

Bethel United Methodist Church (11/24)  
355 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

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Walterboro, SC 29488



# The Spirit of Bethel

For The People of Bethel

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

## November 2024

355 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 549-7691, office  
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### Accompanist

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### Church Sexton

Willie James Lawery

### Website

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

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Rev. Burton Ott

In Everything Give Thanks

Almost 20 years ago, I read an article about Thanksgiving. It was written by Rev. Kirk Neely, who was the pastor at Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. It touched my heart and I hope it touches yours.

Thanksgiving in this country has often been linked to times of hardship. The first Thanksgiving observed by the pilgrims followed a severe winter of deprivation and death. The Thanksgiving Proclamation of George Washington in 1789 during the first year of his Presidency encouraged a fledging country "to acknowledge with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

In 1863, at the height of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation. Even with a divided country in crisis, the President remembered the blessings of God.

"They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God... It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American People. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States... to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and



blessings, they do also, with humble penitence recommend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged...."

Our deepest expressions of gratitude come in the midst of our greatest difficulties.

A pastor and his wife from eastern North Carolina suffered the loss of their young adult son. One dark, rainy night, he was badly injured in an automobile accident. At the emergency room the bleak diagnosis of severe trauma to the head prompted transfer to the neurological intensive care unit. Over the next few hours, a team of physicians concurred that the young man was brain dead.

The father knew from his experience as a pastor that his son's death was imminent. The parents were reminded that their son had indicated a desire to be an organ donor. His driver's license confirmed his wish. Arrangements were made, paperwork was completed, so that when death came, as many organs as possible could be used for transplants. The following day, the decision to remove all life support was made. The young man died within a matter of minutes. His organs were taken and distributed to others in hospitals where recipients were awaiting transplants.

Organ donation procedure allows for the donor's family to know the names of organ recipients if both the donor's family and the recipients agree. The pastor and his wife wanted to know the names of the recipients, and three of the recipients agreed. The couple received their names about the first of February. They decided to invite these three recipients to a Thanksgiving meal at their home on the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day. **(continued)**

## HEALTH FAIR DURING FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Blood pressure checks,  
information on how to stay  
healthy and free gifts.





## Glory Group

**When:** Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 12:00 PM

Come enjoy lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend.



## Report from the Mission Team

We will be begin collecting winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves and mittens on **November 14<sup>th</sup>**. We ask that they are clean and have no holes or tears. We will give the donations to In His Name – Colleton in December in time for their Christmas dinner in the parking lot.



We will have a Health Fair at the Food Pantry on **November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Student nurses and Health Department personnel will take blood pressure, check blood sugar, and provide information about staying healthy. They will also have small gifts to hand out.

We have over 200 Christmas Child Shoeboxes packed and ready to go to the drop off point. On **November 17<sup>th</sup>** the boxes will be blessed. Following the 10:00 AM service we will load the boxes onto the church bus for delivery to Bedon Baptist Church. We request the congregation's help with loading the boxes.



It's November and it is Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. We first of all want to say how thankful we are for Carolyn Powers and Jackie Bennett and for them being a part of the Food Pantry for so many years. They were so much fun and such great ladies. We will miss them so much.

We hope you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving. Be thankful for all we have been given.

### Veterans Day salute



After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field

in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



## 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 8<sup>th</sup>  
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.

*"Let gratitude for the past inspire us with trust for the future."* —François Fénelon



## Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Indian Month as declared by President George H. W. Bush in 1990. Efforts were made to recognize the "First Peoples" or "First Americans" to honor our Native American Indians.

The Native American Committee of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church was established in 1992 as a ministry of the Advocacy Area. The NAC members represent a number of Indian cultures.

Objectives are to:

- Promote inclusion of native Americans in the South Carolina Conference.
- Explore and implement awareness of and appreciation for Native American presence, history, traditions, and spirituality.
- Promote Native American awareness Sunday in this conference and dispense the funds contributed on Native American Awareness Sunday to ministries and community development in this Annual Conference and the Southeastern jurisdiction.

The Elder Basket Program assists senior Native American women with needed supplies. Support is needed for the Native American Living History Day, which is an event for youth groups to experience hands on activities of a Native American hunting camp, circa 1726.

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".



**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 (L):** Worship Committee meeting

**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> morning:** Shut-In meal deliveries

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00:** Youth, Parents, and Worship Committee - decorate the church for Christmas



## Bethel Men's Group News

The Bethel United Methodist Men will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**

All men of the church are invited to attend for a good meal, devotion, and Christian fellowship.

### ACCOUNT BALANCES: (As of October 16, 2024)

Budget Income:	\$422,892.38
Actual Income:	\$318,410.07
Budget Expenses:	\$426,747.21
Actual Expenses:	\$339,367.35
Net Actual:	(-\$20,957.28)



Our income as of October 16<sup>th</sup> is \$104,482.23 less than budgeted.

### Youth Groups

Both youth groups will meet from **5:30 PM to 7:00 PM**

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

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



The Youth have elected Anne Hatcher White as their president and Ann Howell as their vice president.

Youth that plan to participate in the Lake Junaluska trip should pay a deposit of \$50.00 by November 15<sup>th</sup>.





Becki Davis	2	Sarah Dean	19
Joy Hoffman	3	Carol Simmons	20
Linda Sisk	4	Jennifer Craven	21
Julie Koon	5	Hannah Davis	
Dicky Mitchell	6	Jamie Bunton	
John Thomas	12	Reid Pollard	22
Jennings Burttram		Melanie Ritter	23
Rylee Jacobs		Kaylee Spears	
Stacey Magus	13	Chase McRae	25
Bert Koon		Jackson Bell	
Mike Kuszmaul	14	Walker Bryan	27
Becky Kinard		Frank Biggers	30
Charlotte Culpepper	18	Delores Crosby	
Ann Howell		Austin Moore	



Harriet and Bobby Bonds	2
Catherine and Mike Fanchette	21



**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.



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the table. Together they gathered to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. The pastor related the story of their Thanksgiving experience.

As we stood in a circle to have the blessing, the woman who had received our son's heart moved between my wife and me. As we reached out to hold hands, she placed my wife's hand on her right wrist and my fingers on her left wrist. My wife and I could feel her pulse. We realized that we were feeling the pumping of our son's strong heart now transplanted in this woman's body.

Another of the recipients, a man, asked if he might return thanks. We agreed and heard his prayer; blessing our home and us and giving thanks for the life of our son. We were aware that his voice was strong because our son's lungs had been transplanted into his chest.

Sitting across the table from us during the meal was a young woman. We realized that she looked at us with steel blue eyes that were once the eyes of our son.

"It was", concluded the pastor, "the most meaningful Thanksgiving we have ever had. Of course, we were still grieving. But we also had discovered hope. Our son had died but he literally left a part of himself to everyone around the table. Our hearts were filled with gratitude as we met the people whose lives had been so changed by our son."

The Apostle Paul wrote to the early faith community, "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16). It is not an easy instruction to follow. We find some comfort in noting that Paul did not say that we are to be thankful for every circumstance. Rather, within the difficulties of life, we are to find gratitude. When life is hard, as it is for everyone, our tendency can be to become bitter and cynical. If we can find reasons to be grateful, even our most difficult experiences can be transformed.

Thanksgiving does not depend on our external circumstances. Thanksgiving is an internal condition of a grateful heart.

Thank God!

Pastor Ott

*"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."* —Native American saying



In Memory of **Doie Mitchell** by:

- Ginny and Curt Ledbetter
- Emelia G. Howell
- Deborah and Riddick Ackerman

In Memory of **Chuckie Mangum** by:  
Janet Pllum Lyons

In Memory of **Beverly Ritter** by:  
Pam and Tom Whitacre

In Memory of **Jackie Bennett** by:

- Joy and Herman Hoffman
- Delores Crosby
- Will Goodwin Sunday School Class
- Carol J. Slocum
- Debbie and David Collins
- Pam and Tom Whitacre
- Gene Varn
- Chrome Shack, Inc.
- Ann Hooker
- Wynona and Donald Rizer

In Memory of **Carolyn Powers** by:

- DeLoris and Tony Hamilton
- Sharon and Tracy Courtney
- Melanie and Joey Ritter
- Joy and Herman Hoffman
- Molly Watkins
- Patcy and Carl Avant
- Jane Sams
- Delores and David Crosby
- Teri and Scott Couchenour
- Bonnie Thomas
- Ann and Toni Hooker
- Carol J. Slocum
- Gloria Cummings
- Martha Ann Platts and Holbrook Platts
- Ann and Ashton Syfrett
- Bonnie and Leon Langley



In Memory of **Carolyn Powers** by:

- Janet Pllum Lyons
- Dr. Joe Flowers
- Darlene Lyons
- Anne and Robert Wilkinson
- Debbie and David Collins
- Julie and Darrell Moody
- Y.S. Linder, III
- Janice and Bill Young
- Martha and David Cobb
- Charlotte and Elton Culpepper
- Gail and Bill Howell
- Amanda and Tommy Fulton
- Mary Wynn Chamblin
- Pam and Tom Whitacre
- Scott Moody
- Celeste and Joe Stone
- Brandy and Chris Rowe
- Sally Starr Circle
- Billie Shoupe and Family
- Maize and Peter Adams
- Essie Loper Circle
- Faye and Robert Dandridge
- Gene Varn
- Angela, Austin, Dylan & Marc Googer
- Audrenia Williams
- Sydney and Walter Haynes
- Deborah and Riddick Ackerman
- Helen and John Felder
- Eva Beach
- Harriet K. Baker
- Marilyn and Buddy Creech
- Ladies Bible Study
- Carol and Charlie Armentrout
- Judy and Tom Woodward
- Wynona and Donald Rizer

