

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch	28 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	29 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	30 Church office closed	1 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX)
2	3 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC)	4 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 7:00 PM Backpack Buddies (FH)	5 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	6 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting (FH) 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	7 Church office closed 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC)	8 4:00 PM Calvary Refuge (FH)
9	10 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC)	11 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Ladies' Game Night (FH) 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	12 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	13 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC) 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	14 Church office closed 8:00 AM Hoke McNeal practice (WC)	15 8:00 AM United Methodist Men's Meeting 1:00 PM Mission Team - Family Fun Day (FH) 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX)
16 Beans&Rice and Friends House Sunday	17	18	19 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	20 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC) 7:00 PM UMW Joy Circle Meeting (FH)	21 Church office closed	22
23	24	25 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch	26 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	27 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	28 Church office closed	29
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A Note from the Pastor

Can It Be Real?

We live in a time when it is hard to trust. We fear the police and are suspicious of the government. We avoid eye contact with strangers. If a co-worker or neighbor does something kind, we question the motive. Even someone offering the gift of prayer can put us on alert. We desire love, respect, safety, and kindness, yet they often elude us because we have trust issues. Therefore, it is no wonder that when God is seeking our attention, we can miss him.

Our God, who loves us, often shows His love for us through people. Sometimes people are inspired by scripture or a blessing they have received. Therefore, they seek to bless others. God also uses people who may not know Him but feel a desire to perform an act of kindness. God's acts of love are not limited to human conduits. Animals and all of nature have played significant roles in channeling God's love. Despite the many ways God chooses to shower love upon us, we can be blinded to this love. Thankfully God never stops loving us. God never stops trying to get our attention.

When we consider God's love for us, the Bible is filled with examples. John 3:16 is a love that welcomes all into the family. *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* All of Psalm 23 is an expression of love, and the first verse speaks volumes. *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.* In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle tells us how to love and this manner of love illustrates how God loves us. *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* My favorite example is found in Jeremiah 29:11 *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

God's love for us is real. It is authentic, unconditional, continuous, consistent, and perfect. Hopefully, people everywhere will recognize and accept His love. God's love has no hidden agenda. God loves because He is love. 1 John 4:18 tells us *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*

Let us open our eyes to see how God is at work all around us and through us. Let us strive for perfection. Let us receive love and give love away. It is true, some people may not be receptive to receive love. Many times, we may encounter roadblocks of fear. Love anyway! If we are consistent and patient in sharing love, in time, hearts will.

Bethel United Methodist Church



# Oreo's Blog



It is May and the flowers are in bloom. Garden vegetables are growing and warm weather is here! I can go on walks every day—although the walks are getting earlier in the day, so it is not too hot. In the cold weather, we would wait until later in the day, when it wasn't so cold.

May is also when we celebrate Mother's Day. The Bible tells us to honor our Mother. You know, it is fun to do whatever you want – isn't it? Sleep when you want. Eat what you want. Do what you want. Right?

That's not what God says!

He says if we refuse to accept wisdom and instruction from our mother, we will make her feel ashamed. Make Mom feel proud!

Listen to her when she teaches you important lessons like how to keep your room tidy or how to be a good friend.

Here are some things you can tell her:

- I like the way you read to me.
- I like the way you help me when I'm hurt.
- I like it when you pray for me at bedtime.
- I like it when you hug me.
- I like it when you take me shopping.
- I love my Mom and I love you!

Oreo

### Church Staff

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WEB: [www.bethel-umc.com](http://www.bethel-umc.com)

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

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 Church Office  
 Rori Blakeney  
 Margaret Marlow, Organist  
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- |                         |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lucy Strauss            | Mallory B.                | *Ajani King              |
| John Denny and family   | Lynda Schoefelder         | *Eden Bankston           |
| Emery Folsom            | Sharyn Hope               | *Louise Whittaker        |
| Andrea Folkes           | William Akbar             | *Rick McNabb             |
| Paula Newbold           | Timothy Milton            | *Mavis Sewell            |
| Bill Newbold            | Larry Sharp               | *Timmy Graham            |
| Carolyn McInturff       | Susan Webb                | *Pat Pritchett           |
| Teri Roper              | Jimmy Jackson             | *Warren Sprayberry       |
| Jim Flood               | Samson Chapman            | *Sheila Readdy           |
| Micah Skelton           | Mary Frances Koch         | *Gloria Chamlee          |
| Pat Deloney             | Liz Dawson                | *Harry and Eldora Pierce |
| Doug McAfee             | Janice Gray               | * Windell McIntosh       |
| Gail Quinteros          | Patricia Strauss          | * Sarah Potts            |
| Phyllis Cowan           | Ken Smith                 | *Alisa Anderson          |
| Monique Searls          | Lee Shaffer               |                          |
| Eleanor Carter          | Rev. Glenn Dyer           |                          |
| Donna & Gwen Brautigang | David Parker              |                          |
| Denise Mainer           | Mark Johnson              |                          |
| Pam Redding             | Family of Cheryl Spratlin |                          |
| Jean Searls             | Family of Nell Redding    |                          |
| Natalie Walters         |                           |                          |
| Dianne Kozara           |                           |                          |
| Debra Bryant            |                           |                          |
| John Magee              |                           |                          |
| Brenda Parker           |                           |                          |
| Charles Pruitt          |                           |                          |
| Bill Frizzell           |                           |                          |
| Cora Johnson            |                           |                          |
| Tracey Redding          |                           |                          |
| Betty Williams          |                           |                          |
| Doris McKnight          |                           |                          |
| Billie Jo Strauss       |                           |                          |
| Lisa Milsapp            |                           |                          |
| Andy Blackburn          |                           |                          |

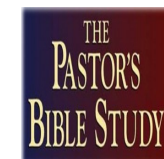
### LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

- \*Pansy Horton
- \*Donna Thomas
- \*Shirley Walters
- \*Jeff Sanders
- \*Nicholas Jerome Scott
- \*Betty Brooking
- \*Paula Frizzell
- \*Lily Eubanks
- \*Allison Spence

### GENERAL GIVING FOR April 2021

April 04	\$9,241.00
April 11	5,036.00
April 18	4,065.00
April 25	<u>2,864.00</u>
Total	\$21,206.00

Come ZOOM with us



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 limited in-person activities until further notice.**

Be sure to check for online activities.



It is amazing the things that stick with you. I still remember things that my parents, Sunday School teachers and neighbors instilled in me as a child and teenager. Statements like haste makes waste or always wear clean undergarments because you never know when you may have to go to the hospital. One of my favorites is April Showers Bring May Flowers.

Last week as I rode through a hail storm, I thought about all the April showers. It seems like we had lots of rain this year. So, I am looking forward to some pretty blooms this month. But, we have had some spiritual showers in April.

Our young people, along with the congregation, have done some pretty awesome things in April. They are continuing to renovate space in the lower level of the fellowship hall. We expect to see that new space on Sunday, May 30 after the 11 a.m. service. After many weeks of hard work, we installed the Bethel Butterflies on Holy Saturday. It has been a joy to see how such a simple act challenges one's life. On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the youth led in worship. They did an excellent job.

Our young people are bloomin'. They are growing in confidence. Their faith is being strengthened. This is all because of you, Bethel. Continue to be open to how God is calling you as a congregation and as an individual to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Paul's words are true in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." So Bethel, let's keep planting and watering and leave the bloomin' to God.



**Saturday, May 15th, 1 PM until 5 PM**  
**Free Outdoor Games and Tacos to Go**  
**Silent Auction**



**The Bethel Touch -- A Creative Eye**

Do you have a creative eye? Well. The youth are looking for someone to help them put the final touches on their new space. We anticipate having a work day on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> to make preparation for the ribbon cutting. If you are willing to help, please contact Rori.

**Save the Date**

Mark Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. It will be a big day at Bethel. We will celebrate our graduate(s). The youth will lead in worship. In addition, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new youth den followed by lunch on the church grounds. We will have a few food trucks. Please RSVP your attendance so we can plan appropriately. It is a great day to invite family and friends.

**Is there a Graduate?**

Graduation Season is upon. If you have a graduate, please e-mail their information to [youth@bethel-umc.com](mailto:youth@bethel-umc.com). We certainly want to make this a milestone occasion. Let's hear it for the Class of 2021.

**Bethel Service**

**11:00 a.m.**

**See you in church**

**Third Sunday Donations**

Please remember your Third Sunday donations for these mission initiatives:

**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.



Pam Gay	5-02
Christy Hunt	5-03
Nick Sparks	5-04
Brian McClure	5-05
Mack Brown	5-07
Beryl McDermott	5-07
Noah Duncan	5-11
Valerie Shelton	5-16
Johnny Goodwin	5-17
Nancy Beavers	5-19
Donna Maye	5-19
Helen Horton	5-23
Audrey Johnson	5-23
Richard Johnson	5-29
Robert Coleman	5-29
Vennie Walden	5-30



Linda & Charlie Henderson	5-02
Pam & Rich Randell	5-22
Nancy & Ron Beavers	5-25

**Calvary Refuge Center**



**Saturday, May 8 th**

Meet In Fellowship Hall at 4:00 PM to make sandwiches.

Leave for Calvary at 5:30 PM to serve evening meal.

Come for Part or All.