September 2023

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

Bethel Church Family,

As many of you know, during several weeks this past July our family was on a road trip, in which we drove out to Colorado for vacation. Along the way we decided to try something different. Inspired by a social media post, we created a playlist on our Spotify account called Joy in the Journey. After each of us selected a song to add, we sought the input of strangers we met along the way. We would simply ask them about a song that currently brought them joy. Then we would explain what we were doing, add their song, and invite them to follow along by giving them a card with a QR code linked to the playlist. It was easily one of the best experiences we have had on all our many road trips. Not only did we learn about some really amazing artists that we had never heard of before, but we also got to interact with some really neat people along the way. We knew nothing about the people with whom we met. We did not know where they were from, how much money they made, who they voted for, or what they believed in, and it did not matter. You should have seen the way they lit up when they started talking about music that they loved and being included in this 'project' of ours. It reminded me a lot about the posture we take when it comes to those we consider strangers. Rather than being a threat, this experience reminded me about how as a follower of Jesus, I am called to be hospitable to those around, seeking to transform the world through the life-giving love of Jesus Christ. That can even occur in a simple conversation about music.

As summer begins to fade into fall, we are looking forward to continuing the work of following Jesus in all that we do. I am grateful for all who have continued to participate and have given of themselves sacrificially over the summer. We have some great things happening at Bethel and are excited to resume some of our regularly scheduled programming. Make sure you read through the newsletter and note the dates and times of all the different age level activities. I know schedules are busy and there is some uncertainty about the future, but I hope you will take the chance to grow stronger in your faith with Bethel. And if the opportunity presents itself, maybe even engage with a stranger and invite them to join you on the journey.

I hope to see you soon!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Brad

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group sign-ups for the fall are now available online. For a list and description of the studies we are offering, go to **bethelmethodist.org** and under Ministries & Programs, you will find Small Groups. The facilitator will be in touch with you before the group begins. You can also provide suggestions on other studies or groups you would like to see at Bethel.

Join us for a 5K and Fun Run benefitting the children of Sidewalk Hope on Saturday, September 23 at 9 am. The Amazing Grace Race will offer fun for runners of all ages! Participants may choose the 5K course or enjoy a 400 meter Fun Run. All registered runners wil receive a t-shirt and a goody bag. Registration is $30. Both courses will begin and end at Drayton Mills Marketplace. Scan the QR code to register.

In Christian Sympathy

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

Carolyn O'Dell, member

Lois Johnson, mother of Ann McIntyre

PRAYER list

Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Libby Davenport
HJ Fleming
Mary Hall
Cathy Hanks
Art Hartzog
David Holder
Toni Holder
Jerry Holland
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Terry Trnavsky

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Happenings

For the next several months our Unit is going to highlight each of our Circles at Bethel. This will give our members and friends the chance to see exactly what each Circle is about. This month we are starting with Circle 4.

Circle 4 meets the second Wednesday of every other month – February, April, June, August, October, and December at 10:00 am in the Bethel Library.

Our Circle is responsible for the United Women in Faith Reading Program. We select and order books, maintain the shelves, and help other members choose books from the different categories. Each February our Circle hosts the Book Brunch where all Bethel Circle members get together and share books they have read from our Reading Program. We have had guest authors speak to us about their writing experiences, this is always an enjoyable event.

In addition to helping with our Unit fundraisers and our global missions, Circle 4 does monthly local missions. This year we have been able to volunteer, donate items, and pray with Bethlehem Center, PS I Love You, Angel's Charge Ministry and Sidewalk Hope.

We enjoy the friendships in our Circle and feel blessed to share the love of Jesus in our community.

Maureen King, Leader

Upcoming

September 5: Circle 7 meets at 2 pm
September 14: Circle 8 meets at 11:30 am
September 19: Circle 2 meets at 6 pm

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

Every child needs a bed.

That's the driving force behind our new BEDS Ministry.

On October 7th, we will be hosting a **BED BUILDING EVENT** that aims to give children without beds a good night's sleep by providing them with new beds and bedding.

We know that there are children in our community who must sleep on the floor. As a church, we can remedy that.

Each one of us can play a part in providing these beds. You will have the chance to purchase bedding. You can come the day of and help us build. You can provide food and drinks for those who will be outside working. Younger children can leave messages of encouragement on the inside of the bed frames. You can provide a truck to deliver beds. You can pray for the families receiving these beds.

In a perfect world, no child would have to sleep on the floor. If we can spread God's love by providing a comfortable and secure bed to sleep in, where they can snuggle up at night, that's God's embrace.

We hope that you will join us.

Wednesday Night Supper

September 6
Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad, Texas toast, desserts

September 13
Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, green beans, salad, rolls, desserts

September 20
Tacos, nachos & cheese, desserts

September 27
Pork BBQ w/bun, slaw, baked beans, seasoned potatoes, salad, desserts

Adults: $9
Children 12 & under: $6
Family of 4 or more: $30

Winter Hats & Gloves Drive

Third Thursday Ladies are collecting winter hats and gloves for Sidewalk Hope.
All sizes are needed!
Donation baskets will be available throughout the church starting October 1st

GOLF TOURNAMENT

We have set up our next Bethel Golf Tournament for Friday, October 13th at Links O'Tryon. We will play a Captain's Choice with prizes going to the winning team as well as closest to the pins and longest drive. Teams will be set up by handicap in order to make them as equal as possible. The cost is $45 which includes green fees, carts, and practice balls. The deadline to register is September 22nd and money is due by September 29th. If you would like to participate, please contact Bill Dobbins or Scott Fleming.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Suzie Mauzy
Doris Fowler
Steve & Amelia Smith
Keith, Amber & Addi Ivey

JOIN THE CHOIR

There's a place for you in Music Ministry!
All choirs resume September 6th

Children's Choir: Grades 1 -6
(Kindergarten may join Jan. 2024)
5:30 – 6:10

Youth Choir: Grades 7 – 12
6:15 – 6:50

Sanctuary Choir: Adults
7:00 – 8:15

All music abilities are welcome to join!
Rehearsals are in the 3rd floor choir room

Give of your talents in praise to God!

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
31	July 30	Worship: 186 Children: 7	$18,652	$223
32	August 6	Worship: 197 Children: 10	$14,970	$67
33	August 13	Worship: 261 Children: 15	$16,598	$222
30	August 20	Worship: 195 Children: 13	$12,733	$244

2023 Annual Budget:	***$1,080,381***
Goal per week:	*$20,385*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$693,075*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$584,421***
Remaining 2023 Goal:	***$495,960***

Executive Pastor
Rev. Brad Gray
Pastor of Discipleship & Belonging
Rev. Megan Gray
Director of Youth
Chad Deetz
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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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

D Groups:
5th – 12th Grade
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
for studies & activities
Fellowship Hall

Please check bethelmethodist.org for more information.

Wednesdays

Game Time – 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Family Supper – 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Children's Choir – 5:30 pm
Small Groups – 6:00 pm
Youth Choir – 6:15 pm
God Squad – 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Youth Group – 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Sanctuary Choir – 7:00 pm

The Book of Amos by Jennifer Rothschild – starts Sept. 6
6:30 pm, Discovery classroom (for ladies)
Facilitator: Sue Ward

Other Weekday Studies

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
10:15 am, Builders classroom
Facilitator: Pastor Megan

How (Not) to Read the Bible by Dan Kimball – starts Sept. 10
5:00 pm, Builders classroom
Facilitator: Joe Locke

Bible Study with Brad – starts Sept. 5
6:30 pm, virtual via Zoom
Facilitator: Pastor Brad

Dates to Remember

September 4
Labor Day
Church office closed

September 6
Wednesday Night Fellowship resumes

September 10
Grandparents' Day

Epworth Work Day Offering

September 24
3rd Grade Bible Presentation
11 am, Sanctuary

September BIRTHDAYS

1	Sidney Walker
1	James Dillard
1	Mark Fowler
1	Davis Owens
3	Kenneth Bobo
3	Jack Cooper
5	Preston Bailey
5	Ben Terrell
5	Kristy Gazda
6	Julie Farmer
8	Charles Allen, Jr.
8	Matthew Benfield
9	Teresa Patterson
9	Derek Sawyer
9	Robbie Scruggs
10	Zain Surka
12	Ana Rivera
12	Jean Hartzog
12	Grace White
12	Lyle Shook
13	Ted Richardson
14	Aubrey Shealy
15	Christine Bush
15	Lauren Johnson
16	Chadwick Johnson
16	Brodie Stancil
17	Ryan Peterson
17	Jamey Snead
17	Sheila Dobbins
18	Renee Lane
19	Miles Lane
20	Arthur Cummings
21	Nancy Blumer
21	Linley Wise
21	Michelle Owens
22	Laura Jameson
22	Abbey Folk
22	Beth Lewis
22	Andrew Fischer
22	Banks Connolly
23	Lori Murphy
25	Barrett Owens
25	Nancy Barkman
25	Mary Ready
25	Myra Morrison
27	George Labanick
27	Mark Smith
27	Adyson Stancil
28	Pamela Coggins
28	Holly Raines
29	Emily Glenn
29	Addi Ivey
30	Michael Franck
30	Anne Holmes

October BIRTHDAYS

1	Jessica Kulas
1	Preston Grimm
3	Paula Williams
3	Sherrie Grant
4	Janis Green
4	Jordan Green
4	Douglas Henrick
4	Lynne Koch
4	Owen Gilley
6	Greg Mack
6	Mary Downs
7	Kathy Payne
7	Rowan Langford
7	Tyler Brown
8	Cindy Bailey
8	Peden Mahaffey
9	Cathy Hanks
9	Barbara Terrell
9	Harriet Brady
10	Buddy Bush
10	Sam Mathis
10	Gladys Rivera
10	Karen Cox
10	Julie Huckabee
12	Erin Ward
12	Louise Ready
13	Wade Thompson
13	Jada Stancil
13	Sandra Boyle
13	Jordan Boyle
14	Andy Burns
14	Patrick Moran
14	Theresa Tate
14	Lillie Hancock
15	James Padgett
15	Vivian O'Dell
15	Sharon Mack
16	Gene Foust
16	Sue Ward
16	Max Hiltgen
17	Kendyl Mason
21	Mac Turner
21	Nicole Mueller
22	Carol Barnette
23	Sarah Deetz
23	Robert Duclos
23	Aggie Romansky
24	Chris Byrne
25	Dianne Trisler
25	Patti Moran
25	Elliott Lane
25	Crew Miller
25	Aidan Berryman
25	Matthew Gilley
26	Sissy Bush
26	Linda Handell
27	Thurman Anderson
28	Bob Handell
28	Sara Overturf
28	Nita Parker
28	Steve Smith
29	Lisa Benfield
29	Liz Jilling
29	Melodi Wall
30	Collin Melba
30	Macie Buckner
30	Blaine Gray
31	Stacey Beeler
31	Casey Miller
31	George Barkman
31	Drew Connolly
31	Emmie Brady