
MAY 2025

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Living our faith, sharing God's love.



Message from the Pastor

Dear Bethel Family,

Join me in giving thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, who has made this season of Lent a time for spiritual nurture and growth in the lives of many at Bethel. Our weekly worship services, sermon series, and special events such as Palm Sunday, Taizé, Good Friday, Sunrise, and Easter services provided opportunities for reflection, self-examination, repentance, and celebration of the resurrection.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who assisted with these worship services and other worshipful events. In light of this, I feel compelled to echo the words of the psalmist: “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!” (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV).

My prayer for all of us is that, although the season of Lent has ended, we will continue

practicing the spiritual disciplines we committed to or renewed during this time. I also pray that each day of our lives will be a day of resurrection, filled with new hopes and possibilities in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Additionally, I would like to invite you to our upcoming four-week sermon series on Psalms, and Sunday school class titled “The Teachings of the Apostle Paul.”

In Christ,

Rev. Nadeem Khokhar

Sermon Series on Psalms

5/4/25

Blessed is the One

Psalm 1

The sermon aims to unfold the biblical meanings of blessing. In this psalm the psalmist draws a contrast between the one who is blessed the who is not. According to the psalm those who live holy life are blessed and prosper in all ways.

5/11/25

How Long, Lord

Psalm 13

The psalm teaches us to remain faithful during the turbulent times. Moreover, it encourages to cry out to God and lay our honest emotions before him. Like the psalmist we ought to trust in God’s unfailing love.

5/18/25

From the Lord comes deliverance

Psalm 3

God delivers those who trust in God. Deliverance belongs to God. During a time of grief and pain, anguish and discouragement, God may feel far and not seeing or listening. King David is going through a difficult time in his life when his own have turned against him and his life is in danger. He is surrounded by many enemies, yet he is confident that God will deliver him from his foes.

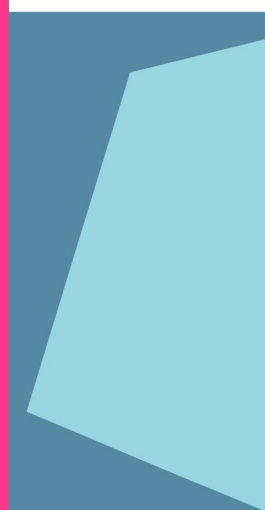
5/25/25

Gazing on the beauty of the Lord

Psalm 27:4-6

In this psalm David desires to dwell in the house of the Lord forever, and gaze on the beauty of the Lord. The sermon aims to encourage the congregation taking time out of their busy schedules and gaze on the beauty of the Lord; God’s creation and wonderful works of His hand.





CHURCH CLERK'S REPORT

Finance & Worship Attendance

Income & Expenses

April Income	\$23,000.00	April Expenses	\$22,257.61
YTD 2025 Income:	\$107,196.55	YTD 2025 Expenses:	\$109,902.5

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/Kids	Average	Giving
April 6	46	61	67.57	\$9,240.00
April 13	53	72	71.40	\$4,411.00
April 20	72	70	75.81	\$4,525.00
April 27	55	60	78.12	\$4,824.00

Join Bethel Dream Team

Pastor Nadeem is excited to recruit a diverse group of five passionate volunteers for the Bethel Dream Team! This is a unique opportunity to represent all facets of our community, including youth, young adults, and both new and longstanding members of Bethel.

Members of the Dream Team will play a crucial role in brainstorming and implementing fresh, impactful ideas that lead to engaging events aimed at connecting with our local community and strengthening relationships within our neighborhood. Whether it's organizing outreach programs, community service projects, or creative gatherings, your contributions will help foster a welcoming environment for all.

If you're interested in joining this inspiring initiative and helping to connect with the community while sharing the message of Jesus, please reach out to Pastor Nadeem to learn more!

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Council Chair: Ava Lee

Vice Chair: vacant

Staff-Parish Relations:

Steve Church, Interim Chair

Finance Chair: Lewis Lee

Finance Vice Chair:

Travis Taylor

Board of Trustees Chair:

Roger Broadbent

Church Treasurer:

Donna Broadbent

Finance Secretary

TBD

Recording Secretary:

Janet Miles

Worship Committee Chair:

Cathy Carayas

Funeral Care Committee Chair:

Donna Broadbent

Sunday School Superintendent:

Crystal Taylor

Nurture/Fellowship Committee

Chair: TBD

Mission & Outreach Chairs:

Sandra Colvin,

Karla Yocum

United Women in Faith

President: Dolores Goff

United Methodist Men

President: Joe Florence

Annual Conference Member:

Rosanne Williamson

District Conference

Representative & Steward:

Murray Edwards

Youth Representative:

Grant Taylor

Young Adult Representative:

TBD

Our Beautiful Easter Banners

The following is an excerpt from the Easter Sunday bulletin from April 19, 2009

“Thank you to Sue Smith who designed our beautiful Easter banners which will be in our sanctuary now until Pentecost – the time period known as the Great Fifty Days. This project required countless hours and we are very grateful to Sue and her team of helpers who helped with some of the assembly work. Thank you, Sue and your team for this wonderful addition to our Easter celebration.”

Sue Smith and her young daughter, Riley, attended Bethel starting about Christmas 2008. They attended most Sundays. One Sunday after church (as Lent approached), Sue lingered in her pew. I went to check on her and realized she was sketching something. Sue looked at me with tears in her eyes saying that God had just given her a vision of a rising Christ during Pastor Marty’s sermon. She showed me a sketch and said she’d like to make a banner for Easter. I was amazed at what she’d drawn. I called Marty over and we talked about her vision and we all agreed she should do it. Turns out Sue is an artist. And the rest is history.

Sue kept us apprised of her progress, but as life would happen, she agreed she needed some last-minute help. She brought the banners to the social hall early in Holy Week and there were several people who helped her put the finishing touches on them. I know Geneice Kemper and Donna Broadbent were among them, but I’m not sure who else? It was late on the Saturday evening before Easter when Sue, her husband Mark, Earl & Geneice Kemper, Pastor Marty and I gathered in the sanctuary to hang the banners. (I was the photographer and encourager!) Earl was fearless on the tall ladders. Marty was his assistant. Geneice and Sue made sure everything was straight. The first few years, the banners which are now on the side walls, were hung on the stabilizer bolts.



Sue's vision had almost come to life. After everything was finished and the sanctuary was readied for Easter morning, we all just sat in that sacred space silent and stunned at the beauty of Jesus rising from the tomb. The butterflies, dark ones at the tomb, then lighter colored ones rising in the air; the empty cross in the middle. What a vision.

It wasn't long after Easter that Sue and her family moved away, I think to Wisconsin. When I returned to Bethel in 2022 and saw the Easter banners still being hung and still inspiring us, I tried to find her with a Google search. I thought I had found her, but alas, the Sue Smith I found was not an artist. I wanted to let her know the banners are still hung with care on the day before Easter and continue to touch and inspire those who see them.

Pat Martin



Don't Stop the Music ***Pat Martin, Music Director***

Friends, I am looking for several people who will share Special Music with the congregation over the summer. Perhaps you'd like to share a song, play an instrument, Sing in a small group. Special Music would be appreciated for several Sundays through July and August.

Please let me know of your willingness to share your gift with God and Bethel Church. The choir will sing on June 15th for the last time before taking a summer break.

CHIMING IN FROM THE BELL ROOM

Well, I obviously dozed off too many evenings last month and missed the deadline for the Bethel Beacon. I think I am on top of it this month. The highlight for this month is of course a gigantic thank you to the member of the Hymndingers for their beautiful rendition of All Glory Laud and Honor on Palm Sunday. For those of you who were present in worship I'm sure you were blessed by their music, as was I. For those watching online I was very disappointed that the sound of the bells was completely blocked out by some malfunction of our online sharing system.

My focus for the next few editions will be on Who's Who in the Hymndingers. This month we will feature two of our ringers, Susan Kiser and Jill Wilson. Jill is a member of Bethel Church but Susan belongs to another church but volunteers her time and talent to our bell choir.



SUSAN KISER

I am married to Joe Kiser for 33 years. I have three children, John, 27, Chris, 24 and Carolyn, 22. All of them have substituted in the handbell choir. I was born and raised in New Jersey and have lived in Virginia since graduating from col-



May Birthdays

- 1 John Childers
- 7 Tom Ferrell
- 10 Al Cooke
- 13 Earl Kemper
- 19 Pat Adams
- 19 Joann Ros
- 23 Alex Goff
- 24 Karla Yocum
- 27 Roy Pool
- 28 Joseph Florence
- 28 Isla Gibson
- 28 Sara Janickey
- 31 Roger Broadbent

Anniversaries

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

lege. I have a horticulture degree from Virginia Tech and worked in that industry until I had my first child. I went back to work nine years ago to help pay for college. I currently work for the Town of Warrenton in the Finance Department. My hobbies include gardening, sewing, crafting, piano and handbells. My music background includes piano lessons from age eight to sixteen, clarinet and bass clarinet in middle school and handbells in high school. I was the handbell director for seven years at my former church. I am currently a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Warrenton. Joice is my neighbor and was my children's piano teacher for many years.

JILL WILSON



My name is Jill Wilson and I am a happily single, and a recent empty nester. I am a retired teacher and mother of three, Sarah, age 30, Bethany, age 28, Caleb, age 22 and grandmother of six, ages 4 months to 7 years. I'm currently employed part-time at the Farm and Home

Center CoOp in Marshall and I also care for other people's animals. In my spare time I enjoy doing crafts, reading, playing word games and listening to music. I've played the piano, flute, clarinet, guitar and handbells. I grew up in the Methodist Church but became a Christian through Young Life in high school, I enjoy being at home on the farm with my two labs, Cooper and Lucy and my eight chickens where I experience many beautiful; sunrises and sunsets and peaceful living.

That's all for this month. Watch for the next Beacon to meet more of our Hymndingers. Hugs. Joice



Worship Reminder

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.

Mission/Outreach: Kairos Ministry

I want to thank my Church Family for all their help these last two Kairos Weekends. Because of Covid, it took us 5 years to get back into the prison like “normal”

Thank You for the prayers, all the cookies that were made with love and prayer. And as you all know, Michael Moore loves to bake cookies. He baked an exorbitant amount both times and it helped me to have the 50 to 85 dozen that I needed to take with me. And thank you for all the other cookie bakers.

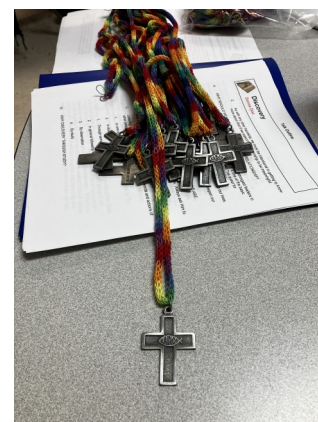


Kevin Lee donated 20 Banker Boxes, which hold 30 dozen cookies nicely for taking into the prison.

Rosanne Williamson made around 80 crocheted necklaces for the inmates that were graduating the Kairos weekend.

Here are the prayer chains that we take in

and go around the huge gym that the prison has. Sometimes the chain goes around 3 or 4 times.



Thank you Duanne Williamson for making flyers for me to send to the

Chaplain to distribute into the different inmate pods to advertise the Kairos Reunions.

Thank You to the UWF for donating money to our Fluvanna Prison fund. A very special shoutout to **my husband, Steve** for helping me with computer stuff, prayer slips, name tags, and putting up with an overwhelmed wife at times these last few months.



This all started years ago when Geneice and Earl Kemper asked Steve and I to attend an Emmaus Weekend. That is where I first heard about Kairos. Then thank you to Cindy Rainger and Mary Ann Templeton for leading the way and taking me to my first Weekend. By the way, Cindy Rainger always said that she would be on my team when I led, and she kept her word. I still miss teaming with June Wagner and Pattie Braun. I never thought in a million years that I would be so involved in a prison ministry, but I am, thanks to Bethel and its many disciples.

Sincerely, Karla Yocum

Mission/Outreach: Motel Ministry

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 next visit will be May 4, 2025. Your donations may be put in the bin on the cart in the Social Hall. We are in need of the following items:

- Soap
- Can openers
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Shaving Cream
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Body Lotion
- Women's Feminine Products
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Small packs of cookies, crackers, chips
- Capri Sun Drink Packets
- Canned fruit (regular and sugar free)
- Canned Food: meats (chicken, tuna), soups, spaghetti, beef stew, chili



Board of Trustees Report . . .



Landscaping and yard care has begun with the arrival of spring. Blue Ridge Property Services LLC has been mowing the grounds and installed new mulch in all of the beds surrounding the Bethel buildings. Roger Broadbent, Duane Williamson, and Roy and Bonnie Pool have been removing shrubs, trimming bushes and planting flowers to prepare Bethel's beds and doorways for the Holy Week and summer season.



By the printing of this issue, Bethel Church will have a new roof. It was time for new shingles and this will repair a few leaks from the roof. Thank you Michael Dawson and Crew

Infrastructure Grant Decision

Bethel Congregation,

We received notice that the ***Bethel application for infrastructure grant funding from the Northern Virginia District Strategy Team was not awarded.*** You will recall that there was \$2,000,000 available to be distributed to qualifying churches, the total individual church request ceiling was \$200,000.

There were 56 churches that applied for a total of \$9,927,349 in funding so very few grants were awarded. We of course are very disappointed that Bethel was not successful but are happy for those churches who have projects that have greater needs and who will be able to correct their infrastructure issues.

As a part of the application process each church had to commit to raising 15% of the total request from donations from the congregation. Bethel has raised to date \$25,000. At the congregation information meeting held in January, it was stated that, if our application was not successful, the funds raised would be used toward the top priority that was stated on the application. Bethel's top priority is repairing and replacing where needed, the shingles on the towers and the entire roof over the original 1834 building, and over the additions where needed. That work has been given to the roofing vendor with the lowest bid and will begin Monday, April 28.

We thank all of you who have committed funding – it is going for a very good cause. We have experienced leaks over the past couple of years so it will be a relief that they will be taken care of. The project is in the hands of the Bethel Board of Trustees if you have any questions!

Or if you have questions about the grant application process itself please touch bases with one of the following:

Your Bethel application team,

Rosanne Williamson, Lewis Lee, Rick Putnam, Roger Broadbent, Ava Lee and Pastor Nadeem.

Church Staff:

Pastor: Nadeem Khokhar
 NKhokhar@bethelumc.com
 434/480-1063

Music Director:
 Pat Martin
 pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist: vacant

Director of Hymndingers
 Joice Fredenburgh
 dfredenburgh@verizon.net

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Winters
 bumcofficeassistant@comcast.net
 540/347-4874

Office Hours:
 Monday—Thursday
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Conference Bishop:
Sue Haupt-Johnson
P.O. Box 5606
Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606
804/521-1102

Northern Virginia District
Superintendent:

Rev. Kirk Nave
3600 Chain Bridge Rd
Fairfax, VA 22030-3236
703/820-7200

Bethel United
Methodist Church

6903 Blantyre Rd.
 Warrenton, VA 20187
 (540) 347-4874

Website www.bethelumc.com

Facebook
 @bethelumc.warrenton

Events and Meetings

Wednesdays	Prayer Gathering, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Thursdays	Hymndingers, Bell Rm 301, 5:30—6:30 pm Choir, Sanctuary, 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 3	United Women of Faith (UMF) Meeting, Pavilion Room, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 3	United Methodist Men (UMM) Meeting, Upper Room, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 4	Motel Ministry, 11:30 a.m., Social Hall
Tuesday, May 6	Fauquier Cty Quilters, 6:30 p.m. Social Hall
Friday, May 9	BUMY (Youth Group) The Youth are invited to come out for an evening of Go-Kart racing at the K1 Speedway in Manassas! The church bus will be leaving the parking lot at 5:15pm and will be due back around 8:45pm. Dinner provided – waivers will need to be filled out and signed prior to departure. Please contact Bethany with any questions.
Sunday, May 11	Trustees, 11:30 a.m., Pavilion Room
Tuesday, May 13	Retired Teachers Dinner, 4:30 p.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, May 13	Finance Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Pavilion Room
Thursday, May 15	Ruritan Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Pavilion Room
Sunday, May 18	BUMY (Youth Group) are invited to gather from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for some time of fellowship. Lunch provided!
Tuesday, May 27	BUMY (Youth Group) Fellowship Meal, The Youth are invited to join us in the Social Hall from 5:45-8:00pm. We will have dinner to start the evening followed by some time for fellowship!