

# THE CHALLENGE

## Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 12

Issue 8

August 2024

### From the Pastor's Desk

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. -1 John 4:10 NIV (Read more from 1 John 4)*

TRAIN OF THOUGHT, WHERE ONE THOUGHT CONNECTS TO THE NEXT THOUGHT AND THEN NEXT THOUGHT TO THE NEXT THOUGHT...SO ON AND SO ON AND SO FORTH. SOMETIMES IT MAKES SENSE AS THOUGHTS RUN TOGETHER AND THEN SOMETIMES THE THOUGHTS, ONCE YOU REACH THE CABOOSE, IT IS LIKE "HOW DID I GET HERE?"

WHICH REMINDS ME OF A GAME WE PLAYED AS CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT CHURCH CALLED TELEPHONE: WHERE YOU STAND/SIT IN A LINE/CIRCLE AND ONE PERSON SHARES A THOUGHT WITH SOMEONE AND THEN THEY SHARE WITH THE PERSON NEXT TO THEM UNTIL IT MAKES ITS WAY TO THE LAST PERSON. AT THIS POINT, THE LAST PERSON SHARES WITH EVERYONE WHAT THEY HEARD TO SEE HOW CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL THOUGHT IT WAS WHEN IT WAS FIRST EXPRESSED. AS YOU COULD GUESS, OR HAVE EXPERIENCED, THE THOUGHT FIRST SHARED IS A LOT OF TIMES DIFFERENT ONCE IT REACHES THE END OF THE LINE; SOMETIMES COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BUT SOMETIMES WITH A GOOD SOLID CORE OF WHAT WAS FIRST SHARED. IT CAN BE FUNNY AND REMARKABLY INTERESTING TO SAY THE LEAST.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE NEXT THOUGHT UPON THIS TRAIN, ABOUT A BEAUTIFUL QUOTE THAT I HAVE KEPT NEAR AND DEAR THROUGH THE YEARS FROM SAINT AUGUSTINE (NOT WHY THIS MONTH IS CALLED AUGUST BUT POSSIBLY SHOULD BE), "GOD LOVES EACH OF US AS IF THERE WERE ONLY ONE OF US." WHAT A POWERFUL, GRACE-FILLED, EXPRESSION OF HOW ALL OF US ARE SO IMPORTANT TO GOD THE FATHER, OUR CREATOR. BUT AFTER CHECKING MY RESOURCES I FOUND OUT THAT OVER TIME THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE ORIGINAL QUOTE, BUT THIS IS: "YOU ARE GOOD AND ALL-POWERFUL, CARING FOR EACH ONE OF US AS THOUGH EACH IS THE ONLY ONE IN YOUR CARE." THE ORIGINAL QUOTE IS FROM SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 354AD TO 430AD. SO, IT IS NOT EXACTLY THE SAME AND IT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED THROUGH THE MANY YEARS, BUT IT IS STILL POWERFUL IN REMINDING US OF GOD'S INTIMATE, UNFAILING LOVE, CARE, AND COMPASSION FOR HIS CREATION.

CONFIDENCE, COURAGE, STRENGTH, THE WILL TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS, SERVE GOD AND OTHERS, SEEK GOD'S PEACE, TO BUILD UP IN JESUS' NAME (NOT TEAR DOWN) AND SO ON AND SO ON I HOPE YOU CAN FIND AND TAKE AWAY FROM GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR YOU. I PRAY WE CAN SHARE AND LIVE INTO THAT LOVE WHICH BRINGS THINGS TOGETHER RATHER THAN THE SELFISH WAYS OF THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT OF GOD'S LOVE.

*Blessings of Grace and Peace... 1.*  
*Pastor Joseph, III*



### Bethlehem Methodist Church

*Our Mission at Bethlehem Church 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  
[jmfulkiii@gmail.com](mailto:jmfulkiii@gmail.com)

#### Church Office

Caitlin Sheppard  
336-674-0155  
[bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com)

#### Choir Director

Gloria Austin

#### Organist

Jane Reddick

#### Pianist

Laura Cranfill

#### Childcare 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

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT-June 2024

### Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$528,038.26 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of June 1, 2024,  
+ 24,285.98 Money Received in June  
- 18,407.50 Money Spent in June  
\$533,916.74 Budget's Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024

For the month of June, 2024, the Church Budget received \$5,878.48 more than it spent. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$640.97 more than it spent.

### Designated Gifts

**Disaffiliation Loan Repayment**—The church council voted unanimously on October 22, 2023, to borrow the money needed to pay our disaffiliation expenses from the Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance. The conference notified us on November 15, 2023, the disaffiliation amount was \$78,485.33.

\$10,599.72 Disaffiliation Loan Balance June 1, 2024  
+ 2,460.00 Money Received from Individuals in June  
+ 0 Money Received from Fund Raisers in June  
+ 0 Money Received from Other Sources in June  
\$ 8,139.72 Disaffiliation Loan Balance June 30, 2024

**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.

\$94,181.31 MM&RF Money Available June 30, 2024

**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	\$863.43
Food Pantry	\$1,166.33	Handbells	\$160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$1,006.95	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$1,983.22
Records & History	\$581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$18,705.40
MYF	\$24,732.82	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$290.06
Family Ministries	\$4,893.47	Cemetery Fund-Maint.	\$29,848.67
Helen Grady Endow. (\$800 History, \$1686.72 kitchen))	\$2,486.72	Choir Fund	\$286.26
Brunswick Stew(Care/Nurture	\$189.92	Flowers	\$241.00
Brunswick Stew	\$135.96	Camp Meeting Fund	\$20.00
		In/Out Misc (Friendly gas)	\$23.50
		Total Other Designated Gifts	\$88,770.76

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024 \$174,167.34

### Trust Funds

#### \$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 principle (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principle can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of September 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

#### \$61,240.48 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

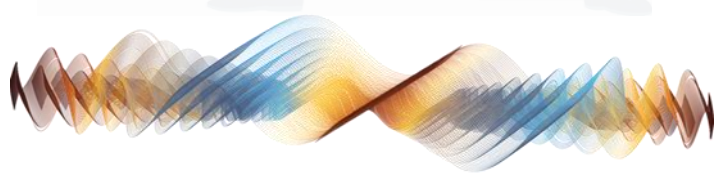
The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years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

## Exercise Class Held at Bethlehem Methodist Church

Exercise classes will continue to be held on *Wednesdays only* from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the church fellowship hall. It's open to ALL fitness levels. Bring bottled water, light weights (optional) & sweat towel. New members WELCOME!

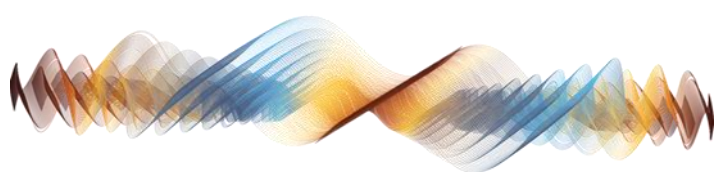
\$5 per class or \$20 per 5 classes. Questions – Contact Lauren (336)686-4192 or [laurenmstarr22@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmstarr22@gmail.com).

**Wednesdays:** Modified / low impact dance sculpt. Light weights are optional. Bring a bottled water.



## FRIENDLY CLUB

Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, August 13th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am. Our guest speaker will be Ann Everette who makes quilts. Nancy Golden will be bringing one of her quilts that Ann made! Please bring a covered dish and invite a friend to join us for a good time and a tasty home cooked meal!



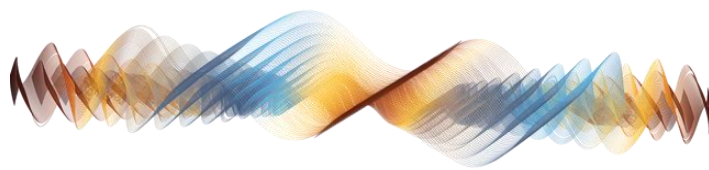
## Blessing Box

"Thanks for all the Food donations to the blessings box. We have a good supply of food but need some paper products and personal items. Paper towels, toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We need small packs because of space. Thanks, Church Family, and to God be the Glory"

--Bethlehem Mission Team

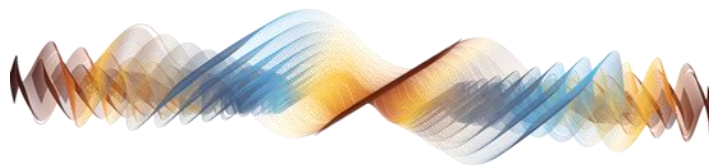
## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Blessing of the backpacks will be Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> for both students and teachers. If you have a child who is a rising 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, please give his or her name to Phyllis Wicker by Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> for Bible presentations on that day.



## NEW EMAIL & WEBSITE

Our church has a new email address and a new website domain! They are:  
***[bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com)***  
and ***[bethlehemmethodist.org](http://bethlehemmethodist.org)***



## BLOOD DRIVE

Challenge the One Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 7 pm. We will be using the Big Red Bus for collections. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during worship service or you can sign up online at [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org).

There must be 8 weeks since your last donation to be eligible. You are welcome to call me at 336-404-6803 if you prefer to sign up that way. Please prayerfully consider donating if you are able. It saves lives.



# August Wordsearch

G	P	E	R	S	E	I	D	S	S	B	A	S	O
L	G	E	B	E	Q	M	O	Y	C	P	V	T	H
A	P	H	S	Q	M	R	G	Y	A	A	A	A	F
D	M	H	U	U	G	M	D	O	A	V	C	R	J
I	E	A	M	A	O	W	A	U	U	I	A	G	G
O	T	R	M	L	V	H	Y	T	G	A	T	A	A
L	E	V	E	I	P	O	S	D	U	T	I	Z	R
U	O	E	R	T	O	N	D	O	S	I	O	I	D
S	R	S	W	Y	P	E	Z	O	T	O	N	N	E
R	S	T	F	S	P	Y	V	R	U	N	A	G	N
W	T	W	W	P	Y	B	R	F	S	B	A	O	E
C	C	M	O	O	N	E	P	E	R	I	D	O	T
T	H	E	A	T	S	E	F	A	M	I	L	Y	Y
H	Z	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	X	D

SUMMER  
DOGDAYS  
FAMILY  
POPPY  
AUGUSTUS  
HONEYBEE  
GARDEN  
GLADIOLUS  
HEAT  
STARGAZING  
VACATION  
HARVEST  
METEORS  
OUTDOOR  
AVIATION



**Peace Out**  
**Summer**  
**Youth Kickoff**

Tie-Dye Shirts  
Shaved Ice  
Food & Games

**SUNDAY, AUG. 18TH**  
4:30PM - 6:30PM  
GRADES K-12

**BETHLEHEM METHODIST CHURCH, CLIMAX**  
Join our Youth!  
Alpha Youth (Grades K-5) - 2nd & 4th Sundays  
Omega Youth (Grades 6-12)  
Meet Sundays at 5PM  
Next Meeting: Sept. 8th



**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

Children's Church is starting up and we need volunteers to teach. Sign up via the clipboard at the narthex or via [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com) under [bethumcclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumcclimax@gmail.com) Children's Church.



**BIBLES & BISCUITS**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD @ 8AM  
At Climax Fire Station #35

# Memorials & Honorariums

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

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## MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Wayne Kirkman**  
By Melvin Hinshaw

In Memory of **Doris Kirkman**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Memory of **Josephine Weatherly**  
By Bob Weatherly (x5)

In Memory of **Rev. Joseph Fulk, Jr.**  
By Dave & Ronda Robb

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

In Memory of **Sherry Hinshaw**  
By Melvin Hinshaw

In Memory of **Jim & Beverly Culbertson**  
By David & Laura Cranfill

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## HONORARIUMS

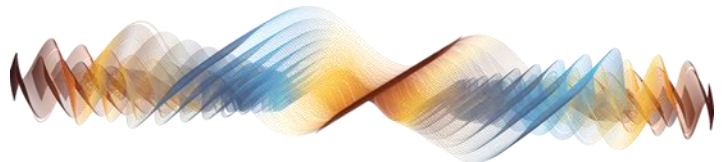
In Honor of **Kaila Hill-Riggins, Ethan & Rachel Hill**  
By Russell & Sharon Hill

In Honor of **David & Ronda Robb**  
By Margaret Royal

In Honor of **Lynne Causey's Birthday**  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **My Family**  
By Phala Garrett

In Honer of **Becky Windsor**  
By Wayne & Sheila Moser



### Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie Hanner

Clyde Land

Bob & Rose Marshall

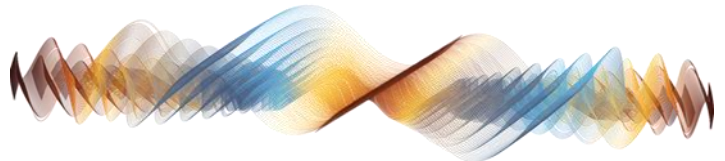
MSGT Ryan Osborne

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



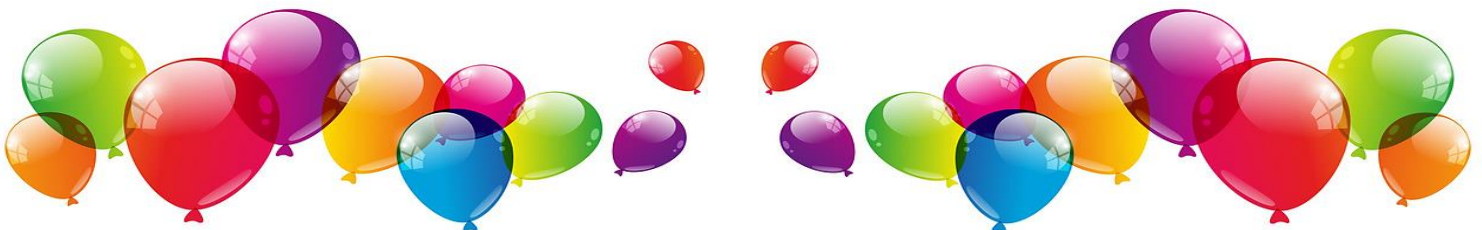


### August

8/1 Arnold Ingold  
 8/2 Linda Duncan  
 8/3 Greg Wicker  
     Paden O'Daniel  
 8/6 Shea Welborn  
     Abbey Windsor  
 8/10 Gerry Moody  
 8/11 Julia Willis  
     Dale Windsor  
 8/15 Kenneth Fields  
 8/16 Mike Harris  
 8/18 Randy Curtis  
 8/23 Jackie Cook  
 8/24 Robbie McClintock  
     Brad Wicker  
 8/26 Sawyer Edwards  
     Michael Garrett  
 8/28 Kylie Spencer Russell  
 8/29 Jeremy Coble  
 8/31 Lynn Haywood  
     Joyce Ingold  
     Ruth Rowland



### September

9/2 Vivian Wilkinson  
     Gloria Austin  
     Tater O'Daniel  
 9/3 Karen Parrish  
     Barbara Riddle  
     Pam Suggs  
 9/5 Jeff Eanes  
 9/8 Harper Garrett  
 9/9 Ethan Eanes  
     Grace Kirby  
     Desi Williams  
 9/11 Alex Garrett  
     David Goad  
 9/16 Krimson Gunter  
 9/17 Terry Franklin  
     Phala Garrett  
 9/18 Garrett Owens  
 9/19 Mary Lauren Bonney  
     Sheila Moser  
 9/21 David Welborn  
 9/22 Elaine Fulk  
 9/27 Layne Downing  
 9/28 Floyd Cook  
 9/30 Joseph Fulk, III  
     Buddy Reddick





## August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  6PM Trustees Meeting  7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service	2  7PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Camp Meeting Service	3 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35  7PM Ice Cream Social 7:30PM Sing Under the Arbor
4 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10AM SS 11AM Worship (ARBOR) -Camp Meeting Ends-	5  Walking Group (Time Varies)	6 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip 	7  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Childcare Board Meeting (Sunshine Class) 6:30PM Exercise (FH)	8	9	10  12:30PM Fundraising Event
11 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - COMMUNION 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	12  Walking Group (Time Varies)	13 11AM Friendly Club  1PM Blood Drive	14 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH)	15 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	16	17
18 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  9:15AM SS 10AM Worship 3PM FH Reserved (Birthday Party) 4:30 PM Youth Kick Off	19  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Walking Group (Time Varies)	20 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip 	21  Walking Group (Time Varies)  6:30PM Exercise (FH)	22	23	24  4PM Birthday Party (FH)
25 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Blessing of the Backpacks- 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship	26 10AM Paid Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  Walking Group (Time Varies)	27 9AM Childcare Fieldtrip 	28 Wonderful  Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM)  Walking Group (Time Varies)	29  10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)  4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.)	30	31

### GREETERS:

8/4 ARBOR  
8/11 Alice Jones & Kim Faircloth  
8/18 OPEN  
8/25 OPEN

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### ALTAR FLOWERS:

8/4 ARBOR  
8/11 OPEN  
8/18 OPEN  
8/25 OPEN

### ACOLYTES:

8/4 ARBOR  
8/11 Braxton Wall  
8/18 Quart Fulk  
8/25 Bradon Allen

### USHERS:

Dale Austin  
Tim Fields  
  
Glen Getner  
Greg Wicker

### AUGUST OPENER:

Dale Austin

### AUGUST CLOSER:

Denny Spencer

Bethlehem Methodist Church  
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Climax, NC 27233

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And my God will meet all your  
needs according to the riches of  
his glory in Christ Jesus.  
-Philippians 4:19 NIV