
SEPTEMBER 2024

Bethel Beacon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Living our faith, sharing God's love.



Message from the Pastor

Dear Bethel Family,

Let me share something profound that I learned about different seasons in our lives and their blessings. I participated in a spiritual formation program with over thirty other Methodist clergymen and women a few years ago. Twice a year, the group would meet for a week at Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, Alabama, to learn spiritual disciplines and formation. If you know me well, you know that among a few spiritual disciplines in my life, one is the prayer walk. At the camp, I enjoyed morning and afternoon prayer walks around the camp facility, surrounded by the woods, hills, lakes, and streams. During a couple of miles walk up the hill twice a day, I would pay close attention to my surroundings and reflect on God's creation, beauty, and purpose. My response always was praise and thanksgiving.

The first time I was there was in summer, and as one can imagine, the trees were full of greenery, plants were covered with beautiful flowers, and the grass looked fresh. Walking up on the hill on my left were hills covered with greenery, while on the right was a beautiful lake. Sum-

Message from the Pastor—continued

mer had made the trees and plants so thick it was impossible to see through. I loved it. But I saw that had changed when I returned in the spring. Trees and plants that were covered with leaves and flowers were now without them. If you know trees and plants, the word for losing leaves is decidere, which means falling down or off. For a few moments, I felt sad about the falling of the leaves, but soon, I could see this from another perspective. With the leaves gone, I could see a beautiful stream flowing through those trees. I saw a beautiful fall running down from somewhere up on the hill. And these I could not see in the summer because the greenery was hiding them. I could see the deer walking or running in the woods now. My momentary grief over the loss of leaves and flowers turned into joy; spring helped me see something I would never see in summer.

I learned that this is true for our lives as well. There are different seasons in our lives. And like many of you, I have gone through different seasons. When everything, or at least most in our lives, is going well, it feels like summer. Everything looks and feels good to our eyes and hearts, like the green leaves on the trees, hummingbirds, and beautiful flowers. But there then comes a season that feels more like spring. All of the above feels gone, leaving us empty or fallen. But when we pay close attention, we learn that while summer feels full of life, spring helps us know new meanings of life. It allows us to see God's work in our lives, which we sometimes miss when life is (mostly) covered with greenery.

For example, some learned of the love and care their friends or family members had for them they never paid attention to before they fell sick. For others, it may be learning about handling their finances in new and better ways during spring, which they never considered before. Still, to some, a broken relationship, divorce, or losing someone might feel like a spring when everything felt lost or fallen, yet God reveals that life continues like hidden falls and streams.

I encourage you to remember this: whether you feel yourself in summer or spring, none is eternal. They help us see ourselves and God differently. As God's creature, the center of our focus in both seasons ought to be our Creator and obedience to his Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Nadeem Khokhar

Lay Leadership:

Lay Leader: Brett Hahne

Council Chair: Nancy Pinson

Vice Chair: vacant

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

Bethel UMC Cookie Walk and Bazaar

It's time to start preparing for the Annual Bethel UMC Cookie Walk and Bazaar. The Bethel United Women in Faith sponsored event is scheduled for **Saturday, November 9, 2024** – opening at 8 a.m.

It is the major annual fundraiser for UWF – last year raising over \$9000 which was shared with local and regional agencies: Head Start (Fauquier Community Action); Fauquier FISH; Fauquier Free Clinic; VolTran (free local transportation); Hope Heals; Rising Hope Mission Church, Fairfax; Bethel Computers for Ministry and the general Bethel Mission fund and the Bethel Youth Fund.

Although the UWF organizes the event, it could never happen without the support of YOU and all the members and friends of Bethel Church. If you'd like to contribute here a few of the ways



We always need hundreds and hundreds of cookies – last year your donations of all kinds of fabulous cookies brought in over \$1,300. We also have a wonderful bake sale of pies, cakes, breads and other sweets – so if cookies are not your thing, we love all kinds of baked goods.

The other part of the event is the amazing handcrafted items and Christmas items that you all donate. We look forward to your contributions of quilted or knitted/crocheted hats, scarves, and handbags, the fun placemats and table runners, pot holders and bowl cozies. Also, thanks to everyone who handcrafts the beautiful and unique jewelry.

When we all work together we can do amazing things and the glory goes to God who gave us each our unique talents and skills!

Keep an eye out for the October Beacon – there will be more details about hows and whens of the 2024 event. Ava Lee

World Methodist Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden

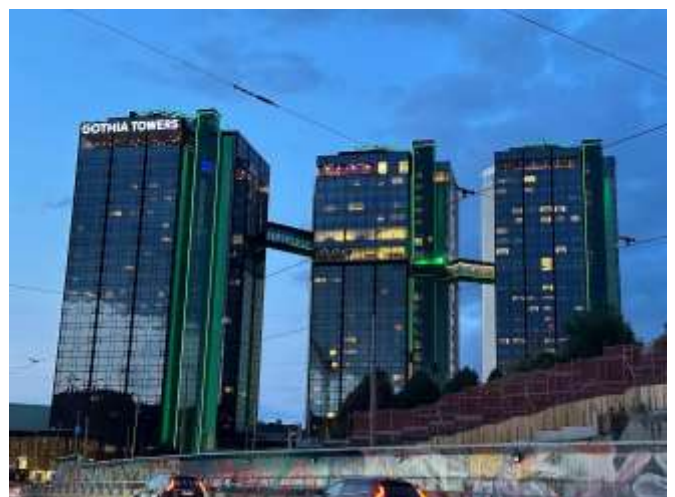
Pastor Nadeem attended the 22nd World Methodist Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, in August, as the delegate representing the Virginia Annual Conference.



Rev. Nadeem Khokhar appointed delegate to The World Methodist Council from 2024 to 2030.



Pastor Nadeem saw friends, sights around Gothenburg and celebrated in worship all week.



Bethel Church Summer Guest Speakers and Musicians



Rev. Denise Childers joined us on August 11. She shared a message with Bethel while Pastor Nadeem was away at conference.

Rosanne Williamson brought the message to the congregation on August 18. Both sermons touched us all.



Claude and Margie Denton, neighbors of Pat Martin and are also friends of Rosanne Williamson, sang “Be Still and Know” by Chapman/Fettke



Gayle Ferrell and Duane Williamson sang a beautiful duet of “I Wonder” on July 28 (not pictured)

Dick Brewer, violinist, played Csárdás by Monti on August 11.

The Blue Ridge Barbershop Chorus



United Women in Faith Reading Program *(*copied from the UWF website)*



***Reading Program** is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There's something for everyone—the Reading Program is available for:

- Adults, youth, and children
- Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth

Dona Nagy Sutton championed the reading program at Bethel Church. She provided us with many books to chose from and maintained all the eligible books from 2020 to present.

Christine Winters has agreed to facilitate this program for us in 2025. The 2025 books have been ordered and will replace the 2024 books in the Social Hall. A progress report will be provided at the Book Shelf to help you keep track of your reading progress throughout the new year (September 2024 to August 2025).

Don't forget to check out Bethel's Library in room 303!!

Reading is rewarding. As you read, you can track your progress and complete Plan I, II, III, or IV and receive recognition from the Northern Virginia District office.

Reading is connecting. The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone or in a vacuum. You can enrich the experience by doing one or several of these things:

- **Share the program** with United Women in Faith members and members of the community.
- **Help people attain books.** Bethel Church has a large inventory of the eligible 2020-2025 books.
- **Connect with local and district groups.** Start a book club, download books onto an e-reader to pass around and share, present book reviews at group meetings.
- **Display a progress chart in your church** for all who wish to participate, and post displays to encourage book sales.
- **Pray.** Books often raise concerns about people, countries, and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.
- **Advocate for tangible change.** Many Reading Program books address issues including climate change, mass incarceration and racism. Organize a task force to address these issues in your community.

Certificate of Recognition Recipients for the 2024 Reading Program are:

Dona Nagy Sutton	Plan IV	(17 books)
Dolores Goff	Plan I	(8 books)

Sermons

Sept 1

Exodus 2:1-10
Fostering a Courageous
Faith

Sept 8

Exodus 4:19-23
Hardened Hearts

Sept 15

Exodus 5:10-18
TBD

Sept 22

Exodus 31:12-18
Sabbath

Sept 29

Exodus 32:1-10
What is Your Golden
Calf?
Hymnsing

United Women in Faith

In an ongoing outreach effort to churches outside the Beltway, UMF NoVA officers Maria Ward (President) and Brenda Romenius (Nominations Chair) held a meet & greet on **Sunday August 18**, at Wegmans in Gainesville. UMF members Dolores Goff, Donna Broadbent & Kirsten King attended.

The group shared stories about themselves, church histories, and UMF activities. We learned that many of the churches, even those much larger than Bethel, no longer have an UMF group and those that do are not very active. Both Maria and Brenda were surprised at the number of activities in which Bethel UMF is still involved. In discussing those activities (i.e., teachers' luncheons, Ruritan dinners, yard sale, Christmas bazaar), we noted that other Bethel folks often help out with some of these events, making them a success for the church. Maria and Brenda thought other churches would be interested in attending/learning about our activities and fundraisers and asked that we provide that information to the NoVA district person (Carol Pratt) responsible for the newsletter. Both added the date for the upcoming Christmas bazaar to their calendars.

It was determined that other get-togethers such as this one are productive (& fun) and a good way to help connect with our UMF sisters. A possible future date of late fall may be scheduled so stay tuned for an update on any such event to which ALL women at Bethel are welcome. Kirsten King

School Backpacks for Fauquier County Students

In addition to your **\$1600.00** donation to FISH for their annual backpacks for students drive, the Bethel's United Women of Faith donated **\$1,000** more to provide **more backpacks** for our community students.



September Birthdays

- 1 Kaylee Janickey
- 2 Gayle Ferrell
- 5 Matthew Childers
- 10 Tara Lee
- 12 Pamela Compton
- 17 Deanna Fortney
- 18 Kathi Reichel
- 20 Joanne Clary
- 20 William Matthews
- 21 Beatrice Keefer
- 21 William Nelson
- 22 Robert Lee
- 23 David Leigh
- 23 Brody Sellers
- 26 Duane Williamson
- 28 Michael Moore
- 29 Cindy Leigh
- 29 Louise Stowe-Johns
- 30 Ruthann Litchford
- 30 Kevin Khokhar

September Anniversaries

- 17 Greg and Alice Steinmeyer
- 20 Dean and Cindy Fortney
- 26 Greg and Natalie Bayliff
- 27 Jason and Kathi Reichel
- 28 Jeremy Beker and
Tiffany Broadbent Beker

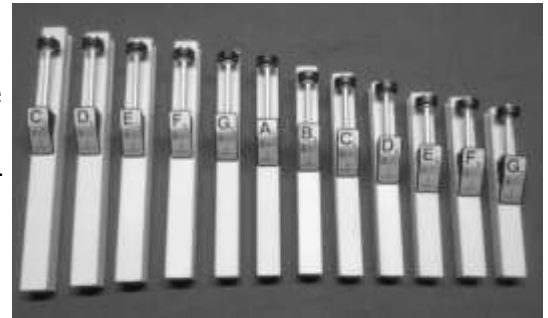
Worship Reminder

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.

Chiming in the Bell Room

Greetings from the Hymndingers. We have enjoyed a rest during these past two months but we have also missed seeing each other every Thursday. Well, the summer is about to come to an end so we are back to work (or play). **Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 19 in the bell room from 5:30 to 6:30.**

Our first “official” get together for the fall season will be a pot luck supper in the Pavilion Room on Thursday, September 5 from 5:30 to 8:00 (or thereabouts). Some of our players are back to work in their school rooms or their day jobs but most of our ringers will be able to attend, along with our dedicated group of substitutes.



We were able to purchase an “add-on” set of choir chimes due to some monetary gifts given to our music budget. What this means is that not only will we be playing hand

bells but some of our music will include hand chimes as well. This will present a new challenge to some of our players but it will add color and beauty to the music already being produced by the hand bells.

We will be playing in worship the last Sunday in October. From there we will be preparing for advent and Christmas music. I might add, we have purchased a new piece of music which the congregation will hear once we have it perfected. The name of this piece is “This Little Light of Mine”. I’m sure everyone will know the tune but this rendition will have you tapping your toes

Well, that is enough chatter for this month. Looking forward to seeing everyone in church each Sunday and hoping for some cooler weather as fall officially arrives.

Hugs. Joice

Don't Stop the Music



The Choir Needs YOU!

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.

Would you like to become part of a group that makes a difference?

Could you share your singing voice with the choir as we help people worship through music?

Could you carve out an hour or so on Thursday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 to rehearse?

Now... WILL you? We work to work around busy schedules when we can; so give it a try.

Do You Play the Piano?

Do you know someone who does?

Our wonderful accompanist, Joan Bacot, has stepped down from her position with us, leaving in need of an accompanist. So if you are proficient at the piano, or know someone who is, please reach out to me. I'd love to talk with them.

Also, I will be taking a 6 week Leave of Absence from October 15th, returning on December 1st, in time for Advent and Christmas. So I am also looking for someone who can take the lead in the worship services. All the planning will be done in advance. The music will be selected and the services planned in advance. We need someone covering for me for 6 weeks. These are paid positions.

Pat Martin, Music Director

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 next visits are September 1 and October 6. 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----meats (chicken and tuna), soups, spaghetti, beef stew, chili, fruit, etc.

Can openers

Deodorant (men's and women's)

Men's and Ladies' **Disposable razors**

Shaving Cream

Small packs of **cookies and crackers**

Capri Sun **Drink Packets**

Peanut Butter.

Jelly

Mustard and Mayonnaise



Thanks to Gary Pinson for driving the bus to take us to Motel Ministry!

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

Two More Ways to Participate:

Create Agape

Agape takes many forms, one of which is artwork posted throughout the community room. You can help by coloring placemats, posters and prayer chain strips. Look for the Kairos table in the Social Hall in September to help create Agape. Poster boards, placemats, and prayer chain strips will be available. You can write a note of encouragement also (first name only).

Be a Cookie Baker

Karla will need 85 dozen cookies when she goes to the Kairos Prison Weekend. There are strict guidelines and recipes. Please scan the QR code below for details, or stop by the Kairos table to pick up a flyer with all the instructions.



Kairos Prison Ministry International

Kairos has more than 30,000 volunteers who serve in 500+ prisons and communities in 37 states and 9 foreign countries.

It has been said that Kairos is the one ministry where volunteers work together as the body of Christ and set aside denominational differences to serve together and to embody the true meaning of church.

The purpose of the Kairos Inside Program is to establish the Kairos Christian Community inside prisons through the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

The Kairos Inside Program brings positive and negative leaders together, in both male and female institutions, for a 3 1/2 day weekend based on a series of talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music led by a same gender team of volunteers. While participants listen, combined with a lot of listening and loving from the weekend volunteers, a Christian community will start to form. For many participants, the Kairos Weekend creates the desire to become a Christian, and for others the desire to continue his/her spiritual growth.

As the Kairos Christian community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, especially among the formerly negative leaders, the incidence of violence decreases.

Incarcerated participants who are released re-enter the outside world with a God-centered perspective and a new desire to become productive citizens.

How can YOU participate you ask??

- Be a Prayer Partner
All activities are covered in prayer. You can sign up for a Weekend prayer vigil. Please start praying for us now! Satan is not happy and does not want us there!
- Be a Support Volunteer
Each Weekend has opportunities for outside support such as preparing meals.
- Be a Team Member
- Be a Ministry Financial Donor
You can send a donation to help the Kairos volunteers at the Fluvanna Prison. The address is:

Kairos of VA
PO Box 415
Warrenton, VA 20188

We are finally going to be having the Weekend for the first time in 5 years!!! Please keep us in prayer as we prepare for this weekend.

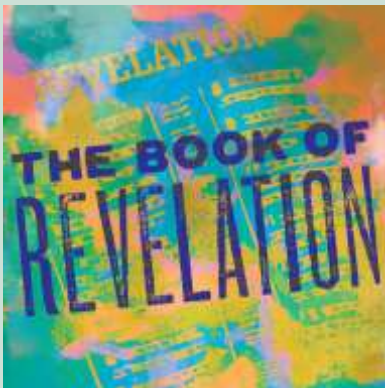
**Changing Hearts
Transforming Lives
Impacting the World**

**Kairos Weekend
October 9—October 13
Fluvanna Prison**

Thank you,
Karla Yocum

Adult Sunday School

Stay Tuned for Details on the Adult Sunday School Class led by Murray Edwards in the Pavilion Room. No information to report at this printing, but plans are being made.



You are invited to a verse-by-verse study to make sense of the Book of Revelation. This study will help you understand this book in depth and you may be surprised to learn how today's different global events are already pointing to the fulfillment of the end time prophecies recorded in this book. **Join Pastor Nadeem in the Pavilion Room every Wednesday to study the book of Revelation at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m., starting September 11th.**

Sunday School

Come learn with us! There will be three classes this year!

A Parent Class will take place at the same time as the children classes. Why should they get to do all the learning! Come join us to learn more about parenting and other aspects of bringing up children in our current world.

A New Middle and High School class will meet to explore learning about spiritual gifts, love languages, and walking with the Lord.

An Elementary School class will focus on Bible stories and activities through our Jesus Storybook Bible!

Please sign up in Social Hall at the Welcome Center so we know how many books we might need to have on hand and invite friends to join in on the fun!

Let us walk together through the new year!

Crystal Taylor, Sunday School Superintendent

Bible and Book Studies

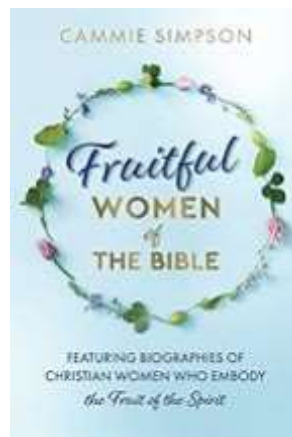
Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:

Begins September 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Pavilion Room. Join us for the study of "Fruitful Women of the Bible"

by Cammie Simpson. Pat Martin leads this Study.

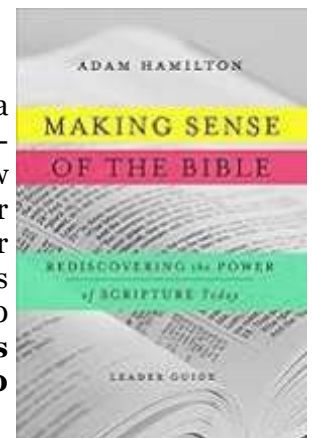
Sign up on the Sign-Up sheet on the Welcome desk.

All women of the church (and friends) are welcome.



Women's Monday Morning Bible Study:

Are you interested in setting aside an hour and a half each Monday to connect with other Christian women, to receive encouragement to grow in your discipleship, and to spiritually mentor one another? If you are interested in joining our women's small group, please contact Janet Miles at janetwmiles@gmail.com or (540) 270-4570 by **Tuesday, September 10. Class starts Monday, September 16 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**



Church Staff:

Pastor: Nadeem Khokhar
 NKhokhar@bethelumc.com
 434/480-1063

Music Director:
 Pat Martin
 pat88piano@gmail.com

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

Northern Virginia District Superintendent:
 Rev. Kirk Nave
 3600 Chain Bridge Rd
 Fairfax, VA 22030-3236
 703/820-7200

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 6903 Blantyre Rd.
 Warrenton, VA 20187
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Website www.bethelumc.com
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Events and Meetings

Wednesdays	Prayer Gathering, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Thursdays	Choir Practice, 6:45 p.m, Sanctuary
Thursdays	Hymndingers, 5:30 p.m. Bell Room 301 Begins Sept. 19
Sunday, September 1	Motel Ministry, 11:30 a.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, September 3	Fauquier Cty Quilters, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall
Tuesday, September 3	Nominations Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 5	Hymndingers Potluck, 5:30 p.m. Pavilion Rm
Sunday, September 8	Nurture, 11:30 a.m., Upper Room
Sunday, September 8	Trustees, 11:30 a.m., Pavilion Room
Tuesday, September 10	Retired Teachers Luncheon, 9 a.m., Social
Tuesday, September 10	Finance, 7:00 p.m. Pavilion Room
Sunday, September 15	SPRC, 11:30 a.m. Upper Room
Sunday, September 22	Worship, 11:30 a.m., Pavilion Room
Tuesday, September 24	Council, 7:00 p.m., Pavilion Room

Attendance & Giving

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

Date	Views	In-Person Adults/Kids	Average	Giving
August 4	77	70	102.59	\$6,597.00
August 11	48	86	103.55	\$4,730.00
August 18	54	84	104.56	\$3,863.00
August 25	50	93	105.66	\$3,593.00

Income and Expenses*

August Income:	\$18,783.00	August Expenses	\$22,061.38
YTD 2024 Income:	\$177,430.00	YTD 2024 Expenses:	\$207,972.78