

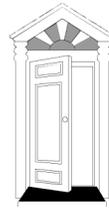
Heard through

# The OPEN DOOR

17500 Manchester Road  
Wildwood, Missouri 63038  
www.BethelUnitedMethodist.org



Phone: 636.458.2255 FAX: 636.458.2251



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Editors: Chylene Daub & Shirley Giebel

## 'ALL GOD'S CREATURES' ENJOY DAY OF BLESSINGS AND FUN AT BETHEL

President Abraham Lincoln once quipped that “God must have loved the common man because He made so many of them.” Well, God must have loved dogs also, because He gave us so many beautiful breeds.

Bethel UMC celebrated our canine friends on a special day Nov. 5 by offering Pet Blessings and a Dog Show that featured fun classes such as the dog with the best smile, and with the waggiest tail. Naturally, there was also the dog with the best trick, the shiniest coat, the best costume, and most handsome and most beautiful.

All pets were invited, and although we did not have any cats, Bethel welcomed a dapper little Nubian goat named “Tank” who wore a Christmas sweater and stocking cap for the occasion. His owner was Lori Julius. A cold, very windy day forced us to move the events inside Fellowship Hall, but that made it a cozy and enjoyable day.

Don and Diana Walsh spearheaded the event with the help of a hard-working crew. Hot dogs were served for everyone who attended, and plenty of dog treats were handed to the participants in their to-go bags.



Meet “Tank” the Nubian Goat who stole the show for animal breeds other than dogs. He is owned by Lori Julius. This was probably a “first” for Pastor Jeff when he gave God’s blessings on  
← “Tank”, the goat.



Barb Jacobs leads a parade of show dogs with her Great Pyrenees “Katie”. Katie is a therapy dog and has been named Bethel’s “ambassador”.



Pastor Jeff Fothergill has the full attention of “Izzy” the standard poodle owned by Leslie Hartrum, as he gives her God’s blessings for a long and healthy life.



“Dakota” rests her head gently on Pastor Jeff’s knee while he gives her God’s blessings. Dakota is a Great Pyrenees/golden retriever mix owned by Jean Dorsey.



“Cody”, the Corgi owned by Don Walsh, enjoys snuggling while Pastor Jeff gives God’s blessings for a long life of faithful companionship. Looking on: Carol Fothergill & Kim Hotze-Smith



Katie & Mike Severns brought their adorable pair of Yorkies “Mia” & “Moose”. They also had their daughter’s Chiweenie named “Baxter” for the day of fun.



Samantha S. had her beautiful German Shepherd, “Max”.



Meet “Coco” the Dachshund owned by Bonnie S.



Marilyn Weber brought her beautiful Maltipoo, “Jet”.



“Penny” showed off her talent in the “Best Tricks” category. She is owned by ← Ginger & Grace.



“Gracie” is a black and white Newfoundland-Border Collie mix owned by Lisa & Bryon Aston.



“Jasper” is a Chihuahua/Yorkshire Terrier mix owned by Janice Schirmer.



“Honey”, an American Cocker Spaniel, is the 14-year-old beauty owned by Sheila & Frank Olive.



Carla DeSalme brought her beloved “Piper”, a Labrador retriever, for the show.

“Bernie & Burgess” are a pair of beauties, mixed breed, owned by Kelly Thuet. →



“Lucy” (silver) & “Izzy” (tan) are the well-mannered poodles owned by Leslie Hartrum. ←

## DUO-DOGS TRAINS DOGS TO VISIT FOLKS IN NEED

Special guests at Bethel’s Pet Blessing and Dog Show were representatives of “Duo Dogs,” a volunteer organization that trains therapy dogs. These dogs visit pre-schools, hospitals, cancer treatment centers and nursing homes. Dogs who are trained to make these visits have a comforting effect for patients and can help to lower blood pressure and decrease anxiety.

Anyone interested can apply to be a handler or even a volunteer puppy raiser, both of which requires training. Puppy raisers keep the dog in their homes from about 8 weeks of age to about 18 months, while they received extensive training. Then the dog would be gifted to a person in need.



Cynthia Martin brought her English Cocker Spaniel “Harper,” and Vickie Svaghic had her Cairn Terrier “Parker,” to the Bethel event. Ms. Martin said that Duo Dogs of St. Louis has a crisis response team which responded to the recent shooting at a St. Louis high school. Duo Dogs is a not-for-profit organization. They are always in need of volunteers. For more information, you can call 314-997-2325.

## HANGING OF THE GREENS PREPARING BETHEL (GOD'S HOUSE) FOR ADVENT SUNDAYS & THE CHRIST CHILD'S BIRTH ON CHRISTMAS EVE

**Hanging of the Greens.** Volunteers gathered after worship service on Sunday, Nov. 27, after a short Fellowship time, to begin the annual transfer of cherished decorations from storage to the sanctuary. Boxes are opened. Recognized treasures are rediscovered. Stories behind the traditions are shared. There were readings and scripture and singing of Christmas carols mixed in as the group hangs the sanctuary greens—a symbol of life everlasting. Cake was also offered. Enjoy the following photos of this joyous Bethel Christmas event.

**Merry Christmas to All!**



**Heralding what Christmas is all about!**



**Christmas Eve Service—December 24 at 4p.m.** With the sanctuary all dressed in greenery and candlelight, Bethel as always, welcomes families, members and visitors as we assemble for Christmas Eve service. The more than 2,000 year-old Scripture springs afresh its miracles and promise renewed in the birth of the Christ child. For most who have attended in years past, there is anticipation as the congregation forms a circle around the outer perimeter of the pews. As the lights go dim, each person clicks to life a hand-held candle and joins in singing *Silent Night Holy Night*.



## BETHEL'S "LAZARUS" ORGAN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!

A history of Bethel produced for the church's Diamond Jubilee celebration in 1975 notes that an organ was consecrated. A good many remember its familiar sound under the talented hand of long-time pianist/organist Ron Krause. Pastor Len notes that "We were still using that 1975 organ when I was appointed to Bethel in 2004. It was often in need of repair and parts for it were scarce. The repairman told me he had a similar one in his shop from which he scavenged parts."

**A Lightning "Decision.** "We were planning on starting an organ fund to replace the organ. About that time around 2009 or 2010, if memory serves me, the church was the victim of a lightning strike. The organ 'was fried,'" Pastor Len says. Other damage was done to the lighting in the ceiling of the landing outside the sanctuary, Ron Guentz remembers, and several computers and sending units for the projectors used in church needed to be replaced, among other damages... Pastor Len says, "I remember we had one spare unit and we had church with one projector until we could replace them."

Bethel had insurance. Just off the top of his head, Bert Foster recalls \$40,000 for the damages. Pastor Len notes that the current Allen Organ purchased through the insurance company was around \$40,000 dollars. *(Editor's note: After the holidays we're hoping for time to search old files to nail down the record of dollars and time frame just for historical accuracy.)*

**Moves to Get Rid of the Organ.** After Ron Krause retired, the organ spent some years shoved in a corner of the altar area and there were moves to get rid of it. "When Gordon Gilliatt approached me and said he was assigned the task of selling the organ, I was mortified. I asked Pastor Dan to refrain from selling it. And that Ron Krause and I worked closely to insure the new organ had everything he wanted and then some," notes Pastor Len.

"It is the 'and then some', a digital component that was added," Pastor Len says, "that I used to get the awesome sounds of the organ ringing in the church once again."



## BETHEL'S "LAZARUS" ORGAN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE! (continued)

**Raised to life again!** In the absence of the operator's manual at the church, Pastor Len downloaded one from Allen Organs website. He made a spreadsheet with available hymns in the United Methodist hymnal. He made a laminated copy of the songs that is kept with the organ now. Another is with the owner's manual in the church office. There are actually several types of organs in one instrument. It can mimic the sound of a cathedral organ or keyboard, or a skating rink organ. It has a MIDI module that will let the operator use an accompaniment of any instrument—from drums, trumpet, full orchestra, or individual instruments—by digitally sampled files.



**The why?** When asked why he took this on, Pastor Len is quick to reply: “For the glory of God, of course. I have always loved the Spirit-filled worship at Bethel Church. While I was there I was blessed to have extraordinary musicians to work with--Debbie Schirmer to lead the choir, Ron with the organ and piano, later Helen with the keyboard, piano and praise



team, and finally Goggie and Stan. The organ was a large part of most of that time. In Bethel's long ministry we also recall long-time music director Ruth Ekstrom and the Bethel choir in their robes, before Pastor Len's time—music always a part of Bethel's ministry. That ministry continues with Shirley Martka as our current music director at the beautiful grand piano. It too was brought out of a corner where it had been for an estimated 15 years, according to some, and miraculously was still in tune. Another miracle, another blessing.

“The instigation to reinstate the organ came from Nina Hayes who asked me if I could show her how to get it going. I was glad to comply and to hear it being used again in the worship of our Lord Jesus.”

## ANNUAL COOKIE FESTIVAL AND CRAFTER'S CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE



Saturday

December 3, 9-1pm.



Good will, good works, good fellowship all result from our full participation in these two events.

1. *Bakers* Cookies are baked at home and donated to the cause by our volunteer bakers. They also pack their cookies in bags available in the church office. Cookies and candy that contain nuts, peanuts or peanut butter must be labelled as such. Cookies are needed at the church by Friday at 3pm.
2. *Volunteers* are also needed to participate and help out on Saturday from 8:30-1:30pm.
3. Questions or your plan to help out can be called to Barb Jacobs at 314-570-9544 as soon as possible.
4. *Shoppers* the Crafter's Christmas Boutique is held upstairs on the second floor and offers all the delights you have come to expect from this special group. If you haven't yet, do mark your calendar for Saturday December 3, 9-1pm. to get a head start on your Christmas shopping.

### THE ANGEL TREE TRADITION CONTINUES FOR THE MISSION GATE PRISON MINISTRY



Diana Walsh sets up the Angel Tree and decorates it with paper ornaments—a loving tradition she and Don have brought to Bethel for many years. Each ornament bears only this information: age, boy or girl. The Angel Tree is part of the Mission Gate Prison Ministry and gifts are for children of the prisoners. Our part is to select “ornaments” from the tree that have only the age and gender.

Please donate age appropriate gift(s), wrapped and firmly labelled with age and gender—or gift cards of any amount. **Gifts must be at Bethel by December 11.**

Wrapped gifts go on the table with the tree that miraculously reappears every year in the Fellowship Hall. Gift cards should be taken to the office upstairs, which is open M/W/F 8-2:30 p.m.

**2020 Staff Love Offering**



Dear Bethel Family:

Each year at this time we express our love and appreciation in different ways to those around us who mean so much to us and have helped us throughout the year. This includes our church family.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to join us in expressing our appreciation, thanks and love to our staff members by giving an extra donation to the STAFF LOVE OFFERING. This monetary gift will be divided among the staff and will be Bethel Family's year-end gift to them in honor of the birth of Christ.

Please have your love offering in by **December 18**. Please make sure you indicate on your check's memo line or on the cash envelope that the donation is for the "**Staff Love Offering**". Thank you so much and have a blessed Christmas season!

Merry CHRISTmas with love from:

The Pastor- Staff Relations Committee@ Bethel United Methodist Church

**FAITH IN ACTION**

**CIRCLE OF CONCERN'S HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE AND CHRISTMAS ADOPTION PROGRAM**

Circle of Concern's Holiday Food Drive/Christmas Adoption Program is still in need of gift cards for holiday dinners and their Christmas adoption program.

*Let's help them reach their goal by providing gift cards for 30 of their 2,400 clients (\$1,500 total). Received as of today... \$225. Any amount will help. Please note your checks with Circle of Concern on the memo line when making donations. Thanks for your help!*

## TOUGH ON TRASH

On Saturday, November 26, Alison and Mark Verbeck and Jan and Greg Allerdissen completed the final highway cleanup for 2022. They rounded up 7 bags of trash in about an hour!



Thanks for your hard work!!!



Ruth A and Diane D,  
Thanks for your donation of stamps. — Bethel UMC



## OPEN Praise Team

Anyone with singing or instrumental musical talents interested in helping the praise team please get in contact with Shirley Martka ASAP.

## Giving

In an effort to make you aware of our ongoing income and expenses Bert, our treasurer, has calculated our monthly expenses and we have provided a total of our offerings for the given month as follows:

Total estimated monthly expenses:	\$11,300
Total offerings received as of 11/28/22:	\$29,911

## Circle of Concern

They are in need of the following items:  
canned chicken, snacks, chili, stew, rice, beans, cereal,  
baking items, body wash, shampoo, size 1 diapers, dish soap,  
pads, tampons, cold/flu medicine

Please leave non-perishable food donations in the shopping cart next to the elevator. Thanks for your donations!



## On The Calendar @ Bethel

**Bethel Fitness**—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am

**Crafters & Prayer Shawl Warriors**—Thursdays @ 9:30am

**Christian Perspectives Class**—Sundays @ 9am

**Cookie Festival & Craft Boutique**—Saturday, Dec. 3 @ 9-1pm

**Communion**—Sunday, Dec. 4

**Board Meeting**—Tuesday, Dec. 6 @ 7pm

**Listening For God’s Voice (cemetery walk)**—Saturday, Dec. 10

**Juliet’s Luncheon**—Tuesday, Dec. 13 Big Chiefs @ 11:30

**Christmas Eve Service**—Saturday, Dec. 24 @ 4pm

**Christmas Day**—NO SERVICES WILL BE HELD



### Fellowship Time

Join us for coffee in fellowship hall after worship every Sunday.

ALL are welcome.

### Nursery

Open during Sunday service.

**We are blessed to have a good number of gifted lay leaders willing to help make our Zoom service a success.**

### Our schedule for December is as follows...

<u>Date</u>	<u>Devotion</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Prayer</u>	<u>ZOOM</u>	<u>PPT</u>
12/4	PJeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJeff	TBD	TBD
12/11	PJeff	Shirley	Don	PJeff	TBD	TBD
12/18	PJeff	Shirley	Louella	PJeff	TBD	TBD
12/25	NO WORSHIP SERVICE					

**The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.**

**We welcome additional volunteers, please call if interested. Training is provided.**

### Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

	Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	Bert	Bert
<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>

### Counters Schedule

	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	RuthAnne/Suzi	Bert/Debbie
<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>



Bethel United Methodist Church  
17500 Manchester Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907



**DECEMBER 2022**  
**News!**



## **Bethel United Methodist Church**

***Love God,  
Love Others,  
Serve All!***

***Please Join Us Sunday For Service***

Service will be **LIVE** in the sanctuary  
@ **10 a.m.** or you can use one of the following:

**Church webpage:** [www.bethelunitedmethodist.org](http://www.bethelunitedmethodist.org)

**Facebook Live:** <https://www.facebook.com/BethelUMCWildwood> "Like Us" on Facebook.

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/BethelUMCWildwood>

**Zoom:** Please contact the church office at 636-458-2255 to receive the link.