August 2026

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

Like many of you, I have been enamored by the World Cup this summer. I loved watching all the games, seeing all the fans from across the world cheer on their countries, the United States included. I loved watching the Norwegian fans doing the Viking row, hearing about the crazy antics of the Tartan Army from Scotland, seeing the English fans singing "Wonderwall" and "Hey Jude", or cheering on with any of the African nationals as they danced in the stands. I don't know if it was because of proximity or if it was the fact that the US team was one of the final sixteen, this year just felt different. The reality, like with so much in life, is that it is never just one reason, but a combination of factors. The World Cup is amazing for so many different reasons.

I think one reason that makes it special is that all the different countries have distinct identities. They know who they are and what makes them unique in the world. They celebrate their particularity on the global stage. I heard from someone who attended a game, the fanbase of the winning stayed over an hour after a game celebrating their team, all singing the same songs in one voice. The countries rallied around their identity. This is something that we are engaging in here at Bethel. We spent the months of June and July in a season of prayer asking God's guidance for our church and for an identity as we live into the future. You have an opportunity on the weekend of Friday, August 7th through Sunday, August 9th to talk, share, and help craft the vision for who Bethel is being called to be in the future. I hope you will take the opportunity to come to the church for an hour and spend time sharing any insights you might have about Bethel's future. All are welcome to participate.

Identity was important for all those teams in the World Cup and it is important for us as we move into God's preferred future for Bethel. I look forward to this next season as we continue to write our next chapter together. I hope to see you soon!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brad

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
25	June 21	Worship:144	$6,072	$58
26	June 28	Worship: 115	$3,457	$611
27	July 5	Worship: 125	$12,558	$540
28	July 12	Worship: 132	$10,026	$1,158

2026 Annual Budget:	***$741,248***
Goal per week:	*$14,255*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$399,134*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$276,346***
Remaining 2026 Goal:	***$464,906***

Memorial and Honorariums

In Memory of Charles Hudson
Operating Fund: Rosalind Welder

In Honor of Charles Allen
Trustee Fund: Pamela King

Wednesday Night Supper

August 19
Spaghetti, salad, Texas toast, dessert

August 26
Potato bar w/sides and meat, salad, dessert

There's a Place for Everyone in Choir!

Big voice? Small Voice? Never sang in a choir? Used to sing?
Bethel needs and wants you!

August 19th
All choirs will resume Wednesday night rehearsals

5:30 – 6:10 - Children's Choir
Grades 1 – 6 (Kindergarten may join in Spring 2027)

7:00 – 8:15 – Sanctuary (Adult) Choir
All rehearsals ae on 3rd floor, Sanctuary building

Prayer REQUESTS

Tim Durham
Matt Gilley
Martha Greenlee
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
The Labanick family
Jack Lewis
Myra Morrison
Marie O'Dell
Rita Petoskey
Beverly Rakestraw
Linda Seifert
Ann Towery
Shelley Winkler
Lee Helen Youmans

Combined Worship Services

Sunday, July 26
10 am, Sanctuary
No meal

Sunday, August 30
10 am, Fellowship Hall
No meal

BETHEL'S

Children's Ministry

We are in need of volunteers to help out on Wednesday nights. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer or the church office.

Our last Wednesday night of summer is July 29. Wednesday night activites will resume on August 19.

Blessing of the
BACKPACKS

August 9th
9:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship

Brad's Zoom Bible Study will start meeting again on August 11th. Stay tuned for more details.

UWF Happenings

United Women in Faith

The summer is almost over for most of us, and United Women in Faith will start a new year on September 1. We have had a busy past few months, donating to food pantries and distributing our mission monies to local agencies we support year-round. Thank you for supporting our fundraisers and for those of you who attended and donated to the Bethlehem Center Dawn Staley event.

In July, three Circle members attended Mission U at Spartanburg Methodist College. We enjoyed our study titled A Deep Knowing-Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives in a small classroom environment, sharing our learning experiences and enjoying fellowship over meals with other SCC United Women in Faith.

In the next few months, we will be welcoming our new sisters to our district to streamline our units and navigate through our leadership changes.

Congratulations to members who participated in the Reading Program:

Plan One: Jane Burns, Jan Fleming, Diana Johnson, Maureen King, Amelia Smith, Libbi Smith, Layne Stone, Peggy Taylor, and Sheila Worley.

Plan Two: Peggy Horner and Sandra King.

See you in September,
Jan

Executive Pastor
Rev. Brad Gray
Director of Youth
Chad Deetz
Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Jennifer Bartless
Director of Music
Dale Fischer
Organist
Lane Hill
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

August Birthdays

1	Rick Scruggs
1	Clay Terrell
3	Nancy Lambert
4	Isaac Gray
4	Chad Huckabee
5	Marci Bowen
5	Jerry Ellsworth
9	Anna Troutt
10	Jack Lewis
11	Matthew Painter
11	Sarah Hartell
11	Erica Whitt
12	Irma Graham
14	Joyce Strawhorn
15	Kim Jolley
17	Dana Wright
18	Melissa Hancock
19	Jerry Reitzel
21	Carol Charles
23	Jim Merrill
23	Sally Moore
23	Hayley Moore
23	Ann Towery
26	Coleman Nichols
27	Becky Gibson
31	Toni Holder

Sundays

Worship Services

Contemporary Worship
9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
10:00 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am, Sanctuary

Sunday Night Youth
5 pm – 6 pm

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
Tiny B.U.M.S. – 6:30 -7:30 pm
Youth Group – 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir – 7 pm

Wednesday night fellowship resumes on August 19

Dates to Remember

August 6
First Day of School

August 9
Blessing of the Backpacks
Both worship services

August 16
Special Education picnic
12 pm