

Bethel United Methodist Church (12/24)
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.

December 2024

355 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
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Willie James Lawery

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Rev. Burton Ott

***** Merry Christmas!!*****



In this joyous season of Advent and Christmas, we celebrate the first arrival of Jesus. God loves us so much that He sent His Son to be the Savior of the world! Sometimes, however, some of us get distracted and stressed by putting our time and energy on focusing on the wrong things during this season. Many years ago, I discovered "A Christmas Version of 1 Corinthians 13" written by the Christian author and speaker, Sharon Jaynes. She has written many books and been involved in women's ministries for decades. I want to share this message with you as my prayer and gift to you all.

1 Corinthians 13 - Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love – I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love – I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love – it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's

cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas and lots of love to all of you!



Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
5:00 PM



The **Agape Christmas Concert** will take place during the 10:00 AM worship service on December **8th**.

The **Chancel Choir Christmas Concert** will be Sunday, December **15th** at 5:00 PM.



Glory Group

When: Tuesday, December 3rd

Time: 12:00 PM

Come enjoy lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend.



Report from the Mission Team

The Mission Team has signed up to do the Free Laundry Day with In His Name in 2025. We will be paying for the laundry in

February, May, August, and November 2025. You have been most generous in your giving for the past two years. If anyone wants to help at Laundry Day, please let us know.

We are so fortunate to be able to do good things for our community that we are planning to do a monthly event with the church to reach out to the Walterboro community. This is just in the planning stage but we thought we would collect socks in January and maybe send Valentines in February.

We would like to welcome our two new Food Pantry workers, Becky Broderick and Melinda Moorer.

We will be collecting warm things, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves and mittens until December 13th. On that day we will sort the clothes and load them into cars to take them to the In His Name-Colleton Christmas Dinner in the parking lot. Just make sure they are clean and in good condition.

The 227 Christmas Child Shoeboxes were delivered to Bedon Baptist Church on Monday, November 18th. Thanks to all who helped load the bus. It was filled. On a personal note, I thought we would be there for hours and when I saw all of you coming down the aisles, I nearly started crying. When we got to Bedon, a couple of people came out to get the boxes. They asked how many are there? When they heard how many, everybody was helping. Thanks to the youth for moving the boxes to the sanctuary and that one special youth who saved the day when he knew how to lock the bus. Also thanks to Teresa and the children for packing all the boxes.

Have a happy and Blessed Christmas and may there be Peace on Earth.



227 Shoeboxes delivered!



Agape Praise Team Christmas Concert

The Agape Praise Team will present their annual Christmas Concert as part of the worship service on:

**Sunday, December the 8th
at the 10:00 am worship service.**

We are excited about sharing the love of Christmas through modern Christian music. We are working on some new songs this year. One is a Zack Williams arrangement of "Go Tell It On The Mountain" which will cause you to want to stomp your feet. Matthew West "Because of Bethlehem" will be another new song added to our program. We will also have some familiar ones like "Gotta Tell", "Down in Bethlehem" and "Mary Did You Know". Mark your calendar now for this special event presented by the Agape Praise Team. From all of us on the praise team, we look forward to making this the best concert yet!! It is our hope that when you leave you will be ready to proclaim Jesus is Lord and make plans to welcome him into your heart as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King.



Some of our Bethel church members have need of a driver to get to medical appointments. If you are a person who has flexible schedule and are willing to volunteer to transport someone who needs a driver locally or to the Charleston area, please call the church

office to have your name added to the list of folks that we can call on as a volunteer driver.

If you are a church member who needs a driver for essential medical appointments, please call the church office so that we may try to find a volunteer driver for you.

"The world can't save itself. That's the message of Christmas." —Timothy Keller



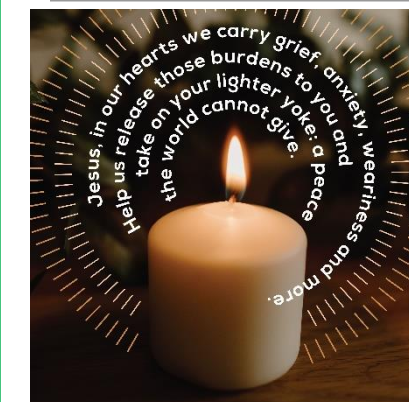
Look Upon Love

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby

Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther

If you would like to donate to the Elder Basket Program, you can make your check to Bethel UMC and put it in the offering plate, pay online or drop it by the office. Mark your check/donation for "Native American Ministries".



Walking with those who grieve

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year. How can

we support them?

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — "companioning" — one who grieves "is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another's grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul." Among Wolfelt's 11 tenets for "companioning the bereaved":

- It's about being present to another person's pain, not taking it away.
- It's about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- It's about walking alongside, not leading.

More tips are available at www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/ May God bless you as you share the love of the Christ Child, his caring parents and his compassionate heavenly Father with people who are hurting.

Bethel Men's Group News

The Bethel United Methodist Men will be meeting on

**Tuesday, December 3rd
at 6:00 PM
at Main Street Grille**

ACCOUNT BALANCES: (As of November 30, 2024)

Budget Income:	\$493,290.71
Actual Income:	\$357,587.90
Budget Expenses:	\$493,290.82
Actual Expenses:	\$403,479.32
Net Actual:	(-\$45,891.42)

Our income as of November 30th is \$135,702.81 less than budgeted.

Youth Groups

Both youth groups will meet at
**4:00 PM on
December 8 and 15th**

**Junior UMYF (6th - 9th grades)
Senior UMYF (10th - 12th grades)**

The Youth will not meet on December 22nd and 29th.

At Christmas, God sent his Son to live among us. But he doesn't want us to be passive recipients of that precious gift. Consider these challenges for the season — and for the new year ahead:

"He became what we are that we might become what he is."
—Athanasius (4th century)

"When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers but to transform our lives." —Rich Miller

"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Why wait for a call when you have a command?" —Robert Hughes

Financial Update



DECEMBER Birthdays

Melissa McNair	1	Tracy Burttram	15
Toni Walters	2	Elizabeth Stroble	16
Becky Broderick	3	Emily Edwards	20
Chris Brownlee	4	Doris Bone *	21
Lane Perry	5	Doug Magus	
Grier Frank	7	Caden Griffith	
Rusty Riddle		Jordan Mitchell	
Scott Beasley		Terry Walters	22
Jonathan Girardeau		Trudie Wright	
Joe Flowers	8	Devin Crosby	23
Hudson Evans	9	Johnny Bell	
David Collins	10	Charles Rowland	25
Kirk Breland		Kimberly Smith	27
Adam Langley	11	Charlotte Williams	
Cindy Hunt	14	Carter Sims	29
Sheri Stone		Aiden Stroble	31
Jim Brown	15	Forrest Morgan	

*Doris Bone turns 100 years old!

DECEMBER Anniversaries

Amanda and Tommy Fulton	6
Phyllis and Parks Mangum	11
Nancy and Bo Hetrick	12
DeLoris and Tony Hamilton	17

The heart of Christmas



Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,
The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,

Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born!
With glad jubilations
Bring hope to the nations!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun:
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one! ...

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease.
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man!
Hark! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!
—John Greenleaf Whittie



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

OUR PRAYERS: Scott Bell, R. Lee Benton, Jamey Bryan, Stacy Carter, R.L. Carter, Jr., Abbey Corbett Keeney, Troyce Crosby, Dorothy Cummings, Joseph Givens, Joyce Hennen, Bo Hetrick, Michael Hickman, Katy Hopkins, Bill Howell, Lad Howell, Tony Hubbard, Linda Hudson, Shawn Jacques, Bobbie McLaine, Ann Nettles, Lynn Nettles, Ed Newington, Christopher Plummer, Dan Pope, Joe Ritter, Joey Ritter, Debra Smith, Joe Stone, Bonnie Thomas, Cindy Thompson, Eddie Thompson, Marion Thompson, Taylor Twigg, Chris Varnadoe, Michael Walker, Nell Walters, Sharon Warren, Cliff Wisely.

Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins/Distant Members: Doris Bone, Jane Brown, David Cox, Lee Dean Cox, 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, David Nelson, 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 **Vera Newington**
By Will Goodwin Sunday School class

In Honor of **Doris Bone** on her 100th birthday on December 21, 2024 by her daughter, Suzanne Simmons.

In Honor of **Shirley Wilmot**
By Will Goodwin Sunday School class



Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for the wonderful meal you provided after our mother's memorial service. It was such a blessing to gather as a family and share a meal together at Bethel, a place that Jackie cherished and where we grew up attending. Having this time of fellowship meant everything to us. The food was delicious, and knowing it came from such a place of love and support truly touched our hearts.

With heartfelt appreciation, Jackie Bennett's Family
Binky Bennett, Sonya Spainhour, and Becky Taylor



In Memory of **Doie Mitchell** by:

Martha Woodard

In Memory of **Chuckie Mangum** by:

Marsha Pellum Jordon

In Memory of **Rev. Lee Cothran:**

Martha Woodard

In Memory of **Frances Baggett**

Carol Winn

In Memory of **Jackie Bennett** by:

Laverne Sanders

DeLoris and Tony Hamilton

Joanne and Jeffrey Herndon

Charlotte and Elton Culpepper

Carol Winn

Melinda and Scott Mosely

In Memory of **Lee Dean Cox**

Laverne Sanders

DeLoris and Tony Hamilton

Nancy and Whit Spell

Mike Kuszmaul

Melanie and Joey Ritter

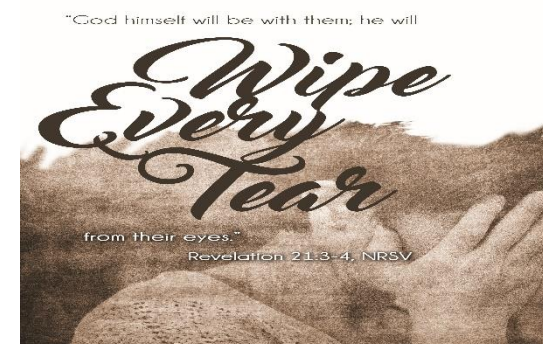
Charlotte and Elton Culpepper

Sharon and Tracy Courtney

Darlene and Charlie Mangum

Julie and Darrell Moody

Martha Woodard



In Memory of **Carolyn Powers**

Laverne Sanders

Sherrie and Scott Wallinger

Cindy and Duncan Hunt

Judy Bridge

Janet and Perry Buckner

Lisa Fulmer

Blair Googer

Joanne and Jeffrey Herndon

Carol Winn

Ginny and Curt Ledbetter

Martha Woodard



The Church Family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Carolyn Powers** on her recent death.

The Church Family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Jackie Bennett** on her recent death.

The Church Family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Lee Dean Cox** on her recent death.

The Church Family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Rev. David Cox** on his recent death.

The Church Family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Susann Padgett and family on the recent death of **Michael Padgett**.

