

Bethel United Methodist Church (02/23)
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 2023

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

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Scott H. Wachter
843-685-4417, phone
E-mail:
pastor@walterborobethelumc.org

Music Director

Tom Whitacre
843-542-4260, phone
E-mail:
whitacre@lowcountry.com

Accompanist

Mary Wynn Chamblin
843-909-0941, phone
E-mail: chamblinmw@gmail.com

Organist

Austin Williams
843-909-3990, phone
E-mail:
jamesaustinwilliams@yahoo.com

Church Secretary

Lynn McElmurray
843-908-1931, phone
E-mail:
bethelwboro@lowcountry.com

Church Sexton

Willie James Lawery

Website

www.walterborobethelumc.org

Webmaster

Sharon Courtney
e-mail:
mmecourtney@gmail.com



A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Scott H. Wachter

Dear Bethel Church Family:

We live in a day and age when it feels like the only thing constant is change. Technology is changing so rapidly I have a hard time keeping current. My iPhone is outdated. My iPad is beyond outdated. My computer is running so slowly I could type a letter on a manual typewriter faster than in Word (some of you remember what a manual typewriter is and how miserable it was to type a term paper on one). I'm having trouble with the security cameras at my home. And now PRTC is changing up the pricing for internet speeds.

One of the many things I love about the Church is the unchanging nature of God and His Word. And yet, there are many in our society who are trying to redefine who God is and are challenging the authority of God's Word. Our modern Tower of Babel-like hubris is tearing at the fabric of the Church. In the humanistic attempt to reimagine a God who is more benevolent and less holy and to recreate a Bible that is less the Word of God and more accommodating to society's ever-changing values, I am afraid we are positioning the Church in the United States to follow the lead of the Church in Europe and become increasingly more irrelevant to those who most need to experience the love of God through the Church of Jesus Christ now almost 2000 years old.

The United Methodist Church is currently going through lots of change and even more pain. In the last year, over 2,000

congregations have voted by a supermajority to disaffiliate or separate from The UMC. There are many congregations in South Carolina that are currently in a time of discernment over their future denominational ties. Some plan to separate at our Annual Conference in June. Many of you have asked me questions about the process.

I want to share with you briefly some thoughts. First, Bethel can go through a discernment process that is lengthy and prayerful. At the end of the discernment process Bethel can decide that staying in The UMC is the best plan or that separating from The UMC would be more beneficial for the ministries of the congregation. Second, everyone needs to be heard and all options fairly considered. There are pros and cons to all options. Third, the congregation can have this time of discernment in a positive, God-honoring way that avoids negative attacks. I've got friends (pastors and lay) in congregations that are separating and staying, and I hope to keep them all as friends when this time is over. And fourth, while every member of Bethel is unlikely to have the same opinion about whether or not to separate, every member of Bethel can have the same opinion when it comes to staying unified as one family of the Body of Christ. I love being your pastor because of who you are and how you love God and others. And, I'll continue to love you no matter what the name on the sign says. For now, I'm content to wait on God as I listen to Him and learn more about this process. Please join me in prayer and fasting as we seek God's will for our lives and this great congregation of The United Methodist Church.

God's blessings,

Scott H. Wachter



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will mark the beginning of Lent with this special service which includes the imposition of ashes on

Wednesday, February 22nd
at 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Deana Ilderton | 1 | Meredith Odum | 16 |
| Peggy Smoak | 2 | Wally West | 17 |
| Dubose Medlock | 3 | Marilyn Creech | 18 |
| Emily Brown | | Janet Buckner | 19 |
| Mary Reeves Simmons | 5 | Jack Broderick | |
| Margaret Maxcey | 7 | Carey Strickland | |
| Clark Odum | | H.S. Maxcey | 20 |
| Becky Goodwin | 8 | Billie Shoupe | 22 |
| Rob Boseman | | Tom Woodward | |
| Chase McDaniel | 10 | Frankie Evans | 23 |
| Carol Haun | | Lynn McElmurray | 24 |
| Janice Robbins | 12 | Susann Padgett | |
| Nancy Hetrick | 13 | Lori Bellamy | |
| Travis Beeson | 14 | George Long | 25 |
| Pamela Kay Whitacre | 15 | Isobel Amundson | 26 |
| Bennie Ordell | | Charles Strickland | 28 |
| Laverne Sanders | 16 | Henry Amundson | |

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

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

In Christian Sympathy

| |
|--|
| The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Ron Ordell on his recent passing. |
| The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Darrin Wayne Sisk on his recent passing. |
| The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mark Stone on the death of his mother, Bonnie Stone . |
| The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Charlie Armentrout on the death of his mother, Mary Lee Armentrout . |
| The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Esther Crook on her recent passing. |



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

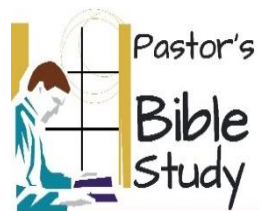
OUR PRAYERS: Amy Abrams, Jodi Barrett, Jane Bell, Scott Bell, Janet Buckner, Maddox Carter, R. Lee Benton, Stacy Carter, Barbara Hermann, Joy Hoffman, Lad Howell, Anderson Jones, Ted Kinard, Noah Lutz, Sherry Ilderton-Mathews, Wray Mathews, Chuck Murdaugh, Jane Myers, Ed Newington, Christopher Plummer, Tyler Pope, Chip Reeves, Beverly Ritter, Richard Sharpe, Leddy Smith, Miriam Smith, Charles Wachter, Terry Walters.

Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins/Distant Members: Frances Beach, Travis Beeson, Jackie Bennett, Doris Bone, Carroll Brown, III, Jane Brown, David Cox, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Caroline Johnson, Joy Lawson, Doie Mitchell, Jeanine Price, Rusty Riddle, Sara Smith, Kay Speaks, Miriam Westbury, Bill Wilson, Betty Sue Wilson.

Military Service: Christian Beasley, Caleb Blankenship, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Matthew Mangum, Edward Phillips, Jordan Ray, Tristan Ray, Blake Rhodes, Erin P. Walters.



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 Scott.



A study of the Book of Acts will conclude after two Wednesdays in February. Two sessions are offered every Wednesday (10:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.). Join us as we learn more about God's Word and what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| Date | Event |
|--------------------|---|
| February 5 | Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 with Communion |
| February 12 | Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 |
| February 19 | Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 PM |
| February 26 | Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 |



View our Sunday 11:00 am Worship Services on our Facebook page.



In Memory of **Bonnie Stone**
By Terry and Toni Walters
By Tony and DeLoris Hamilton

In Memory of **David Williamson**
By Patricia Williamson

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Hermann, Mr. and Mrs. Willard F. Stewart, and Karen Hiers
By Carol and Gary Hermann

In Memory of **Mary Esther Crook**
By Nancy and Tom Sandel
By Mike Kuszmaul
By Tony and DeLoris Hamilton
By Donald and Wynona Rizer
By Janet and Perry Buckner
By The Bank of the Lowcountry
By Jim and Denise Kempson
By Bonnie and Leon Langley
By Doris Lybrand
By Dr. and Mrs. Riddick Ackerman
By Ellison and Marie Young
By Duncan and Cindy Hunt
By Carl and Pasty Avant
By YS Linder
By Mary Ellen and Robert Yeargin

In Memory of **Betty Barbour, Judy Cannon, Mildred Murray, Dorothy Reeves, Howard Speaks, Linda Windham**
By Johnnie and Buzz Benson



In Honor of Janet and Perry Buckner
By Joan H. Paster
By Jean Davidson



Due to the difficulty we are experiencing with many of our doors not closing and/or locking properly, a contractor has been hired to repair and rekey all of our exterior doors. When the project is completed, one key will work on all the doors. If you need a key to access the church when the church is closed, you will be able to secure a key from Lynn in the church office.

Due to the ongoing trial at the Colleton County Courthouse, Walterboro's Police Department has given us the approval to restrict access to the part of our parking lot closest to the playground. Please enter and exit from the curb cut on Hampton Street adjacent to our playground.

Delivering the Shoeboxes



A huge THANK YOU for all the donations

We have received enough donations to handle our 2022 Shoebox expenses. You may continue to contribute to the Shoebox fund with funds going toward our 2023 Shoeboxes. You may contribute to the Shoebox fund with your offering on Sunday or any of the online giving methods. Just mark it for the "Shoeboxes".



The Worship Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to the Youth and their families that helped with Advent decorations. We could not do it without you!! Thank you so much.

The Worship Committee will meet Tuesday, February 21st in the Library. Plans for Lenten activities will be discussed.