A nursery is available on the First Floor for infants and children under 3 years.

After Children's Time, preschool through 5th grade is invited to **Children's Church** in the Children's Wing.

Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Joyce Strahorn's, Jean Hartzog's, and Suzie Mauzy's birthday from your sister in Christ.

The Missions Committee will be meeting today at 6pm in the Conference Room. Anyone who wants to learn more about Bethel's commitment to missions in Spartanburg and beyond is invited to attend.

Prayer Requests

Beth Brewer
Gary Brewer
Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
Carol Mueller
Andrew Reitzel
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Fred Robinson

Dogged Determination

Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Brad Gray
Pastor

Chad Deetz
Youth Minister

Dale Fischer
Director of Music

Jennifer Bartless
Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Kristine Lee
Organist

BETHEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Invite. Grow. Send.

To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, Bethel UMC, the House of God, opens her doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says, "Welcome!"

September 8, 2024 **16th Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00 AM Worship Service

Prelude *"How Firm a Foundation"* arr. Kenon Renfrow

Trinity Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Welcome, Beloved! Why have you gathered today?
We have come to worship God, who is the maker of us all!
What do you seek from God, our Creator?
We seek God's wisdom to guide us and show us how to live.
Are you ready to follow when God's wisdom leads down unexpected paths?
We will trust, and we will follow wherever God's wisdom leads us.
Well then, Beloved of God, what are you waiting for?
Come! Let us worship and seek God's uncommon wisdom together! Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* (vs. 1-5) UMH 57

*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

*Gloria Patri UMH 71

*Psalter Reading *Psalm 146* UMH 858

Offering

Offertory *"The Old Rugged Cross"* arr. Jerry Ray

*Doxology *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* UMH 95

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children's Time

Hymn of Preparation *"Dear Lord, for All in Pain"* UMH 458

During the hymn, you are invited to the altar to join the pastor in assuming a posture of prayer. All are welcome.

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Response: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Anthem *"More Precious Than Silver, I Stand In Awe"* arr. Jay Rouse

Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Reading Mark 7: 24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 28But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." 30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. 31Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Sermon *"Dogged Determination"* Rev. Brad Gray

*Hymn *"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"* UMH 581

*Benediction

*Postlude *"We, The People, Praise Thee"* Joseph Haydn

Please stand if able