



Bethel United Methodist Church

The Messenger

KNOWING, LOVING, SERVING...SO THE WORLD WILL EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LOVE

August 2019

www.bethelmethodistcolumbia.com

Jesus said, "Go and do likewise." *Luke 10:37*

The parable of the Good Samaritan is often said to be about hospitality. And it is. But it's also about Hospitality's close cousin, Generosity. **Have you ever noticed that the Good Samaritan really goes above and beyond?** He doesn't simply notice the man laying beside the Jericho Road. He doesn't just offer to call for help. Instead, he takes his own precious time AND his financial resources and offers them generously to a total stranger. He not only carries the injured man to safety, but pays for his continued care. He not only pays for one night's lodging, he tells the innkeeper to do whatever is needed and gives his word to come and pay the debt. It's pretty amazing when you think about it, really.

I always wonder, how did the conversation between this Good Samaritan and his family go when he arrived home that evening. "Honey, you won't believe....the most surprising thing happened to me today when I was on the Jericho road!" His spouse or other family members might have chastised him: "You stopped for a Jew? You could have been killed! They hate us, you know." Or what about this, "You spent how much money? On a perfect stranger?"

Or maybe his family was just awfully proud of him. We don't know. What we do know is that Jesus commended him for his behavior. He put himself out there - put himself at risk.

He did something that appears, at first glance, to be reckless. **He went out of his way with his generosity.** He did this because he knew it mattered and he knew he had the ability, with the resources he had been entrusted with, to save a life.

Can I tell you something? Something that really matters? **You, too, have the chance to save a life.** In fact, you are already doing so. There are people who walk through the doors of Bethel United Methodist Church and experience a love so dramatic, so complete, so true that their lives are changed. Utterly transformed. Such is the power of God's love working through us. It almost takes your breath away, doesn't it?

Jesus encourages his listeners, "Go, and do the same." Go, be like the Good Samaritan. Go, tell this story to others. Go, take seriously what you've heard here today.

We here at Bethel are called to "Go, and do the same." We, too, have the opportunity to save lives - both literally and in a transformational sense. What a gift. What an honor. Thanks be to God.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Julie

Preschool News

The last day of Summer Camp was July 25th. We ended with our Luau Week and the last day was a field day. The weather ended up being so beautiful, we decided to take it outside!

Preschool will begin the Fall schedule on August 26. There are still vacancies in our 3 and 4-year-old classes. If you know of someone who is interested, have them call the Preschool 787-3089.

We are still in need of funds to add new fencing around the playground. Donations are still being accepted. We would like to put a black chain-link fence along the sidewalk side and behind the Education Building with a double gate. We would like to add a tan vinyl privacy fence on the end by the cooking shed and along the side between the houses. The cost for this is \$5,200.00 of which we have \$3,000.00. If you would like to make a donation, mark your envelope Playground donation. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

-Carol

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

Proverbs 22:6



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Did you know that Pastor Julie has a special account used to help community members in need?



This account is not funded by the budget but by special gifts that come in through your generous donations, left at the communal rail or designated giving.

During the week, many folks stop by the church looking for help. When we can, we direct them to community agencies like The Cooperative Ministries, Family Promise, or the Rehoboth Food Pantry. Other times, we are able to provide the assistance they need.

So far in 2019 Bethel has provided:

Emergency Shelter for a family traveling

Weekly Bus passes for those needing transportation assistance

Bus Tickets to visit sick family members

Utility Bill Assistance

Laundry Assistance

Grocery Gift Cards

Prayer, a cup of cold water, and Counseling (all free!)

Please speak with Pastor Julie if you would like to contribute to helping our neighbors in need!

A Prayer Chain is being formed at Bethel!

Here is how it will work...

The person requesting prayers will call the minister, the person's name will be confidential unless otherwise told it's ok to use the person's name. The minister will call the first person on the list, share the request, hang up and offer up a prayer, the person called by the minister will call the second person on the list, share, hang up and offer a prayer, and so on until all have called the person listed after their name. If a person does not answer/line is busy, then skip to the next number - just make certain to tell that person that the number was skipped. This will not be a time to chat with the person calling as we will want to get the prayer request out as quickly as possible. Please help us out - we want as many volunteers as possible! Contact Debbie Carter - 315-8014 or Bonnie Lutz - 738-1574 if you decide to be a part of this important ministry.

PRAY Daily for Bethel friends & family!

Margaret & David Hinze, GA; Nancy Johnson, Wildewood Downs; Mary Kirby, Waterford; Claude Murphy, Forest Pines; Betty Onley, Carman Pool, Rice Estates; Harold Nally; Harry & Sarah Parker, Still Hopes; Irene Boyd; Connie Fowke, Horace Jackson NHC; Gloria Pruet, Fran Love, home; Kay Fraiser, Clara Hunsucker, Larry Cope, John Mathis.

Please continue to keep these people in your hearts. Also, please continue to pray for Bethel, her leaders and her ministry.



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

Clemson University—Mary Sydney George, Turner Prewitt.

Coastal Carolina—Christopher Walker

Johns Hopkins—Abbie Bowman

Lander University—McKenzie Furr

Midlands Tech—Dana Garnto

USC Columbia—Andrew & Dylan Garnto, Wilhelm Elliott.

USC Sumter—Alan Farmer

Basic Training—Russell Isaacs Jr.

Happenings in Bethel's Community

The BUMS (Bethel United Methodist Seniors) Are Back!

We will meet this Monday, August 5th at 1:30 in the New Journey classroom to discuss our upcoming year! We can't wait to plan our excursions and look forward to fellowship and fun! Come one, come all—the more the merrier! Bring your ideas and be ready to discuss. We look forward to seeing you!

Contact Cheryl Johnson (738-2611) or Mary Ott (787-3103) if you have any questions about the BUMS!



Our dedicated Transitions group faithfully serve every month.



Mary Ann Weir and Kate Brown went to Dallas for a week long training class to become Stephen Ministry Leaders. They completed their training and are now ready to start a Stephen Ministry program at Bethel. They will begin to introduce the Stephen Ministry to the congregation soon!

Bethel will be hosting Family Promise the week of September 22th-29th! We are thankful for all our faithful volunteers with this ministry and invite others to volunteer as well. If you have any questions about Family Promise and ways to get involved during our host week please contact one of our coordinators.

Brenda Harper—Dinner Coordinator, 803-603-5932

Martie Walker—Evening/Overnight Host Coordinator, 803-212-8256

Bonnie Speas—Host Coordinator, 803-727-8515



Pastor Julies Prayer Series, Month #1

With so many competing demands on our time, we can't always make it to church on Sunday. How do we continue to grow in our Christian faith? How do we find spiritual sustenance and meaning? One of the answers is: Prayer!

Over the next few months I will be sharing information on different prayer practices with you in our monthly newsletter. It is my hope that each of these may be of blessing to you and your family! For this month we'll start with young children- a great time to start teaching prayer!

Anyone with a toddler can speak to the power of imitation. They start to imitate our gestures, our actions, our rituals, sometimes surprising us with how much attention they pay to the things we were sure they didn't see or hear. (Travis and I have surely learned this lesson with our three!) Young children are learning all the time! They especially learn from our example. Our prayer practices are no exception. Little ones learn about God by watching us.

There are many possibilities when praying with young children, I'll focus on just a few. One way of praying, even with the very littlest of babies is to pray God's blessings over them. The words can be as simple as "*God, bless this child and guide their life.*" Or it can be a long, sleepless complicated ramble of a prayer offered at 3 in the morning (I have prayed many of these prayers for my own children!) Whether they are asleep or awake, these prayers are covering our children and establishing a foundation.

During my time of hospital chaplaincy, one of the units under my care was the maternity ward. Only after scrubbing my hands and arms all the way up past my elbows would I be allowed to enter the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where the Very Sick Babies were. I would go in and sometimes I'd get to lay a finger on their tiny bodies and sometimes there was no piece of them that was reachable through all the medical equipment.

I would pray over these little babies, prayers of comfort and healing and delight; prayers of accompaniment and hope. Sometimes their mothers were there to pray. Sometimes mama had her own healing to do and was not able to be with the babies. Sometimes dad would be there keeping vigil. I prayed over them all and it was the best part of my day. When we pray with the littlest of children, we recognize and celebrate the presence of God with them, and with us.

Another way of praying is to establish a gratitude practice. That sounds fancier than it really is. Have you read the children's classic *Goodnight Moon*? Perhaps you are a grandparent and you read it many moons ago but you still remember it. In this beautiful children's book, a bunny goes through a ritual of naming all the things in the room and then saying good night to them all. "Goodnight room. Goodnight moon. Goodnight cow jumping over the moon. Goodnight light, and the red balloon. Goodnight bears. Goodnight chairs" And so on. In a similar way we can pray gratitude with little ones while also helping their language acquisition. We can thank God for soft sheets in the crib. We can thank God for toys and tummy time. We can thank God for the moon as we say good night!



Finally, we can let our little ones see us praying, whether in our home, saying grace before meals, or praying in the evening or in church as we share joys and concerns, share in silence, speak words together, and even pray through our singing. Let them see us turning to God with our challenges. Let them hear us praising God for goodness. Let them experience the power of a community united in prayer.

There are many things competing for our time and attention in our world. We teach by example when we let the children in our lives see that God is important in our lives and that we can always make time for prayer.

If you would like to learn more about praying with children in your home or here at Bethel, please come talk with me!



BLESSING OF THE BOOKBAGS ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th

All students are invited to bring their backpack, lunch box or any other bag they carry to school for a special blessing in both

9:00 and 11:00 worship services. Also each family is asked to bring a 8x10 framed picture of each child to have for a special altar design.

PEEPS BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th FROM 4:30-6:00

Join us for a time of games, snack and devotion, as we celebrate a new school year!

Children's Ministry

Lunch & Learn

Join the Children's Ministry team on September 22 @ 12:15 for lunch, and learn about all of the fun and meaningful ways to volunteer with the Children's Ministry here at Bethel. Please RSVP by contacting Martie Walker @ 212-8256.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

RECOGNITION

SUNDAY,

AUGUST 25th

Join us in Traditional Worship as we take time to recognize and pray a special blessing on our Bethel Preschool Teachers.



Our 2019 Salkehatchie Team

Hannah Curran, Jordan Davis, Emma McQueen,
Christopher Walker and Jason Barrs

<u>AUGUST</u>	
4	Youth Sunday
11	Blessing of the Bookbags
11-14	Mountain Retreat
18	Sundae Funday
25	Youth (4:30-6)

2019 LAKE MURRAY SALKEHATCHIE

We enjoyed a great week at Lake Murray Salkehatchie July 20-27. We were able to work on 4 sites homes this year. We worked hard this year through painting, hammering, cleaning, sweating and drinking lots of water!! We are already looking forward to next summer, as we continue to be His hands and His feet!!

Youth Sunday—Aug 4

Youth will lead worship in both services. We will tell of the things going on in youth ministry over the past year and have a time of testimony. We will have a catered lunch after worship for all youth and their families.

Mountain Retreat Aug 11-14

We will have our annual zip-lining and whitewater rafting trip to Lake Junaluska to wrap up this summer! We will depart from Bethel at 2:00 on August 11th.

Sundae Funday

Bring your favorite ice cream and topping to share with the whole group. Be sure you bring extra to share with everyone that is there.



Sterling Davis won two Toastmasters awards—‘Best Speaker’ and ‘The Ice Breaker’! Way to go Sterling!

August 2019 Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 4

Youth Sunday

- 9:00 Reach Service (PAB)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 11:00 Traditional Service (S)

Monday, August 5

- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)
- 10:00 Staff Meeting (CR)
- 1:30 BUMS Meeting (NJ)
- 6:00 Trustees Meeting (CR)

Tuesday, August 6

- 11:30 Transitions
- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Wednesday, August 7

- 1:30 Prayer for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 Reach Band Rehearsal (PAB)

Sunday, August 11

Blessing of the Backpacks

- 9:00 Reach Service (PAB)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 11:00 Traditional Service (S)

Monday, August 12

- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)

Tuesday, August 13

- 7:00 Sylvia Hulsey Circle (PAB)

Wednesday, August 14

- 1:30 Prayer for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 Reach Band Rehearsal (PAB)
- 6:00 Stewardship Meeting (CR)

Sunday, August 18

- 9:00 Reach Service (PAB)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 11:00 Traditional Service (S)
- 3:00 Lay Leadership Meeting (PAB)
- 6:00 Lois McNair Group (Offsite)

Monday, August 19

- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)

Tuesday, August 20

- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Wednesday, August 21

- 10:00 Preschool Staff Meet & CPR (EB)
- 1:30 Prayer for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 Reach Band Rehearsal (PAB)



Sunday, August 25

Preschool Teacher Blessing

- 9:00 Reach Service (PAB)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 11:00 Traditional Service (S)
- 12:00 Holroyd SS Luncheon (PAB)
- 3:00 Safe Sanctuary Training (EB)
- 4:00 Preschool Parent Meeting (EB)
- 4:30 PEEPS (PB)

Monday, August 26

Preschool Starts Up

- 9:30 Holy Yoga (S)

Wednesday, August 28

- 1:30 Prayer for Bethel (S)
- 6:00 REACH Band Rehearsal (PAB)

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all
understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



CR—Conference Room
EB—Education Building
NJ—New Journey
PAB—Pool Act. Building
S—Sanctuary

Serving the Congregation in August

August Birthdays

4 Harry Parker
6 Nancy Johnson
Clayton Cotner
8 Becky Lucas
15 John Mathis
17 Sarah Weir
19 Velma Neely
20 Iva Dell Griffin
21 Sarah Meek
Isabelle Wood
22 Charmelle Staples
McKenzie Furr
23 Lillian Haller
24 Tom Elliott
Karen Stewart
26 Bill Lucas
28 Larry Cope
30 Hayden Gamarra
Bruce Cotner
31 John Scullion

August Anniversaries

13 Tom & Paulette Price
15 John & Marian Scullion
20 Frank & Sally Hafner
21 Lisa & David Wood

Church Attendance For July

7/7	Worship: 98	SS: 57
7/14	Worship: 129	SS: 56
7/21	Worship: 115	SS: 57
7/28	Worship: 117	SS: 58

Total Offering for July:

\$21,136.68

Greeters

8/4: Hannah Curran & Jordan Davis
8/11: Beth Welch, Chuck & Sue Ward
8/18: Janel Bell, Ron & Lucy Gordon
8/25: Sally & Frank Hafner, Barbara Harper

Ushers

8/4: Tom Elliott, Furman Porter, Lee Wilson, Bill Lucas
8/11: Kimberly Wilson, Dianna Elliott, Janel Bell, Arnette Jordan
8/18: Chuck Ward, Ken Wood, John Mathis, Sid George
8/25: Ken May, David Barnes, Debbie Carter, Bonnie Speas

Sound System Operator

8/4: David Walker
8/11: Jack Bonnville
8/18: David Walker
8/25: Jack Bonnville

Acolyte/Crucifer

8/4: Jordan Davis & Hannah Curran
8/11: Will Barrs
8/18: Jordan Davis
8/25: Sterling Davis

Children's Moment

8/4: No Children's Moment
8/11: Elizabeth Yarbrough
8/18: Kate Brown
8/25: Jason Barrs

Offering Counters

8/4: Sharon Bonnville & Debbie Carter
8/11: Ken May & Bill Lucas
8/18: Dianna Elliott & Sue Ward
8/25: Mike Hellams & Brenda Shealy

Sanctuary Preparers: Sandra Wayson & Sarita Toma

Sanctuary Lock Up: Arnette Jordan & John Mathis

Communion Servers: Bethel Youth