November 2026

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

Hey Friends,

I would like to update you about a couple of ongoing things in the life of our church. Our Coordination Team continues to work with Rev. Mark Tidsworth on our "Writing Our Next Chapter" Missional Visioning Collective. The goal is to have our roll out toward the end of this month and into the first week of December. We are excited about the way God is moving in helping us have clarity around our identity and core values as Bethel United Methodist Church. Part of this process also includes goals and commitments for us as individuals. Starting Sunday, November 8th, I will have a new sermon series called "More Than Enough: A Three-Week Journey into Faithful Generosity." We will look at how we are called to be stewards of all that God provides, how generosity can change us, and how each of us contributes to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit through what we do together at Bethel. I hope you will make plans to join us for the three-week series. We will culminate by making commitments associated with our membership vows related to our prayers, presences, gifts, service, and witness. Again, we feel like there is a lot to be excited about as we move forward together as a church.

I also want to share a bit of news from the Trustees. First, a special shoutout to Jim and Becky Griffith for all their work on the parsonage and coordinating the work being done by others. Thank you to all who pitched in and helped. The work will be near completion in the weeks to come and the house will go on the market soon thereafter. Unfortunately, not everything related to our building has gone according to plan. We recently began the process of changing over to heat, which means addressing the two boiler systems, the one in the Sanctuary Building and the one that heats the Education Building and Gym. While we were aware that the Sanctuary Building boiler needs to be replaced in the future, we found out that the boiler in the Education Building and Gym must be replaced this year before it can be changed over to heat. This is the system that provides heat for our daycare as well, so the repairs are urgent and have already begun. We have started the process of using Endowment funds to cover the cost of $120,000. This will require a Called Charge Conference on Thursday, November12th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. We have been assured that the heat will be on in the Education Building and Gym before Thanksgiving. While we are still waiting for some confirmation about the heat in the Sanctuary Building, the initial signs are good that our system will be in working order.

With this most recent issue with the boiler and the speed at which it is being replaced, it does feel like we are being led in the direction that Bethel will remain in this location in the future. While no official decision has been made by the Church Council, we continue to have discussions with different groups inside and outside the church so that a decision can be made soon. We will keep you informed on any developments as they occur. Thanks for your patience and please keep praying for Bethel. God is moving. May we respond faithfully and courageously.

Grace and Peace,
Brad

Poinsettia ORDERS

❑ **PURCHASE ___ number of Poinsettias**
x $20.00 each = $ _____

Please make payment SEPARATELY from any other tithes and offerings.

I would like to do this **in honor of** _____

and/or **in memory of** _____

Given by (your name as you would like it to appear in print) _____

Please include your payment with this form no later than Monday, November 16

In Christian Sympathy

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

Shelia Conder, member

Prayer Requests

Tim Durham
Dale Fischer
Matt Gilley
Martha Greenlee
Cathy Hanks
David Holder
Toni Holder
Jack Lewis
Connie Long
Myra Morrison
Marie O'Dell
Rita Petoskey
Beverly Rakestraw
Ann Towery
Shelley Winkler
Lee Helen Youmans

Christmas Cantata

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
All current choir members, past choir members, friends of the choir, lovers of music and singing, praise band, and youth: Join us for our annual Christmas Cantata: "A Night of Rejoicing". We love having Bethel members and friends come sing with us. Below you will find our rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, and 22: 4:30 – 5:30
Sunday, November 29: No rehearsal
Sunday, December 6: 4:30 – 5:30
Wednesday, December 9: 6:30 – 8:30
Saturday, December 12: 10:00 – noon
Sunday, December 13: 11 am Worship
Rehearsals in Choir Room, 3rd floor, Sanctuary Building.

Need more info? Contact Dale Fischer

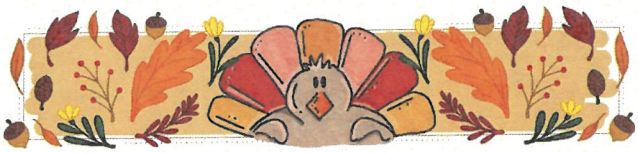
ROAD TRIP

Join us Tuesday, December 1st, for a day trip to Mepkin Abbey for the 2026 Creche Festival. The cost is $51 for the bus (lunch not included). The deadline to sign up is November 9th. Pay on Realm or make a check out to Bethel UMC. Contact Jan Fleming or the church office if you have any questions.

Joint Worship Service

Join us for combined worship on Sunday, November 29th in the Sanctuary at 10 am. Following worship, we will have a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share with everyone! Bethel will provide meat and drinks.

Mobile Meals of Spartanburg delivers more than just food. For many recipients, delivery drivers are their only personal contact throughout the day. Volunteer drivers deliver more than 100 routes each weekday between 9 am – 12 pm. Volunteers are also needed to pack meals, drive vans to food drop sites and help in the office. Contact Mobile Meals for more information.



Wednesday Night Supper

November 4
Hamburger steak, baked potatoes, salad, rolls

November 11
Chicken & rice, lima beans, glazed carrots, biscuits

November 18
Spaghetti, lasagna, salad, Texas toast

November 25
No Wednesday Night Supper

We are looking for a Christmas tree for the Fellowship Hall. If you have a tree that you are no longer using and would like to donate it to the church, please contact the office.

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program provides new clothing and toys to more than one million children in need each year. The Angel Tree will be set up outside the parlor mid-November. Each tag will have the name and wish list of a child in need. Instruction sheets will also be available.

United Women in Faith

Thank you to Bethel members and friends who supported our Boxed Lunch Fundraiser and bought tickets for our homemade quilt and bake sale items to support our missions this year.

Lydia Circle met in October and chose our new books for the 2026-27 Reading Program. Each category has few on the shelves because most books are in the public library. The master list is in a notebook on the library desk and shows which ones are in our Spartanburg libraries. When checking out a book, record the info in the notebook. If you have questions about the Reading Program, contact Maureen King.

The library has had a refresh! The History and Religious Study books are still on the shelves. We removed some outdated material and added new materials from two of our Sunday School classes as book studies, and some have audio on Amplify Media. Also, the United Women in Faith Reading Program moved their books we have already read and studied in book clubs to the Bethel shelves. Our Upper Room monthlies are available in the library if you need one, or if someone you know can't get to church to pick one up. So, the next time you are looking for study material, book club ideas, devotionals, or miscellaneous material, check out the library.

Upcoming:
11/1: At our Box Lunch, sign up for the Bake Sale (Quiche only). Quilt tickets will be available, and a few members and friends will have some beautiful handmade items for sale.
11/15: Last day for sign-ups for Quiche.
11/17: Susanna Circle meets at 6.
11/22: Bake Sale and pick-up for Quiche orders; Quilt winner announced.

Happy Thanksgiving from United Women in Faith.

	Sunday Date	In-Person	Gifts to Budget	Other Gifts
39	September 27	Worship: 123	$12,790	$186
40	October 4	Worship:156	$7,513	$718
41	October 11	Worship:131	$8,900	$234
42	October 18	Worship: 158	$8,955	$1,306
43	October 25	Worship: 151	$10,417	$227

2026 Annual Budget:	***$741,248***
Goal per week:	*$14,255*
Year-to-date Budget Goal:	*$612,955*
Year-to-date Gifts Received:	***$424,389***
Remaining 2025 Goal:	***$316,859***

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

November Birthdays

1	Shea Steller	13	Ann McIntyre	27	Joan Creech
1	Alex Whitt	13	Chad Deetz	27	Sue Costa
3	Ramsey Chastain	14	Melissa Fleming	28	Ruth Tuggle
5	Michael Jilling	14	Jim Bowen	29	Jim Griffith
7	Dan Smith	15	Jane Burns	29	Jennifer Gilley
7	Sarah Gray	15	Zoie Tiritilli	30	Michael Overbay
9	Scott Fleming	16	Alex Smith		
9	Jack Deetz	17	Christy Nichols		
12	Lizzie Scruggs	21	Peggy Parrott		

Sundays

Worship Services

Contemporary Worship
9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
10:00 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am, Sanctuary

D Groups:
5th – 12th Grade
5:30 – 7 pm
for studies & activities
Fellowship Hall

Please check bethelmethodist.org for more information.

Wednesdays

Game Time – 3 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

No Wednesday night activities on November 25

We will have combined worship on Sunday, November 29, at 10 am in the Sanctuary

Dates to Remember

November 1
All Saints Sunday

UWF Boxed Lunch

November 9
Trustees Meeting
6:30 pm

November 22
UWF Bake Sale
10 am, Fellowship Hall

November 25 – 27
Church office closed

November 29
Combined Worship
10 am, Sanctuary

Covered Dish Lunch
11 am, Fellowship Hall