



WILDWOOD CHURCH
Come Home to Bethel - Since 1858

Heard through...

The OPEN DOOR



17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, Missouri 63038
www.BethelUnitedMethodist.org Phone: (636) 458-2255

A SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO COUNTRY AND THE CROSS

Bethel is blessed with a deep bench of talent evidenced on Sunday, July 2, when Pastor Jeff was away and Shirley Martka filled that role. The church in honor of the upcoming 4th of July was decorated with flowers on the Altar and in front of our American Flag-- that was brought forward beside the altar. The bouquets of red, white and blue flowers were donated by Ruth Anne K. and Carla D.



While Shirley had to abandon the piano, Linda H. took that on and performed seamlessly on that marvelous instrument, which has added so much to our church services. Barb Jacobs flute accompaniment and Chylene D., Nina H. and Don W. in the choir brought patriotic songs to honor our country for our July 4 Independence Day along with beloved hymns.

It is especially worth one's time to get to church a little early while the choir is running through their music in a practice session. Those who happened to be present on July 2 were in for a special treat. Maia, Elaine H's, great granddaughter was welcomed by the choir to sing *Jesus Loves Me*. This reporter knows that sweet little child's voice brought joyful tears to the eyes. A strong message from Shirley was titled "I Pledge Allegiance to the Cross."

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MUSICAL TALENT

Our Praise Team is ready to welcome anyone and everyone with musical talent to join us. Team leader Shirley Martka says we can use both singers and musicians.

Recently Barb Jacobs has played flute with our group, and Linda Himmelman has shared her talent on the piano and organ. One Sunday morning, Maia Cross sang "Jesus Loves Me," and the "Star Spangled Banner" with us in a prelude to the church service.



IS THERE A DRUMMER IN THE HOUSE??

Some months ago Open Door ran an article on the resurrection of the beautiful organ that had fallen into disuse. Pastor Len took on the assignment of bringing it to life once more and we have enjoyed the organ's awesome sounds ringing through the church. Shirley M and Linda H have made adjustments so the organ and piano can be played together.

But there is more! The organ has an 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.

Pastor Len remembers negotiating with the music company to include a set of drums and the dolly that the grand piano now sits on. "They gave us the drum set and dolly at no charge." He says he noticed the drum set now in the "Zoom Room" He adds that "it is a pretty good set. Too bad it is gathering dust as the organ was."

Is there a drummer in the congregation? Seeking answers from anyone who knows!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS POPULAR WITH ALL AGES

Name your favorite flavor of ice cream, and your favorite toppings, add cake, and even "cake pops" and you have the menu for a successful church ice cream social. Bethel held its Second Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 9, and also celebrated the one-year anniversary of having Pastor Jeff Fothergill as our leader. For a church that has stood the test of time, Bethel has probably had many ice cream socials in the past. We plan to continue the custom for many years to come. Thanks to all the Board members who furnished the ice cream and other treats.



PASTOR JEFF FOTHERGILL

Our Pastor Jeff marked one year as our outstanding pastor of Bethel on Sunday, July 9. The congregation celebrated with Jeff and Carol with cake served at our ice cream social. Bethel Wildwood Church is grateful to Jeff and his family for his dedication to our church. We are beginning a new era with our new name and new plans for the future.



SCOUTS' CORNER

Bethel Wildwood Church sponsors two Boy Scout troops and two Cub Scout packs and this year we have been approached for suggestions for an Eagle Scout project. The board discussed several projects that could enhance our historic Bethel Cemetery and the addition of a box to store retired flags awaiting pick up. The sign at the entrance to the cemetery needs to be renovated. It provides information about the cemetery hours and guidelines for decorations placed on the graves. Also suggested was the job of cleaning some of the old tombstones. Bethel is proud of our cemetery and the service that it has offered West St. Louis County for more than a century. Improvements to be cemetery would be greatly appreciated. Ultimately, the eagle scout has chosen to work on the retired flag box.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GOOD WORK!

So many individuals and groups do so much for Bethel. The following have come to this editor's attention to include in this month's Open Door.

Prayer Shawls for Free. Two baskets under the window near the elevator on the second floor of Bethel hold prayer shawls knitted by our Bethel knitters. And they are free. Pam Queen says the group has been making these for over a year and can't off the top of her head know how many have been produced. Each is blessed with a prayer. On a personal note, this reporter, sent one to a long-time friend in Iowa whose home had been severely damaged in a tornado. The day it arrived her husband of 63 years suffering with the strain from the storm had passed. She was very touched by the prayer shawl at that time.



Crafters Donate New Carpeting. Carpeting in the Sanctuary vestibule, handicapped ramp, stair and walkway into the church office, and the offices will soon have the outworn carpet replaced. Thanks to the Crafters for their donation to cover most of the cost. It has been described as blue in color, but we will soon be able to see it for ourselves.

Garden Produce to Circle of Concern. Ginger loaded up and delivered fresh produce from the church vegetable garden as follows: zucchini, cucumbers, cabbage, green peppers, banana peppers, parsley, basil and a few tomatoes. Fresh produce is so welcome and soon there will be lots of tomatoes which Ruth Anne and Barb load up to take to Circle of Concern each Monday. **Thanks to all!**



MISSION SUNDAY— SEPTEMBER 10

Sunday, Sept. 10, will be Bethel's Mission Sunday when the congregation will have a chance to decide on our church's support of mission projects in the future. For many years Bethel was expected to make commitments for Missions that were chosen by the United Methodist Church. Now that Bethel is independent from the UMC, our congregation can choose where we would like to send our mission funds. Everyone was invited to submit suggestions to the board about organizations and/or charities they would like to see supported.

The list will be presented during church service on Sept. 10. Board chairman Don Walsh said the amount of money available for missions will not be determined until a budget is presented at the end of the year. Hopefully, he said, "we could spread this out and help several organizations." He said that some could be helped with monetary donations, and some would be helped with volunteer service.



At the July 11 board meeting, the following suggestions were submitted:

The Circle of Concern-Bethel has an on-going partnership with Circle, including supplying vegetables from our church garden, and grocery products for the food pantry.

Mission Gate-a prison ministry that Bethel has supported through gifts each Christmas.

New Life Evangelistic Center-the ministry of Rev. Larry Rice that helps homeless and needy people in St. Louis.

Mozambique, Africa-Bethel has supported this mission for years, having helped to provide wells for water, chicks for the people to raise, fruit trees, and a motorcycle for the pastor.

Equine Assisted Therapy-located on Highway 109, offers therapy to folks with special needs by introducing them to horses and assisting them in riding.

Ronald McDonald House-provides housing for families of children in St. Louis for hospitalization.



Five Acres-a no-kill rescue and shelter for unwanted dogs and cats and other pets.

Tunnel to Towers-the organization that helps veterans who have returned from war with catastrophic disabilities. It also helps the families of those who were killed in combat, or in their jobs as first responders. They pay off home mortgages or build homes designed to be accessible for those handicapped by their injuries.



Newborns in Need-a charity that helps babies in crisis and their families.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts-both of which have received Bethel support for many years.

Also suggested would be to host a Red Cross Blood Drive, or a free mini health clinic. More information about these charities will be available to the board and to anyone interested. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 1.

97TH ANNUAL CHICKEN SUPPER & HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE*

September 16, 2-7 p.m.

All hands on deck!

Save the date!

Work assignments and unfilled openings will be in the mail soon. Jobs include setting up tables in Fellowship Hall, food preparation and cooking, serving in the dining room, taking tickets, manning take-out orders and clean-up. Every position is a “job” but our congregation considers it an enjoyable time spent with fellow church members.

*Note that Crafters return to their long-time “home” in the parsonage building. They have been hard at work getting the space ready and making their beautiful hand-made items, including both Fall and Christmas creations, and bakery goods.



AN UNSUNG HERO OF BETHEL’S CHICKEN SUPPER

The history of Bethel Church published for its Diamond Jubilee—1858-1975--based on records and first-hand accounts by members--says “1924 was the year of the first chicken supper.” It was a cold basket supper prepared at home by the women of the church and served at tables set up in the church yard. “There wasn’t any way to cook anything at the church.” This quote is from Ellie McLoon, who was Chairman of that first supper.

Later, in specially made fryers, the chicken was cooked outside. The annual supper became an event and the menu grew with its’ traditions. The German potato salad is a standout star made from a cherished recipe not for publication. It was kept for many years safely in the pocketbook of a member.

Carla DeSalme and Nina Lantz are again our co-chairs of the upcoming 2023 event, which they have been doing for 30 years. Asked by this reporter about making the potato salad Nina says the recipe requires that each item and step be done exactly to the recipe. “We are often asked why we have to start cooking the potatoes at 2a.m. so they are uniformly cooked and ready for peeling at 6 a.m. Just follow the recipe. That’s the way it is supposed to be done. Or it wouldn’t be the same.”

AN UNSUNG HERO OF BETHEL'S CHICKEN SUPPER (CONTINUED)

Enter Our Unsung Hero! This “hero’s” presence is one of those cases of you see it, but you don’t see it. The amazing stainless steel 10-burner, dual oven, stove is in place along the kitchen’s south wall and flanked by work and storage units. A stainless steel range hood rises to the high ceiling above it. Without this “hero” making the potato salad we have come to love and expect would be unbelievably more difficult.



Ron G. took the stove’s measurements. It is 6 feet wide and 30 inches deep with a height of 58 inches with its back piece of stainless steel. It is commercial grade and weighs 750 pounds. It is a Vulcan, but the model number, probably on the back of the stove, isn’t available. The big range hood was required by the County and must be inspected every 10 years, Ron notes. To operate the stove, there is a gas valve on the wall and a pilot light that is lit manually.

The stove accommodates those tall stainless steel utensils that cooks the potatoes overnight and the several other large utensils that make “the gravy”, as the dressing for the potato salad is called in the recipe. Without this “hero” making the potato salad we have come to love and expect would be made unbelievably more difficult, Carla and Nina agree.

The Hero’s History. When did the stove come to Bethel? Marcella Pendleton and Ruth Anne don’t know. (Ruth Ann’s Mom, Ruby Atwell made the potato salad along with Marcella for many years.) So let’s turn to the history book again. There is no mention of the stove, but there are two likely times. In 1943-44 when Rev. Herman Lehwald was the minister, the kitchen was expanded. More likely is the time frame of 1948-1953 when Rev. B.B. Harvey was minister and the Sanctuary was enlarged along with a new kitchen!



Bethel Members,

*Thank you so much for the gracious gifts on our Ice Cream Social Day! They were a welcome addition to the spiritual gifts that Bethel provides every single day! — **Pastor Jeff***

Pastor Jeff, Ginger, Ron, Matt and Grant,

*Thank you for all your hard work moving all the office furniture and equipment in and out of the offices so that the workers could install the new carpet. — **Bethel Wildwood Church***

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:	\$12,600
Total offerings received as of 7/23/23:	\$ 22,112

Circle of Concern

They are currently in need of the following items:

jelly, cereal, healthy snacks, canned beef/chicken, condiments, tomato products, baking items, flushable wipes, cleaning products, pet food

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

Music Ministry Practice—Tuesdays @ 10am

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

Board Meeting—Tuesday, August 1 @ 7pm

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, August 8 - Big Chiefs @ 11:30

Listening For God's Voice (cemetery walk)—Saturday, August 12

Christian Perspectives Class—Sunday, August 13 @ 9am

Communion—Sunday, August 13 @ 10am

Christian Perspectives Class—Sunday, August 27 @ 9am

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 August is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
8/6	PJeff	Shirley	Louella	PJeff	TBD	TBD
8/13	PJeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJeff	TBD	TBD
8/20	PJeff	Shirley	Diana	PJeff	TBD	TBD
8/27	PJeff	Shirley	Don	PJeff	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

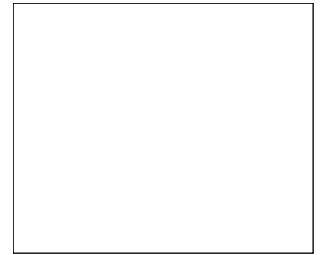
	Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	Bert	Bert	N/A
August	6	13	20	27	

Counters Schedule

	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Bert	RuthAnne/Suzi	Bert/Debbie	N/A
August	6	13	20	27	



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



**August 2023
News!**



Bethel Wildwood 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: <https://www.facebook.com/BethelWildwoodChurch/> **"Like Us" on Facebook**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethelWildwoodChurch>

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