
May 2024

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.



A Church on the Move

Our congregation is on the move! Literally, we are moving our church offices to the house next door, preparing the Parsonage as a home for Pastor Nadeem and his family. At the same time, Pastor Nadeem is getting bids to move their family from their home in Blackstone to their new community at Bethel. And it is not just us and them – during the last week of June, United Methodist pastors all across the commonwealth of Virginia are moving - north and south, east to west, and all manner of places in between. Even Pastor Clayton will be coming out of retirement to become pastor of a small church part-time. Lots of moving. United Methodists know all about moving. But are we moving forward? That is the question we need to ask ourselves. Are we moving forward?

Yesterday, April 23rd, marked the beginning of the United Methodist Church's General Conference. Over 800 delegates, representing churches throughout the world, have gathered in Charlotte for this ten-day meeting. Bishop Bickerton, president of the Council of Bishops, gave the opening day sermon. He acknowledged that these last several years have been challenging United Methodists. Some members have chosen to leave. Some congregations have



A Church on the Move from Pastor Clayton

“disaffiliated”, choosing to no longer to be a part of the United Methodist Church. Over 25% of our congregations have withdrawn. 7000 churches. (Sounds like a pretty bleak sermon so far. It got much better).

Bishop Bickerton said, a year ago, he was called on to speak at the Texas Annual Conference. He said he really didn’t know what to expect. In the Texas Conference, Fifty-two percent of the congregations had chosen to leave the UMC. He wondered to himself if the conference might be filled with self-doubt, pain, dismay, defeat. Instead, what he found was not a conference lost in self-pity, but a conference filled with holy energy and ready to move forward. They were proud to be called United Methodists, and they were ready to see where God wanted to take them. And Bishop Bickerton said what he heard from people the most, was that, unlike past sessions of the Texas Conference, this year “every single one of us wants to be here.” And the young clergy and laity were leading the way. They said, finally, they could come to annual conference not expecting to fight and argue, but to celebrate their common faith, to renew their sacred call, and move forward to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Bickerton said it all begins with being still. “Be still and know that I am God.” The first step of moving forward, is being still.

Do you want to move forward spiritually? Do you want to follow Christ wholeheartedly? Begin by being still. Pause, so you can be fully present in God’s presence. That is the very best first step.

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Pastor Clayton



Want to hear more about General Conference?
Join us in the Social Hall on Sunday, May 19 after worship service approximately at 11:30 a.m. to share an update about The United Methodist Church General Conference. Pastor Clayton will share and take questions from the congregation.

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Council Chair: Nancy Pinson

Vice Chair: Carlton Hayden

Staff-Parish Relations:

Rosanne Williamson

Finance Chair: Lewis Lee

Finance Vice Chair:

Travis Taylor

Trustees Chair: Ava Lee

Church Treasurer:

Donna Broadbent

Finance Secretary

TBD

Recording Secretary:

Gary Pinson

Worship Committee Chair:

Nancy Pinson

Funeral Care Committee Chair:

Cathy Carayas

Sunday School Superintendent:

Crystal Taylor

Nurture/Fellowship Committee

Chair: Charlene Hahne

Mission & Outreach Chairs:

Sandra Colvin,

Karla Yocum

United Women in Faith

President: Dolores Goff

United Methodist Men

President: Joe Florence

Lay Member to Annual

Conference: Brett Hahne

District Conference

Representative & Steward:

Murray Edwards

Youth Representative:

Grant Taylor

Young Adult Representative:

TBD

Chiming in From the Bell Room

Greetings once again from your Hymndingers. It is always a joy for us to participate in worship. It takes a lot of practice for us to be able to share our music with the congregation but the fellowship and fun that we have as a group as we meet each week makes it all worthwhile.

We will be ringing in worship again on **June 9**, then we will be taking a break during the months of July and August before re-suming our practices once again in September.

We will be playing two of our favorites as we worship in June. *You Raise Me Up* which features the cello as well as the bells and *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* which features the use of mallets and hand chimes as well as the handbells. We hope you will be able to join us in worship on that Sunday for our last offering before our summer break.

As always the handbell ministry is open to anyone who would like to become a part of this program. You do not need to read music. You do need to be able to count to four. We are open to anyone who is willing to learn a new skill and make a commitment to practice. Contact Joice Fredenburgh if you are interested.



Several of our handbell choir, The Hymndingers, went to St. Matthews UMC in Annandale on April 6th, where they attended a phenomenal concert given by the **Raleigh Ringers (NC)** who are on tour. We joined together with Warrenton UMC handbell choir and traveled together in Bethel's van. Many thanks to Gary Pinson for being a super driver with a lot of ladies on board!!



Attending were Jane Brewer, Cathy Carayas, Diane King and mother Patsy, Jill Wilson, & Karla Yocum (Bethel). From WUMC were Cheryl Brindle, Barbara Huss, Kim Raines & Peter Lewis (Director).

May Birthdays

- 01 John Childers
- 07 Tom Ferrell
- 13 Earl Kemper
- 19 Pat Adams
- 19 Joann Ros
- 23 Alex Goff
- 24 Karla Yocum
- 27 Roy Pool
- 28 Joe Florence
- 28 Sara Janickey
- 31 Roger Broadbent

May Anniversaries

- 14 Alberto and Kim Aguilar
- Roger and Donna
- 17 Broadbent

Worship Reminders

We 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.

BUMY (Bethel United Methodist Youth)

At the current time, the following Adult Volunteers are working with Bethel United Methodist Youth (BUMY): Joyce Fredenburgh, Debbie Mroczek, Karla Yocum, Karen Nelson, and Sandra Colvin. The contact person is Joyce Fredenburgh. We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Sundays for right now due to the busy schedules of our participants in BUMY. We had an outing together and enjoyed dinner (see below).



<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting/Activity</u>
<u>May</u>	
1 st Sunday, May 5 th	Motel Ministry
2 nd Sunday, May 12 th	No meeting
3 rd Sunday, May 19 th	Devotion/ Message, Lunch and Planning Meeting for Youth Service in June; if time permits we will be "rock painting"
4 th Sunday, May 26 th	No meeting

Don't Stop the Music—Pat Martin

Choir News: The Choir is always open to adding voices! We are delighted to welcome Pastor Clayton to our tenor section. He adds so much to the group: not only with his voice, but with his warm personality. But we still would be happy to have more folks join with us. Through May, we are rehearsing on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. We'll be singing special pieces over the next couple of months and plan to continue until the first Sunday of July when our congregation welcomes Pastor Nadeem and his family. So if, you'd be willing to give it a try, please do. Come and "Rock the Boat" with us! (you have to come to know what that means...). Contact me at pat88piano@gmail.com, or by phone at 703-220-7079 if you have questions.

Your Favorite Hymns: There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk for you to write down your favorite hymn(s). During the summer months, we will have a HymnSing, but I will also incorporate some of your favorites on Sunday mornings as a Meditation Hymn. Don't be shy! Tell me what you like to sing.

Summer Special Music: If you would like to provide special music on a Sunday this summer, please let me know. Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Please consider sharing your gift with the congregation.

Pentecost Sunday: Pentecost will be celebrated on May 19th. The choir will be singing "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" and YOU will be asked to sing with us and feel the Spirit, too. That Sunday we remember how the Holy Spirit came upon the people like flames of Holy Fire; so we will be wearing reds and the colors of flames and we hope you will do the same.

Blue Ridge Barbershop Group: Duane Williamson will be bringing back to us his barbershop group to provide special music once or twice this summer. Stay tuned for the dates.



Brownies 90075 donated 3 trees to Bethel Church. Bonnie Pool organized the planting and Bethel now has two dogwoods in front of the Tom David House and one cherry tree in the playground. Thank you for your donation and service to Bethel Church.



New Trees

Mission/Outreach Committee

The Mission/Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support for our missions and outreach projects.

We will continue to collect donations for Motel Ministry. Our last trip was April 7th (see below). Our next visit will be May 5th. Your donations may be put in the bin on the cart in the Social Hall. We are in need of the following items:

Canned Food----meats (chicken and tuna), soups, spaghetti, beef stew, chili, fruit, etc.

Deodorant (men's and women's)

Can openers

Men's and Ladies' Disposable razors

Small packs of cookies and crackers

Capri Sun Drink Packets

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Mustard and Mayonnaise

Karla continues to work with the "Kairos Prison Ministry."

We will be making a monetary contribution to "Kits for Conference" from Bethel United Methodist Church.

Ed Stouffer is our Computer Ministry representative. A big thank you to Ed for moving all the computers to the new storage area by himself! Thank you, Ed!!!!



Thank you!

Our Bethel family is always so generous with their support of our projects. It helps us "Live Our Faith and Share God's Love".

Thanks, Sandra Colvin and Karla Yocum, Co-Chairs of Mission/Outreach Committee

Church Staff:

Pastor: Clayton Childers
clayton.childers@gmail.com
202/341-1534

Music Director:
Pat Martin
pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist:
Joan Bacot

Director of Hymndingers
Joice Fredenburgh
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Administrative Assistant:
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Office Hours:
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Finance Monthly Report

Income & Expenses*

April Income: \$25,713.00 April Expenses \$24,838.42

YTD 2024 Income: \$92,902.00 YTD 2024 Expenses: \$113,340.00

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

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/ Kids	Average	Giving
April 7	71	82	87.00	\$11,612.00
April 14	59	92	91.00	\$5,324.00
April 21	48	78	93.06	\$5,293.00
April 28	37	72	93.94	\$3,484.00

Events and Meetings

Saturday, May 4	UMM Meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall
Saturday, May 4	UWF Meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Pavilion Room
Sunday, May 5	Motel Ministry, 11:30 a.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, May 7	Fauquier Cty Quilters, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall
Sunday, May 12	Trustees, 11:30 a.m., Upper Room, Rm 402
Tuesday, May 14	Retired Teachers' Dinner 4:30 p.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, May 14	Finance Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Upper Rm 402
Thursday, May 16	Ruritans Dinner 7:00 p.m. Pavilion Room
Sunday, May 19	General Conference Info Session 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 28	Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Pavilion Room
Wednesdays	Prayer Gathering, Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Hymndingers Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m. in Rm 301
Wednesdays	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.