

Bethel United Methodist Church (04/23)
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.*

April 2023

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Walterboro, SC 29488
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A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Scott H. Wachter
Dear Bethel Church family:

In just a few days our Holy Week of worship begins once again. We'll begin the week on Palm or Passion Sunday. There are two sets of lectionary texts for this Sunday. One are the Palm Sunday lessons and one are the Passion Sunday lessons. This year I will be reading and preaching on the Passion Sunday texts from Matthew 26. We'll focus on how Jesus is worthy of both death and life. The Agape Praise team will be leading the music on Passion Sunday. The children will have their Easter egg hunt during Children's Church which coincides with the 11 a.m. Worship Service.

On Maundy Thursday we'll have our traditional service of remembrance of the events in the Upper Room on the night in which Jesus was later betrayed. Jesus and His disciples gathered to observe the Passover. In that Passover meal, Jesus shows us how His body and blood is our food and the sustenance of the New Covenant.

On Good Friday the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer and meditation from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

And on Easter Sunday we will gather for our glorious, celebratory Easter Worship services. Easter is greater than the World Series, the Super Bowl, and the NCAA National Championships all rolled into one. And we have the honor and the privilege of participating in this

ourselves! As always, our choir will have special music that will inspire us to worship and move us in our relationship with God.

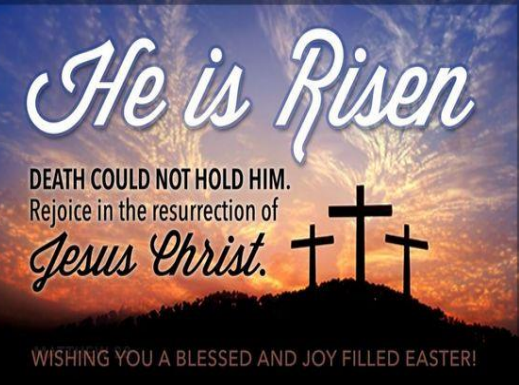
I look forward to seeing you in person for these and all of our worship services as the Bethel Church family gathers to worship and fellowship in the house of prayer.
God's blessings,

Scott H. Wachter

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Event
April 2	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Worship with Agape Praise Band Passion Sunday
April 6	Maundy Thursday Communion Service 6:00 PM
April 9	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Easter Sunday
April 16	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Sunday School 9:30 One Worship Service 10:30 Confirmation Sunday Fellowship Lunch to follow
April 23	
April 30	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00

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



Holy Week Worship Services

April 2nd Palm Sunday
**Contemporary Worship
with the Agape Praise Band
8:45 AM and 11:00 AM**
Easter Egg Hunt during 11:00 AM children's church

Thursday, April 6th 6:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Communion Service
*We will commemorate Jesus's last meal
with His disciples.*

April 9th Easter Sunday
**Traditional Worship
8:45 AM and 11:00 AM**
*We will worship the Resurrected Christ
in a formal and grand manner.*



Glory Group

When: Tuesday, April 4th

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, April 4th at 6:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.



The Board of Trustees has completed the repair on the exterior door hardware. If you have not come by to get a new key please do so as the old keys do not work. There is now only one key to all exterior doors.

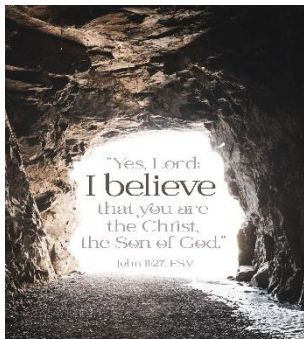


Death Doesn't Win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."



Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid. —Madeleine L'Engle, *The Rock That Is Higher*



YOUTH SUNDAY LEADERS

On Sunday, March 19, our Senior High Youth led our worship service with help from several of our Middle School Youth. In this photo are the nine students who led in speaking roles and playing our grand piano. From left to right they are: Jack Sims, Blake Spears, Jack Broderick, Carter Sims, Kaylee Spears, Anne Hatcher White, Walker Bryan, Owen Harrelson, and Eli Rowe. If you were not able to participate in worship that day, you can watch the service on our Facebook page. Pastor Scott and Sharon Courtney are our youth leaders and they are very proud of all of our youth!



Hat's off to our youth for a very meaningful message on "Youth Sunday!" It is so great seeing our youth spread God's word in worship. Also thanks to Pastor Scott and Sharon Courtney for leading our youth each week.

We are Bethel Proud!
Worship Committee



In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This "escape tower" was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth. Jesus' resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God's power, Jesus didn't merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — "Peace be with you."

—adapted from *Homiletics*



In Memory of **Ron Ordell**
By Tea and Topics Literary Club

In Memory of **Travis Beeson**
By John Palmer
By Nancy Beeson
By Baxter and Franbeth Beeson
By Bob and Diane Hare
By Bill and Jane Smoak
By Lucille Culpepper
By Gail and Bill Howell

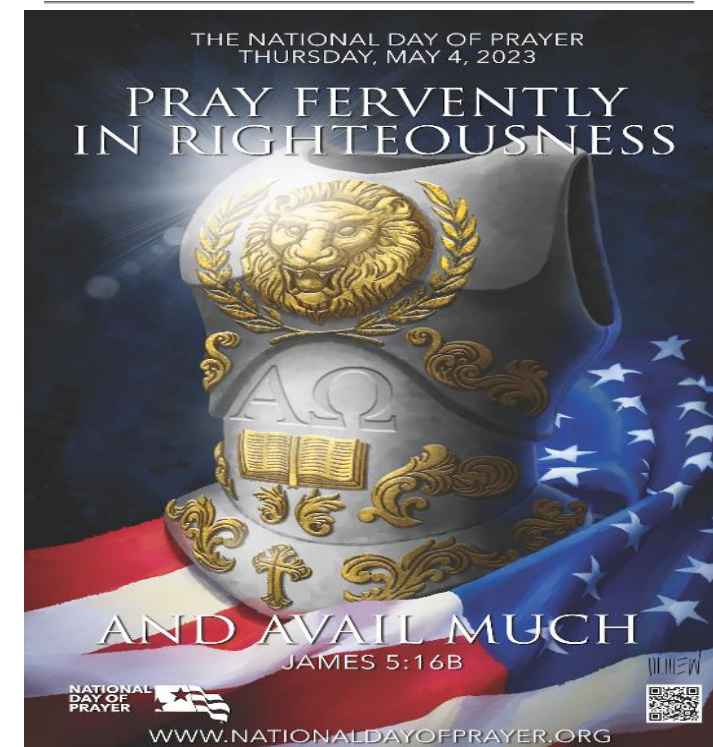


Behind the Scenes
with our Shut-Ins

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.

Sarah Lee White's team, including Debra Smith, Amanda Fulton, and Billie Shoupe prepared meals for our shut-ins in March. Those delivering were:
Becky Goodwin and Joy Hoffman
Tony and DeLoris Hamilton
Terry Walters
Tom Woodward
Helping hands doing the work of Christ.



Bible Quiz

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' _____.

- A. Hands
- B. Feet
- C. Hair
- D. supper dishes

Answer: B (See John 13:1-17.)



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
b l _ s s _ d _ r _ t h _ s _ w h _ h _ v _ n _ t
s _ _ n _ n d y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV



APRIL Birthdays

Grady Nettles	3	Mary Jane Little	18
Brandy Rowe	4	Vicki Smith	19
Billy Ritter	5	Scott Rizer	
Allen Ilderton	6	Alice Joye	20
Mollie McLeod	8	Ann Bickley	21
Matthew Creech		Emily Stone	
Lake Boseman	9	Andrew Honeycutt	23
Jackie Bennett	10	Angie McGuire	24
Emma Rizer		Sarah Miller	25
Noah Honeycutt	12	Sharon Molinari	26
Jane Sams		Margaret Reed	28
Debra Smith	13	Kelly Strickland	
Allen Gustin	14	Ellison Young	
Jane Brown	16	Addisyn Fee	30

APRIL Anniversaries

Rebekah and Josh White	3
Michelle and Johnny Bell	4
Ann and Chris Bickley	14
Patsy and Carl Avant	16
Brandi and Tripp Boseman	18
Marilyn and Buddy Creech	19
Anne and Frank Biggers	24
Melissa and Wally West	25
Ashley and Hank Amundson	28
Sharon and Jeff Molinari	

In Christian Sympathy

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



April 2nd Palm Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

during 11:00 AM Children's Church



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, Maddox Carter, Stacy Carter, Dorothy Cummings, Barbara Hermann, Joy Hoffman, Lad Howell, Brooke Hudson, Ted Kinard, Mike Kuszmaul, Noah Lutz, Frances McDonald, Bobbie McLaine, Lamar Muckenfuss, Chuck Murdaugh, Jane Myers, Ed Newington, Christopher Plummer, Tyler Pope, Beverly Ritter, Richard Sharpe, Janice Robbins, Miriam Smith, Sara Smith, Charles Wachter, Terry Walters, J.W. Williams.

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, 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.

Jesus' three-part prayer model, the Lord's "other prayer"

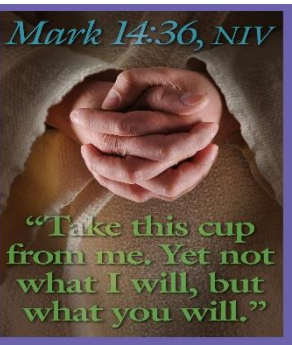
Mark 14: 36 contains Jesus' desperate prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: *"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

His simple prayer has three components that can be a model for our prayerful requests to God:

1. You are majestic and can do anything you choose.
2. Here is what I want.
3. But I desire your will to be done, whatever it may be.

Jesus used this pattern to pray to His father when under great stress. We can use this pattern, too.

From Cecil Taylor Ministries

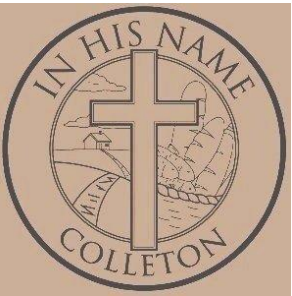


Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.



Good evening, I am reaching out to you to see if your church could help out with one of our new guests at the men's house..

He is a senior at Colleton County High and is an unaccompanied youth (homeless) by the state of SC. Due to him being homeless and needing emergency shelter, we have been able to provide him a bed at our men's house.

He is working really hard to get his grades up and graduate on time, he has already enlisted with the marines and will go to basic upon graduation.

Due to his situation and for his safety, he is not able to work and pay his portion of the house bills.

I am wondering if your church would be willing to give any amount towards his stay which is \$1,500.

I can discuss more in person or over the phone if you would like. Thank you for your continued support in God's name for His glory.

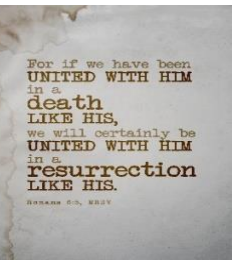
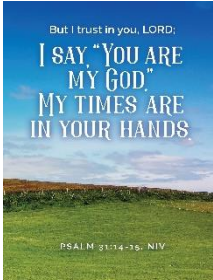
In His Name Colleton
Contact Phone: 843-217-5661
Contact Email: ihncolleton@gmail.com

(Editor's Note: all donations to In His Name Colleton are welcome. Their many ministries to our community are worthy of support.)

Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that "anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt."

But Christ's final words — committing himself into his Father's hands — "ring a different note," adds Gerson. "This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough."



Facts, not futility

"If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen," writes Mary Fairchild, "then the apostles were all fakes and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ's power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then

Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless." Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is "in vain" and our faith is "futile" (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn't leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don't need to doubt Easter's good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: "But in *fact* Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 57)!



Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.