraiser will be chaired by Circle 1. Watch for online ordering at bethelmethodist.org. Pick up will be on Palm Sunday.
March 7: Circle 7 meets at 2 pm, Leader: Carol Barnette
March 9: Circle 8 meets at 11:30 am, Leader: Beth Martin
March 21: Circle 2 meets at 6 pm, Leaders: Peggy Taylor and Sheila Worley
March 23: Save the date for the Day of Giving. Step forward with faith, hope and love in action by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on the Day of Giving, March 23. Ways to give: uwfaith.org/dayofgiving or Text "ACTION" to 20503.

Peace and Blessings,
Jan

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
5	January 29	Worship: 299 Children: n/a	$11,014	$652
6	February 5	Worship: 266 Children: 8	$21,140	$551
7	February 12	Worship: 232 Children: 14	$15,231	$1,715
8	February 19	Worship: 216 Children: 13	$12,042	$407

2023 Annual Budget:	***$1,080,381***
Goal per week:	*$20,385*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$163,076*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$129,271***
Remaining 2023 Goal:	***$951,110***

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

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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

March 1
UWF Circle 7
10 am, Library

March 9
UWF Circle 8
11:30 am, Conference Room

March 13
Finance Meeting
7 pm, Builders

March 20
SPRC Meeting
7 pm, Builders

March 26
Children's Choir performs
9 am, Contemporary Service
11 am, Traditional Service

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

April BIRTHDAYS

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