

Bethel United Methodist Church (03/23)
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.*

March 2023

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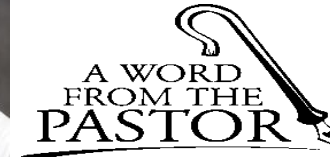
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Rev. Dr. Scott H. Wachter

Dear Bethel Church Family:

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the writer makes plain the reality of the human existence:

“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die.”
(3:1-2a)

The truth be told, we would all much rather focus on the former and not think about the latter. My father came home from the hospital with hospice care yesterday (Feb. 21), so my extended family and I are thinking very much about death today as he is very weak and cannot swallow without aspirating. Even though we are preparing for his death, when it comes it will be painful for those of us who love him. I'm not sure what kind of service or gathering we will have to remember and celebrate his life. The only thing I know for sure is that he wants to be cremated.

Over the years, I have conducted hundreds of funerals, memorials, and graveside services. Most of the time, there has been no prior planning for the service. This leaves the bereaved loved ones having to both deal with their own grief and plan a service for their deceased loved one. While some of the time, the person who died has left us an outline of the service with Scriptures, hymns, songs, soloist, eulogist, and more. When we have this information to work with when we are planning a service, it is much less stressful on the family.

During the month of March, I will be leading a study of death and dying. We will study appropriate Scriptures that deal with our natural death, with the resurrection to eternal life for believers, and we will spend some time thinking about the purpose and planning of our own service of celebration and remembrance when we die. While it won't be dreary, it will be serious. And, it will make us appreciate both life in this body and eternal life even more that we do now. I hope you will consider joining us in this study on Wednesdays at either 10:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

God's blessings,

Scott H. Wachter

A WAY FORWARD

On January 24, the Church Council of Bethel voted unanimously to enter into a time of discernment regarding the option of separating from The United Methodist Church and joining another Methodist denomination. Chairman Mike Kuszmaul appointed the following persons to serve on the A Way Forward committee to research the issues, educate the congregation, and to make a recommendation after the time of prayer, discernment, and study: Jamie Bunton, Sharon Courtney, Bill Howell, Mike Kuszmaul, Sharon Molinari, Sheri Stone, Scott Wachter, Terry Walters, and Tom Woodward. The committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, March 14th, at 5:30 p.m.

Currently there are approximately 150 congregations in the process of separating from The UMC, many of which will leave this year at Annual Conference in June. Bethel cannot meet the deadlines to file this year. If the decision is made for Bethel to pursue separation, the earliest it could occur is June 2024.

YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE

The Youth will lead our worship on

Sunday, March 19th

Sunday School at 9:30 AM
ONE service at 10:30 AM

Come out and support
our Youth.





Glory Group

When: Tuesday, March 7th

Time: 12:00 PM

Come enjoy lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend.



Bethel Men's Group News

The next meeting of the Men's Fellowship will be **Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00 PM**

This month the men will have an oyster roast. Ladies are invited to attend. Please contact Mike Kuszmaul (843-893-2984) if you are planning to attend so they can have adequate food for everyone.



The Board of Trustees has hired a locksmith to repair the hardware on a number of our exterior doors. As soon as the last part arrives to fix the front door of the sanctuary, the work will be completed all at the same time. All exterior doors will be rekeyed in the process. So please don't try to use your old keys after the doors have been fixed and rekeyed. If you need an exterior key, you will be able to get one from the church office.



United Women in Faith

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2023

Sunday, March 16th at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Because We Believe . . . that racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

A God who knows



It is easy to dismiss or ridicule the idea of God on a cross. But I would have a hard time following a philosophical abstraction. At some points in our lives, we may need a God who has entered our darkest places of uncertainty and depression. A God who can comprehend the fear of a death without significance. A God who knows the silence of God. ~Michael Gerson



The High School Youth Ministry will be leading our combined worship service on Sunday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m. Anne Hatcher White and Kaylee Spears will deliver the sermon. Owen Harrelson will give the children's sermon. Carter Sims will lead us in the pastoral prayer. Walker Bryan will welcome you to worship. Jack Sims will play the offertory on the grand piano. Jack Broderick, Eli Rowe, Blake Spears, and Colton Lyle will serve as greeters and ushers. Please make a special effort to participate in this special youth-led worship service.



The Congregational Life committee needs your help with preparing and serving meals for Bethel's bereaved families. We need team leaders and team members. We are estimating that each team will only be called on twice per year to assist with a delicious meal after a funeral.

Please call Grace Ann Brown (843-908-0210) or the church office if you are able to help! Even if you don't cook, there are other positions available.



Each Food Pantry we seem to be increasing the number of food bags we give out. When we started during covid, some days we gave as few as 13 bags. Now we average between 35 to 40 bags. We have a very efficient food orderer who orders food to be picked up on Wednesday. We received donations from Ebenezer UMC and the Bethel Youth from their proceeds from the "Super Bowl" collection. When we get extra money, we like to purchase extra types of food than what we normally put in the regular bags.

We sponsored Laundry Day for In His Name Colleton on Sunday, February 26, from 2 to 4. If anyone would like to help at Laundry Day in the future, please let me know. We have discontinued serving lunch but if any group or person would like to provide, please let me know. My number is 843-538-4094.

We have had some great things happen with the Missions personnel. We welcome back Carolyn Powers who had stayed home during covid and returned to help us. Darlene Magnum has consented to become co-chairman of the Mission Committee. We have a lot going on and I am not getting any younger!

Also, we still give out cat and dog food. Sometimes, I feel that getting pet food is more exciting than getting people food. This food is provided free from FOCCAS.

Thanks to all members, our youth, the Men's Club, all Food Pantry members, Becky Kinard for her knitted blankets and Janet Buckner for her bag packing. We wish Janet a speedy recovery.



In Memory of **Darrin Sisk**
By Jane Sams
By David and Lee Dean Cox
By Tommy and Amanda Fulton

In Memory of **Mary Esther Crook**
By Jane Sams
By Tommy and Amanda Fulton

In Memory of **Ron Ordell**
By David and Lee Dean Cox
By Carol Slocum
By Edwin and Donna Harvey

In Memory of **Colleen Bryan**
By Doie Mitchell

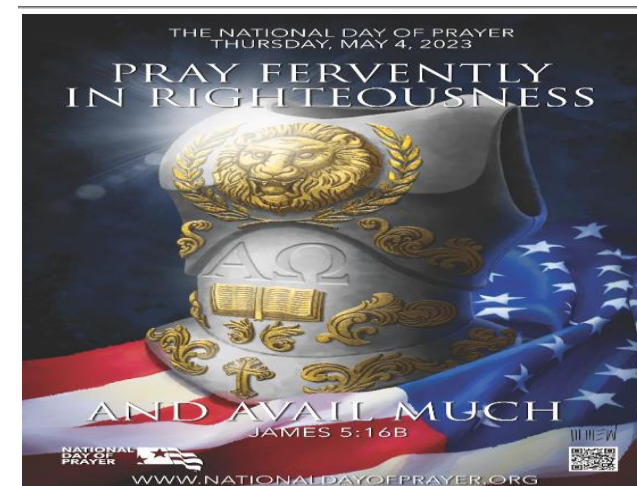
In Memory of **Sandy Sanders**
By Doie Mitchell

In Memory of **Travis Beeson**
By Dr. and Mrs. Riddick Ackerman
By Elton and Charlotte Culpepper
By David and Lee Dean Cox
By Duncan and Cindy Hunt
By Celeste Stone
By Joy and Herman Hoffman
By Toni and Terry Walters
By Deloris and Tony Hamilton
By Gayle Ashworth

In Memory of **David Storey**
By Elton and Charlotte Culpepper
By Joy and Herman Hoffman



In Honor of **Laverne Sanders**
By Carolyn Powers



In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)



News

Our church presently serves a meal once a month to approximate 25 - 30 of our shut-ins. We have 6 teams with 5 teammates who prepare home cooked meals twice during the year.

Behind the Scenes with our Shut-Ins

In January, Sylvia Rowland's team, including Chris Rowe, Bonnie Langley, Beverly Ritter, and Sue Yin Hinson, provided the meal.

In February, Jane Sams team, including Nona Rizer, Gail Howell, Jenny Williams, and Carol Armentrout, provided the meal.

March meals will be provided by Sara Lee White's team, including Debra Smith, Amanda Fulton, Linda Sisk, and Billie Shoupe.

Our deliverers include Becky Goodwin, DeLoris and Tony Hamilton, Joy Hoffman, Terry Walters, and Tom Woodward.

This is a wonderful service that Bethel provides for our shut-ins. Helping hands doing the work of Christ.



"Consider"

Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief: We are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the air of small account: Our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.

Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil, Yet are most fair: What profits all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks; God gives them food: Much more our Father seeks to do us good.—Christina Rossetti

MARCH Birthdays

Catherine Bunton	1	Elizabeth Dean	20
Greg Pryor		Jenny Bunton	22
Joey McLaine	2	Lydia Fee	
Casey Beach	4	Brannon Davis	
Forrest Simmons		Catherine Fanchette	23
Celeste Crosby	5	Sloman Dean	24
Lucas Beach		Kyle Stroble	
Anne Mathis Thomas		Hank Amundson	
Brandi Boseman		Parker Tuten	25
Amanda Fulton	6	Donald Crosby	26
Benjamin Edwards	7	Sara Smith	
Rodger Dandridge	8	Connor Davis	27
Bill Howell		Tradd Odum	
Lynn Hiott	9	Tripp Boseman	
Karl Hermann	13	Jack Bonds	30
Campbell Pryor	14	Megan Mitchell	
Martha Woodard		Evan Stroble	31
Darlene Mangum	16	PA Pournelle	
Lauren Stanfill	19	Addison Beasley	
Shelley Thomas	20		

MARCH Anniversaries

Sharon and Jamie Copeland	10
Bobbie and Joey McLaine	
Melanie and Joey Ritter	17
Julie and Bert Koon	24
Nikki and Scott Beasley	26
Linda and Bobo Hudson	27



The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to family of **Kay Sanders** on the recent death of her mother, **Colleen Bryan**.

The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Marina Crawford** and family on the recent death of her father, **David Story**.

The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to family of **Travis Beeson** on his recent passing.



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

OUR PRAYERS: Amy Abrams, Jane Bell, Scott Bell, R. Lee Benton, Jeff Benson, Janet Buckner, Maddox Carter, Stacy Carter, Dorothy Cummings, Barbara Hermann, Joy Hoffman, Lad Howell, Anderson Jones, Ted Kinard, Noah Lutz, Wray Mathews, Bobbie McLaine, Chuck Murdaugh, Lynn Murdaugh, Jane Myers, Ed Newington, Christopher Plummer, Tyler Pope, Chip Reeves, Beverly Ritter, Richard Sharpe, Janice Robbins, Miriam Smith, Charles Wachter, Terry Walters.

Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins/Distant Members: Frances Beach, Jackie Bennett, Doris Bone, Carroll Brown, III, Jane Brown, David Cox, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Caroline Johnson, Joy Lawson, Margaret Maxcey, 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.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Event
March 5	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 with Communion
March 12	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Worship with Agape Praise Band
March 19	One Worship Service 10:30 Youth Sunday
March 26	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00



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

Local Church Discernment Process available as “a faithful step forward”

To ensure congregations are equipped to make decisions that enable them to best live into their disciple-making mission, South Carolina Conference leaders have adopted a process through which a local church can discern whether it will continue in ministry within The United Methodist Church or separate from the denomination. (continued next page)

Discernment Process continued

The Local Church Discernment Process is designed to help local churches determine whether they can function as a United Methodist church if they firmly believe that the denomination has not consistently upheld its stated doctrine on issues of human sexuality. It will provide an opportunity for church members to engage in dialogue, to allow every voice in the congregation an opportunity to be heard, and to discern the congregation’s sentiment regarding separation.

The new process is distinct from the disaffiliation pathway created when the 2019 General Conference added [Paragraph 2553](#) to The UMC Book of Discipline. In South Carolina, no local church that has inquired about disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church has qualified under this provision, since they do not profess to disagree with the human sexuality language in the Book of Discipline or how the South Carolina Conference has interpreted it.

“It has been my hope that the division so present in the rest of the denomination would not affect us in a negative way,” said Bishop L. Jonathan Holston. “But it has become increasingly difficult over time to shield South Carolina United Methodists from these distractions.

“There are a growing number of churches in our conference inquiring about a way to leave the denomination, especially since disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553 is not available to them. While this is a source of real sadness, I have concluded that providing churches the space for conversation and discernment is a faithful step forward within the provisions of The Book of Discipline.”

The Trustees of the Annual Conference and the Extended Cabinet have prayerfully developed the Local Church Discernment Process. Their intentional and meticulous work is not intended to encourage churches to leave the denomination or to remain with The United Methodist Church. Rather, it was designed with the singular goal of ensuring that churches will be fruitful in their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

While similar to the disaffiliation process found in Paragraph 2553, the Local Church Discernment Process is grounded in Paragraph 2549 of the Discipline, which is typically employed when a local church is closed because it no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. Unlike the disaffiliation process, the Local Church Discernment Process has no long-term “sunset” provision.

The process consists of multiple steps, including but not limited to:

1) If the church council of a local church determines that it is in the best interest of the church to allow the congregation to pursue separation, the council must ask the district superintendent to call a church conference.

2) Before the church conference takes place, the local church must complete an intentional, 30-day process of discernment to consider whether the congregation can continue to function as a United Methodist church.

3) Representatives of the congregation will be assigned the responsibility of ensuring that certain financial obligations – as calculated by conference trustees – are satisfied before the congregation can vote on whether to separate. These payments include:

A title equal to 10 percent of the appraised value of all church property and liquid assets.

All unpaid apportionment giving for the prior year, as well as for the year of closure up to the date of the Annual Conference vote to close the church.

An additional 12 months of apportionment giving.

All unpaid salary and benefits due to clergy appointed to the church.

A withdrawal liability equal to the church’s proportional share of any unfunded pension obligations.

4) Other financial considerations and legal liabilities of the local church – such as the disposition of any debts, loans, leases, endowments, foundations and cemeteries – must be satisfied or transferred to a new entity.

5) At the church conference meeting, support of two-thirds of professing church members present and voting is required to formally declare that the church can no longer continue to function as a United Methodist church. This vote must take place by March 1 each year to be considered by Annual Conference members during their regular session the following June.

6) Once all terms of separation are satisfied, the members of the Annual Conference must vote on a resolution to close the local church and transfer its assets to a new entity. A simple majority vote in favor of the resolution is the final step before the local church separates from The United Methodist Church, maintaining its property.

All inquiries about the Local Church Discernment Process must be communicated by the church council to the district superintendent.

Bishop Holston continues to implore South Carolina United Methodists to remain patient and focused on what should be the top priority of every local church – our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“During this time of discernment, I am encouraging everyone to pray for our church and for each other, to trust in the Lord with all your heart and not lean only on your own understanding,” Bishop Holston said. “Amid all of the distractions the world casts across our path, let us seek a more excellent way to focus on what matters most – trusting, believing and knowing that God is with us.”