

Heard through

The OPEN DOOR

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Bethel People's Amazing Response to the Call Spells Success!

The Cookie Festival. Tables holding more than 700 holiday-printed, ribbon tied bags--with a big variety of different kinds of homemade cookies, candies and even pet treats--filled Fellowship Hall on December 3, 2022. The helpers on hand gathered for a moment for a prayer before the doors opened. The pictured group was only some of the many that turned up to work before, during and after the event. Then someone said. "It's 9 o'clock. Time to open the doors." To say people "poured in" was not an exaggeration. "I was handing out bags of candy kisses with a Christmas message from Bethel and the first big rush of people was 30. I had 48 bags and ran out," says Sheila Olive.



In the photos you can see all those tables were reduced down to a table and a half or less "when we shut down at 1:00," says Barb Jacobs. Some cookies were sold after church the next day. Sales totaled just shy of \$2,300. Barb Jacobs said "The best thing for me was the amazing response to the call for cookies and I was thrilled with all the wonderful people who pitched in to help with setting up and helping during the sale. Bethel Church may be small in size but it has a huge heart."



BEFORE



AFTER



Bethel People's Amazing Response to the Call Spells Success! (cont.)



The Crafters Boutique. In the hall and rooms of the second floor the Craft Boutique was in full swing. "We did well and sold out of breads, soups and other country store items along with many crafts," says Ruth Anne Kruger. The variety is impressive and always well received. The "scrubbies" made by Diana Durbin are always one of the most popular items. Proceeds from the craft items always find the way back into the good works and the needs of Bethel.

We do want to say
A BIG THANK YOU
to all our shoppers.



It's Official!



This was heard through the grapevine, but good news to be shared. Well no secrets divulged, or to be divulged, but just a trio of nice Board of Director decisions you may not have heard. First, **Shirley Martka** is now a staff member and officially Music Director. That adds to the continuity of our Bethel church service and the wonderful music additions. **Nina Hayes** has been elected to the Board. Not her first rodeo as they say. Nina has served on the Board before. She always brings a lot of creativity to whatever she does. **Debbie Sinden** has also been elected to the Board. If you haven't yet looked at the new *Open Door* addition—**Scout's Corner**—please do so. You will find the Board gave approval to finding ways to include the Scouts in the regular life of the church.

The Sounds and Traditions of Our 2022 Advent

A violin solo of *Silent Night* played by Grace D. the first Sunday in Advent brought this special season to the congregation. The “voice” of the violin took us to that special place in Bethlehem and took us away from the hustle and bustle of the season. Thank you Grace for sharing your talent and answering Music Director Shirley Martka’s welcome invitation for other instruments to join us.



We also welcomed, in the Advent weeks leading to Christmas, the lighting of the Advent candles. Each week individuals and families have gone forward to read Scripture and light the candles surrounding the Christ candle. That candle will be lit on Christmas Eve. Thanks everyone for bringing this special Christmas tradition before the Congregation.



A 'Sleigh' Full of the Spirit of Giving



Yes, it looks like an ordinary station wagon, not a sleigh—but the comparison is not far from reality. And though it might be Santa and Mrs. Santa and a helpful Elf, it really is Diana and Don Walsh, and helper Suzi Hladky. They are loading up the gifts from the Angel Tree. Such a beautiful assortment from our congregation who chose a paper Angel from the tree in Fellowship Hall that had no name, only an age and gender. Gifts to fit the age were purchased and lovingly wrapped and placed under the tree until the time to transport them to the Christmas party given by the Prison Gate organization for the children of prisoners. This year, post-Covid, the party is held once again with the children, friends and guests. Prison Gate is a Christian organization and has a beautiful program at Christmas that focuses on the birth of Christ. The gift part is the doing for others and the joy of being together.

When Don speaks about the lives of these children and what they have to bear, you hear the compassion and the dedication he and Diana have for this mission. So they once again load up the gifts in their bright Christmas paper and ribbons, but shining somehow with the love of God and the spirit of giving.



Scout's Corner — Getting to Know “Our” Scout Troop 456

Pastor Jeff recently shared with your *Open Door* editors, “When the Board met with Scout leadership a couple of months ago, their only request of us was to help them become more included in the regular life of the church.” Scout’s Corner is where we begin and hope to continue with stories and photos of interest to all.

Did you know the Scout’s hold their regular meetings at Bethel? We may associate the Boy Scouts only with the annual poinsettia project or their welcome help with the Chicken Supper event cleanup. But our Scouts have painted during the parsonage work, built the handicapped ramp there, and constructed the vegetable garden. There are lots more we hope to write about—including getting to know the individual scouts, “Meeting” their Scoutmaster; Charlie Rooney, finding out more about their motivation in helping Bethel; such as the Citizenship in Society merit badge, and photos of course, which we will ask them to take of their activities.

The schedule of Open Door, which always works a month ahead, will mean that some of the upcoming events won’t be able to act as a calendar, but more as an overview of the Scout programs and activities. In the meantime we’re looking forward to this new outreach.

What's Coming Up? In January there are two meetings at Bethel: Jan. 5 Parents Meeting and Jan. 12 Prepare for Rockets and Cabins Outing at Beaumont. Scoutmaster Charlie Rooney explains that one! “The annual Rockets & Cabins outing in January is where the Scouts build model rockets in advance and launch them in an open field. We then sleep inside a cabin with a fire. Good fun. Outings in the next few months include fishing, rifles, a visit to Springfield, IL, the Lincoln museum and aviation with a visit to Lambert airport. Also as a note, **Scout Sunday** happens in February, where we come to a service and present the charter to the congregation and thank its members for their sponsorship and support.” Bethel will be looking forward to that! Happy New Year!



Bethel Cemetery workers,

You do a great job. Thank you! — **Ginny H.**



Ruth A and Diane S,

Thanks for your donation of stamps. — **Bethel UMC**

Dear Ladies of the Bethel Crafters,

What a joy it was to browse the rooms and hall of your festive and practical home warming crafts, matched by the warmth of heart & hospitality you gave to everyone in your pathway. What a delightful visit my friend and I experienced today. How thoughtful to take the opportunity of this event to extend a welcome to Bethel. We are members of MUMC, yet will remember fondly your success today and all the hours, hands, and love it took to achieve it. Blessings! — **Marsha & Debbie** (Paraphrased due to space limitations.)

Bethel friends,

Thanks for the cards, treats, and generous love offering. Your love and continual support and encouragement throughout the year is deeply appreciated. Happy Holidays! — **Ginger**

Bethel UMC,

We have received your recent gift, and wish to thank you. With your giving, you and your congregation bring help and hope to families when they need it most. On behalf of those we serve—thank you! — **Circle Of Concern**

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 12/26/22:	\$13,381

Circle of Concern

They are in need of the following items:

canned chicken, snacks, chili, stew, rice, beans, oatmeal, cereal, condiments, baking items, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, cleaning products, 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—classes resume Jan 8

Communion—Sunday, Jan. 1

Board Meeting—Tuesday, Jan. 3 @ 7pm

Boy Scout's Parent Meeting—Thursday, Jan. 5

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, Jan. 10 Big Chiefs @ 11:30

Boy Scout's Meeting—Thursday, Jan 12

Listening For God's Voice (cemetery walk)—Saturday, Jan. 14

Communion—Sunday, Feb. 5

Board Meeting—Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ 7pm

Listening For God's Voice (cemetery walk)—Saturday, Feb. 11

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 January is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
1/1	PJeff	Shirley	Diana W	PJeff	TBD	TBD
1/8	PJeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJeff	TBD	TBD
1/15	PJeff	Shirley	Louella	PJeff	TBD	TBD
1/22	PJeff	Shirley	Don	PJeff	TBD	TBD
1/29	PJeff	Shirley	Barb	PJeff	TBD	TBD

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	TBD
January	1	8	15	22	29

Counters Schedule

	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	RuthAnne/Suzi	Bert/Debbie	TBD
January	1	8	15	22	29





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

January/February 2023
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

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.