



Bethel United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

Knowing, Loving, Serving...so the world will experience Christ's love!

December 2018

www.bethelmethodistcolumbia.com



IT IS NOT DONE!

It is not done. God is not done with this world. Advent is the season when we prepare our hearts for the new possibilities that God is birthing into our lives. God is working on a great

reversal and it begins

with Mary, a lowly peasant pregnant with a King. Then the Word made flesh is born, unable able to speak a word. The mystery of God is revealed as a baby who only has the ability to love and be loved.

God is turning everything on its head. The love that comes down at Christmas is not about power. Or control. It's about vulnerability. It's about selfless action. It's about hope.

This hope is beautifully expressed in my favorite Ann Weems poem, Angels Still Appear:

**Angels still appear to those
ready to receive blessings
in spite of the barren
impossibility of their lives.
Blessings still come
to those who believe**



**that nothing is impossible
in the hand of God.**

**In spite of war and terror,
Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.**

**In spite of hunger,
Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.**

**In spite of lost sheep,
Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd.**

**In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred,
Mary gives birth to LOVE.**

It is not done!

It is not done!

It is not done!

The birthing is not over.

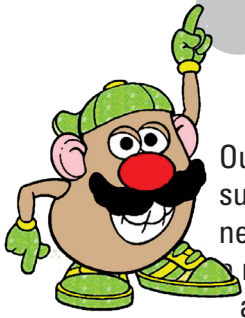
The blessings continue.

Angels wait in the wings!

My friends, this Advent, you are invited to journey with the God who will not leave us in fear and darkness but instead, whose light shines and makes all things new. Let us have the courage to turn towards the light this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.



Bethel's PRESCHOOL NEWS



Our Baked Potato and Salad Supper was a supper success! We raised \$709.00 for our new playground. I believe there was record attendance for this event. We appreciate everyone who supported us!

In celebration of National Author's Day and National Young Reader's Day, we had two guest readers. The first was Lucy Gordon and the other was another former four-year-old teacher at Bethel, Mrs. Sandy Cromer. Lucy read a Clifford the Big Red Dog book and one of her favorites, "Make Way for Ducklings". Both children and teachers always enjoy her reading! Sandy brought books that she had written and illustrated and shared those with the children. She talked to them about how they too could be authors. We appreciate both ladies taking time to come be with us!



On Thursday November 16, our four-year-old class celebrated Thanksgiving with their Friendship Feast. Their parents attended, and the children performed a play about the First Thanksgiving. This is always a fun, special morning.

Our first annual Pancake Supper with Santa was a big success! Fun was had by all and the sausage was delicious as was the pancakes. Santa was great and the children delightful.

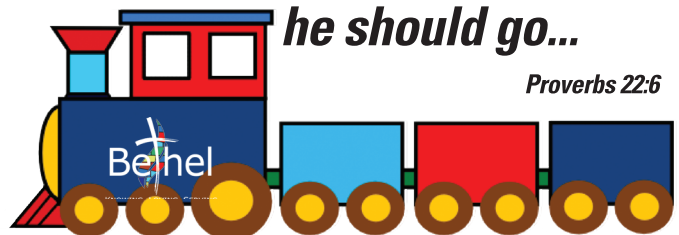
The Christmas pageant will be on December 20 at 9:30 in the sanctuary. All of you are invited to come see these precious children act out the birth of our Savior. This is always a wonderful production. This program will last approximately 45 minutes.

Blessings,
Carol Burger, Preschool Director



*Train up a child in the way
he should go...*

Proverbs 22:6



LET'S REVIVE THE PUPPET MINISTRY!!



“ How much longer do we have to stay in these plastic bins in this dark attic, Lizard?

“ I don't know, Frog, but hopefully it won't be too much longer! Did you hear them talking

about us a couple of weeks ago? I'm afraid they were thinking about donating us to another church . . . sigh . . . I don't want to leave Bethel – it's our home!”

“Yes, they were talking about donating us, but then that other guy said he'd like to keep us – what a relief. Maybe it won't be much longer before we'll be out and entertaining children and adults just like we were made to do.”

You may remember some of the puppet shows our youth performed several years ago. They were so much fun to watch, for all ages, and even more fun to participate in. I first began using puppets when I taught school. Not only do you teach “lessons” using puppets, but they are a wonderful tool that brings out the “quiet” child – you know, the one who speaks in whispers, if he or she talks at all. Sometimes I couldn't believe what I was hearing behind the puppet screen! And most of the time when that wall of silence was finally broken than the change in that child was absolutely remarkable. And, on the other hand you have the child that loves to perform – loves to talk!

Folks of all ages can be in a puppet show! As great as it is to include children and youth in a puppet show, don't forget that adults can get in on the fun as well!

What kind of puppets do we have that are just itching to perform again? How about 57 puppets (valued over \$1000.00) just raring to get out of those bins and once again begin their Christian Puppet Ministry with others?!

Is God whispering in your ear to start up the Puppet Ministry again? Would you like to volunteer to help with a Puppet Ministry? All you have to do is tell Jason, and we'll get started!

In Christ, Bonnie Lutz

PRAY Daily for Bethel, Bethel friends & family!

Sarah Califf; Herman Berry; Myra Jackson; Leo Foster; Vicky Hill; Nancy Johnson at The Blake; Connie Fowke, Betty Onley and Carmen Pool at Rice Estates; Gloria Pruitt at home; Claude Murphy at Encompass; Mary Kirby at Waterford; Sarah Parker; Gwen Barrs; Irene Boyd; Sarah Parker; Martie Funderburk, Encompass; Kay Fraiser; Please continue to keep these people in your hearts during your daily prayer time. Also please continue to pray for Bethel, her leaders and her ministry. Please pray for safe travels for those who will be traveling over the holidays.



Keep our young adults in your thoughts and prayers as they are away at school. We wish them much success.

Clemson University—Brian Burger, Mary Sydney George

Lander University—McKenzie Furr

USC—Jennie Joe Wiltshire;

Andrew Garnto; Dillon Garnto

USC Sumter—Alan Farmer

Johns Hopkins— Abbie Bowman

Auburn University Vet School—

Kelly Farmer

Midlands Tech—Dana Garnto



November Scrapbook Reflections

THANKS
We were able
to collect
63 shoeboxes for
Operation
Christmas Child



A Special THANKS to
Janel Bell and Marcie Marshall
For their hard work in making mats for the homeless.
We had a special blessing of our 26 mats.

CONGRATS
to Travis Belman, our
2018 Chili Cook-Off
Champion



Isabelle Wood on her up-coming lead
role in AC Flora's
production of *As You Like It*.

Lindsay Conrath on her recent role in the
play *Zannadoo*, put on by the
Children's Theatre



SPECIAL CONGRATS
Cameron Wood for
our Junior Chili
Cook-Off Champion





KNOW ♦ **LOVE** ♦ **SERVE**

The Youth Ministry of Bethel UMC exist, to bring youth to **KNOW** Christ personally, to share the **LOVE** of Christ with everyone and **SERVE** Christ in our community.

YOUTH PARENT MEETING—DEC 2nd at 4 PM

We will have a brief meeting to discuss upcoming Spring & Summer activities.

EPWORTH ANGEL TREE

Youth bring \$10 on Sun Dec 2nd and we will go shopping for angel tree items. This will be during regular youth after the Parent Meeting.

CHRISTMAS PROGRESSIVE DINNER FROM 5-9 PM

We will go from house to house for a three course meal. Bring a wrapped present (\$10 limit) for a gift exchange.

<u>DECEMBER</u>	
2	Youth Parent Meeting
9	NO Youth
15	Christmas Progressive Dinner
16	Church Christmas Dinner
23	NO Youth
30	Youth

UP COMING EVENTS



January 25-27

Cost: \$25

Deadline is Dec 9



Salkehatchie

July 20-27

Lake Murray Camp

Cost: \$130

Deadline is Feb 3



Details are being worked out..

This a gathering of other UM Youth from all over the US.

If you are interested, see Jason.



The 2019 UMCSC Adult Spiritual Retreat

January 29-31

Landmark Resort , Myrtle Beach

Rev. Angela Ford Nelson

(keynote speaker)

Bible study, workshops, recreation and fellowship

Cost \$185 (includes four meals and 2 receptions)

1 person/room: \$170 for two nights

2 people/room \$170 for two nights

3 people/room \$201 for two nights

4 people/room \$215 for two nights

Hosted by Adult Ministries of the SC Annual Conference

Deadline for retreat registration/hotel booking at
conference rate: Dec. 30

See Jason to register and for more information



Feeding the Multitudes at Transitions! Bethels' faithful disciples!

**Don't Forget, Fun,
Food and Fellowship!**

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 5:30

Come and join us for a night of
good food and fellowship.

Bring a covered dish and meat
and drinks will be provided!

Please sign up by calling church
office or contacting Jason at
bjasonbarrs@gmail.com



YOU ARE INVITED

Would you like to go on a trip to sunny Myrtle Beach while enjoying the sights?

Join other Senior Adults for a great time of traditional gospel music,
bible teaching and some great laughs.

A \$75 deposit per person would be due by Sunday, December 30th.

Lodging prices:

- 4 per room \$139 (per person)
- 3 per room \$159 (per person)
- 2 per room \$189 (per person)

If you are interested in this opportunity see Jason Barrs for an information packet.

**TIS THE SEASON TO COUNT
YOUR MANY BLESSINGS**

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS
NAME THEM
ONE BY ONE
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE**



December 2018 Calendar of Events



Saturday, December 1

- 10:00 Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
- 8:00 Upper Room Prayerline (CR)

Sunday, December 2

Christmas Cantata

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:40 Children's Music (CR)
- 9:45 SS/Bible Study (EB)
- 11:00 Worship (S)
- 4:15 Handbells (CR)
- 4:30 Youth Parent Meet (PAB)

Monday, December 3

Commitment Cards due

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)
- 10:00 Staff Meeting (CR)
- 1:30 BUMS Meeting (NJC)
- 6:00 Trustee (CR)
- 6:00 Holy Yoga (S)
- 7:00 Long Range Plan (CR)

Tuesday, December 4

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 11:30 Transitions (offsite)
- 6:45 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Wednesday, December 5

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Chapel (S)
- 2:00 Pray for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 Preschool Advisory (CR)
- 6:00 Reach Practice (PAB)

Thursday, December 6

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 6:00 Advent Bible Study (HCR)

Friday, December 7

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)

Sunday, December 9

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Handbell Rehearsal (S)
- 9:40 Children's Music (CR)
- 9:45 SS/Bible Study (EB)
- 11:00 Worship (S)
- 12:00 Youth Lunch Outing
- 6:00 Choir Christmas Party (offsite)

Monday, December 10

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)
- 6:00 Holy Yoga (S)

Tuesday, December 11

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 11:30 Belle Dent Luncheon (Travina's)
- 6:45 Choir (CR)
- 6:00 Syliva Hulse Christmas Party (TBA)

Wednesday, December 12

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Chapel (S)
- 2:00 Pray for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 Reach Practice (PAB)

Thursday, December 13

- 8:30 Preschool
- 6:00 Advent Bible Study (HCR)

Friday, December 14

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 6:00 Holroyd Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16

Baby Alice Ann Burnett Baptized

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Handbells Rehearsal (S)
- 9:40 Children's Music (CR)
- 9:45 SS/Bible Study (EB)
- 11:00 Worship (S)
- 4:15 Handbells (CR)
- 5:30 Bethel Christmas Coverdish Fellowship Supper (PAB)

Monday, December 17

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:00 Stewardship (CR)
- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)
- 6:00 Church Council (PAB)
- 6:00 Holy Yoga (S)

Tuesday, December 18

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 6:45 Choir (CR)

Wednesday, December 19

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 2:30 Pray for Bethel (CR)

Thursday, December 20

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Christmas Pageant (S) Christmas Holiday begins
- 2:30 Kitchen Com. (PAB)
- 6:00 Advent Bible Study (HCR)

Sunday, December 23

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:40 Children's Music (CR)
- 9:45 SS/Bible Study (EB)
- 11:00 Worship (S)
- 4:15 Handbells (CR)

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 12:00 Christmas Eve Communion Service (S)
- 5:30 Candlelight Communion Service (S)

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 30

5th Sunday Worship

- 9:00 Breakfast and fellowship (PAB)
- 10:00 Blended Worship (S)
- 4:30 Youth

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve

CR	Conference Room
EB	Education Building
NLC	New Life Class
NJC	New Journey Class
PAB	Pool Activities Building
S	Sanctuary

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 5 Gloria Pruett
- 6 Chan Joye
- 6 Paul Giametta
- 8 Sterling Davis
- 9 Ae Byrn
- 10 Herman Berry
- 13 Carol Burger
- 14 Francis May
- 15 Pat Clark
- 19 Jenny Curran
- 25 Christian Davis
- 31 Sylvia Hulbert
- 31 Sylvia Joye

Anniversaries

- 19 David and Martie Walker

Sunday, December 30
Breakfast at 9:00
ONE Worship at 10!



Join us for Coffee and Breakfast in the PAB before Celebrating the many Gifts God has given US in a Blended Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10!

Serving the Congregation in October

Greeters

- December 2 Arnette and Ron Jordan, Brenda Shealy
- December 9 Paulette Price, Adelyn Price, David Walker
- December 16 Eugene Appleman, Sandra Wayson, Bonnie Speas
- December 23 Frances and Ken May, Brenda Shealy
- December 24 Sally and Frank Hafner, Debbie Carter
- December 30 Anne and John Mathis, Iva Dell Griffith

Ushers

- December 2 Dan Toma, Brenda Shealy, David Barnes, Bonnie Speas
- December 9 Chuck Ward, Ken Wood, Larry Cope, John Mathis
- December 16 Kimberly Wilson, Dianna Elliott, Janel Bell, Arnette Jordan
- December 23 Diane Roddey, Debbie Carter, Bill Lucas, Frank Hafner
- December 30 Fred Brown, Kate Brown, Charles Byrn, Ken May

Sound System Operator

- December 2 David Walker
- December 9 Joe Weir
- December 16 Joe Weir
- December 23 David Walker
- December 24 David Walker
- December 30 Joe Weir

Acolyte/Crucifer

- December 2 Will Barrs
- December 9 Sterling Davis
- December 16 Foster Barrs
- December 23 Jordan Davis
- December 24 Emily Rose Walker/Hannah Curran
- December 30 Christopher Walker

Children's Moment/Scripture

- December 2 Julie Belman
- December 9 Louise Davis
- December 16 Bonnie Lutz
- December 23 Marian Scullion
- December 30 Jason Barrs

Offering Counters

- December 2 Debbie Carter, Cathy Crumpler
- December 9 Ken May, Ron Jordan
- December 16 Frank Hafner, Charles Byrn
- December 23 Chuck Ward, Bill Lucas
- December 24 Mike Hellams, Sharon Bonniville
- December 30 Kimberly Wilson, Sara Derrick

Sanctuary Preparation

Dale Eaddy and Beth Welch

Sanctuary Lock up after Service

Ken Wood andn Dianna Elliott

Communion Servers

Kimberly Wilson, Dave Barnes, Dianna Elliott