
JUNE 2024

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Living our faith, sharing God's love.



Message from the Pastor

One of my favorite stories is found in Luke 7:36-50. Jesus is invited to dine at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Turns out, not surprisingly, that Simon has a hidden agenda, he wants to get the goods on Jesus. He can hardly wait for Jesus to do something wrong.

As the dinner begins, a “woman who was a sinner” comes into the room and begins to anoint Jesus’ head with oil and his feet with costly ointment. It is an incredibly lavish gift. But Simon cannot see it. Simon cannot see the outpouring of this woman’s love; all he can see is that she is a woman and a “sinner.”

And then the Bible says:

“And Jesus, looking at the woman, says to Simon. ‘Simon, do you see this woman?’ ‘Simon, do you see this woman?’”

Jesus is not just talking to Simon here; Jesus is speaking to any of us, any who sits in judgment.

“Do you see this woman, this fellow human being, this beloved child of God, this human being in need of grace and love?”

“Do you see this woman!”

Message from the Pastor—continued

We have a Savior who sees each one of us, just as we are, warts and all, and loves us anyway.

Not one of us is perfect, and yet, God never gives up on us.

Once, I was wronged by a member of my church. His undermining actually led me to leave my first job in pastoral ministry. At least that's the way I saw it. I nursed a grudge toward that man for seven years. SEVEN YEARS! I could not let go of it. The man's name was Jack. I could not let it go, until I went on a Walk to Emmaus retreat. I was sitting in a service where we simply sat and silently mediated on the cross of Christ. I began to weep. I was overwhelmed, because I began to think about the grudge I had toward Jack. Seven years! Oh, how I hated him. How I blamed him. And yet, he too is a child of God. He too is beloved by God. He's not perfect, he has done wrong, but God still loves him. And then I also became convicted; as if the Holy Spirit was saying: "And how perfect are you? Have you not hurt people in your life? Have you never done anyone wrong?" And I continued to weep. I could not hold it back. Seven years of bitterness and it was all pouring out.

For the first time in all these years, I found myself praying for Jack, praying God would bless him, and bless his family. It was like a huge burden was being lifted from my back. Years of pain and anger. Just letting it all go. Surrendering it to God.

Maybe you have some grief or pain or anger or a grudge that God is calling you to let go of. Let it go. Give it to God. And let God help you find release.

I saw Jack one more time. It was a Christmas drama hosted by another church. I saw him across the way and I told Denise I was going to go speak to him. I said, "Jack you really hurt me. You undermined me." He said: "I know I did. I am sorry for how I treated you." That was it. And I was able to say, "It's Ok. It's Ok."

God helped me find release. God helped me find peace. And I believe in that brief exchange with Jack, God helped us both let go and move on.

Pastor Clayton Childers

Annual Conference:

June 20-22, 2024

Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA

[Vaumc.org/ac2024/](https://vaumc.org/ac2024/)



Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Council Chair: Nancy Pinson

Vice Chair: Carlton Hayden

Staff-Parish Relations:

Rosanne Williamson

Finance Chair: Lewis Lee

Finance Vice Chair:

Travis Taylor

Trustees Chair: Ava Lee

Church Treasurer:

Donna Broadbent

Finance Secretary

TBD

Recording Secretary:

Gary Pinson

Worship Committee Chair:

Nancy Pinson

Funeral Care Committee Chair:

Cathy Carayas

Sunday School Superintendent:

Crystal Taylor

Nurture/Fellowship Committee

Chair: Charlene Hahne

Mission & Outreach Chairs:

Sandra Colvin,

Karla Yocum

United Women in Faith

President: Dolores Goff

United Methodist Men

President: Joe Florence

Lay Member to Annual

Conference: Brett Hahne

District Conference

Representative & Steward:

Murray Edwards

Youth Representative:

Grant Taylor

Young Adult Representative:

TBD

**Summary—United Methodist
General Conference****Who attended:** 740 delegates from all over the world.**Decisions:**

****General Church Budget** received a 40% cut, including a 52% cut for general church agencies. This will allow more money to stay in the local churches.

****“Regionalization”** was approved pending approval by United Methodists in conferences throughout the world. With “Regionalization” each region of the church - United States, Africa, Europe, Asia – will be given authority to make decisions for themselves regarding LGBTQ inclusion. This will be voted on by conferences over the next year.

****LGBTQ inclusion:**

Pastors will now be permitted to conduct same-sex weddings if they so choose.

Local churches will be able to determine whether they will host LGBTQ weddings or not.

LGBTQ persons will now be able to seek ordination as clergy. However, Conference Boards of Ordained Ministries and District Committees on Ministry will continue to have authority to recruit, examine, confirm the calling of, and the qualifications for those seeking to be credentialed into licensed and ordained ministry but now LGBTQ persons may also be considered.

The Bishop and Cabinet will continue to carefully and prayerfully consult with local churches in the appointment process with the goal of making clergy/church appointments that result in effective, positive ministry. They do not want to appoint gay clergy to congregations where they would not be welcomed. That would not be good for the pastor or for the congregation.

For more information and a statement
from Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
<https://vaumc.org/gc2024/>
or contact Rev. Childers or the church office.

June Birthdays

Christopher Childers	1
Madison Bayliff	5
Ava Lee	9
Jason Reichel	9
John Killinger	12
Dick Brewer	22
Donna Broadbent	26
James Pinson	27

June Anniversaries

Stephen & Linda Lee	4
Aaron & Christine Winters	4
Lewis & Ava Lee	5
John & Ruth Lepto	7
Murray & Helen Edwards	17
Demetrio & Yesenia Ford	19
Travis & Crystal Taylor	22
William & Karen Nelson	26
Tom & Gayle Ferrell	27

**Worship
Reminder**

Communion will be served by intinction on the first and third* Sundays of the month. Those who prefer the self-serve elements or the gluten-free elements can ask the server when they come up.

To The Congregation of BUMC

On two different occasions legal scholars tested Jesus about the Law. “What is the greatest commandment in the Law? And how does a person gain eternal life?” In one gospel a legal expert provided the answer. In the other Jesus responded. “Love God with all your heart, being, and mind and love your neighbor as you love yourself (Matthew 22:37 & Luke 10:27).”

My husband, Dick, and I, as well as our family, have experienced “loving neighbors as one loves oneself” in multiple ways from the members of Bethel and its pastors. In December I was diagnosed with cancer found in my left arm. Surgery followed in January, and I am now mid-way in radiation treatment. To keep things interesting I fell in April and broke my hip, requiring hip replacement. After two weeks in rehabilitation I faced tasks I couldn’t do, like preparing supper and delivering it to the table. Bethel stepped up and has provided nourishing meals for three weeks. The love, with which food was prepared, packed up, and delivered with smiles and well wishes, is beyond measure.

Healing is an inside job accelerated by acts of kindness. The prayers, meals, cards, offers to help, visits, and rides to appointments have worked with God’s power of healing. The love of God and others is frequently manifested through Bethel’s making real its faith. Through you I am healthier in mind, spirit, and body.

Thanks be to God and to our sisters and brothers who make plain the love of God and love of neighbor.

Thanks,

Louise Stowe-Johns, Rev. Dr.



CHIMING IN FROM THE BELL ROOM

The Hymndingers are getting ready to take a summer break so they will ring in worship for one more time on June 9, before adjourning for the summer. We will be playing an arrangement of All Hail the Power of Jesus Name using mallets and choir chimes, and You Raise Me Up with cello accompaniment. Both are lovely arrangements and both challenging and fun to play.

We are planning to purchase a set of “add on choir chimes” to enable us to use more arrangements adding this variety of sound. We currently have two octaves of chimes. The add-on set will give us an additional octave. We have three octaves of hand bells and many arrangements also use three octaves of hand chimes. You will hear some of the new sound sometime in the fall when we reconvene and begin to work on new music.

As always, we are grateful for the support of our Bethel congregation and of course, the dedication and commitment of our hand bell players.

Happy Summer. Joice



**You are Invited to
Bethel's Open Houses.**

**Sunday, June 23
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Bethel's Parsonage
AND
Tom Davis Parish House**

**We look forward
to sharing with you.**

Mission/Outreach Committee

The Mission/Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support for our missions and outreach projects.

We will continue to collect donations for Motel Ministry. Our last trip was June 2nd (see below). Our next visit will be July 7th. Your donations may be put in the bin on the cart in the Social Hall. We are in need of the following items:

- Canned food (meat, pastas, stew, veggies)
- Canned fruit/ fruit cups
- Cereal
- Snacks: individual cookies, crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars, chips, chocolate
- Capri suns and juice boxes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shaving creams
- Razors
- Water bottles

Karla continues to work with the “Kairos Prison Ministry.”

We were blessed to have the Women’s Group make a monetary contribution of \$500.00 toward “Kits for Conference” from Bethel United Methodist Church.

We will begin our annual “Back Pack” project for our students in Fauquier County. More information will be coming if you would like to make a monetary contribution.

We would like to thank Pastor Clayton for his support during his time with us at Bethel.

Our Bethel family is always so generous with their support of our projects. It helps us “Live Our Faith and Share God’s Love”.

Thanks, Sandra Colvin and Karla Yocum, Co-Chairs of Mission/Outreach Committee



(From left to right) Abbie Zhars, Hannah Zhars, Emma Brown, Karla Yocum, Sandra Colvin, Crystal Taylor, Oliver Taylor, Pastor Clayton Childers, and Grant Taylor.

BUMY

At the current time, the following Adult Volunteers are working with Bethel United Methodist Youth (BUMY): Joice Fredenburgh, Debbie Mroczek, Karla Yocum, Karen Nelson, and Sandra Colvin. The contact person is Joice Fredenburgh. We will be in charge of the service for “Youth Sunday” on Sunday, June 30th. We will be meeting the following Sundays to prepare for our service.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting/Activity</u>
<u>June</u>	
1 st Sunday, June 2nd	Motel Ministry
2 nd Sunday, June 9th	BUMY will meet; have a devotion/ message, lunch, and rehearse for our “Youth Service”
3 rd Sunday, June 16th	Father’s Day—we will not meet
4 th Sunday, June 23rd	BUMY will meet; have a devotion/ message, lunch, and rehearse for our “Youth Service”No meeting
5 th Sunday, June 30 th	“Youth Service”

Church Staff:

Pastor: Clayton Childers
clayton.childers@gmail.com
202/341-1534

Music Director:
Pat Martin
pat88piano@gmail.com

Accompanist:
Joan Bacot

Director of Hymndingers
Joice Fredenburgh
dfredenburgh@verizon.net

Administrative Assistant:
Christine Winters
bumcofficeassistant@comcast.net
540/347-4874
Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Conference Bishop:
Bishop Sue
Hauptert-Johnson
P.O. Box 5606
Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606
804/521-1102

Northern Virginia District Superintendent:
Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert
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Finance Monthly Report

Income & Expenses*

May Income: \$19,154.00 May Expenses \$21,539.26
YTD 2024 Income: \$112,056.00 YTD 2024 Expenses: \$134,879.26

*Because the Beacon is published monthly, finances for the prior month will be reported.

Attendance & Giving

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/	Average	Giving
May 5	37	63	92.32	\$8,830.00
May 12	26	78	91.60	\$2,689.00
May 19	34	59	90.05	\$3,587.00
May 26	30	62	88.77	\$4,048.00

Events and Meetings

Saturday, June 1	UWF Meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Pavilion Room
Sunday, June 2	Motel Ministry, 11:30 a.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, June 4	Fauquier Cty Quilters, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall
Sunday, June 9	Trustees, 11:30 a.m., Upper Room, Rm 402
Sunday, June 16	SPRC Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Upper Room 402
Thursday, June 20— Sunday, June 23	UMC Virginia Conference, Hampton, VA
Sunday, June 23	Farewell Reception for Pastor Childers following Worship Service
Sunday, June 23	Open Houses on Church Campus after Worship Service 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, June 30	Youth Sunday and Welcome Reception for Pastor Nadeem Khokhar and family
Wednesdays	Prayer Gathering, Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.