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

MARCH

Bethel Members and Friends,

Even though Lent this year starts a bit later, it feels like it arrived in a hurry. It seems that most folks I talk to these days express a feeling that life is racing at a breakneck pace. From commitments related to work and family, to health concerns, and the overall unsettledness of our nation and world, most folks are left feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. What a wonderful time for us to experience Lent together! A time to be intentional about looking at our lives in the light of Christ and honestly assessing what truly matters. Some folks choose to give up something, others choose to add some kind of spiritual discipline. Personally, I am thinking the Holy Spirit is nudging me toward a bit more time in holy silence, trying to quiet my mind and my heart to more adequately hear the voice of God in my life. I encourage you to begin thinking now about what God might be pushing you toward this season.

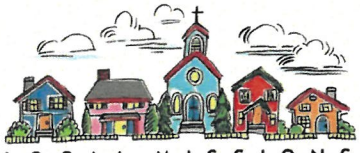
This year my sermon series, based on the lectionary Gospel readings, is called "Encounters with Jesus". We will be reflecting on the transformative encounters people had with Jesus in the Bible, all the while offering opportunities for us to experience Jesus anew in our lives together throughout the season of Lent.

All of this will begin on Tuesday, March 4th, the day before Lent starts, as we gather to enjoy pancakes and sausage at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30 pm. The cost is $5 per person with a $20 max for a family. We will play trivia starting around 6 pm that evening in the Fellowship Hall as well. This has been a fun night in the past few years, so make plans to join us. The next day, March 5th, is Ash Wednesday. I am excited to announce Two opportunities for you to receive ashes that day. From 11 am – 1 pm, I will be set up in our parking lot for Drive Thru Ashes. From the comfort of your vehicle, you can pull through to our Henry Street parking lot and receive the mark of the cross in ashes as well as a card that explains Ash Wednesday and provides you with a prayer of confession to be prayed at your convenience. Later that evening, after Wednesday Nigh Supper that starts at 5:30 pm, we will gather for a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30.

This is just the start of what I hope will be a Spirit-filled Lenten season for us here at Bethel. I hope you take Advantage of all the opportunities that God provides you to encounter Jesus anew and afresh during this season. And in so doing, I hope it brings you a bit of respite from the chaos and renewed strength as we journey together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brad

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?"
"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25: 35, 37, 40



Our mission focus for March will be the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen. They feed hundreds of people in our community every single day of the year. Bethel has been supporting the soup kitchen for many years. Several Bethel volunteers report on the fourth Sunday of odd months to cook and serve lunch to anyone who comes through the doors.

There are several ways you can support this mission. First, they need our prayers. They lost their longtime leader, Lou Sartor, in February. She served as the director for 25 years and leaves big shoes to fill. Second, you can donate non-perishable food. Just leave your donations in the designated collection bins at the church and our team will drop them off. You can also make a monetary donation. You can donate directly through the soup kitchen website or write a check to Bethel and designate it for the soup kitchen. Please make this donation separate from your regular offering.

In Christian Sympathy

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

Johnny Huckabee, father of Chad Huckabee
Phillip Graham, member

Prayer Requests

Beth Brewer
Gary Brewer
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
Patti Moran
Tracie Powell-Wilkin
Beverly Rakestraw
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Shelley Winkler

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory Arthur Cummings
Operating Fund: Phil & Layne Stone

In Memory of Bob Haulbrook
Trustee Fund: Hattie Haulbrook

In Memory of Scoop Haulbrook:
Trustee Fund: Hattie Haulbrook

In Memory of John Schwartz
Trustee Fund: Hattie Haulbrook

In Memory of Gail Allen
Trustee Fund: Pamela King

In Memory of Emma Grace Bryson
Children's Fellowship: Lori Emory

In Memory of Joe Costner
Trustee Fund: Hattie Haulbrook

In Memory of Arthur & Mary Cummings
Trustee Fund: Hattie Haulbrook

Operating Fund: Steve & Amelia Smith

United Women in Faith Happenings

United Women in Faith

This month, we will highlight our UWFaith Reading Program. Our Reading Program is designed to help women of faith to achieve five key goals:

1. Lean into our spiritual growth
2. Strengthening our leadership skills
3. Equip ourselves for local and global mission
4. Take faithful action for the common good
5. Build community in large and small ways

I encourage you to take advantage of our church library's excellent selection of books from the UWFaith Reading Program. Also, many of the books in our Reading Program this year are available at the Public Library. Your Circle might enjoy a book (or book) discussion at one of your meetings. Lydia Circle helps to oversee our Reading Program, and we would be happy to assist you in selecting and checking out a book. See you in the library!

Maureen King – Lydia Circle

FYI: United Women in Faith digital (uwfaith.org/digital) is entirely free to join, giving you access to groups where you can connect over shared interests, spaces to engage in conversation around resources like Faith Talks and Voices from the Field, and access to exclusive digital content. You can connect with members from all over the country and worldwide, sharing your ideas and best practices, allowing you to communicate with one another. Some days, there is a lovely devotional, motivational scripture, or beautiful music to start your day.

Upcoming:

3/2: United Women in Faith Sunday, Rev. Sandra King
3/16: Sign-ups for Easter Sides will be distributed, including Mac n Cheese, Pineapple Casserole, and Half Pound Cakes.
3/18: Legislative Advocacy Day, Columbia 9-1. Contact Jan if interested.
Susanna Circle @ 6PM
3/30: Orders for Easter Sides end.

Shrove Tuesday

Join us on **March 4**
for pancakes, sausage and trivia in
the Fellowship Hall.

Pancakes will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm. Trivia will begin around 6 pm.

Wednesday Night Supper

March 5
Vegetable beef soup, broccoli cheddar soup, chicken stew, toasted cheese sandwiches, salad, cornbread

March 12
Make your own tacos, nachos & cheese

March 19
Potluck – bring your favorite dish to share!

March 26
Pork tenderloin, sweet potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls

Journey with Jesus: A Lenten Pilgrimage of Grace

Spartanburg Area UMC Lenten Lunch Services

Wednesdays during Lent

Worship begins at Noon
followed by a free meal provided by the host church

An offering will be collected each week for Maggie Valley UMC
for their Hurricane Helene efforts

Date	Host	Preacher
3/12	Central UMC	Rev. Megan Gray
3/19	St. James UMC	Rev. Cam Treece
3/26	Trinity UMC	Rev. Brad Gray
4/2	St. Paul UMC	Rev. Morris Waymer Jr.
4/9	Silver Hill UMC	Rev. Andrew Wolfe
4/16	Bethel UMC	Rev. Ricky Howell

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
4	January 26	Worship: 114 Children: 19	$5,717	$633
5	February 2	Worship: 151 Children: 15	$10,136	$962
6	February 9	Worship: 155 Children: 13	$10,223	$175
7	February 16	Worship: 155 Children: 20	$7,840	$436

2025 Annual Budget:	***$825,935***
Goal per week:	*$15,883*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$111,184*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$63,685***
Remaining 2024 Goal:	***$762,250***

Executive Pastor
Rev. Brad Gray
Director of Youth
Chad Deetz
Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Jennifer Bartless
Director of Music
Dale Fischer
Organist
Dr. Kristine Lee
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: 9:00 am – 4 pm
Fri: 9:00 am – 12 pm

March Birthdays

1	Andy Cannon	11	Andrew Reitzel	18	Barbara Richardson
1	Tim Powell	11	Chad Reitzel	19	Pat Fowler
2	Cynthia Lanier	11	Elijah Richardson	20	Charlie Deetz
2	Farris Richardson	12	Brian Handell	20	Caroline Kellam
3	Mark Fischer	12	Susanne Troutt	21	Maureen King
3	Nicole DeStefano	13	Tina Bain	21	Aly Hogue
4	David Zabriskie	13	Dan Buckner	22	Janet Cubbage
4	Peyton Connolly	14	Mary Scruggs	24	Bill Dobbins
6	Noelle Sublett	14	Curt Nichols	24	Richard Batton
7	Amy El Sherif	14	Kady Moore	24	J.B. Waters
8	Lenza Jolley	15	Chris Shealy	25	Ellen Powell
9	Jane Lawrence	15	Carolyn Turner	25	Brad Summer
9	Cindy Thomas	15	Ella Bowen	26	Hayley Melba
9	Maggie Perez	16	Bruce Green	28	Mallory Robson
10	Janice Calvert	16	Anna Healy	29	Ansley Somers
10	Kara Shealy	17	Trish McLeod	29	Jax Spears
10	Kevin Mason	17	Michele Beach	31	John Robuck
10	Sarah Waters	17	Alex Richardson	31	Elizabeth Donaway

Sundays

Worship Services

Contemporary Worship
9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
10:00 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am, Sanctuary

Sunday Night Youth:
5th – 12th Grade
5:30 pm – 7 pm
for studies & activities
Fellowship Hall

Please check bethelmethodist.org for more information.

Wednesdays

Game Time – 4 pm – 5 pm
Family Supper – 5:30 pm
Children's Choir – 5:30 pm
Small Groups – 6:30 pm
God Squad – 6:30 -7:30 pm
Youth Group – 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir – 7 pm

Dates to Remember

March 2
UWF Sunday

March 4
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

March 5
Drive-Thru Ashes
11 am – 1 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship
6:30 pm, Sanctuary

March 10
Finance Meeting
6 pm, Conference Room

March 30
Combined Worship
10 am, Sanctuary

Covered Dish Meal
11 am, Fellowship Hall