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

MARCH Birthdays

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		

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

March 4
Finance Meeting
6 pm, Builders Classroom

March 16
Spring Clean-Up
9 am – 12 pm

March 23
Community Easter Celebration
12 pm – 2 pm

March 24
Palm Sunday

Easter Sides Pick-up

March 28
Maundy Thursday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

March 29
Good Friday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

March 31
Easter Sunday

Intergenerational Sunday School
10 am, Fellowship Hall

BETHEL United Methodist Church

MARCH

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

At the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus is to commit to two things: loving God and loving our neighbors. These days, however, those seem incredibly difficult. Many folks will say it is foolish to even try. Yet, that is truly the kind of love Jesus invites us to share. It might seem foolish, for anyone who is not a follower of Jesus, to love those who don't understand us, don't agree with us, and might even betray or deny us.

This month, as we continue in Lent, we will look at even more aspects of what defines such foolish love. On Ash Wednesday, we spent time looking at what love is. Over the past two Sundays we have heard about forgiveness and what it means to love even when it means breaking the rules. Over the next few weeks we will focus on unfairness, waste, ridiculous generosity, and risk. All of that will lead us to the ultimate foolishness, loving and following a savior who died a criminal's death out of love for all of us.

I hope at the completion of this journey we will all have a better understanding of what it means to love. As a pastor, the last few years have consistently involved helping people navigate a world of deep divides. It seems this world is bent on driving us apart, something those of us in United Methodism know all too well these days. Let's use this Lent to practice the discipline of love. The world needs it now more than ever. And so do we.

May this Lenten journey be one that challenges you, but may it also be one that blesses you. And may you know yourself loved by Jesus Christ.

Pastor Megan

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24
Palm Sunday

March 28
Maundy Thursday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

March 29
Good Friday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

March 31
Easter Sunday

Intergenerational Sunday School

In Christian Sympathy

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

Mary Hall, member
Danny Wilson, member
Bob Strother, member

Prayer REQUESTS

John Benfield
Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
HJ Fleming
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
James Ragstole
Andrew Reitzel
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Fred Robinson
Jake Sawyer
Mike Trisler

Memorials and Honorariums*

In Memory of Art Hartzog
Trustee Fund:
Michael & Liz Jilling
Charlie & Beth Martin
Derek & Donna Sawyer
Richard & Nancy Hope
Diana Johnson
Montez Langford
Carol Charles
Olga Munn
Nita Parker
Joyce Strawhorn
Barry & Nancy Romano
Joseph Sutcliffe
Third Thursday Ladies
Hattie Haulbrook

Operating Fund:
Marion Robertson
Phil & Layne Stone
Time & Janice Calvert

Music Department: Joe & Debbie Locke

In Memory of Eric Roberton
Operating Fund: Carl Robertson

In Memory of Bill Creek
Trustee Fund: Nita Parker
Altar Guild: Tim & Janice Calvert

In Memory of Gail Allen
Trustee Fund: Pamela King

In Memory of Mary Hall
Operating Fund: Clinton Holt

Trustee Fund:
Andy & Karen Cannon
Betty Holt & Dianne Smith

In Memory of Bob Strother
Trustee Fund:
Andy & Karen Cannon
Carol L. Charles
Douglas & Michelle Gilliland
Jean G. Hartzog
Dwight & Nancy Lambert
Nita Parker
Derek & Donna Sawyer
Hattie Haulbrook

Operating Fund: Phil & Layne Stone

**Memorials received January 1 – February 25, 2024*

If anyone is interested in purchasing altar flowers, we have *several* weeks available. Please contact Shannon in the church office, Tuesday – Friday, at 585-4801 or email bethelumcspartanburg@gmail.com. On Mondays, our Altar Guild takes them 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.

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
4	January 28	Worship: 181 Children: 9	$9,972	$987
5	February 4	Worship: 227 Children: 18	$30,466	$353
6	February 11	Worship: 172 Children: 9	$9,916	$1,122
7	February 18	Worship: 163 Children: 17	$10,013	$256

2024 Annual Budget:	***$1,047,704***
Goal per week:	*$19,768*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$138,376*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$109,077***
Remaining 2024 Goal:	***$938,627***

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Happenings

In the last five newsletters, you heard from all five of our Circles at Bethel. You were able to get a glimpse of their group, each one having a different style of Circle. One thing each has in common is a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of our community and beyond without hesitation.

Spring is just around the corner, so that means our **Easter Sides Sale** is fast approaching. We will start taking orders March 4 – 18 on REALM.

Broccoli pineapple casserole: $15 for 8x8, $8 for half order
½ pound cake: $15
Pick-up on Palm Sunday

At our Spring Dinner Meeting on March 4, we will hear from the Development Director at St. Luke's Medical Clinic, a local mission that our unit has supported over the years through volunteering and mission monies. Please be sure to RSVP for the dinner with your Circle Leader.

Spring starts busy for our unit as we continue our mission purpose: We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Join us,
Jan Fleming

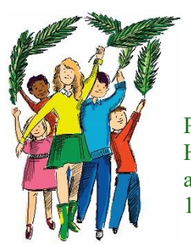
Wednesday Night Supper

March 6
Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, green beans, salad, rolls

March 13
Hamburger steaks, mushroom gravy, peppers & onions, baked potatoes, salad, rolls

March 20
Chicken & biscuits, lima beans, pineapple casserole, salad

March 27
Beef tips, rice, broccoli & cheese, glazed carrots, biscuits



Children's Ministry News
Palm Sunday

Please bring your child to the Fellowship Hall by 10:50 am on Palm Sunday to meet and get palms. Children will process into 11 am worship waving their palms.

The Trustees of Bethel invite you to participate in a Bethel Beautification Day on Saturday, March 16th at 9am. We will be cleaning the outside of our property to prepare for all our spring activities.

Easter lily orders are due by Wednesday, March 13th. You can pick up an order form in the church office. Forms are also in the narthex and outside the parlor. The cost is $20. Please make payment separate from any other tithe or payment.

Our next Bethel Tournament is Friday afternoon, March 15 beginning at 12:30 PM at Links O' Tryon.
Please let us know if you can play by March 3.
Entry fee is $45 which includes your Green Fees.
Contact Bill Dobbins or the church office for more information.