

Bethel United Methodist Church (02/25)  
355 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

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# The Spirit of Bethel

For The People of Bethel

Making disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.

## February 2025

355 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 549-7691, office  
(843) 782-4845, Preschool

### Pastor

Rev. Burton Ott  
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[burtonott@yahoo.com](mailto:burtonott@yahoo.com)

### Music Director

Tom Whitacre  
843-542-4260, phone  
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[whitacre@lowcountry.com](mailto:whitacre@lowcountry.com)

### Accompanist

Mary Wynn Chamblin  
843-909-0941, phone  
E-mail: [chamblinmw@gmail.com](mailto:chamblinmw@gmail.com)

### Organist

Austin Williams  
843-909-3990, phone  
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[jamesaustinwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesaustinwilliams@yahoo.com)

### Church Secretary

Lynn McElmurray  
843-908-1931, phone  
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### Church Sexton

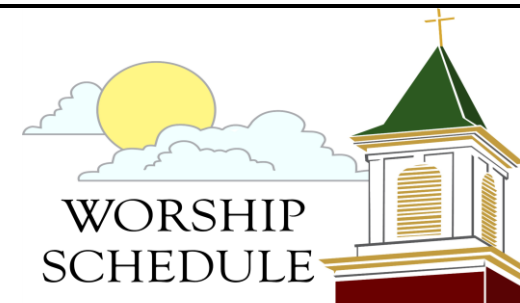
Willie James Lawery

### Website

[www.walterborobethelumc.org](http://www.walterborobethelumc.org)

### Webmaster

Sharon Courtney  
e-mail:  
[mmecourtney@gmail.com](mailto:mmecourtney@gmail.com)



**Sunday School: 9:00 AM**  
**Worship: 10:00 AM**

Second Sunday is worship with the Agape Praise Band.



### A Prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

### "Time"

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is eternity. ~ Henry Van Dyke



### All the ways God helps us

When young adults land in difficult situations and desperately call home, parents respond in various ways. They might remind their son or daughter of guidelines learned years back — behavior and problem-solving skills to get back on track. Or maybe parents direct their kids to a mentor, expert or resource for assistance. But if the crisis is severe, no doubt these loving parents hop in the car, or even on a plane, and go to their child. They embrace and support them, perhaps even taking initial steps to bring them through the chaos to a new beginning.



When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, exile and countless difficulties in between, God lovingly used each of these strategies. God reminded Israel of the Ten Commandments and other laws he gave to guide their life together. Sometimes he sent prophets and other leaders to direct the people into better ways and times. God does the same today, reminding us of Scripture's guidance and sending us prophetic voices and wise leaders.

Above all, when nothing less would save people, ancient and modern, from the dangers of sin and death, God came to us as Jesus. God's only Son walked with us, lived through our troubles alongside us, taught us new ways directly and brought us out of the problematic place where we were trapped and into a new beginning. —Heidi Hyland Mann, based on a sermon by Pastor Dave Sonnenberg



## Special Agape Service

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

Come and enjoy a special service with the Agape Praise Team. They will present the influence of how the scripture from the Holy Bible

influences the words in many modern worship songs. Also, the song themes will be about the word **LOVE**, as February is the month of love. A new little twist in this particular service is they plan a little fun with remembering a couple of good ole Cokesbury Hymnal songs.

You will not want to miss it!!





## Glory Group

**When:** Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 12:00 PM

Come enjoy lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend.



## Bethel Men's Group News

The Bethel United Methodist Men will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**



## Financial Update

**ACCOUNT BALANCES:**  
(As of December 31, 2024)

Budget Income: \$538,135.16  
Actual Income: \$435,023.56  
Budget Expenses: \$538,135.16  
Actual Expenses: \$424,856.87  
Net Actual: \$10,166.69

Our actual income as of December 31<sup>st</sup> is \$103,111.60 less than budgeted income but \$10,166.69 more than actual expenses.

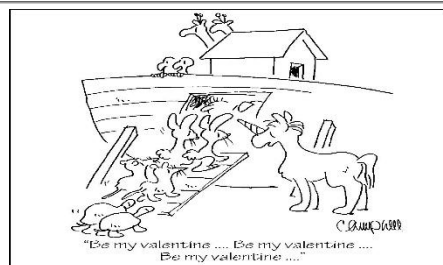


## Youth Groups

**Junior UMYF** (6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grades)  
**Senior UMYF** (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** will be "Souper Bowl" collection Sunday. The Youth will be collecting for the Food Pantry after the morning worship. Be sure to vote for your favorite Super Bowl Team by dropping your funds in your team's bucket.

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** the Youth will have a Super Bowl party at the Spears home at 6:00 PM until half-time.



## AED on Site at Bethel

Bethel now has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Several people have been trained to use the device. Another class will be held soon for any others interested in being familiar with the use of the device. The AED and a first aid kit are located in the hallway behind the sanctuary near the fellowship hall.



## Report from the Mission Team

Each month the Mission committee has chosen a project that we would like to ask you for help.

January--We asked you to donate warm socks. These socks will be going to the woman's shelter the Warming House at St. Jude's, and In His Name Colleton. We got socks for men, women and children

February--Be a Valentine. Our goal is to be able to give each one of the residents at Pruitt Nursing Home a valentine. There will be containers at various locations at Bethel. We would like just cards--no envelopes. The reason we don't want any envelopes is that some of the resident's dexterity is not good. They may need help opening the envelopes and the envelopes would need to be thrown away. We are trying to eliminate any extra work for the helpers at the home. If you would, could you sign with "Bethel UMC". We would like to take them by February 13, 2025

February--Free Laundry Day. We will be providing money for the washing machines and dryers. This is the third year we have done this.

This year we would like to try to provide a light lunch. You have been so gracious with your donations in the past. There is a machine that costs \$8.00 to dry a big load of clothes. It is free to those who need it because you have provided the money. February, May, August and November will be "Free Laundry Day" months. Save your money until the next "Free Laundry Day" month. Thanks

March--Food Pantry Month. We are looking for two types of food. Regular food--This includes the food we put in the bags; tuna, SPAM, beef stew, peanut butter, canned corn, green beans, peas, tomatoes, macaroni and cheese, rice, canned fruit. We also have a food buggy. This food can range from Vienna sausages to Pop Tarts. The buggy foods are just something different to eat.

These are our plans for the first quarter of 2025. Also you know that four months of 2025, will be Free Laundry Days.



Want to be a part of the Agape Praise Team???

If you are looking to join the Agape Praise Team, we need to talk!!

If you have a musical talent that you would like to share with Bethel, give me a call!!!

We are seeking singers and instrumentalists. We are a God spirit family of musicians and technical personnel. If God is speaking to you to share your talents

**CALL ME!!**

**ELTON CULPEPPER 843.907.5757**



In Memory of **Michael Padgett** by:

- Gene Varn
- Marie and Ellison Young
- Carol Slocum
- Sallie and John Reynolds
- Sharon and Tracy Courtney
- Marilyn and Buddy Creech
- Jane Sams
- Anne and Frank Biggers
- Pat and Harry Ray
- Margaret and Hutto Utsey
- Kay and Miles Sanders
- Cindy and Duncan Hunt

In Memory of **Chuckie Mangum** by:  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson



In honor of **Beth Smoak, Lynn McElmurray**  
by Judy and Tom Woodward

*"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."* —  
Maya Angelou



## Bible Quiz

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans

Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
	1 2 3 4 5	
Opposite of dark	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
	6 7 8 9 10	
Companion	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
	11 12 13 14 15 16	
Hand greeting	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
	17 18 19 20	
Male adult	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
	21 22 23	

8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house; light; friend; wave; man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

Peggy Smoak	2	Meredith Odum	16
Dubose Medlock	3	Marilyn Creech	18
Emily Brown		Janet Buckner	19
Mary Reeves Simmons	5	Jack Broderick	
Clark Odum	7	Carey Strickland	
Becky Goodwin	8	Chase McDaniel	21
Rob Boseman		Billie Shoupe	22
Carol Haun	10	Tom Woodward	
Janice Robbins	12	Susann Padgett	24
Nancy Hetrick	13	Lori Bellamy	
Pamela Kay Whitacre	15	George Long	25
Laverne Sanders	16	Charles Strickland	28

## FEBRUARY Anniversaries

Marie and Buck Howell	4
Debra and John Smith	22
Becky and Stewart Goodwin	27
Terri and Steve Crosby	28

**God is LOVE.**  
1 JOHN 4:19



### Valentines for kids

Valentine's Day isn't just for schoolchildren and sweethearts. Loving parents should strive to give their children these life-changing gifts during February and beyond.

**Acceptance:** Say and show that you love children for who they are. Give this gift with a kiss.

**Self-confidence:** Help boost kids' trust in themselves. Give this gift with a hug.

**Peace:** Model how to give your worries to God. Offer this present with laughter.

**Gratitude:** Help children be genuinely thankful for each new day and for all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.

**Faith:** Introduce children to Jesus, the best friend they'll ever have. Do this by taking them to church and Sunday school regularly.



**Bethel Members, their families, and others in the Bethel extended church family who need your prayers:**

**OUR PRAYERS:** Scott Bell, R. Lee Benton, Stacy Carter, R.L. Carter, Jr., Marilyn Creech, Troyce Crosby, Dorothy Cummings, Joseph Givens, Kristy and Hayes Harris, Joyce Hennen, Bo Hetrick, Michael Hickman, Bill Howell, Lad Howell, Tony Hubbard, Linda Hudson, Bobbie McLaine, Ann Nettles, Lynn Nettles, Ed Newington, Christopher Plummer, Dan Pope, Joe Ritter, Joey Ritter, Debra Smith, Cindy Thompson, Eddie Thompson, Marion Thompson, Taylor Twigg, Chris Varnadoe, Michael Walker, Shirley Wilmot, Cliff Wisely.

**Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins/Distant Members:** Doris Bone, Jane Brown, Nina Crosby, Lucille Culpepper, Sarah Anne Dean, June Dyches, Lynn Harrison, Joy Lawson, Jeanine Price, Gene Rhodes, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, Norma West, Miriam Westbury.

**Military Service:** Caleb Blankenship, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Cody Keeney, Matthew Mangum, Edward Phillips, Jordan Ray, Tristan Ray, Blake Rhodes.



Please call the church office at 843-549-7691 to have a name added to our prayer list. Also please call the church office if you have a spiritual need or concern and wish to speak with Pastor Ott.



In honor of **Beth Smoak, Lynn McElmurray** by Judy and Tom Woodward



### Kindness kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even

physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a “helper’s high” that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of “pro-social spending” have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you're bound to experience blessings in return!



In Memory of **Lee Dean Cox** by:

Amanda and Tommy Fulton

Johnnie and Buzz Benson

In Memory of **Carol Simmons** by  
Cindy and Duncan Hunt

In Memory of **Tommy Rowe** by  
Anne and Frank Biggers

In Memory of **Haskell Moore** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson  
Anne and Frank Biggers

In Memory of **Bennie Ordell** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson

In Memory of **Carol Hermann** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson

In Memory of **Gerald Beach** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson

In Memory of **Doie Mitchell** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson  
Susann Padgett  
Anne and Frank Biggers

In Memory of **Carolyn Powers** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson  
Susann Padgett  
Anne and Frank Biggers  
Pat and Harry Ray

In Memory of **Michael Smoak** by  
DeLoris and Tony Hamilton

In Memory of **Rev. David Cox** by  
Amanda and Tommy Fulton  
Cindy and Duncan Hunt

In Memory of **Jackie Bennett** by  
Johnnie and Buzz Benson  
Anne and Frank Biggers



In Memory of **Eunice Howard** by:

DeLoris and Tony Hamilton

Sharon and Tracy Courtney

Toni and Terry Walters

Jane Sams

Kathie Whetsell

Bobbie and Joey McLaine

Y.S. Linder, III

Elizabeth and Max Johnson

Dr. Joe Flowers

Susann Padgett

Sally Starr Circle

Sonny, David Howard & May Woodie  
Christopher

Pat and Harry Ray

Carol Slocum

Elaine and Franklin Crosby

Mildred Wilson

Jennifer Tuggle

Fran and Paul Pye

Ann Hooker

Gene Varn

Ashton Syfrett

Deborah and Riddick Ackerman

Marie and Ellison Young

Gail and Bill Howell

Laverne Sanders

Enterprise Bank of SC

Sydney and Walter Haynes

Karen Shumpert

McLeod, Fraser & Cone, LLC

Judy and Tom Woodward

Kay and Miles Sanders

Cindy and Duncan Hunt

Margaret Clary and family