



2022



A Note from Pastor Rates .....

Seasons Change

Last night as I was winding down from a crazy weekend; I fiddled around on my phone. And as I glanced on YouTube, my eye caught an add from Hobby Lobby announcing 50% off on Christmas trees. As I turned around (as if someone else was in the room - as most single folks do - Don't judge me!). I thought did I miss Christmas 2022? I know I have been busy, but gee whiz!

In three weeks, give a day or two - we will change seasons, admittedly I've gotten a hard start on fall, purchasing Pumpkin Spice Latte's from Dunkin Donuts, they do know their girl! Yet even the trees started changing when we weren't looking.

As we bid farewell to summer 2022, what was the memorable change you can think of? Some of us lost loved ones, others are prepping for weddings, and all of Bethel experienced a pastoral change. Pastors come with differing gifts and skills; and the ones who believe in the potential of their congregation will push you like Debbie Allen did, in the intro to the TV show "Fame" as she stomped her dancer's stick to the floor.

I believe in you Bethel, I know what you are capable of. I feel it in your spirit, your callings, your dedication and in your activeness. The setting of God is vibrant, alive, and full of potential to set the community in which it serves on fire!

Luke 12:49 shares, "I have come to bring fire on earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" Well let's make this wish come true. Be open to change that makes sense for the good of the whole. Ideas and visions that will set Bethel on fire for the future, long after all of us are gone. I can only lead where you are willing to go; but can also give the gentle nudge like a Choo, Choo train that says "I think I can, I think I can!"

If you hold tight to "your personal" tradition that makes you happy and comfortable; then you might miss out on opportunities to make a valuable difference in the lives of others thru necessary ideas that will activate that ministry. What are you willing to let go of to help Christ light that fire?

Hear these quotes on change; and meditate from scripture on how Christ challenged the status quo to change:

"It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change".

Charles Darwin

"Each of us has the opportunity to change and grow until our very last breath. Happy creating."

M. F. Ryan.

"Change or die? I'll chose life! How about you?"

Dave Kerpen

May you be so welcoming of change: That Spirit will burst forth in a new song that captivates not only your heart, but the hearts of others too.



Our next JOY Circle meeting is **Sept 17 at 10 a.m.** in the lower level of the Chapel.

We just had a wonderful Ladies Out to Lunch in August at Hacienda in McDonough. The food was fantastic, the service amazing, and the company at the table was the best you could ask for! Thank you to those who were able to come out. We believe our final count was 21 ladies and 3 gentlemen!

A few things coming up quickly... We will be providing desserts for the Fish Fry to benefit the Mission Team September 24. Feel free to add to the table, and don't forget to take something delicious home with you. We will make sure to have some sugar-free desserts.

The North Georgia Conference United Women in Faith is celebrating 50 years on October 1 at our Annual Meeting at Griffin First UMC. You do have to register for this by September 17. Register here: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=709007&> either for light breakfast, meeting and lunch or just for meeting. We should say that the lunch portion will be something you won't want to miss. Download a flyer here: <https://nguwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/UWF22-AnnualMtg-final.pdf>

JOY Circle will be participating in Trunk or Treat this year at Bethel on October 29. Come bring your ideas to the September meeting so we can plan ahead for a JOYful 'Trunk'!



In remembrance of September 11th this year, try to find a place to volunteer and perform a service to the people in your community. Make this a day to make this world a kinder place for all of us to live in.



**Mission Team Sponsored Lunch**

**Sunday, September 18th**

**Following 11:00 Service**

**Price: \$10:00 Per Adult Plate**

**\$5.00 for Children under 12**

**The meal consists of Homemade Baked Ham, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Dessert and a Drink**

**The Mission Team plans to serve a meal one Sunday in each Quarter.**

**Bethel Service**

**Times:**

*Sunday School*

*9:45-10:45am*

*Traditional Service*

*11:00am*



On August 10, 2022 Rev. Shari Rates and friends will provide our friends at Calvary with a dinner meal, breakfast and sack lunch for the following day. If you would like to help with this, meet at the church at 4:00 pm to make sandwiches and prepare Saturday evening's meal. We will leave for Calvary at 5:30 pm. Come join us for part or all of the preparation on that day

**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.



Lunch Bunch will meet on September 13 at the church at 11 a.m. or at the Restaurant at 11:15. We are going to O'Charley's in Stockbridge

**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.

**Church Staff**

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**Mission Team Fish Fry**

**Saturday, September 24th**

**11:00 AM until 3:00 PM**

**Meal consists of Fried Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Hushpuppies and Drink**

**Price \$10.00 Per Plate**

**Come Enjoy The Best Fish in Town**



Jenny Umberger	9-02
Terry Bolt	9-02
Elliott McElroy	9-07
J.P. Brown	9-07
Tomika Johnson	9-10
Gabrielle Williams	9-10
George Pinson	9-17
Steve Gay	9-17
Kimberly Cowan-Keane	9-18
Joe Everidge	9-22
Eloise Matthie	9-25
Vickie Pinson	9-25



Shirley & Bud Freeman	9-01
Cindy & Lance Brooking	9-16
Deb & Randall Carter	9-16
Tonya & Randy Godwin	9-17
Jogi & Paul Mauger	9-21



## Let's Get to Work

Recently, I heard the statement "The ground is wet." I cannot remember who said it. I don't even recall the context that I heard the statement.

It struck me as somewhat odd. Yet, the statement made an impact. I have been thinking about what it means. I have decided that it means the ground is fertile. It is right for growth. It is the perfect time to plant.

As I think about wet ground and planting, I realize Christ's words ring true today. In Matthew 9:37-38 NRSV, we read, Then, he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Bethel, those words remain true. The ground known as Stockbridge, Ellenwood and Decatur is wet. The Woodland Schools and Austin Road Schools and Stockbridge is wet with students.

Yet, God is expecting and calling us to labor in our vineyard. Will you seize this moment? Remember, the ground is wet!

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We have some great opportunities to connect, grow and invite others to join us. Take a moment and grab your calendars to make note of these events. Remember, each Thursday, we gather in the den starting at 5 p.m.

### **End of Summer/Back to School Luau**

Don't put those swimming trunks and bathing suits away. On Sunday, September 11 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., The Goodwins will host the youth and their families for an End of Summer/Back to School Luau. Sign up as soon as possible so we can prepare for you. Don't forget to bring a towel.



### **Detergent Pod Containers Needed**

Don't throw those plastic containers away. We need them as we prepare for trunk or treat. There is an orange box in the Narthex for your containers. You can drop them off on Sunday or during the week. Let's see if we can collect 50 containers.



## In Our Prayers

### Prayers Please

Dolly Smarr  
 Jane Cruce and family  
 Kathy Kerdsomboone  
 Charles Williams  
 Gloria Chamlee  
 Jeff Gwinn  
 Allison Spence  
 People of Ukraine  
 Priscilla Estes  
 Liz Sparks  
 Those suffering with COVID and their  
 Caregivers  
 Pat Deloney

Family of Windell McIntosh- passed  
 away June 10  
 Family of Dan Crawford- Father of  
 Suzanne Crawford-HMT

### LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

\*Nancy Shealy  
 \*Cora Johnson  
 \*Donna Thomas  
 \*Shirley Walters  
 \*Nicholas Jerome Scott  
 \*Lily Eubanks  
 \*Ajani King  
 \*Eden Bankston  
 \*Rick McNabb  
 \*Mavis Sewell  
 \*Timmy Graham

\*Pat Pritchett  
 \*Eldora Pierce  
 \*Harry Pierce  
 \*Alisa Anderson

\*\*\*We will remove names from the prayer list after 30 days. Please  
 notify the church office if they need to stay on.

## GENERAL GIVING FOR AUGUST 2022

August 07	\$5,115.00
August 14	\$3,460.00
August 21	\$3,619.25
<u>August 28</u>	<u>\$2,410.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,604.25</b>



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 Saturday at 10:00 am in the lower level of the Chapel.

### **Seasoned Saints**

We will resume our Lunches on September 20th at 12:00 noon. On the menu is: Lasagna, Salad, Bread and Dessert. Following lunch we will play a rousing game of bingo. Make plans to attend and bring a friend.





# Trunk or Treat

October is almost here, and it is time to start making plans for Bethel's Trunk or Treat on October 29th. Now is the time to start searching for ideas for your Trunk. There are all kinds of ideas on Pinterest and other web sites. Some of these ideas will take a little planning, but it is so much fun. Sign up for a spot and start coming up with your special idea. The community came out in force last year, and we want to do even better this year.



Starting soon we will be collecting candy for Trunk or Treat. We ran a little short last year, and would like to do better this year. When you are out shopping please think about the need at Bethel to make sure no one is turned away.

## Sunday Servants

### September 04, 2022

Ushers: Team 3: Charlie Henderson, Linda Henderson, Sheila Ricks, Bo Shealy

Acolytes: Noah Duncan , Deidra Murphy

### September 11, 2022

Ushers: Team 1: Harold Moore, Jeanette Moore, Mary Ann Hill, Cathy Bell, Kimberly Cowan Keane

### September 18, 2022

Ushers: Team 2: Nick Sparks, Liz Sparks  
Donna Lollar, Ann Owens, Mark McElroy

Acolytes: Dayvon Duncan, Noah Duncan

### September 25, 2022

Ushers: Team 3: Charlie Henderson, Linda Henderson, Sheila Ricks, Bo Shealy

Acolytes: Zoey Hudson, Gabrielle Williams



We will not have a regular nursery , but if you or another worshiper are in need of putting a child in the nursery, please see an usher. We have volunteers who are available.

## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 11:00am Sunday Worship (WC)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Praise Band Practice (WC)	<b>31</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice (CH)	<b>1</b> 8:00am Food Co-op Meeting (FH) 5:00pm Thursdays In the Den (CH)	<b>2</b> Church office closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 11:00am Sunday Worship (WC)	<b>5</b> Church Office closed	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Praise Band Practice (WC)	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice (CH)	<b>8</b> 5:00pm Thursdays In the Den (CH) 6:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting (CR)	<b>9</b> Church office closed	<b>10</b> 9:30am Choir Workshop (CH) 12:00pm Troop 10340 Journey In a Day (FH) 4:00pm Calvary Refuge (FH)
<b>11</b> 11:00am Sunday Worship (WC) 2:00pm Youth Pool Party - Goodwins	<b>12</b> 5:00pm Girl Scout Unit 622 Recruiting Event (FH)	<b>13</b> 11:00am Lunch Bunch - <del>Chorale</del> 6:30pm Backpack Buddies (FH) 7:00pm Church Council (CR) 7:00pm Praise Band Practice (WC)	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice (CH)	<b>15</b> 8:00am Food Co-op Meeting 5:00pm Thursdays In the Den (CH)	<b>16</b> Church office closed	<b>17</b> 8:00am United Methodist Men's Meeting (FH) 10:00am UWF-Joy Circle Meeting (LCH)
<b>18</b> <del>Beans&amp;Rice</del> and Friends House Sunday 11:00am Sunday Worship (WC) 12:15pm Mission Team Sunday Dinner Fundraiser (FH)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Praise Band Practice (WC)	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice (CH)	<b>22</b> 5:00pm Thursdays In the Den (CH)	<b>23</b> Church office closed	<b>24</b> <del>Mission</del> Team Fish Fry (FH) and Yard Sale (AX)
<b>25</b> 11:00am Sunday Worship (WC)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00am Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Praise Band Practice (WC)	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice (CH)	<b>29</b> 5:00pm Thursdays In the Den (CH)	<b>30</b> Church office closed	<b>1</b> 9:00am Troop 10340 Journey In a Day (FH and CH)