

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem Methodist Church

Volume 13

Issue 7

July 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Galatians 5:1/John 8:36

Freedom, we have been blessed with by God and so many who have come before us. What will we do to share our love and appreciation for this sacrificial gift? How will we use it for the good of others? Will we waste or abuse it on selfish or self-centered ways and expressions? Will we arrogantly take it for granted as others strive to have just a taste of it? Is our freedom just to do what we want to do without regard of God or for our neighbor?

If we do, then we are going against the intentions of God's Gift...

So, the same I ask for the freedom we have through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. The ultimate sacrificial gift of love that sets us free to better love God, neighbor, and be a blessing to others as we seek to do for the Kingdom of God.

Will our freedoms abuse God's grace or will it glorify our Creator?

May we never take this freedom for granted.

Love, Grace, and Peace in Christ Jesus' name our Lord and Savior...

The One has truly set us free.

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

Church Office

Margot Horney
336-674-0155
bethlehem1825methodistchurch@gmail.com

Choir Director

Gloria Austin

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT-May 2025

Budget – Revenues & Expenses

\$618,687.26 Total Budget's Fund Balance as of May 1, 2025

+ 24,061.97 Money Received in May

- 26,012.00 Money Spent in May

\$616,737.23 Budget's Fund Balance as of May 31, 2025

For the month of May, 2025, the Church Budget spent \$1,950.03 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget received \$29,630.48 more than it spent.

Designated Gifts

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. This fund was created by a vote of the church council on May 13, 2011, and was established with \$12,000.00.

\$156,116.20 MM&RF Money Available May 31, 2025

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 | \$ 1,513.43 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 1,279.68 | Handbells | \$ 160.52 |
| Discretionary Fund | \$ 3,028.62 | Scholarship-Religion Ed | \$ 1,983.22 |
| Records & History | \$ 581.56 | Missions-Undesignated | \$ 18,157.30 |
| Alpha & Omega Youth | \$24,832.82 | Cemetery Fund-Maint. | \$ 36,472.36 |
| Children & Family Ministries | \$ 4,049.47 | Choir Fund | \$ 286.26 |
| Helen Grady Endow. | \$ 800.00 | Flowers | \$ 181.00 |
| 198.00198(\$800 History) | | | |

Total Other Designated Gifts \$94,108.12

Total Designated Gifts Collective Fund Balance as of May 31, 2025 \$250,224.32

Trust Funds

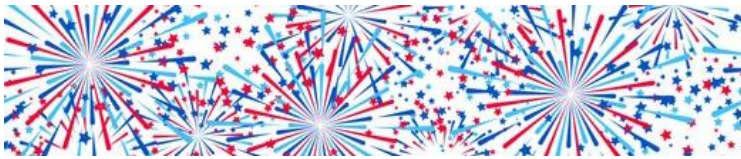
\$101,800.00 Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund

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 May 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$60,497.56 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

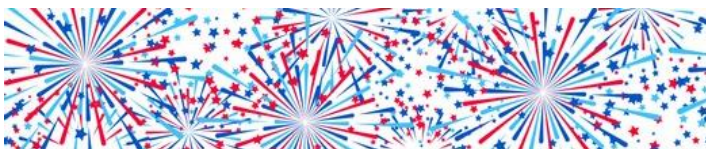


July Wordsearch

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | A | E | N | Y | T | I | N | U | M | M | O | C |
| S | K | R | O | W | E | R | I | F | T | T | C | M | M |
| V | H | O | M | E | C | O | M | I | N | G | O | O | M |
| A | P | A | N | A | M | O | I | R | A | O | U | D | C |
| C | A | S | R | O | O | D | T | U | O | E | I | E | E |
| A | R | L | T | S | I | G | E | A | E | C | M | E | L |
| T | K | I | H | B | I | T | N | T | R | M | F | R | E |
| I | I | B | T | A | P | A | I | I | A | B | O | F | B |
| O | M | E | T | A | E | H | T | D | P | P | O | W | R |
| N | B | R | R | M | S | O | R | M | A | M | E | R | A |
| W | A | T | E | R | M | E | L | O | N | R | A | O | T |
| C | L | Y | I | C | E | C | R | E | A | M | T | C | I |
| G | C | A | M | P | M | E | E | T | I | N | G | T | O |
| C | R | K | I | S | T | N | E | T | E | I | R | E | N |

CAMP MEETING
TRADITION
LIBERTY
PARK
HEAT
CELEBRATION
FIREWORKS
ARBOR
COMMUNITY
HOMECOMING
WATERMELON
OUTDOORS
TENTS
VACATION
FREEDOM
CAMPING
ICE CREAM

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8456503/>

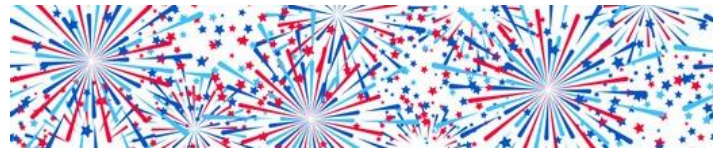


Childcare Spotlight

Summer Camp for the school age children in childcare is right around the corner. We go on field trips every Tuesday. If you'd be interested in donating to help offset the cost of some of the field trips, please let Erica know!



If you're interested in reading to our preschool children please come to read, sing and enjoy books with them here at Bethlehem. Pick out a book or two and sign up to come on Tuesdays at 10:30AM to the church library. Themes for July include Independence Day and Dinosaurs. The sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex.



Lauren Haywood's Exercise Classes

DANCE, SCULPT, & STRETCH

What to expect - 30 minutes of our original low impact / high intensity cardio "DANCE SCULPT" followed by 15 minutes of targeted SCULPTING, and 15 minutes of STRETCHING. With this combo we will be able to torch fat, tone muscles, and release tension ALL in one hour together!

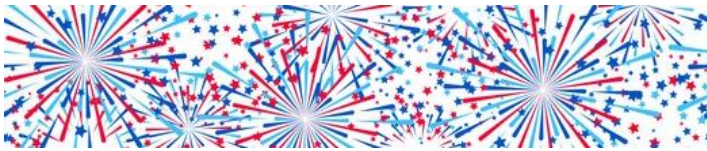
Mondays - 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Tabernacle (Sculpt-Core focus)

Wednesdays - 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem (Sculpt-Glute focus)

All classes \$5 or \$20/5 classes punch cards available at Bethlehem [only]. Please bring your own mat, bottled water, 1-5 lb. weights (optional), & sweat towel. Open to ALL fitness levels! Zero experience needed. New members WELCOME!

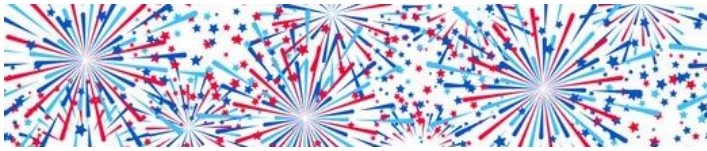
Questions - contact Lauren 336-686-4192 or laurenmstarr22@gmail.com





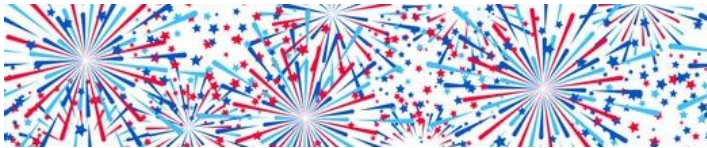
Friendly Club

Friendly Club will not meet in July. Have a great summer!



Church Council Update

The church council has updated our hiring policy regarding paid positions within the church, effective immediately. Church members are now eligible to apply for paid positions, except for the Administrative Assistant and Director of Daycare roles. Applicants interested in an open position should submit a resume to the SPRC. This policy change reflects our continued commitment to nurturing the gifts within our congregation while maintaining integrity in staffing practices.



Prayer LIST

Those in Need of Prayer

Active Duty Military

Our Church

LeeAnne Curtis

Tommy Dills

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Carlie H.

Clyde Land

Jerri Ramsey

Sammy Wall

Frank Willis

Our Homebound & Shut-ins

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



Camp Meeting REVIVAL

- July 17th - Arbor Clean Up (6PM)
- July 26th - Homecoming Set Up (2PM)
- July 27th - First Day of Camp Meeting & Homecoming
- August 2nd - Ice Cream Social (7PM)
- August 3rd - Last Day of Camp Meeting
- August 7th - Arbor Clean Out (6PM)

The Camp Meeting Committee is requesting donations of small plastic bottled water.

Camp Meeting REVIVAL

- Sunday, July 27th @ 11:00 AM - Rev. Matt Morris (Tabernacle Methodist Church)
 - @7:30 PM (Mt. Pisgah GMC)
- Monday, July 28 @ 7:30 PM - Andrew Coward (Bethlehem GMC)
- Tuesday, July 29 @ 7:30 PM - Rev. Joel Lacklear (Mount Mitchell GMC)
- Wednesday, July 30 @ 2 PM - Rev. Joseph Fulk III (Bethlehem GMC)
 - @7:30 PM - Rev. Joel Lacklear
- Thursday, July 31 @ 7:30 PM - Rev. Joel Lacklear
- Friday, August 1 @ 7:30 PM - Rev. Dr. Tony Bell (Bethlehem (Claremont) UMC)
- Saturday, August 2 @ 7:00 PM - Ice Cream Social
 - @ 7:30 PM Singing Service
- Sunday, August 3 @ 11:00 AM - Closing Service - Rev. Joseph Fulk, III

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.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Jodi Weatherly**
By Bob Weatherly (x4)

In Memory of **Joyce King**
By the Arlene Stokes Circle
By David & Ronda Robb
By Lois Snow
By Friendly Club

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

In Memory of **Mary Lynne Smith**
By Jim Smith

In Memory of **Johnny Waugh & Sandy Bradshaw**
By Pat Waugh
By Tracy & David Peele

In Memory of **Dicky & Keith Parks**
By Margaret Royal

In Memory of **Charles & Keith Parks**
By Evonne Parks

In Memory of **Francis Snow**
By Lois Snow

In Memory of **Angela Berke & Peggy and Raymond Bowman**
By Gale Berke

In Memory of **Ernest & Sarah Hinshaw**
By Samuel Hinshaw

In Memory of **Mrs. Elizabeth Waugh & Doris Waugh**
By Helen Waugh

In Memory of **Mr. Ralph Kirkman**
By Betty S. Kirkman

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of **All of Our First Responders**
By Phala Garrett

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

In Honor of **Denny Spencer**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Helen Waugh**
By Alice Jones
By Jane Williams
By Elizabeth Pulliam
By Joe & Phyllis Garrett

In Honor of **The Sunshine Class**
By Alice Jones

In Honor of **Margaret Royal's Birthday**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **The Smith Reunion**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In Honor of **Lois Snow**
By Lyn Flinchum

In Honor of **Lucille & Stacy McClintock's 76th Wedding Anniversary**
By Wes & Lisa Taylor

In Honor of **Jane Williams**
By Dottie Tew

In Honor of **Carol Fields Birthday**
By Alice B. Jones

In Honor of **Elaine Fulk**
By David & Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **Shannon Wicker**
By David Laura Cranfill

In Honor of **David and Laura Cranfill**
By Alice B. Jones

In Honor of **Scouting Volunteers**
By Eddie Wilkinson



July







7/1 Zoe Palmer
 7/2 John Steve Fields
 7/3 Ashley McClintock
 7/4 Michael Brady
 Ronda Robb
 7/5 David Robb
 7/6 Evonne Parks
 7/7 Melvin Hinshaw
 7/10 Becky Windsor
 Lauren Cordial
 7/11 Quart Fulk
 Ritchie Robb
 7/12 Rachel Wilkinson
 7/13 Jason Fields
 7/16 Robert Russell
 7/18 Riley Christie
 7/19 Ally Shuford
 7/21 Doris Reynolds
 7/23 Benjamin Windsor
 7/25 Tina Hinshaw
 7/29 Merinda Wilkinson
 7/30 Debbie Brady
 Sandie Harris
 Taylor Wray
 7/31 Abigail Coble
 Maysa Downing
 Emily Robb

August

8/1 Arnold Ingold
 8/2 Linda Duncan
 8/3 Greg Wicker
 Paden O'Daniel
 8/6 Shea Welborn
 Abbey Windsor
 8/9 Jamie Miller
 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
 Micheal Garrett
 8/28 Kylie Russell
 8/29 Jeremy Coble
 8/31 Lynn Haywood
 Joyce Ingold
 Ruth Rowland



July 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | 1 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved  | 2 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 3 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 7PM Trustees Meeting (Parlor) | 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY | 5 8AM Bibles & Biscuits @ Climax Firehouse #35 |
| 6 4th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Peanut Butter & Oatmeal Sunday</i> 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship-Communion | 7 Walking Group (Time Varies) | 8 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved  | 9 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Childcare Meeting (Sunshine Classroom) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship | 14 Walking Group (Time Varies) | 15 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved  | 16 9:30AM Bookmobile Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 17 10AM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) 4PM Child. Chapel (Sanct.) | 18 | 19 |
| 20 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM SS 10AM Worship -Noisy Offering and Puppet Show | 21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Walking Group (Time Varies) | 22 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved  | 23 Walking Group (Time Varies) 6:30PM Exercise (FH) | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 7th Sunday after Pentecost Homecoming 10AM SS 11AM Worship 12PM Covered Dish Lunch 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Worship (Arbor) | 28 10:30AM Arlene Stokes Circle (Parlor) Walking Group (Time Varies) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Worship (Arbor) | 29 10:30AM StoryTime Bus & Van Reserved  | 30  Wonderful Wednesday (Bus leaves at 9:40AM) 2PM Worship (Arbor) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Worship (Arbor) | 31 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30PM Worship (Arbor) | 1 AUGUST | 2 |
| CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING – CAMP MEETING | | | | | | |

GREETERS:

7/6 Maysa and Aubrey
 7/13 OPEN
 7/20 OPEN
 7/27 OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

7/6 OPEN
 7/13 OPEN
 7/20 OPEN
 7/27 OPEN

ACOLYTES:

7/6 Aubrey Wilson
 7/13 Maysa Downing
 7/20 Braxton Wall
 7/27 Quart Fulk

USHERS:

David Fields
 Todd Garrett
 Bud Lauder
 Barry Norris

JULY OPENER:

Jerry Monnett


JULY CLOSER:

Byron & Phyllis Dahl

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Climax, NC
PERMIT NO. 1



Trust in the Lord
with all your heart
and lean not on
your own
understanding;

Proverbs 3:5 NIV