

January 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 Church office closed | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Election Setup Fellowship Hall | 5 Election Day - Fellowship Hall is a polling station | 6 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study | 7 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting (FH) | 8 Church office closed | 9 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX) |
| 10 | 11 | 12 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch 4:30 PM TOPS (FH-C) 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council | 13 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study | 14 | 15 Church office closed | 16 8:00 AM United Methodist Men's Meeting |
| 17 Beans&Rice and Friends House Sunday | 18 | 19 4:30 PM TOPS (FH-C) | 20 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study | 21 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting 7:00 PM UMW Joy Circle Meeting (FH) | 22 Church office closed | 23 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX) |
| 24 | 25 | 26 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch 4:30 PM TOPS (FH-C) | 27 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study | 28 | 29 Church office closed | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



2021

A Note from the Pastor



Whew! New Year!

Bethel United Methodist Church

Reflecting on the year 2020, we can all say it was a year we never imagined. There were virus outbreaks, churches, businesses, and school closings. The hardest part of the year has been the prohibition on touching one another. I am a hugger. Now I am dodging and swerving when people move in my direction. It has been an adjustment. We must keep in mind that it is temporary.

We thank God for the coronavirus vaccine, as well as the scientists and trial participants involved in its development. It may be a while yet before we can toss aside the masks. However, it is good to know we are getting closer. Life as we once knew it is just over the horizon.

The craziness of this past year shined a light on some dark places. We saw that racism is yet alive and active. It is like a scab that we thought was healing. We bump it, and the wound is gaping and oozing. The raging has quieted a bit. Unfortunately, we tend to pick at wounds. Lord, please help us to heal.

A revelation to some of us was the vast gap between the have and have nots. Not having in-person schooling revealed to the world what teachers already knew. Some students only receive meals at school. Computer and internet access are luxuries for some families. In this land of plenty, we have families needing resources – food, housing, computers, the internet, health care, and employment.

The year 2020 has been revelatory. We don't want to repeat it. The challenge before us is to learn from the past and move forward. In this new year, we want to present to God our best selves. Let us model our lives after Jesus.

Paul in his letter to the Philippians writes:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...

Christlikeness is the goal for the year 2021. Let us imitate Christ so that our world may heal. When we do, we will find healing of relationships, unity among the body of Christ, love, joy and peace. When Christ's light is allowed to shine, our future is bright.

God bless you. Happy New Year.



Oreo's Blog



Happy New Year! 2021 is here! I hope this will be a better year for everyone!

Turn on your smile and turn off your fears.

Think of good things and don't shed tears.

The new year is here and time for new starts.

Don't fight with your brother or throw any darts.

Listen to your caretaker and so as they say.

Don't argue or stall each and every day.

Eat all your veggies and fruit on your plate.

God wants you healthy for each and every date.

God is beside you all the day long.

He loves you so much and I am not wrong.

Wishing you joy and laughter from January through December.

Jesus loves you and so do I.

Oreo

Church Staff

Office: 770-474-2570 Fax: 770-389-4845

WEB: www.bethel-umc.com

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday | 9:30 AM—2:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Candy Thacker, Senior Pastor
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Rori Blakeney
Margaret Marlow, Organist
Brian McClure, Pianist
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Alan Pierce
Davies Family
Denise Mainer
Nell Redding
Pam Redding
Jean Searls
Natalie Walters
Erin Ricks
Dianne Kozara
Trip Weldon
Debra Bryant
Rossoff Family
John Mcgee
Monique Searls
Teri Roper
Cheryl & Brenda
Charles Pruitt
Bill Frizzell
Cora Johnson
Tracey Redding
Betty Williams
Doris McKnight
Lucy Strauss
Billie Jo Strauss
Diane Chandler
Lisa Milsapp
Victoria Scott
Will Shealy, Jr.
Andy Blackburn
Wendell Toney
Mark Cheek
Mallory B.
Lynda Schoefelder
Sharyn Hope

Betty Brooking
Tammy Price
William Akbar
Timothy Milton
Larry Sharp
Susan Webb
Jimmy Jackson
Samson Chapman
Mary Frances Koch
Liz Dawson
Janice Gray
Nicholas Jerome Scott
James Peters
Patricia Strauss
Pansy Horton
Jeff Sanders
Harper Ricks
Shirley Walters
Ken Smith
Lee Shaffer
Jerry King
Rev. Glenn Dyer
Donna Thomas
David Parker
Mark Johnson
Family of Rossoff
Family of James Mainer
Family of Cheryl
Cantrell
Family of Pete Brimer
Family of Lisel
Weiddenborner
Family of Kevin Moyer
Family of Harold

Brautigan

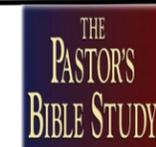
LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

*Paula Frizzell
*Lily Eubanks
*Allison Spence
*Ajani King
*Eden Bankston
*Louise Whittaker
*Rick McNabb
*Mavis Sewell
*Timmy Graham
*Pat Prichett
*Warren Sprayberry
*Sheila Readdy
*Gloria Chamlee
*Harry and Eldora
Pierce
* Windell McIntosh
* Sarah Potts
*Alisa Anderson

GENERAL GIVING FOR December 2020

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 6 December | \$5,617.00 |
| 13 December | <u>5,800.48</u> |
| Total | \$11,417.48 |

The Weekly offerings needed to fund budget is \$6,449.05



The Pastor's Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study meets every Wednesday in the conference room. Anyone interested in attending a Bible study during the day is welcome to join in.



The United Methodist Men meet every third Saturday. At 7am we gather to prepare the food and at 8am we have breakfast. Come on out guys and let's have some good food and fellowship.



JOY CIRCLE
The Joy Circle of the UMW meets every third Thursday at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Youth and Children's Activities

There will be no in person activities until further notice.

Be sure to check for online activities.



Christmas Means Work

Juliana Esther Parker was my high school Algebra teacher. A small and demanding instructor, she wanted to make sure every student was well-prepared. One of the things I remembered most about the class was her commitment to the process. On several occasions, I was able to figure out the correct answer to the equation, but Ms. Parker always demanded that I showed her the work. To this day, I still can remember the order of operations – PEMDAS or Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally.

I learned a valuable lesson from Ms. Parker. Living out the theory of the faith is just as important as knowing the faith. In other words, we must do the work of Christmas just as much as we learn the story of Christmas.

It is true that Christmas is about hope, love, joy and peace. Yet, it is also about working to make the world a more just world filled with hope, love, joy and peace. Christmas is about receiving gifts. But, we must not forget that we are God’s gift to a broken world.

Christmas means work!

Each day, we are challenged to some our work. Christmas compels us to put our faith into action. It reminds us that we must be ready and willing to receive the gift that children and youth bring to our communities. Christmas tells us that we must live into our covenant to nurture young people in the faith until they can claim the faith.

Christmas means work!

It is a reminder that like Christ, we are the Word that must become flesh and dwell among God’s people. Christmas is an invitation to meet the needs of a broken world. It is an opportunity to be. Remember St. Teresa of Ávila said,

“Christ has no body but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which He looks
 Compassion on this world,
 Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
 Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
 Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
 Christ has no body now but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks
 compassion on this world.
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Christmas means work!

Bonus . . . First youth and adult to tell Rori what PEMDAS means gets a prize.



**Calvary Refuge
 Homeless Center
 Forest Park, GA**

One of the ongoing Mission projects that is supported at Bethel is a monthly meal prepared by the people of Bethel for Calvary Refuge Center. We also provide sack lunches and breakfast items for the next day. We are told by Jesus to “Feed My Lambs.” and this is feeding His lambs in a very fulfilling way. Make plans in the New Year to go with us each month. You don’t have to have any special talents, just be there. If you need more information on this Ministry, see one of the members of the Mission team. There will be announcements about the times each month. See you then! The dates for each month are to the right.

Calvary Refuge Dates for
 2021

- January 09
- February 13
- March 13
- April 10
- May 08
- June 12
- July 10
- August 14
- September 11
- October 09
- November 13
- December 11

**Bethel Service
 Time 11:00**

Third Sunday Donations

Please remember your Third Sunday donations for these mission initiatives:



| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Liz Sparks | 1-03 |
| Kellie Frissell | 1-04 |
| Paul Mauger | 1-06 |
| Autumn Scott | 1-10 |
| Audrey Black | 1-14 |
| Lance Brooking | 1-18 |
| Mark McElroy | 1-23 |
| Greg Scott | 1-25 |
| Lynette Hill | 1-27 |
| Ron Beavers | 1-28 |
| Robert White | 1-30 |
| C.T. Davies | 1-30 |



| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Joan & Elliott McElroy | 1-13 |
| Catherine & Paul Johnson | 1-20 |
| J.P. & Mack Brown | 1-25 |

A Friend’s House is dedicated to meeting the emotional and physical needs of children in crisis. Please consider donating to A Friend’s House. Look for the Little Wooden House in the Narthex to make your donation.

Helping in His Name Food Pantry. As you enter or leave worship, don’t forget to place your donations of beans and rice in the supply bin near the church office.

