

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Volume 11

Issue 3

March 2023

### NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT & FENCING IS COMPLETE!

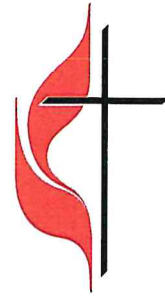
If you haven't noticed already, be sure to take a look at the spanking, brand new playground upgrades!

New play equipment has been installed and just last month the new fencing went up around the playground.

What an eye-catching update for the Church and Bethlehem Child Care!



Photo Credit: Robin Bunton



*Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC  
is to share the love and spirit of  
Christ, be a welcoming  
fellowship for all, nurture  
followers of Jesus and send  
them, as servants, into the world  
in need of God's grace.*

#### Pastor

Rev. Joseph Fulk, III

336-674-0155

[jfulk1@wnccumc.net](mailto:jfulk1@wnccumc.net)

#### Church Office

Robin Bunton

336-674-0155

[bethumccclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumccclimax@gmail.com)

#### Organist

Jane Reddick

#### Pianist

Laura Cranfill

#### Child Care Director

Erica Shanahan

336-674-9879

#### Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

#### Webmaster

Kylie Russell



Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214541575234325/?ref=share>

Visit our Website at

[bethlehemumc.org](http://bethlehemumc.org)



Here are a few important dates to remember coming up in March:

- **A.E.D Training** will be held on Monday, **March 6<sup>th</sup> from 7-8PM** in the Fellowship Hall. (Let David Cranfill know if you will be attending.)
- There will be a **church-wide cleanup** day on **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Start time is **9AM**. Please contact a Trustee if you have questions.
- **Daylight Savings Time** begins **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.
- **Orders for Easter Lilies** are expected to begin on **Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**.
- The deadline for the April newsletter is **Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Here is an important reminder from the church office:

Pastor Joseph holds a planning meeting with church paid staff on the last Monday of the month at 10AM. Please keep in mind that Robin will be away from the church office during this time.

Blessings, **Robin**



## **Bibles & Biscuits** (A Men's Bible Study)



Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month**  
At **8AM.**, Climax Fire Stat. #35



## **An Invitation from** **Children & Family Ministries:**

**Come Join the Easter Egg Hunt**  
on

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**5:30PM Hunt for preschoolers**

**6:00PM Hotdog Supper**

**6:45PM Activity**

**7:15PM Glow in the Dark Hunt for**  
**kindergartners and older**

**Join us for a good time and fun for all!**



## **MARCH FRIENDLY CLUB**

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall.



## **Heifer International/ Special Lenten Offering**

The Mission Team encourages you and your family to keep a special offering this Lent. As in years past, the offering will be received after Easter and will go to *Heifer International*. Special Heifer International Offering Banks are available to be picked up from the narthex, the table outside of the church office, and the little library.

How did Heifer International begin? Here is a brief history:  
*While passing out meager rations of powdered milk during the Spanish Civil War, Indiana farmer Dan West was distraught when the supply of milk ran out with children still*



waiting in line. He realized that they needed “not a cup, but a cow.” Families did not need short-term relief, but a continual source of food and income. Heifer International was born from that simple idea. When they stopped fighting, we started feeding. In 1944, the first cows sent abroad were donated by West’s neighbors and distributed in Puerto Rico.

But there were other wars to be won, as well. As World War II came to a haunting end, huge portions of Europe and Asia were reduced to ruins, with populations diminished, farmland demolished and hunger running rampant. Heifer became active in revitalizing these war-torn countries, including refugee resettlement centers. Groups of farmers, who dubbed themselves the Seagoing Cowboys, began escorting livestock overseas, making about 360 trips on 73 different ships.



Early on “Seagoing Cowboys” accompanied livestock on voyages.

<https://www.heifer.org/history/index.html>



### SECRET PAL REVEAL/ SAVE THE DATE

Secret Pal reveal will be during worship on Sunday, June 11. A reception in the fellowship hall will follow worship. Be sure to put this special event on your calendar. Questions – please contact Fran Getner (336) 685-2086.



### PRAYER LISTS & PROTECTING PRIVACY

*(This information is provided to help us all be mindful of privacy and confidentiality concerns during worship events.)*

Our printed prayer lists:

Ideally, the names on this list come from the people whose names are listed. When that’s not possible, close family members submit the requests. Third-party requests are listed only if permission has been given by the person whose name is to be listed.

Our worship services are live streamed on Facebook. Names and circumstances spoken aloud can be heard on live-stream, and this information is out there to be shared over and over for an indefinite amount of time.

As a family of faith who comes together, virtually and in-person, every Sunday to worship and to lift one another up in prayer and share faith testimonies, it is not our intent to violate anyone’s privacy.

So, how do we navigate **privacy** in public worship? Brotherhood Mutual (our insurance company) recently published *Prayer Lists: How to Protect Privacy*.

In part, it reads:

#### **Obtain Permission before Sharing Sensitive Information**

*Sweeping changes to privacy laws have changed the way doctors, hospitals, and even insurance companies handle health care information. Part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that took effect in 2003 made it illegal for health care providers to disclose information about a person’s medical condition. Generally, the Act doesn’t pertain to churches. However, the ensuing discussion of privacy rights has led many churches to reexamine how they share personal information through prayer ministries.*

*Here are some suggestions on how to maintain a prayer ministry without offending the prayer recipient or breaking the law.*

#### **Get Consent**

*There’s nothing that prevents a person from telling the congregation—or the whole world—that he has a medical condition and would like prayer. But some laws prevent you from telling the world for him. Therefore, it’s a good idea to obtain a person’s consent before disclosing personal information. It could be as simple as asking someone: “Would you like us to add you to the prayer list?” or “Would you mind if we shared this information with the congregation?” It’s easiest to get verbal consent, but you have far greater legal protection if you obtain it in writing.*

#### **Keep it Simple.**

*Even with a person’s consent, it’s best to keep the information general. A notice that says “Sue Smith has been hospitalized, and we pray for a speedy recovery” is better than “Sue Smith has been suffering from debilitating panic attacks*

that have caused her to be admitted to the hospital. Please pray for her."

### **Defer to a Spokesperson**

Some churches avoid the problem of obtaining consent by printing information on how to reach a relative or close friend who has agreed to serve as spokesperson. The spokesperson can decide how much detail to release, and to whom. That person is probably in a better position than the church to know how much information to share.

Hopefully this information will help us all be more attentive to privacy concerns as we worship together.

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/administrative-staff-and-finance/documents-and-data/prayer-lists-how-to-protect-privacy>



## *Prayer* **LIST**

### **Those in Need of Prayer**

Cory Fields  
Kelsey Garrett  
D. Harris  
Melvin Hinshaw  
Betty Kirkman  
Lorrie Roth  
Francis Snow  
Frank & Julia Willis  
Our Homebound & Shut-ins

The printed prayer list includes church members and close family and friends of church members.



## **Honorariums & Memorials**

Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in honor/memory as listed.  
BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.

### **HONORARIUMS**

In Honor of **Brian, Layne, Maysa & Madigan Downing**  
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of Sid Fields  
By Ronnie & Patricia Coble

In Honor of **Sarah Hinshaw**  
By Wayne & Sheila Moser

In Honor of **Stacy & Lucille McClintock**  
By Angie Routh

### **MEMORIALS**

In Memory of **Dalton & Boys**  
By Louise Bowman

In Memory of **Jeanette Fields**  
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy  
By Martha C. Holt  
By Ruth Rowland

In Memory of **Jean Greeson**  
By Ronnie & Patricia Coble

In Memory of **Ann Holder**  
By John Holder

In Memory of **Ed McClintock**  
By Doris Apple  
By Parks & Linda Fields  
By Joan McCormick  
By Kay McCormick  
By Ruth Rowland  
By Jim & Kaye Shapaker  
By Jane Snead  
By Charles & Debra Weatherly  
By Mac & Susan Wiley Smith  
By Pet & Joyce Windhorst

In Memory of **Robbie Monnett**  
By Ronnie & Patricia Coble

In Memory of **Wayne Ondeck**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Dicky Parks**  
By Evonne Parks  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Keith Parks**  
By Evonne Parks  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Clem Royal**  
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Bill Waugh**  
By Helen Waugh

In Memory of **A.C. & Bette Weatherly**  
By David & Laura Cranfill







Just for Fun...

### March

3/5 Amanda Cook  
Alan Kirkman  
3/6 Brooke Townsend  
Erika Braddock  
3/7 Pam Jones  
3/8 Buddy Fields  
3/9 Lois Bazhaw  
Darlene Coble  
David Robb, II  
Mike Rivers  
3/10 Beverly Fields  
Bob Norris  
Lucy McClintock  
Carlie Suggs  
3/11 Suzie Branch  
Kimberly Duncan  
Teresa Stevens  
3/12 Dale Young  
3/13 Heather Robb Adams  
3/20 Barry Lineberry  
3/24 Leo Kirkman  
Johnny Riddle  
3/25 Jonathan Franklin  
Henry Wilkinson  
3/26 Caleb Hinshaw  
Lindsey Wray  
3/27 Wanda Woodford  
3/28 Joey Bowman  
Lorene Wells  
3/29 Susan Coward  
3/31 Carlton Johnson  
John David (J.D.) Peele

### April

4/1 Phyllis Alley  
Jeff Neelley  
4/2 Madigan Downing  
4/3 Beth Walsh  
Casey Welborn  
4/4 Craig Massarelli  
4/5 Ashley Neelley  
4/7 Eddie Wilkinson  
4/8 Doyle Ingold  
4/9 Phyllis Garrett  
Jane Williams  
4/10 Wayne Dunham  
Jim Jones (Alice's son)  
4/11 Louise Bowman  
4/12 Frances Jean Fields  
4/13 Christopher Bass  
Danny Dunham  
Glenna Staley  
4/17 April Wreath  
4/18 Anna Parrish  
4/19 Shirley Hackett  
Matthew Young  
4/20 Daniel Moser  
Craig Smith  
4/24 Erica Reed Sypole  
4/25 Haley Parrish  
Lexie Terry  
Jane Reddick  
4/27 Julie Spencer  
4/29 Rachel Grace Hill  
Sandra Southard  
4/30 Ruby Kirkman  
Parker Robb



## St. Patrick's Day WORD SEARCH



Search for these St. Patrick's Day words!



© Mrs. Merry (www.mrs-merry.com)



### Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always  
at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon  
your face; the rains fall soft  
upon your fields and until  
we meet again, may God  
hold you in the palm of His hand.

White Ribbons of Peace~

© 2007 Susan Cheney

Bethlehem United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road  
Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



<https://www.pinterest.com/crawcath/irish-blessings/>



## March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 4-8PM FH & Kit in use (Hotdog Fundraiser) 5-7PM Dinner Served	2 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)	3 World Day of Prayer 	4 8AM Bibles & Biscuits (at Climax Fire #35)
5 Comunion 2nd Sunday in Lent Prut Butter & Oatmeal Sun. <b>DEADLINE FOR STEW PRE-ORDERS</b> 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship  Church Bus in Use 5PM UMYF (Youth Rm.)	6 Walking Group (Time Varies) 7-8PM AED Training (FH) ~8:30PM Discern Team (Parlor)	7 10AM StoryTime (Child Care)	8 Walking Group (Time Varies) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	9 7PM Trustees (FH)	10	11 ~9:30AM till ... FH, Kit, all church rms, etc in use (Church-wide Cleanup)
12 3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM UMYF (Youth Rm.)	13 Walking Group (Time Varies) ~8:30PM Discern Team (Parlor)	14 10AM StoryTime (Child Care) 11AM Friendly Club (FH) 9AM... FH & Friendly C prep	15 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Child Care Bnd (FH) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	16 10AM Children's Chapel (Sanct) 4PM Children's Chapel (Sanctuary) 2PM... FH & Kit in use (Stew Prep)	17 St. Patrick's Day  <b>ALL DAY FH &amp; Kit in use (Chicken Stew Prep)</b>	18 <b>ALL DAY FH &amp; Kit in use (Chicken Stew Prep)</b>
19 4th Sunday in Lent Easter Lily Orders Begin 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship  5PM UMYF (Youth Rm.)	20 Spring Begins NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies) ~8:30PM Discern Team (Parlor)	21 10AM StoryTime (Child Care)	22 Walking Group (Time Varies) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	23	24 SNOW DATE FOR CHICKEN STEW	25 SNOW DATE FOR CHICKEN STEW
26 5th Sunday in Lent Deadline for Easter Adopti-a- Soldier 9:15AM Sunday School 10AM Worship 5PM UMYF (Youth Rm.)	27 10AM Admin Staff/Planning (Joseph, Robin, Et Al in Parlor) 10:30AM Arlene Stokes (Young Heart Rm) Walking Group (Time Varies) ~8:30PM Discern Team (Parlor)	28 10AM StoryTime (Child Care)	29 Wonderful Wednesday Walking Group (Time Varies) 7PM Choir (Choir Rm.)	30	31	1 8AM Bibles & Biscuits (at Climax Fire #35)

### GREETERS:

3/5 Desi & Gail Williams  
3/12 Debbie Waugh  
3/19 Buddy & Judy Fields  
3/26 OPEN

### FLOWERS:

3/5 OPEN  
3/12 OPEN  
3/19 OPEN  
3/26 OPEN

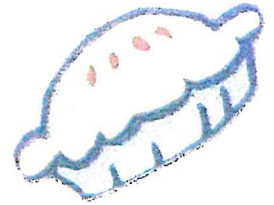
### USHERS:

David Allen  
Byron Dahl  
Doug Garrett  
Desi Williams

### ACOLYTES:

3/5 Maysa Downing  
3/12 Braxton Wall  
3/19 Quart Fulk  
3/26 Maysa Downing

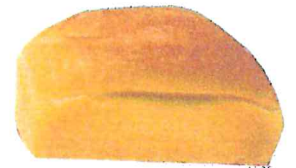
## Chicken Stew & Bake Sale



Saturday, March 18, 2023

Bethlehem UMC Fellowship Hall

12:00 noon-1:30



Stew is Pre-order only—orders due  
March 5--\$9.00 per qt.

Order contacts: Julia Willis 336-392-1233 or

jawillis 1@aol.com

Cindy Fields 336-430-3715

cindyf@triad.rr.com



Leave name, # of quarts needed, and good contact #



# STEWARDSHIP REPORT

## Budget Results for January 2023

\$454,743.59 Total Budget Money Available January 1, 2023

+ 23,902.46 Money Received in January

+ 32,021.09 Dunham Estate

- 17,946.86 Money Spent in January

\$492,720.28 Money Available January 31, 2023

For the month of January, 2023, the Church Budget received \$37,976.69 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget received \$37,976.69 more than it spent.

**Major Maintenance & Repair Fund** – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times.

\$73,837.78 MM&RF Money Available January 31, 2023

**Other Designated Gifts** – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88	Arbor Fund	\$ 882.70
Food Pantry	\$ 1,743.22	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,129.17	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 16,131.72
UMYF	\$22,857.13	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 290.06
Family Ministries	\$ 2,746.77	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$ 27,771.65
Helen Grady Endow.	992.00	Choir Fund	\$ 345.80
(\$800 History/\$192AltarFlowers)		Flowers	\$ 80.50
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture\$	189.92	Camp Meeting Fund	\$ 1,160.00

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available January 31, 2023 \$80,827.82

## \$101,800.00 **Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund**

In order to plan and provide the necessary funds for the care and upkeep of our cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was created. This fund was a non-expendable trust fund in which the principal (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principal can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of January 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

## \$50,091.75 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

## Estimate of Giving Cards for the BUMC Budget Report

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>Number of Pledges</u>	<u>Amount of Pledges</u>
2013	83	\$289,264
2014	83	\$288,709
2015	64	\$230,432
2016	60	\$223,112
2017	61	\$225,044
2018	55	\$223,734
2019	50	\$203,866
2020	43	\$199,855
2021		(Covid-19)
2022	39	\$186,444
2023	39	\$169,740

### 2023 Estimate of Giving Results

- 39 Pledges – same number of pledges as 2022
- \$16,704 less money pledged than in 2022
- 5 families pledged 46.55% of the whole 2023 total pledged amount
- 253 Estimate of Giving Cards were mailed and 39 pledges were received, resulting in a very disappointing 15.42% participation rate

Frank Willis, Stewardship Chair