

Heard through

The OPEN DOOR

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BETHEL HOSTS A “LEAVE OR STAY” TOWN HALL CONFERENCE AND HOSPITALITY GATHERING



Pastor Jeff at this lectern in front of the altar

Sunday, March 12, Bethel’s Governing Board brought two speakers on both sides of the leave or stay issue before the congregation immediately following our Sunday Service and Communion.

It is widely known that the United Methodist church denomination is headed for a major division. In a letter to Bethel members it was made clear that although there are potentially several reasons a division has become necessary, it is largely due to the allowance of same-sex oriented persons to be ordained into the ministry.

The town hall and service had a good turnout of Bethel folks. And the Bethel hospitality was in full evidence as the speakers of both sides of the issue were in the service. Pastor Jeff invited our Methodist Conference Superintendent, Jon Thompson, an ordained minister to do the Communion service. On the dot at 11a.m., following church service Superintendent Thompson gave his presentation followed by a half hour of questions from the congregation.



Jon Thompson

BETHEL HOSTS A “LEAVE OR STAY” (CONTINUED)

At noon we broke for lunch in Fellowship Hall. Our inspired Hospitality Committee chose pizza and salad which everyone (see the photo) seemed to enjoy. There was lots of good conversation and greeting as usual when Bethel gathers together.

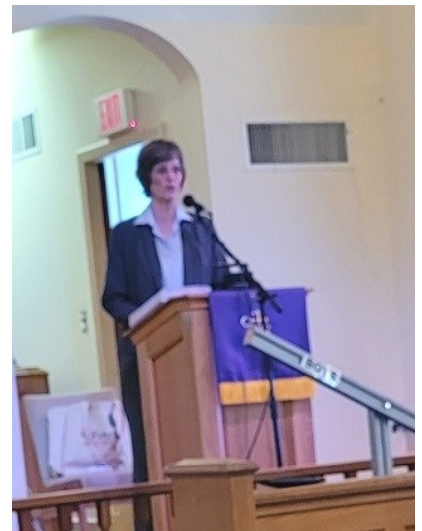


**Diana Walsh & Diane Smith
at the pizza table**



**The whole group eating
in Fellowship Hall.**

Promptly at 1p.m. the congregation gathered in the Sanctuary to hear the presentation by Cindy Evans, Secretary of Missouri Chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. At the end of her question and answer session, the meeting came to an end and was adjourned at 2p.m.



Cindy Evans at the lectern

Time is Running Out!

This change, which seems to have been going on until we begin to yawn, is at hand. **March 26, 2023 the vote will be held in Fellowship Hall.** It is a secret ballot and will affect Bethel's future, finances and mission. The Governing Board members deserve a lot of respect for its efforts to keep us informed and to help us make the decision that keeps Bethel intact and to the wonderful church and congregation we love.

Bethel members please don't forget to attend to cast your vote!

MOZAMBIQUE BUCKET CHALLENGE IS A SUCCESS!

The numbers are in. After many hours of counting Bert and Ruth Anne have declared our bucket challenge a success! We had a grand total of \$842.66 to deposit from the challenge. We collected a total of \$366.36 from the girls and a total of \$476.30 from the boys. It looks like the boys are our winners this year. But really, the true winner is Mozambique! These funds will help provide essential needs for the people of Mozambique. Thanks to all who contributed!



HIGHWAY CLEANUP

It's almost spring! It's time for our first highway cleanup of the year. Please let me know if you're available to help out on Saturday, March 25. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am to pick up trash bags and safety vests. Be sure to bring gloves. We'll have a rain date of April 1. Thank you!

Alison Verbeck alisonv09@gmail.com 314-922-1090



Good Friday, April 7 @6pm — Tenebrae Service

A Tenebrae service is different than what we have experienced at Bethel recently. Ultimately it is a story of the disciples, explains Pastor Jeff. It will start at the Last Supper and discuss the disciples one by one as they all fall away. We begin with many and end with none. We begin with light and end with darkness as we experience the light of the world snuffed out.



Other Easter Events happening @10am

Palm Sunday, April 2

Easter Egg Hunt, April 8

Easter Sunday, April 9

Bring Your Baskets, Kids For Bethel's Easter Egg Hunt

Bethel will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, beginning at 10 a.m. The hunt is open to all children. This popular event includes crafts for the children, a visit from Katie, the Easter Dog, and a hunt for more than 1,000 eggs on the church grounds. Plan now to bring your children, grandchildren and friends for the all-inclusive hunt.

We need our members to donate candy. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the church no later than Thursday, April 6, so that the eggs can be stuffed and ready.





ROUTE 66 MONTH IN WILDWOOD (IN APRIL)

Route 66 Scavenger Hunt: April 1st through April 30th, the City of Wildwood is sponsoring a scavenger hunt along Route 66 and Bethel is on this route! One of the scavenger hunt clues is:

"What historic church is known for their annual chicken dinner?"

We are setting up a picnic table with a red checkered table cloth and a fake chicken dinner for those participating in the scavenger hunt. They can take a "selfie" at the picnic table with Bethel in the background, proving they have answered the question correctly!

Watch the Animated Movie "Cars" in Your Car!

Outdoor Movie — Friday, April 14th @ 8 p.m.

(corner of Taylor and Main in Wildwood Town Center)



Drive-in Movie: Bethel will be joining this family friendly Route 66 drive-in movie at Wildwood Town Center. Bethel members are bringing their 1950-1960's classic autos that they will have at the movie. Take a selfie with your family and friends next to these absolutely cool cars! Do you have a Route 66 classic car that you'd like to show off? Contact Diane or Karl Schoenefeld.

Prizes: Scavenger Hunt winners will receive one of six prize baskets. Bethel is donating one hand-made prayer shawl for each basket! Each prayer shawl will have a special note about Bethel and a special prayer. Prizes will be awarded in May.

Learn much more at <http://www.cityofwildwood.com/route66month2023>

Bethel Plant Sale—A Sure Sign of Spring



Bethel Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13

Opening at 9am

until 1pm

This popular yearly event brings out people from our church and the surrounding communities. Barb Jacobs is not only chairperson of the event, she has been growing plants that we will take into our gardens and yards for a lot of bounty and beauty. Like all Bethel big events, planning and organization and lots of helping hands are key to success. Last year there were so many people from the community and visits to see the Sanctuary at Bethel.

But the call is out! Plants of all kinds are needed and welcome, Barb names the list: annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, small trees and shrubs, houseplants, wildflowers. “And anything I may have forgotten to include,” she says with a smile. Singles, 6-packs and trays accepted.

Potting mix is crucial! It takes a lot, Barb reminds us. Boxes and trays are also needed. Plants and potting mix are welcome anytime and some plants have already arrived. If digging plants from our yards be *sure to identify them*.

A “new” display with a “familiar” look! Tables will be arranged like the cookie sale with plants displayed in the center and holding tables along the walls.

All helpers mark these setup dates. Table set up will be on Thursday, May 11 with plants arranged on the Friday May 12. Time for these setups will be available from Barb and any later written notice.



Saturday, May 13 @ 9-1pm

**LET’S ALL MAKE IT
ANOTHER BANNER YEAR!**

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



Shirley, Chylene & Ginger,
Thanks for getting The Open Door out each month. I really appreciate it.— Jean Steffan

Bethel Warriors,
Thanks for the feast that was prepared for George “G”. When you all do a job, you really do it right. Thanks all for your hard work-it was greatly appreciated. —The Gaehle Families

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 3/19/23:	\$ 9,291

Circle of Concern

They are currently in need of the following items:
pasta sauce, cereal, snacks,
canned chicken, chili, stew, rice, beans, oatmeal,
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

Christian Perspectives Class—Sundays @ 9am

Bethel Fitness—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am

Music Ministry Practice—Tuesdays @ 10am

Prayer Group Meetings—Wednesdays @ 10am

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

Viewing of The Chosen—Fridays at 5pm

Palm Sunday/Communion—Sunday, April 2 @ 10am

Board Meeting—Tuesday, April 4 @ 7pm

Tenebrae Service (Good Friday)—Friday, April 7 @ 6pm

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 8 @ 10am

Listening For God's Voice (cemetery walk)—Saturday, April 8

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 9

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, April 11 - Big Chiefs @ 11:30

Fellowship Time

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

Nursery

Childcare provided 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 April is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
4/2	PJ Jeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJ Jeff	TBD	TBD
4/9	PJ Jeff	Shirley	Don	PJ Jeff	TBD	TBD
4/16	PJ Jeff	Shirley	Louella	PJ Jeff	TBD	TBD
4/23	PJ Jeff	Shirley	Diana	PJ Jeff	TBD	TBD
4/30	PJ Jeff	Shirley	Barb	PJ Jeff	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

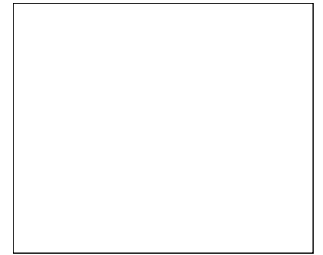
	Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	Bert	Bert	Bert
April	2	9	16	23	30

Counters Schedule

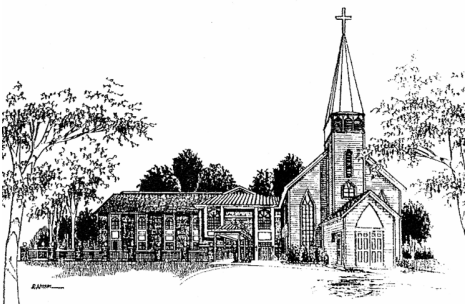
	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	RuthAnne/Suzi	Bert/Debbie	RuthAnne/Barb
April	2	9	16	23	30



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



April 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.