FEBRUARY

245 S. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29306
864-585-4801
bethelmethodist.org
Child Enrichment Program 864-585-8356

It appears that the first half of 2024 will be a defining time in the life of Bethel. We are less than three months away from the start of the United Methodist Church's General Conference that will be meeting just up I-85 in Charlotte, NC. The dates are April 23 – May 3. The hope is that the General Conference will provide clarity for the direction of the United Methodist Church. Bethel's Church Council will meet a few weeks after the conclusion of the General Conference in order to determine the best path forward for its future. Since I arrived in July 2020, I have encouraged you to be patient and to respond to the facts rather than to react to speculation. I continue to encourage you to act as such. I am aware of what other churches have done and continue to do across our state. Inevitably, you will start hearing more and more about churches and their voting. The leadership of those churches have chosen to do things differently than we have at Bethel.

I am grateful for all of you who have continued to support Bethel during these difficult times. There are reasons to be hopeful in spite of what is going on in our denomination. Lent is just around the corner, and we have a wonderful worship series planned. We have started Confirmation with six students who are learning about what it means to be a Christian and to be a member at Bethel. We are planning a big outreach event to our community on Saturday, March 23 that you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks. Recently, we resumed a relationship with the YMCA and are hosting basketball games three nights a week. When the basketball season ends, we hope to offer a new fellowship activity for adults in our gym a few nights a week and on Saturday mornings. What is it? I'll leave you guessing for now. More information in the future. Again, Bethel has been and continues to be a great church.

Regardless of what decisions are made or not made, Bethel's work in and around Spartanburg will exist. To what level and what degree, that remains to be seen. I also know that some changes will be occurring at Bethel in the future based on a variety of factors. Change is hard and scary and that's okay. We all face challenges in our lives. I'll leave you with a quote from my favorite show, Ted Lasso. Ted says, "Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse, isn't it? If you're comfortable while you're doing it, you're probably doing it wrong."

I look forward to being uncomfortable with you.

Onward and Forward,

Pastor Brad

Lenten Sermon Series

Since Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day and Easter is the day before April Fool's Day, this year's Lenten sermon series will cover foolish acts of love that Jesus calls us to as his followers. We will largely focus on lessons from the Gospels, though Paul will help bookend the series. We hope that you will join us throughout the season.

In Christian Sympathy

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

Jim Shearer, father of Christy Nichols

PRAYER list

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

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Happenings

This month we are going to highlight **Circle 8.** Circle 8 meets on the second Thursday of each month from September through May in the Conference Room at Bethel at 11:30. After a time of fellowship, announcements, and snack/lunch, we share prayer concerns. Then we watch a DVD/Bible study and have a short discussion about the topic. Some examples we've done in the past include Anxious for Nothing (Max Lucado), Uninvited (Lysa TerKeurst), and Messy People of the Bible (Jennifer Cowart). Some of our monthly missions include supporting Sidewalk Hope, the Bethlehem Center, Angels Charge, Hope Center for Children, and Miracle Hill Rescue Mission, along with our Unit missions. We also host the United Women in Faith Sunday. Come join us and get to know a wonderful group of friends who love the Lord and each other!

Leader: Beth Martin

Upcoming

March 4: Spring Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm

Thank you Bethel members and friends for supporting the Boxed Lunch to kick off our first mission fundraiser of the year!

Blessings,
United Women in Faith

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
52	December 24	Worship: 128 Children: 6	$16,783	$296
53	December 31	Worship: 128 Children:	$20,771	$485

2023 Annual Budget:	***$1,080,381***
Goal per week:	*$20,385*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$1,080,381*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$967,648***
Remaining 2023 Goal:	***$112,733***

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
1	January 7	Worship: 196 Children: 8	$25,623	$281
2	January 14	Worship: 180 Children: 6	$11,598	$813
3	January 21	Worship: 210 Children: 6	$11,489	$414

2024 Annual Budget:	***$1,047,704***
Goal per week:	*$19,768*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$59,304*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$48,711***
Remaining 2024 Goal:	***$998,993***

Are you a college student who feels called to ministry?
Here is an opportunity to serve and grow!

The Youth Ministry at Bethel UMC is looking for summer interns. This is a great opportunity to serve at Bethel and understand what ministry looks like. The internship is a 10-week commitment from the end of May to the first week of August and is guaranteed to be a great experience. Email Chad at cdeetz.bethel@gmail.com with your resume and a letter of intent explaining why you are interested in the internship, what you have to offer Bethel, and how you think Bethel will change you. **Application deadline is March 19th.**

Depths of Love

The Season of Lent is a time of self-reflection and spiritual examination. However, we don't examine ourselves in isolation. Instead, we are invited to lay our lives alongside the life of Jesus. Join us for a Lenten study to discover in this examination of his life and ours, not condemnation or recrimination but the depths of love Jesus has for all of us.

Tuesdays at 10:15am starting February 20th
Wednesdays at 6:30pm starting February 21st

Save the Date!
VBS
June 23 – June 28

Details to come!

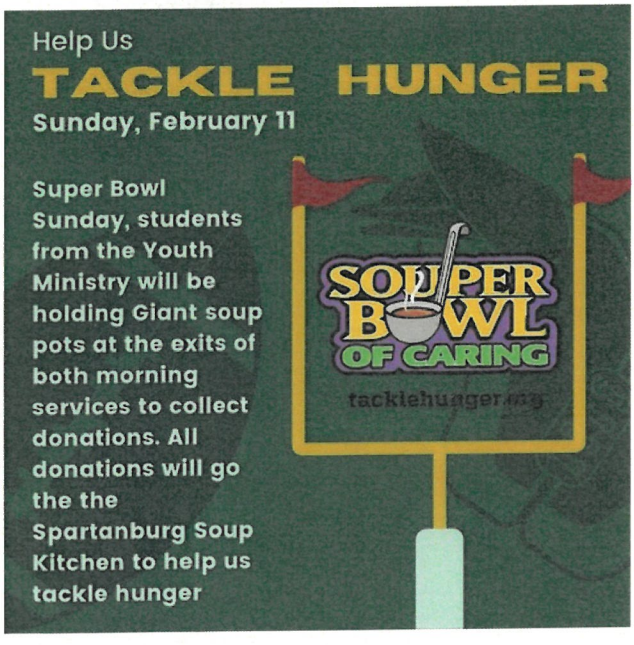
Wednesday Night Supper

February 7
Spaghetti, lasagna, salad, Texas toast, desserts

February 14
Vegetable beef soup, broccoli cheddar soup, chicken stew, toasted cheese sandwiches, desserts

February 21
Ham, pintos, hashbrown casserole, okra, rolls, desserts

February 28
BBQ chicken, green beans, potato salad, biscuits, desserts



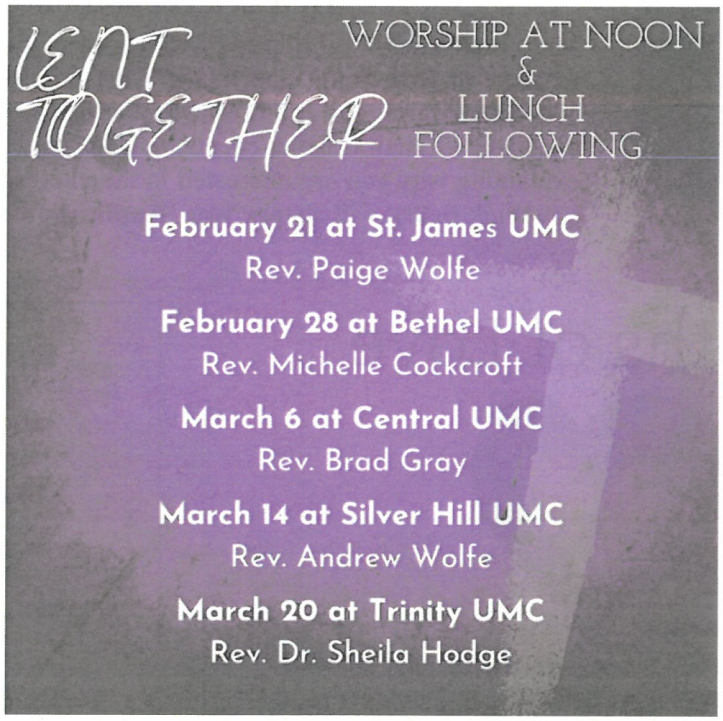
Shrove Tuesday

Join us on **February 13th**
for pancakes, sausage and trivia in the Fellowship Hall.

Pancakes will be served from 5:30-6:30pm. And the games will begin around 6:15pm.

Executive Pastor
Rev. Brad Gray
Pastor of Discipleship & Belonging
Rev. Megan Gray
Director of Youth
Chad Deetz
Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Jennifer Bartless
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

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

Other Weekday Studies

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

Dates to Remember

February 8
Bethlehem Center Fundraiser
6 – 9 pm, Fellowship Hall

February 13
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

February 14
UWF Valentine Book Brunch
10:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Ash Wednesday Worship
6:30 pm, Sanctuary

February 18
First Sunday of Lent

February 26
Church Council Meeting
7 pm, Fellowship Hall

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

1	Andy Cannon	11	Chad Reitzel	20	Caroline Kellam
1	Tim Powell	12	Brian Handell	21	Maureen King
2	Cynthia Lanier	12	Cara Thompson	21	Nancy Hope
2	Beverly McNeely	12	Susanne Troutt	21	Aly Hogue
2	Farris Richardson	13	Tina Bain	22	David Dodd
3	Mark Fischer	13	Dan Buckner	24	Susan Adolphson
3	Pamela Patterson	14	Mary Scruggs	24	Bill Dobbins
4	David Zabriskie	14	Curt Nichols	24	Richard Batton
6	Gabriel Anderson	14	Kady Moore	24	J.B. Waters
7	Amy El Sherif	15	Chris Shealy	25	Ellen Powell
8	Sherrine Pearson	15	Carolyn Turner	25	Brad Summer
8	Jared Pruitt	15	Gary Douglas	26	Hayley Melba
9	Jane Lawrence	15	Ella Bowen	28	Mallory Robson
9	Cindy Thomas	16	Bruce Green	29	Alice Langford
9	Chip Padgett	16	Preston Raines	29	Jillian Dillard
9	Maggie Perez	17	Trish McLeod	29	Jaylin Dillard
10	Janice Calvert	17	Ginger Pickren	29	Ansley Somers
10	Kara Shealy	17	Michele Beach	29	Jax Spears
10	Kevin Mason	18	Barbara Richardson	30	Mike Ward
10	Logan O'Brien	19	Jim Moore	30	Barry Romano
10	Sarah Waters	19	Pat Fowler	31	John Robuck
11	Maura Bailey	19	Harry Stathakis	31	Elizabeth Donaway
11	Andrew Reitzel	20	Charlie Deetz		