



October 2025



THE SPIRIT OF BETHEL

Bethel United Methodist Church

- 5th World Communion Sunday
- 6th Missy Ackerman Circle 6:00PM in fellowship hall
- 7th Glory Group—noon in fellowship hall
Bethel UM Men 6:00PM fellowship hall
- 9th Food Pantry 2:00PM—4:00PM
Staff Parrish Meeting—6:00PM church library
- 15th Investment Committee 5:30PM church library
- 16th Sally Starr Circle 1:00PM at home of Joy Dantzler
- 22nd Shut-in Meals delivered
- 23rd Food Pantry
- 27th Church Council 6:00PM in sanctuary
- 30th Charge Conference 6:00PM in fellowship hall



- Sundays at 3:00PM - Ladies Bible Study in upstairs Bible study room
- Sundays at 5:30PM - UMYF
- Wednesdays at 10:30AM/6:00PM - Pastor's Bible Study in fellowship hall
- Wednesdays at 6:00PM - Christmas Choir Practice (5:00PM extra practice)



“WHAT IS FAITH?”

“YOU’RE NOT GOING TO tell us you believe in angels?” someone inquired, in a class that I was teaching. I then told the class to write one line naming something significant they had experienced in the last two weeks.

One said, “I had a difficult task to perform, but somehow I found the courage to do it.” Another volunteered, “I wasn’t sure I was going to make it through the week, with mid-term exams and all, but I did!” A third said, “Over the weekend I had a flash of insight that helped me decide what to do next year.”

“That’s interesting,” I commented. “It appears that we all have lost our memories. We have forgotten what God said to our forebears. It’s in the Twenty-third chapter of Exodus, if you want to look it up. God said, ‘I am sending you an angel to enlighten you, to guard you on the way, to lead you to the place I have prepared for you. Be attentive to your angels; listen for your angel’s voice!’ What we need to have is faith.” They didn’t understand what faith is.

Then I told them a tale about a man who was a confessed smuggler. Every day he crossed the border with his donkey loaded with hay. The boarder guards knew he was smuggling and searched him and his donkey but found nothing. The man became wealthy. At thirty he retired and threw a party for the border guards. They asked him, “What have you been smuggling?” He responded, “Donkeys!”

Someone’s hand shot up and they said, “**Faith is seeing!**”

“Yes,” I responded. “If you don’t expect to see angels, you don’t see them. If people do not believe in God, it is because anything that might be perceived to point to the activity of God is either ignored, filtered out, or said to point to something else.”



“**Faith is seeing!**”

Tresco E. Shannon



The Bethel Family extends our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Wanda Carter. Wanda went on to Glory September 19, 2025.



In Memory of Lucille Culpepper

by Olivia Brissie & Celeste Crosby

In Memory of June Dyches

to Epworth Children’s Home by Bethel United Methodist Men

In Memory of Ted Tucker

by Lance & Tara Snyder

In Memory of Paul Rickenbaker

by Tony & DeLoris Hamilton

In Memory of Wanda Carter

by Carol Slocum, Duncan & Cindy Hunt



NURSING HOMES/SHUT-INS/DISTANT MEMBERS

Jane Brown, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Lynn Harrison, Joy Lawson, Vera Newington, Jeanine Price, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, Miriam Westbury

MILITARY SERVICE

Cody Keeney, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Matthew Mangum, Jordan Ray, Tristan Ray



The Sally Starr Circle will be taking orders for pecans again this year. One pound bags of halves and pieces will be \$13 each. Please contact a circle member or call the church office.



It's hard to believe, but cold weather will be here soon. Our project for October is collecting warm items for the Women's Shelter, the Warming Place, and In His Name Colleton. Last year, we collected so many socks, that IHN Colleton still has a lot left. We would like to include mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves this year.

In November, we will be sponsoring the Free Laundry Day for In His Name Colleton, so bring your quarters, and we will certainly welcome bills as well. This will be our second year of sponsoring The Free Laundry Day, and we are thankful to Bethel for the generosity in supporting this important mission.

In mid November, we will be collecting coats for In His Name Colleton's Christmas dinner. Children's, women's, and men's coats are needed.



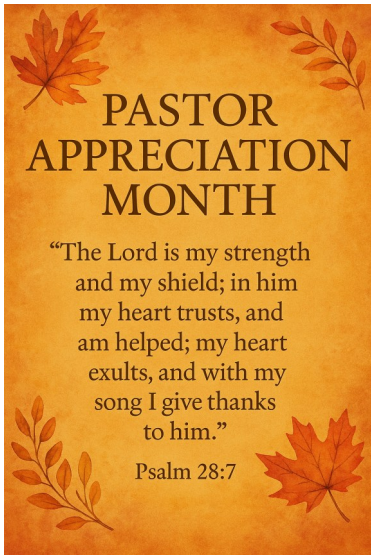
A Special Thank You

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Carol Armentrout** for donating the beautiful fall wreaths that now adorn our sanctuary doors. Her thoughtful gift brings a warm and welcoming touch to our church home as we enter this season of gratitude and reflection.



Come Sing With Us!

The Bethel Choir is looking for new voices! Whether you'd like to join us each week for **Sunday Choir**, participate in our **special Christmas Choir**, or be part of **both**, we would love to have you. No prior experience is necessary—just a willing heart to praise God through music.



A Note of Appreciation

Since Pastor Shannon joined us in July, he has quickly become such a blessing to our church family. His kindness, support, and thoughtful sermons encourage us each week and remind us of God’s presence in our lives. We are truly thankful for him and excited for the journey ahead together.

We appreciate you, Tresco!



Seasonal Devotional Thought

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” – Galatians 6:9

As the leaves change and the harvest season surrounds us, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness in every season of life. Just as the farmer trusts that seeds planted in spring will bear fruit in the fall, we too are called to trust that our labors for the Lord are never in vain.

This season of harvest is a time to pause and give thanks—not only for God’s provision of food and shelter, but for the ways He is at work in our lives, our families, and our church. It is also a reminder that the seeds of kindness, service, and faith we plant in the lives of others will one day yield a harvest of blessing.

May this October be a season of renewal, gratitude, and perseverance as we continue to serve the Lord with joy, knowing that in His time, the harvest will come.

THE PUMPKIN PRAYER

“We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”
- Isaiah 64:8

Cutting open the pumpkin:
Lord, open my mind and fill me with Your wisdom and guidance.

Scooping out the inside:
Take away my sin and forgive the wrong things I do.

Carving a smiling face: Create in me a cheerful heart, reflecting Your love to others.

Just as a pumpkin is cleaned out and shines with light, so God cleans our hearts and fills us with His Spirit, making us a light to others.

A detailed illustration of a jack-o'-lantern (pumpkin) with a carved face, including triangular eyes and a wide, toothy grin. A lit candle is placed inside the pumpkin, casting a warm glow. The pumpkin is surrounded by autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

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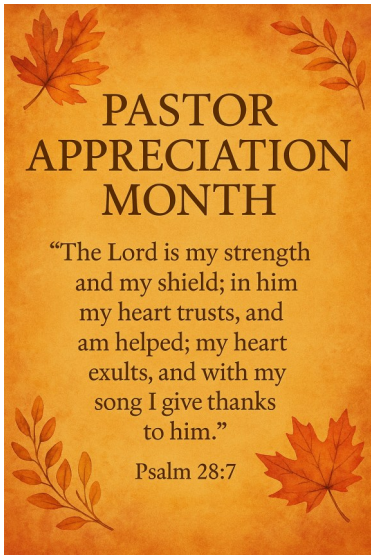
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