April 2025

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

Bethel Members and Friends,

Back in February, I wrote to you about using our space creatively. I want to share a new and exciting opportunity that we have. Bethel's Church Council recently unanimously approved to enter into an agreement to allow the Hub City Spartanburgers to use our parking facilities for home games this season. The Lee Street parking lot will be used for their staff parking, while our main parking lot on Henry Street will be used as free parking for the public. The agreement provides Bethel with an allotment of tickets to be used throughout the season as well as notification on the video board and PA system as a 'preferred parking partner' of the Spartanburgers. We also have been given 2 activation/tabling nights at the ballpark, meaning we can set up a table to advertise and hand out Bethel swag. The video board/PA and activation nights are great opportunities for us to get our name out there and for us to meet our neighbors.

Some of you may be asking, but what about parking when we have things going on at the church? Here are some things to keep in mind. The Henry Street lot will be public parking, so as long as you arrive at the church before the game day traffic starts to park you should not have any issues. Most night games start at 6:35pm. The Sunday games are all at 2:35pm and there are only a handful of those, so I do not anticipate them being a problem for us. I am working with Spartanburgers officials to make sure our space remains clean from garbage that potentially could be left. Lastly, this is a partnership that we are entering into and an opportunity for us to be good neighbors. This may cause us some inconvenience. I ask you to be patient because this is our first foray into something like this. There are things that will need to be addressed and adjusted. However, in the overall picture, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with our community.

Our first Bethel Night at the Ballpark will be Wednesday, May 21st. That is our last Wednesday night supper and will be a bit earlier than usual as we will serve from 5PM-6PM. The game that evening is at 6:35pm. We have 40 tickets available. The cost is $15 each. Please contact the church office to purchase your tickets.

Around this time of year I have always heard the phrase, "Hope springs eternal," most often related to baseball season. May it be so this year for both the Spartanburgers and for us at Bethel.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brad

One of our favorite traditions is bringing flowers to church on Easter morning to create our Living Cross. The tradition of flowering the cross dates to the 6th century. It is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus' death on Good Friday.
This year, as you come to Easter service, add flowers from your garden (or the grocery store) to the cross which will be displayed on the front lawn in front of the sanctuary.

In Christian Sympathy

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

Amber Fortson, Special Education class member

Prayer REQUESTS

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

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory Phillip Graham
Operating Fund:
John & Dorothy Robuck
Hattie Haulbrook

Trustee Fund: Connie Culver Long

Special Education Fund:
Dianne Trisler
Charlie & Shirley Hudson

Vacation Bible School
June 22 - June 26

United Women in Faith Happenings

United Women in Faith

Our spring has started busy, and our mission activity is blooming. With March being Women's History Month, we began with United Women in Faith Sunday. Thank you, Reverend Sandra King and Bethel members who assisted in our services and made it a special day. We attended Legislative Advocacy Day in Columbia and began preparing for our SCC Annual meeting in October here in Spartanburg at St. Paul's UMC.

Lydia Circle volunteered in a community mission project at PS I Love You Ministries by assisting them in switching their closets over for the new season. Susanna Circle hosted a unit-wide event with a visiting author from their Circles book study, and Mary Circle is gearing up to bake for our Easter Sides Sale.

FYI: Our speakers at Legacy Day were Dr. Jermaine L. Johnson, Sr, SC House of Representatives; Dr. Quantina Haggwood, Executive Director, SC School Improvement Council; Jennifer Rainville, Esq Education Policy, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, and Vivian Anderson, Founder and Executive Director of EveryBlackGirl, Inc.

We need to review and respond to the following bills: DEI: #83927, Education/Women: H4068, H3974, S430, and S415. If you want to receive a notification on the above bills, you can download the SC Legislature App.

Thank you for being so supportive of our Easter Sides Sale.

Jan

Upcoming:
4/9: Lydia Circle meets at 10.
4/13: Pick-up Easter Sides

Wednesday Night Supper

April 2
BBQ chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls

April 9
Spaghetti, salad, Texas toast

April 16
No Wednesday night supper

April 23
Pulled pork w/bun, baked beans, slaw, potato wedges, salad

April 30
Chicken & Rice, butterbeans, carrots, 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
April 2	St. Paul	Morris Waymer, Jr.
April 9	Silver Hill	Andrew Wolfe
April 16	Bethel	Ricky Howell

Palm Sunday

April 13

Parents, please bring your child to the Fellowship Hall to gather and receive palms by 10:50 am. The children will process into 11 am worship waving their palms.
Following worship, we will have a family friendly lunch in the Fellowship Hall followed by our annual egg hunt! Please sign up with Jennifer by April 9th.

April 13
Palm Sunday
Children's Ministry Lunch & Egg Hunt

April 16
No Wednesday night supper

April 17
Maundy Thursday Worship
6 pm, St. Paul UMC

April 18
Good Friday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

April 20
Easter Sunday

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
8	February 23	Worship: 197 Children: 20	$9,044	$639
9	March 2	Worship: 152 Children: 17	$10,808	$1,223
10	March 9	Worship: 145 Children: 13	$8,115	$943
11	March 16	Worship: 148 Children: 16	$8,593	$444
12	March 23	Worship: 187 Children: 30	$9,545	$799

2025 Annual Budget:	***$825,935***
Goal per week:	*$15,883*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$190,600*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$109,790***
Remaining 2024 Goal:	***$716,145***

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
Financial Secretary
Donna Hopkins
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

April Birthdays

1	Trotter Chastain	13	Frankie Grimm	23	Morgan Robson
1	Kevin Farmer	15	Karen Cannon	25	Nicholas Smith
2	Charlie Hudson	15	Wendall Hopkins	25	Lynne Sawyer
3	Shannon Wiley	16	Kevin Bobo	25	Joanne Anderson
4	Michelle Levine	16	Donna Tiritilli	25	Dawn Rollins
5	Robert Strait	17	Jacqueline Cook	25	Michelle Sisk
6	Julie Olglesby	18	Dorothy Robuck	26	Adam Rollins
6	Pamela Smithey	19	Mary Jo Crites	26	Jordan Morris
7	Matthew Smith	19	Phil Stone	27	Doug Collins
7	Gerald Pitts	19	Charlton Patterson	27	Ben Richardson
9	Aria Surka	20	Patrick Moore	28	Jackson Wiley
10	Ann Ellstrom	21	Thelma Cubbage	28	Stephanie Chastain
12	Rhonda Burns	21	Lori Emory	29	Parker Bowen
13	Scott Smith	21	Marcella Macmillan		
13	Henry Turner	21	Claire Ollinger		
13	Matthew Gibson	22	Nora Miles		

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

April 13
Palm Sunday

Children's Ministry Lunch & Egg Hunt

UWF Easter Sides Pick-Up
Fellowship Hall

April 16
Lenten Lunch Service
12 pm, Sanctuary

No Wednesday night supper

April 17
Maundy Thursday Worship
6 pm, St. Paul UMC

April 18
Good Friday Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

April 20
Easter Sunday

April 28
Church Council Meeting
7 pm, Conference Room