

Bethel United Methodist Church (04/24)  
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.*

April 2024

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

#### Pastor

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#### Accompanist

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#### Church Sexton

Willie James Lawery

#### Website

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

#### Webmaster

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Rev. Dr. Scott H. Wachter



Dear Bethel Church family:

As I write to you, I am making the final preparations for our Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday worship services while you are reading these words after the services have been held. So we likely have entirely different perspectives about Holy Week. I'm in the midst of the excitement while Holy Week is in your rearview mirror. I'm anticipating. You're remembering.

Our lives are lived in the before and after of many important life events—births, baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, more births, joyous occasions, sad or even tragic events, and ultimately deaths. And depending on where we are on the timeline, our perspectives may be vastly diverse. Sometimes we have already experienced things that help us prepare and at other times we are flying blindly.

Over the years, I've undergone more than my share of surgeries. TWENTY-EIGHT. Some of them were more extensive than others. I recovered from some very quickly while the recovery time for others was quite lengthy. I was in a great deal of pain before several of the surgeries. And I was in more pain after them. But now, as I look back and the pain is only a faint memory, the pluses of having my body working properly far outweigh the inconvenience and pain from surgery and physical therapy.

Unfortunately, I'm on the before side again. My right shoulder decided to tear apart like

my left shoulder did. The pain is debilitating, and my right arm is basically useless. There is no way around the pain of the surgery and recovery. And as strange as it seems, because I know how much better I'll be in a couple of months, I'm looking forward to having the surgery so I can start the healing process. I can say this in spite of the ridiculous pain of climbing the dreaded finger ladder. By the grace of God, I'll get through this and eventually this undesirable time will only be another distant memory.

We seldom really know what's going on in other peoples' lives. I'm guessing there are more than a few of you reading this who are facing worse difficulties of your own. You're dreading some difficult event in your life or the life of someone you love. Remember, you are not alone. In addition to your church family, God is always with you. Be encouraged. I've heard the expression more than once, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." I prefer the Bible's message (always!):

**Romans 5** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces <sup>4</sup>perseverance, <sup>5</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>6</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Easter has come and gone. But the truth of the resurrection lives on! Wherever you are, rejoice, God is with you.

*Scott H. Wachter*

# Blood DRIVE

## Blood Connection Blood Drive

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Where: Bethel UMC/City  
Parking Lot

When: **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

*Each Donation = \$45 Donor  
Reward & \$25 Award for the  
Church Food Pantry!*



### Glory Group

**When:** Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 12:00 PM

Come enjoy lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend.

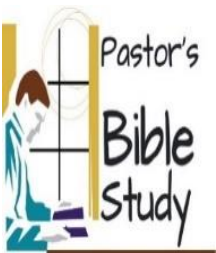


### Bethel Men's Group News

The **Bethel United Methodist Men** will be meeting on

**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM**

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



The Pastor's Bible study on the book of Romans will NOT meet on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will resume on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The 10:30 AM session is held in the library. The 6:00 PM session is held in the fellowship hall. Bring a Bible or borrow one from the office.



Behind the Scenes with our Shut-Ins

### News

**Shut-ins:** We are still serving around 26 of our shut-ins each month.

If you know of any shut-ins from our church, please contact the church so we can add them to our list.

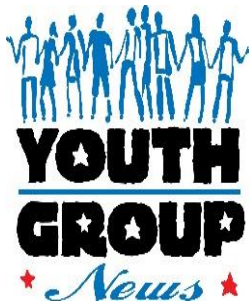
Helping hands doing the work of Christ!



### Blessed are you

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live."



Our middle school and high school UMYF groups will meet on April 14, 21, and 28 at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday April 21, Dr. Lance Sims is heading up a project to pressure wash the windows on our church buildings along the alley. The work will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will finish before UMYF begins.

Graduation Sunday is May 19. We'll have a breakfast for our seniors and their families at 10:00 a.m. We'll recognize our seniors (and college graduates) during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. And we'll honor our seniors at our pool party that night with a steak dinner and gift.

Seven of our youth, along with six adults, will be serving on Bethel's mission team in Costa Rica. A special thanks goes to the Lillie Glover fund for providing generous scholarships for our participants. Additional funds are needed for the team. If you'd like to make a contribution to the mission, write Costa Rica on your check or envelope.



Registration is open for the Bethel Weekday Preschool. Spaces are available. More information and the application can be located on the Bethel website under "preschool".



### The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated. —Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

*"If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will."* —Billy Graham



In Memory of **Barbara Pearce**  
By DeLoris and Tony Hamilton  
By Dr. and Mrs. Riddick Ackerman, III

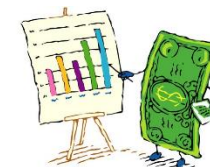
In Memory of **Trudie Mangum**  
By Parks, Charlie and Delores

In Memory of **Carol Hermann**  
By Laverne Sanders  
By Joe Lee Ritter

### APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Event
April 7	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Communion
April 14	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00 Worship with Agape Praise Band
April 21	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00
April 28	Worship Service 8:45 & 11:00

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



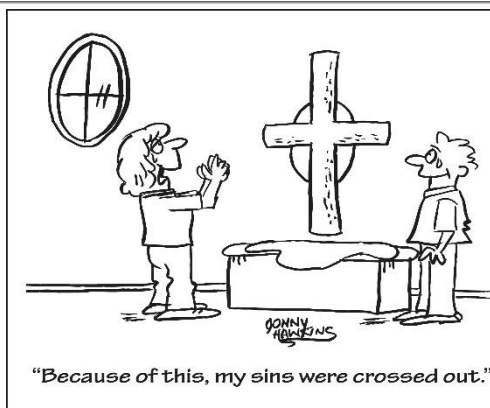
### Financial Update

### ACCOUNT BALANCES:

(As of March 27, 2024)

Operating	\$125,286.94
Restricted	(\$23,307.90)
Preschool	\$5,876.20
Checking	\$107,846.24

**STEEPLE FUND:** Balance owed \$123,429.00  
**BUS FUND:** Balance owed \$10,779.36



### Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



\_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 18

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_ 29 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15

\_\_\_\_\_ 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 31 \_\_\_\_\_ 22

\_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 25

\_\_\_\_\_ 30 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 23

Zephaniah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Fill the Lord for rain in the opening in the field to everyone. Zephaniah 10:1, NIV  
of rain to all people, and parts of the field to everyone. Zephaniah 10:1, NIV  
the grass blows

## APRIL Birthdays

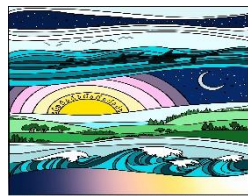
Grady Nettles	3	Vicki Smith	19
Brandy Rowe	4	Scott Rizer	
Billy Ritter	5	Alice Joye	20
Allen Ilderton	6	Ann Bickley	21
Mollie McLeod	8	Emily Stone	
Matthew Creech		Angie McGuire	24
Lake Boseman	9	Lance Sims	
Jackie Bennett	10	Sarah Miller	25
Emma Rizer		Sharon Molinari	26
Jane Sams	12	Margaret Reed	28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

## 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
Ann and Frank Biggers	24
Melissa and Wally West	25
Ashley and Hank Amundson	28
Sharon and Jeff Molinari	

## Christian Sympathy

The Reverend Dr. Scott Wachter and the church family of Bethel wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Mike Wilson and Natalie** on the death of his mother, **Barbara Pearce**.



### Trustworthy stewards

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider this stewardship quote from a Christian thinker:

“We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.” —Albert Schweitzer

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

**OUR PRAYERS:** Debra Ackerman, Jane Bell, Scott Bell, R. Lee Benton, Maddox Carter, Stacy Carter, R.L. Carter, Jr., Donald Crosby, Terri Crosby, Jerry Crosby, Lucille Culpepper, Dorothy Cummings, Hazel Easterlin, Joseph Givens, Louis Harris, Karl Harrison, Lynn Harrison, Jeffrey Herndon, Michael Hickman, John Hiott, Eunice Howard, Lad Howell, Linda Hudson, Shawn Hunter, Allen Ilderton, Golda Jacques, Noah Lutz, Parks Mangum, Mike McElmurray, Bobbie McLaine, Elva Muckenfuss, Chuck Murdaugh, Dell Murdaugh, Ann Nettles, Lynn Nettles, Ed Newington, Susann Padgett, Christopher Plummer, Tyler Pope, Carolyn Powers, Joe Ritter, Adrienne Rizer, Nona Rizer, Laverne Sanders, Debra Smith, Altra Strickland, Donna Sumner, Bonnie Thomas, Chris Varnadoe, Alice Wachter, Michael Walker, Terry Walters, Norma West, Nicky Maxey Williams.

**Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins/Distant Members:** Jackie Bennett, Doris Bone, Carroll Brown, III, Jane Brown, David Cox, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, June Dyches, Joy Lawson, Doie Mitchell, Bennie Ordell, Jeanine Price, Gene Rhodes, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, Miriam Westbury, Betty Sue Wilson.

**Military Service:** Christian Beasley, Caleb Blankenship, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Cody Keeney, Matthew Mangum, 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 Scott.



### Keep on Shining!

Charles W. Naylor (1874-1950) was a traveling evangelist until misfortune struck. First a tentpole fell on him as he prepared for a meeting. A year later, a bus accident left him partially paralyzed.

Despite experiencing chronic pain, Naylor became a prolific author and hymnist, dictating almost 150 songs. He often wrote about God's loving care amid adversity. One of his hymns begins:

When the winds of persecution blow,  
When the streams of hatred tow'rd you flow,  
When your foes in number seem to grow,  
Just keep on shining.

“God’s comfort in our times of sorrow is not an imaginary thing,” Naylor wrote. “It can be so real that it is a balm for our wounded spirits. Having passed through the experience more than once, [I know] how real and vital and sustaining the comfort of God can be.”



## Report from the Mission Team

Please mark your calendars for **June 2, 2024**, because the **Bloodmobile** will be back again. They were here a couple of Sundays ago and had very little business. They were giving money to the donor and money to the Food Pantry. We need to remember many of our church family who are ill and may be in need of a blood donation sometime and the Food Pantry can always use money to buy food.

At each food pantry we have a cart filled with bags of dog and cat food. Sometimes it's the first thing people have asked if we have when they come in the door. We always have dog and cat food—because of FOCCAS—Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter. They provide dog and cat food FREE OF CHARGE.

We received a donation from Ebenezer Methodist Church. We are going to use the money to buy “special groceries” for the buggy. Our buggy contains extra food items that aren't placed in the regular food bags. We buy small bags of flour and sugar, Vienna sausages, Pop-Tarts, instant potatoes, soups, corn bread mix, and other items. If you ever wish to donate to the Food Pantry, we would appreciate it.



### When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: “Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area. —Janna Firestone

“Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory.” —Douglas J. Moo, *Creation Care*



### Superimposed Love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an “eclipse of faith.”

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means “I am absent” or “I cease to exist,” because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. “For Christians, a ‘spiritual eclipse’ is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives,” Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, “God seems completely absent,” writes the pastor. “In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out.” During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the “love of God our Savior appeared” (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and “superimposes his divine love over us.”



### COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

Our youth are working on the fundraising for their mission trip June 18-25. They, along with some of our adults, will be ministering to the youth and others in Bajo Tejares, an impoverished area of San Ramon.

While the Lilly Glover Circle fund is providing a substantial donation for each participant, additional funds are needed. If you would like to help a specific youth or the group in general, ask Pastor Scott how you can help.

