Bethel Year in Review

Dear Bethel Friends,

We are extremely grateful for each and every one of you. This year has been amazing in so many ways. Despite facing real challenges, your faithfulness has continued to shine through. With God's help, we accomplished so much together. We tried new things in 2023 that led us to connect to one another in exciting ways. Our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, our Lenten worship and lunches with other area United Methodist Churches, our Maundy Thursday evening meal, and our fifth Sunday Intergenerational Sunday school were all opportunities to grow together, and you responded with support and enthusiasm. For the first time in several years, we held a five-night Vacation Bible School that saw tremendous involvement from a variety of ages.

We truly showed that when we come together as the Body of Christ, we can accomplish great things. This included our Beds=Dreams ministry. What a testimony to your commitment to Christ that so many gave of their time on that Saturday morning to build 25 beds for those in our community that needed a little extra love. We also came together to collect hats and gloves for the homeless providing them warmth during these cold months. These families, as well as those experiencing homelessness, were not the only ones that were blessed by you this past year.

Financially, Bethel supported local non-profits and other organizations by donating over $63,000 dollars. Miracle Hill, the Bethlehem Center, St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic, the United Way of the Piedmont, the Salvation Army, the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen, Mobile Meals, and Sidewalk Hope, along with many others were recipients of your generosity. This is in addition to the fact that by the time the year ends, we will have brought in around 92% of our yearly budgeted needs. In these trying financial times, that is something we can be proud of.

As we close our 2023, we want you to know how blessed Bethel is because it is comprised of people like you. Thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do to help strengthen the Kingdom of God. We look forward to working with you in the new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Grace and Peace,

Pastors Brad and Megan

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
48	November 26	Worship: 186 Children: 15	$13,330	$719
49	December 3	Worship: 226 Children: n/a	$22,577	$762
50	December 10	Worship: 216 Children: 8	$22,318	$675
51	December 17	Worship: 261 Children: 3	$33,776	$1,326

2023 Annual Budget:	***$1,080,381***
Goal per week:	*$20,385*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$1,039,612*
Gifts Received as of Dec. 17:	***$930,094***
Remaining 2023 Goal:	***$150,287***

Contributions received and/or postmarked by December 31 will appear on your 2023 contribution statement.

In Christian Sympathy

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

Charles Stanley, father of Patti Moran
Art Hartzog, member

Prayer REQUESTS

Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Libby Davenport
HJ Fleming
Mary Hall
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Jale Sawyer

A Special THANK YOU

Dear Bethel Family,
God is good. Thank you for your prayers for my son, John, and my 16-month-old grandson, Davis. They both had RSV and Davis was in the hospital for almost a week. Your prayers sustained them during that terrible time. I can never thank you enough.

Love in Christ,
Karen Cannon

Dates to Remember

January 1
Church office closed

January 2
Tuesday morning bible study
10:15 am, Builders classroom

January 10
Wednesday night fellowship resumes

January 28
UWF Box Lunch fundraiser

children's MINISTRY

We are excited to announce that Jennifer Bartless will be our new Coordinator of Children's Ministry. Jennifer has been a dependable and important part of Bethel's children's ministry for years. This new part time position will give Jennifer the opportunity to work with our children, parents, and other adults as we continue to help our young people to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for 2024, please contact Shannon in the church office at 585-4801 or bethelumcspartanburg@gmail.com.

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

Altar flowers are $55.

Wednesday Night Supper

January 10
Pork BBQ, baked beans, slaw, seasoned fries

January 17
Chicken & rice, broccoli casserole, glazed carrots, rolls

January 24
Build your own tacos, nachos & cheese

January 31
Breakfast casserole, bacon, grits, hashbrowns, gravy & biscuits

We will have our full newsletter in February 2024.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

JANUARY Birthdays

1	Shirley Hudson
1	Emilie Owens
2	Linda Simcox
2	Cheri Beeler
4	Carter Duclos
5	Ted Petoskey
7	Sabra Morrow
8	Phillip Graham
8	Kristy Wilson
8	Jeffrey Downs
8	Nicholas Byrne
8	Zachary Byrne
11	Kacin Stott
12	Cindy Jackson
12	Helen West
12	Parker Langford
12	Linda Moore
13	Hattie Haulbrook
13	Gregg Burns
14	Karen Ponder Cannon
14	Libby Davenport
14	Bill Jennings
14	Preston Lewis
15	Milli Pogue
15	Eve Farmer
15	Richard Hope
16	Teri England
16	Maggie Beth Little
16	Chris Romansky
17	Peggy Horner
17	Marion Robertson
17	Terry Troutt
18	Allen Williams, III
18	Christopher Thompson
18	Danny Wilson
18	Tracie Powell-Wilkin
19	Suzanne Wilson
20	Cindy Overturf
22	Glenda Bivens
22	Barbara Pollard
22	Noan Wiley
22	Harrison Hart
22	Gabby Padgett
23	Debbie Locke
24	Martha Hill
24	Steffi Hiltgen
24	Megan Cooper
26	Paul Loadholdt
26	Eugenia Padgett
26	Zoie Reviere
26	Donna Sawyer
26	Alexandria Ellsworth
26	Beth Brewer
27	Brian Foust
27	Charlie Martin
27	Jamie Kimbrell
28	Chris Bain
29	Debbie Whitaker
30	Don Worley
31	Chris Benfield
31	Jennifer Batton

1	Lynne Harrison
1	Warren Snead
2	Heather Stuart
2	Marie Keener
2	Andrew Armstrong
4	Madison Benfield
4	Melissa Kimbrell
5	Kaleb England
5	Amanda England
5	Jim Payne
6	Corrine Fischer
6	Gary Brewer
7	Nancy Campbell
7	Elizabeth Gee
7	Don King
7	Hank Turner
8	Joshua Smith
8	Karen Smith
8	Bryan Worley
9	Nick Dearing
9	Cathy Padgett
9	Jeff Kemp
10	Cathey Siarris
12	Don Tate
13	Matthew Shealy
13	Cori Bryson
14	Debra Farr
14	Bill Hill
14	Riley Kennington
14	Linda Seifert
15	Martha Timmons
15	Adriana Folk
16	William Kemp
17	Riley Wilkin
18	Gene Jackson
18	Hannah Haulbrook
18	Beth Martin
18	Zach Whitt
18	Terry Trnavsky
18	Lindsay Horton
19	Drew Timmons
20	Bob Glenn
20	Rich Gibson
21	Rusty Towery
22	Daniel Locke
22	Amanda Goodenough
23	Tena Tillotson
23	Cynthia Woodrum
23	James Farmer
24	Billy Miller
24	Gabriel Hiltgen
25	Thomas Labanick
26	Jamison Kimbrell
26	Nancy Romano
27	Carlon Steller
28	Steve Atwater
28	Buffy Kennington
28	Kristen Lawrence
28	Maxine Reynolds
28	Larry Thomas
28	Davis Huckabee