
August 2023

The Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.



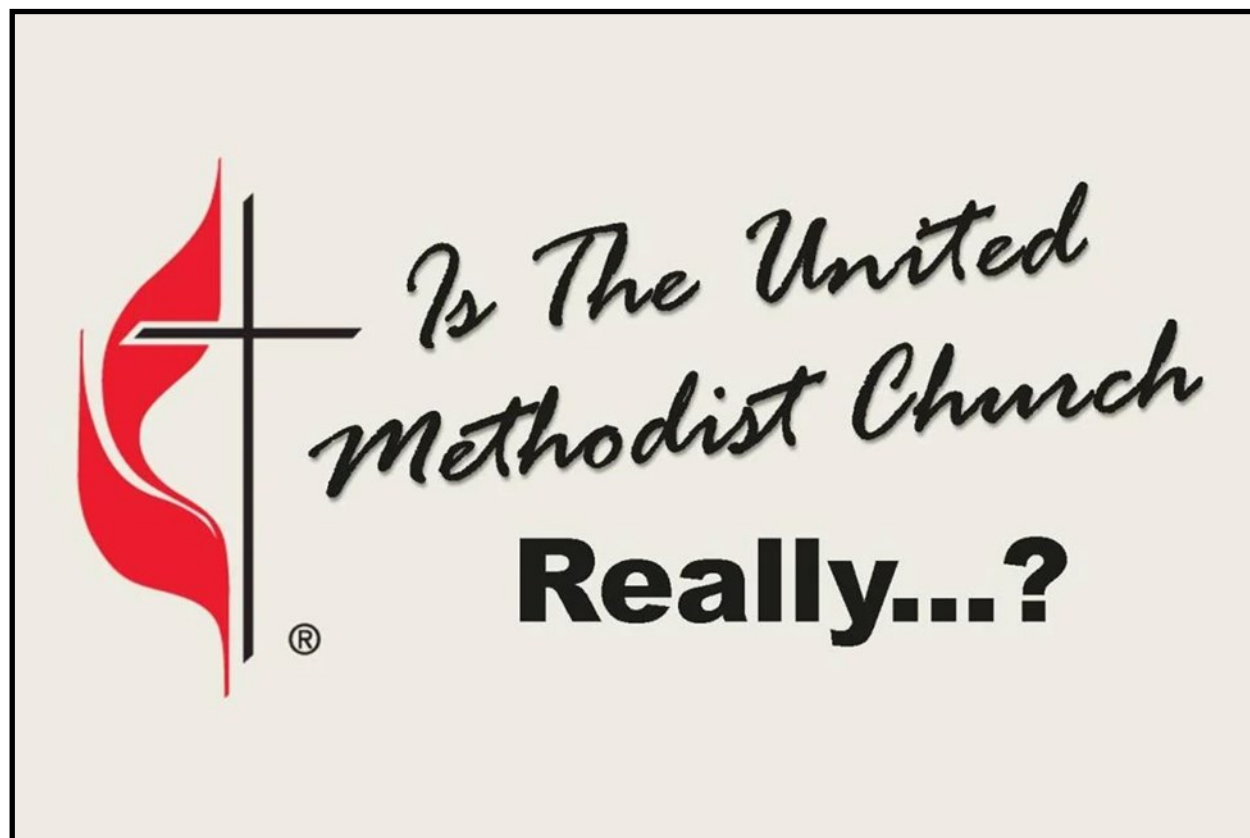
Pastoral Column — August 2023

Many of you have raised some concerns about our denomination and what is taking place with other United Methodist Churches that are disaffiliating. In hopes of giving everyone accurate information I have copied the following article from the United Methodist Church website:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-1>

At Ask The UMC, we have been answering an increasing number of questions from congregations wondering about the future of The United Methodist Church and whether they should consider disaffiliating from it. Among these have been some recurrent questions that reflect misperceptions or misinformation that some congregations are receiving as they are discerning their next steps.

Pastoral Column — Continued

**1. Splitting at this time?**

No. The term “split” applies when there is a negotiated agreement within the denomination to divide assets and resources. No such agreement has been made in The United Methodist Church. The earliest point at which such an agreement could be made would be at the next General Conference to be held in 2024.

A more accurate term, as suggested by the Rev. William Lawrence, retired dean of Perkins School of Theology and former member of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, is “**splintering**.” What is happening is that some traditionalist leaders have decided to create their own denomination (the Global Methodist Church). Leaders of that denomination and other unofficial advocacy groups, such as the Wesleyan Covenant Association, which created it, are encouraging like-minded United Methodist congregations and clergy to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and join their denomination instead.

2. Asking traditionalists to leave the denomination?

No. The requests for disaffiliations are coming largely from traditionalists. Keith Boyette, former president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and now leader of the Global Methodist Church, describes the reasons he and other leaders are asking traditionalists to leave.

Traditionalist made the decision to choose the most fruitful alternative available to us which was to engage in the pathway of separation that would enable us, each to have respect for our individual perspectives and move forward unhindered by the other. In this way, Traditionalist have chosen to set the church free from this conflict. The post separation United Methodist Church and the

Pastoral Column — Continued

Traditionalist Methodist denomination that will immerge and others perhaps will all be different from the existing United Methodist Church. We hope for the very best for each of these denominations that will immerge. But as peace makers, its important that we all sacrifice something. We have chosen to move ahead to what we believe will create a hopeful future for Traditionalist but also for each of the other perspectives at the table.

3. About to alter its doctrine to deny the virgin birth, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or salvation through Christ alone?

No. All of these positions are bedrock in the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church, more specifically in the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith. These cannot be altered without a two-thirds vote of the General Conference followed by a three-fourths aggregate approval of all annual conferences of The United Methodist Church worldwide. There is no basis to conclude such majorities can be achieved to alter the Articles and Confession for any reason.

Here is what the Articles and Confession say on these matters. And will continue to say.

Virgin Birth and Divinity of Jesus

Articles of Religion, Article II:

“The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man’s nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin.”

Confession of Faith, Article II:

“We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Articles of Religion, Article III:

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

Confession of Faith, Article II:

"Jesus Christ... was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return."

Salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ

Articles of Religion, Article IX:

“We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith.”

Confession of Faith, Article IX:

“We believe we are never accounted righteous before God through our works or merit, but that penitent sinners are justified or accounted righteous before God only by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Pastoral Column — Continued

4. Intending to change the Bible?

No. The United Methodist Church has no official translation of the Bible and has never sought to alter the Bible at all. United Methodists have always had a variety of views about how to interpret specific passages of Scripture and likely always will.

5. Allowing congregations that exit the denomination to continue to offer the same pension and health benefits programs to their clergy and staff?

No. The Book of Discipline does not permit non-UMC entities to be plan sponsors of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Only a General Conference can change this. Churches that disaffiliate will face changes to the benefits they can offer their clergy. Individual congregations and clergy that join the Global Methodist Church (GMC) will be eligible to participate in a retirement plan offered by the GMC, which will be a Wespath defined-contribution retirement plan similar to a United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

6. Immediately dropping all prohibitions related to human sexuality, now that the Global Methodist Church has been officially started?

No. The creation of the Global Methodist Church has no bearing on the existing policies of The United Methodist Church. The policies of The United Methodist Church are set by its General Conference. The General Conference is the only body that can change them. The General Conference is scheduled to meet next in April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

8. Going to require its clergy and clergy candidates to agree to offer same-sex weddings as a condition of candidacy, status, or appointment?

No. There are no proposals before the next General Conference to do so, nor have there ever been such proposals.

As noted above, proposals to permit clergy who choose to do so to preside at such ceremonies have come before previous General Conferences and will come before the 2024 General Conference. All such proposals have been defeated in the past. And there is no basis, considering the makeup of the delegations, to conclude this will change in 2024.

On Sunday, September 10, 2023 after our worship service, we will meet with our District Superintendent Sarah Calvert at our town hall meeting to learn and ask questions about our denomination and what the future may look like for Bethel United Methodist Church.

Rev. David Ryu

Church Staff:

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 804/521-1102

Northern Virginia District
 Superintendent:
 Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert
 3600 Chain Bridge Rd., Fl 1
 Fairfax, VA 22030-3236
 703/820-7200

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship in Sanctuary & Online

1st & 3rd Sundays: Communion Sundays

4th Sunday: Youth Motel Ministries—12:00 pm

Join our Sunday morning ministry team. To volunteer:

- ◆ *to read scripture, contact Jane Brewer at 540-428-0038*
- ◆ *to usher, contact Tom Ferrell at 540-439-9043*
- ◆ *to help before and after communion, contact Cathy Carayas at 540-219-2575*
- ◆ *to assist with tech, contact Sarah Hundley at 540-589-5564*
- ◆ *to assist with the Youth, contact Sandra Colvin at 540-347-2375 or Karla Yocum at 540-514-6070*

We appreciate all of our volunteers and can always use more!

August Worship

August 6 — Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: The Quest for Fulfillment

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-14

August 13 — Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: What God Intended

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31

August 20 — Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: The Choice Factor

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-5

August 27 — Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: How Change Begins

Scripture: 1 John 1:8-10

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Devotional Prayer Time—Sanctuary

Saturday, August 5, 9:30 a.m. UWF Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Life Richard Rider

Tuesday, August 1, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 26 Sunday School Teachers Workday

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Administrative Council Chair:
Nancy PinsonVice Council Chair:
Carlton HaydenStaff-Parish Relations:
Rosanne WilliamsonFinance Committee Chair:
Lewis LeeTrustees Chair:
Ava LeeChurch Treasurer:
Donna BroadbentFinance Secretary
Christine WintersRecording Secretary:
Gary PinsonWorship Committee Chair:
Cathy CarayasSunday School Superintendent:
Linda HaydenNurture/Fellowship Committee
Chair:
Charlene HahneMission & Outreach Committee
Chairs:
Sandra Colvin,
Karla YocumUnited Women in Faith
President: Dolores GoffLay Member to Annual
Conference: Brett HahneDistrict Conference
Representative & Steward:
Murray Edwards**Music Notes****Special Worship music planned for August you won't want to miss.****August 20:** The Blue Ridge Chorus will be our guests. Duane Williamson and his friends will sing "Amazing Grace" and "Love at Home".**August 27:** We will have the unique opportunity to hear some beautiful flute hymn harmonies played by the Vale UMC Flute Choir

Thank you to Earl Kemper and Ervin Teets for building a platform for the new relocation of the piano. It will make it much easier for me to move between the piano and organ without walking across the chancel. I hope you are enjoying hearing the organ with more frequency on Sunday mornings. I'm still a "piano purist", but I'm happy to add the texture of the organ, especially on some of the great hymns of the church. And thanks also goes to all those who helped move it and get everything re-settled. Duane Williamson, Travis Taylor, Tim Boone, Pastor David and Christine Winters. And a final thanks to Ervin Teets for making a stand for the organ lamp. It was formerly held up by a few hymnals and when I asked Ervin if he could do it, he gave me that twinkle in his eye and the lamp block appeared the following Sunday.

Choir Dinner Gathering: Thursday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m., Social Hall

This is for folks who are currently in the choir, their families, folks who might like to dip their toe into the "choir waters", and for folks who would like to give it a try, but can't be here every Sunday etc. If you are age 16 and up, please come and hear what I have planned for Fall and Advent. Or just come for dinner!

We have a place for you. It's no secret, I've been persistent ... and yes, maybe even a little pesky, in my continued requests for folks to become part of the choral ministry at Bethel. Special music adds so much to a worship service. It's a gift to share your time and energy and your voice as we learn the music together. I've said it before and repeat it now: singing in a choir builds lifelong friendships; it gives us a place to fit in; it exercises our brains and strengthens our bodies; and is satisfying to our souls. And those comfy choir chairs are the best seats in the house. Let's fill them! Questions? Call me, text me or e mail me.

Pat Martin, Music Directorpat88piano@gmail.com

703-220-7079

August Birthdays:

01 Liz Langan
 01 Laura Wolfert
 02 Demetrio Ford
 06 Alex Swain
 06 Elizabeth Wolfert
 08 John Chadsey
 08 Samantha Cunningham
 08 Eleanor Wilcox
 09 Nathan Sellers
 12 Debbie Mroczek
 14 Dan Janickey
 16 Scotty Steinmeyer
 17 Tiffany Broadbent Beker
 18 Bob Peterson
 21 Stephen Miles
 22 Gloria Killinger
 27 Don Otey
 28 Cindy Fortney
 31 Helen Edwards

August Anniversaries:

02 Charles & Laura Wolfert
 06 Joe Florence & Kirsten King
 08 Dick & Jane Brewer
 10 David & Tarah Ryu
 11 Thomas & Ruthann Litchford
 14 Mark & Liz Langan
 22 Jimmy & AlisonLee
 27 Ron & Becky Crouch

Motel Ministry

Karen Nelson, Sandra Colvin, Karla and Steve Yocum, Crystal, Oliver, and Grant Taylor visited our friends for "Motel Ministry" in July.

We took lots of food, toiletries, snacks, water, and other goodies thanks to our Bethel family members making great donations!!!

Sandra Colvin and Karla Yocum

Co-Chairs for Mission/Outreach Committee

Bethel Breakthrough Prayer

God of grace and power, thank you for loving us and for hearing our prayers. Break through into Bethel Church, into our lives, our families, our community, and our world, with healing power and visible signs of your grace. Guide us in the ways of Jesus. Send the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future you desire for us; even when the present is full of uncertainty and anxiety. Lord, we are asking, seeking, and knocking. Open doors that will lead us on paths of faithful discipleship; and give us the courage to walk through those doors as we live our faith and share God's love. Amen.

Inventory, Insurance and a Church

In January 2022, Reverend David Rash of Sherando United Methodist Church shared step by step 'lessons learned' guidelines to Trustee committees in the Virginia Conference after a catastrophic fire destroyed their church.

The fire started about 7 a.m. on Friday, October 29, and according to the VSP fire investigators, the cause is officially "undetermined in origin". There is no indication of arson. It is apparent it had been smoldering for a long time, for when it broke out the sanctuary roof caved in quickly. Five volunteer fire companies responded and worked hard to combat the blaze all the while in a steady rain.

Members and friends of the church gathered under the protection of the pavilion and watched in disbelief as the fire consumed the roof of the fellowship hall. As smoke poured out of every crevice we hugged and prayed. We were supported by neighboring churches and pastors. Truthfully, we have been reminded that the 'church is not the building'.

Reverend David Rash, Sherando UMC

The Bethel Board of Trustees is charged with keeping the church building, parsonage, facilities, property, equipment, furnishings, and other physical property well maintained using good stewardship, common sense, and prudence. We strive to facilitate the ministries of Bethel by the proper keeping of God's house to honor God and to serve you our friends and members. Rev. Rash's guidelines have alerted us to a few action items we needed to review and some items needing implementation immediately to better prepare Bethel UMC in case of the unthinkable and heartbreaking loss of our buildings.

You might think that insurance should have been Sherando UMC's safety net. They had insurance. Bethel UMC has insurance and a very good working relationship with our agent. The realities of a catastrophic fire are the hidden expenses. Rev. Rash cautions about "replacement" insurance. Industry words like depreciation, demolition coverage and law enforcement or ordinance are words he and the Trustees hadn't planned for when estimating the final cost.

Before we get too deep into guidelines and tasks of the Bethel Trustee Board, please be assured that our Trustees carefully reviews insurance policies and has already updated them to meet any critical needs. What we need to do now is get a detailed inventory of all of Bethel's furnishings, equipment, supplies, and unique items at Bethel Church, so we have all the answers, receipts, and details we need to share with our insurance group.

Inventory, Insurance and a Church



During the month of August mainly on Sundays after service, we would like to organize “**Inventory Scavenger Hunts**” The idea is that every room, closet, and area on the Bethel campus will be combed through by volunteers detailing a count, description, measurements, pictures of all our lovely STUFF. The Trustees will supply all the documentation and instructions and even a tape measure for each small group to use for their assigned room. One member of the group will be asked to take pictures of items and their details (serial numbers, etc.) and one slow-moving movie of space. These pictures and movies will be forwarded to one location.

If the other Church committees could help organize a representative to help with their “assigned” areas, that would be a tremendous help to you and to all the volunteers. For example: the worship committee, the AV team, and the Choir Director. Knowing all that we have and where it is located is INFRASTRUCTURE and with this knowledge, we become better stewards of our time, money, and impact when we are Sharing God’s Love!

If you would like to help for an hour or two every Sunday in August after our worship service, please join us at the visitor center to be assigned a team and given a clip board.

Areas will be broken up like this:

Pavilion Room, Narthex, Coat Closet, Classroom 301,
Nursery, Crawl space in the Nursery, Etc.

Your team will not be assigned the whole Parish House – Go to It! We hope to eat this elephant one small morsel at a time. For further information, please feel free to ask Ava Lee, Bonnie Pool or Christine Winters. We will be happy to answer your questions and concerns.

Thank you for your time and we sincerely appreciate your help.

Bethel UMC Board of Trustees

Ava Lee, Chair

Karla Yocum

Roger Broadbent, Vice Chair

Bob Mroczek

Bonnie Pool

Christine Winters

FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Tradition tells us that Bethel UMC would have a brunch on the fifth Sunday of a month that had five Sundays. Well, this past Sunday July 30, we resurrected that tradition with a wonderful Sunday service and a brunch that followed.

Judging by the pictures, you can see how much food we had and all the folks that joined in this feast.

Special thanks to Donna Broadbent and Dolores Goff for getting the fried chicken for us and setting up the room for this gathering. We can't forget all the folks that brought a dish or two with all the trimmings as well.



**FIFTH SUNDAY
BRUNCH**

TRADITION

FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNITY

CHURCH



Ink Cartridges

Donating used ink cartridges to the church helps us to get rewards at Staples that we use to purchase copy paper and other office supplies.

Thank you to all who donate!

Finance & Worship Attendance

Income & Expenses*

July Income: \$29,451.00 July Expenses: \$22,530.37
 YTD 2023 Income: \$165,372.25 YTD 2023 Expenses: \$181,681.76

*Because the Beacon is published monthly, finances for the prior month will be reported.

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/ Kids	Average	Giving
July 2	54	57	122.35	\$6,994.00
July 9	64	63	122.52	\$6,768.00
July 16	63	63	122.64	\$8,506.00
July 23	49	69	122.48	\$3,995.00
July 30	51	82	122.83	\$3,188.00

Worship Update

We recently changed our mask mandate for worship and all other events at Bethel. If you feel safer or want to protect family members at home, please feel free to wear a mask. If you want to come without a mask, you are welcome to do so. We continue to meet in the Sanctuary. Air purifiers are running in the sanctuary before, during, and after worship service.

Communion will be served by intinction on the first and third Sundays of the month. Those who prefer the self-serve elements or the gluten-free elements can ask the server when they come up.

**Bethel United
Methodist Church**

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