

March 1, 2020

First Sunday in Lent. Communion Sunday. Liturgical color is white.

CORRECTION – Last Sunday's Narthex flowers were given in memory of Bob Kime by the Culbertsons.

March Opener: Sandie Harris **March Closer:** Sid Fields

Greeters Today: 1st Worship – Deena King & Sharon Norman **2nd Worship** – Lorrie Roth

Greeters Next Sunday: 1st Worship – Sandie & Zoe **2nd Worship** – Shirley Hackett & Jane Chamelin

March Ushers: David Fields, Todd Garrett, Glenn Getner, Bud Lauder, Barry Norris

Communion Stewards Today: Carol Fields, Frank & Julia Willis (1st Worship)
Byron & Phyllis Dahl, Vivian Wilkinson (2nd Worship)

Audio/Visual Tech: Gene Flinchum, Terry Franklin, Wayne Moser, Denny Spencer, Justin Windsor

Attendance February 23, 2020 –

Sunday School	100
1 st Worship	39
2 nd Worship	104
Total Attendance	143
Your Gifts-----	
Amount Collected to Date	\$52,003.18
Worship Service	\$5,539.55
Lumpees/Camp Meeting (to date)	\$1,092.00

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

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Church Office: (336) 674-0155; Fax (336) 674-0157

Pastor (336) 617-8226

Administrative Assistant

Youth Director (336) 953-7376

Choir Director (304) 435-7501

Music Director

Organist

Pianist

Webmaster

Child Care Director (336) 674-9879

Custodian

Pastor's Email: Revdshort@aol.com

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Child Care Email: bethchild91@gmail.com

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Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BUMC.nc

Rev. Debra Short

Robin Bunton

Reba Lamb

Pingyi (Lesley) Song

Vickie Flinchum

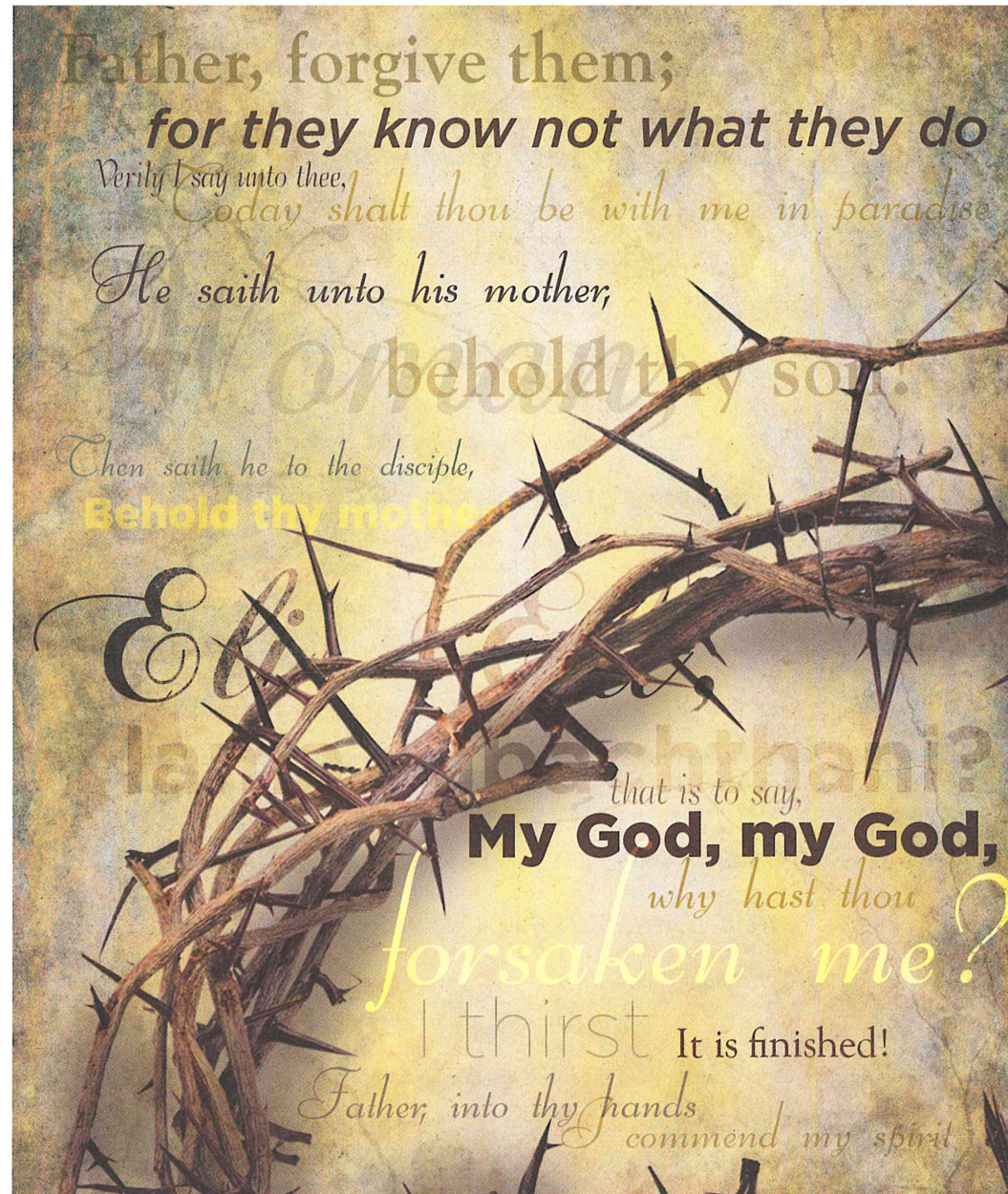
Jane Reddick

Laura Cranfill

Debbie Brady

Tonia Lee-White

Ovido Sorbito



Welcome all who worship here! We pray you experience God's Holy Spirit in a new way as we worship together. Visitors, please be sure to fill out the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

ENTERING INTO FELLOWSHIP

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude *Bless His Holy Name*

Lighting of the Altar Candles

*Call to Worship *Jesus, Name Above All Names* On Screen

*Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* No. 286

SHARING OURSELVES WITH GOD

*Passing of the Peace

Lenten Reading and Extinguishing of Candles Welborn Family

Joys and Concerns/Pastoral Prayer/The LORD'S Prayer

Special Music *Who You Say I Am* Gloria Austin, Soloist

THE WORD OF GOD CHANGING OUR LIVES

Scripture Luke 23:32-43

Sermon "Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise" Rev. Debra Short

OUR THANKSGIVING AND RESPONSE

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *In Deeper Reverence*

*The Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 95

The Sacrament of Holy Communion No. 12

GOING FORTH FOR GOD

*Closing Hymn *Old Rugged Cross* (Verses 1, 3, 4) No. 504

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *Jesus, Remember Me* No. 488

*Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

Methodism 103 – GC 2020, 3:00 pm, TODAY in the Fellowship Hall

Rev. Burt Williams from North Morganton UMC will be the presenter.

*What are the important Petitions and Plans being presented and what will they mean for us?

*What does the WCA (Wesleyan Covenant Association) have to do with GC 2020?

*What will the New Denomination look like?

PRAY – The Spiritual Growth Team is asking that from now through General Conference May 5-15 that everyone stops what they are doing **EVERY DAY at 5PM** and prays a simple prayer for General Conference – **Peace and God's will to be done.** We are asking that you start your prayer with the following Scripture: Matthew 6:10 – "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

PICK UP YOUR BIBLE STUDY BOOKS TODAY! The books are available outside of the church office. **PASTOR-LED LENTEN Bible Study begins March 10th.**

TODAY IS PEANUT BUTTER/OATMEAL SUNDAY. Your donations of these items go to Urban Ministries. Thank you for supporting this outreach.

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERING - If you would like to participate in the Heifer International Special Lenten Offering, banks are available in the narthex and on the table outside of the church office. This offering will be received Sunday, April 19.

CHICKEN STEW/BAKE SALE - Sponsored by Arlene Stokes UMW Circle, March 7th (snow date March 14th), 12N-1:00PM in fellowship hall; \$7.00/quart. **LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MONDAY, MARCH 2nd!** Orders to - Cindy 336-674-6858/cindyf@triad.rr.com or Julia 336-685-4857/jawillis1@aol.com Include your name & phone number. Walk-in orders may not be available, so place your orders NOW. Baked items will be available for purchase on site.

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR - We will be recruiting singers to sing the piece "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah* for Easter Sunday Service. We are also recruiting Bell Choir Participants for Easter Sunday Service. Both practices will start on March 25th – 6PM for Bells, 7PM for Choir. We will have **three total special practices** for Easter Sunday - March 25, April 1, and April 8. Questions – contact Lesley.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday 3/1 1st Sun. /Lent, Communion,

Pnut Butter/ Oatmeal Sunday

8:50AM 1st Worship

10AM Sunday School

11AM 2nd Worship

2:30-6:30PM Lay Servant Training (Guilford College UMC)

3PM Methodism 103 (FH)

5:30PM UMYF

Monday 3/2 STEW ORDERS DUE!

8AM Breakfast Club (Backyard Grill)

6:30PM All Girls - Scouts

6:45PM Walking

7PM Child Care Board

Tuesday 3/3

10AM StoryTime (Library)

6:45PM Line Dancing (off-site)

7PM Women in Christ

7PM Cub/Boy Scouts

Wednesday 3/4

3-4PM Food Pantry Open

6PM Youth Bible Study

7PM Choir

Thursday 3/5

CHICKEN STEW PREP (FH/KIT 2-4PM/BUCKETS)

7:30PM Trustees

Friday, 3/6 World Day of Prayer

CHICKEN STEW PREP (FH/KIT 7-3PM/COOK CHICKEN)

Church Office Closed.

7PM Movie Night (FH)

Saturday 3/7

CHICKEN STEW PREP (FH/KIT 6-2PM MAKE STEW/SELL)

12-1PM Stew Sale

Sunday 3/8 2nd Sunday in Lent

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

8:50AM 1st Worship

10AM Sunday School

11AM 2nd Worship

Reception for Jackie Smith follows 2nd worship (FH)

5:30PM UMYF

COMING UP

Tues., 3/10 Pastor-led Lenten Bible Study Begins (10AM or 6:30PM)

Tues., 3/10 @ 10:30AM Friendly Club

Tues., 3/10 @ 7PM Evangelism Meets

Thurs., 3/12 @ 7PM Missions

Fri., 3/14 Parlor in use 10AM-4PM (Wedding party gathering only)

Sun., 3/15 3rd Sun./Lent, Noisy Collection

Mon., 3/16 @ 7PM SPRC

Tues., 3/17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Tues., 3/17 Lenten Bible Study (10AM & 6:30PM)

Wed., 3/18, 5:30-7PM Fundraiser Meal/Chicken Pie (FH) (All Girl/Scouts)

Thurs., 3/19 Spring Begins!

Thurs., 3/19 @ 7PM Children/Family Ministries

Fri., 3/20 FH/KIT in use after 6PM (decorate for shower)

Sat., 3/21 FH/KIT in use 9AM-4PM (Bridal shower)

Sun., 3/22 Easter Lily Orders Begin

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these friends in your prayers.

Ongoing Prayer

Vicky Alexander

Jack Bowman

Suzie Branch

Edna Coble (Morningview)

Fred Cook

Jane Dunham

Cory Fields

Kelsey Garrett

Nancy Golden

Ruby Hockett

Ongoing cont.

Betty Hull

Larry Knight

Clyde Land

Marjorie Mabe

Lucille McClintock

Dennis McGee

Mildred Moser

Jamie O'Daniel

Dicky Parks

Our Homebound

Immediate Prayer

Rev. Ed Armfield

Martha Boren

James Brownsfield (friend of Marjorie M.)

Carol Coble

Ronda Faggart

Brad Fields

Wayne & Ruby Kirkman

Carolyn Johnson

Alice Jones

Kenny McGinnis

Immediate cont.

Donald Rose McGee (Ruth's sister)

Preston Ryan

Mike Underwood

Bette Weatherly

Ernest Wicker

Betty Wilkins

Military

Matthew Jones (friend of Londa P.)

Robert Russell (Kylie S.'s boyfriend)

NEW CHILD CARE DIRECTOR - We welcome **Tonia Lee-White** as Bethlehem's new Child Care Director. Tonia comes to Bethlehem from Building Blocks Early Education Center. Her educational accomplishments include a Masters in Special Education and a Bachelors in Linguistics and Psychology. Currently Tonia is pursuing a Masters in Education. Her first day at Bethlehem's Child Care Center was February 24th.

THERE WILL BE A RETIREMENT RECEPTION for Jackie Smith on **NEXT SUNDAY**, March 8th in the FH immediately following second worship. Cake and refreshments will be served. All are invited as we thank Jackie for twenty-nine years as Bethlehem's Child Care Director.

CAMP MEETING 2020 – Daniel Lumpee will be preaching at the 7PM Camp Meeting services this year. Currently, the estimated cost is \$2525.00 to cover flights, hotel accommodations, and car rental for the Lumpees. Per administrative council, these funds will come directly from the congregation's donations. NOTE: Your gifts will not be listed on your church statement. Thusly, the gift you give will not be a part of your tithing. Thank you in advance. (Please label your gift by writing 'for Lumpees' on the offering envelope. If writing a check, make check payable to BUMC, write 'for Lumpees' on the memo line.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR 2-4 GRADES is needed. If you are able to serve or want more info, please contact Sandie Harris (336) 681-1558. Thank you.

SAFE SANCTUARY – Because of Safe Sanctuary, children cannot be permitted to wander the church unattended. We have had incidences where unsupervised children had been found in empty classrooms sitting on opened window sills. Parents/responsible adults are asked to please escort children to their Sunday School Classroom at the start of the class. Please do not leave your child until the teacher is present.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – Announcements and information to be listed in the bulletin should be sent to the church office no later than Tuesday evening. Please send info by email to bethumclimax@gmail.com Thank you.

First Sunday in Lent

THE SEASON OF LENT

The **SEASON OF LENT** began on **ASH WEDNESDAY**. In the Christian Year, the **SEASON OF LENT** is the 40 days before **EASTER**. The number “40” is significant in two ways, as it calls to mind the 40 days that Jesus spent alone in the wilderness before beginning His ministry. He fasted, prayed and reflected on what God was calling Him to do. It also calls to mind the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness before settling in the Promised Land. The word “**LENT**” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten*, which means “spring,” “springtime” and “lengthening of days.”

The **MOOD** of the season is that of **PENITENCE** (sorrow for sinning); **MEDITATION** on Jesus’ life, ministry, suffering and sacrifice; **INTROSPECTION** and **RE-EXAMINATION** of our own lives; **REFLECTION** on what God intends for us and **PREPARATION** for sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ. The liturgical (referring to worship) **COLOR** for the season is **PURPLE**, which represents penitence.

THE ROUGH-HEWN CROSS

Today a bare **ROUGH-HEWN CROSS** stands in the sanctuary. The **ROUGH-HEWN CROSS** reminds us of Jesus’ death by crucifixion. It was that death, the most dreaded in the ancient world, which Jesus endured for **OUR** salvation. The **ROUGH-HEWN CROSS** best reveals Christ’s glory. In a world filled with poverty, famine, terror and death, this cross can be a powerful statement of the Church’s commitment to carry out Jesus’ ministry.

This **SEASON OF LENT**, let us remember the powerful statement of love the cross gives us.

THE CANDLE CROSS TABLE

Today the wooden **CANDLE CROSS** has all the candles lit. However each Sunday one candle will be extinguished, as darkness grows the closer we get to Good Friday. Every Sunday there will be a symbol placed on adjacent tables in the chancel area, representing parts of the Passion Story.



What is it really and why is it such an important time before Easter?

In our busy, secular world, we all need time for reflection and renewal. Lent is such a time. It is a 40-day liturgical period to remember Jesus, who he was and is, and what he sacrificed for us. It is a time of self-examination as we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into that new person in Jesus Christ. It is a time of inner penitence and reconciliation with God as we prepare once again to receive the gift of Easter. It is a time to engage in personal and communal prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, and worship. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day period with the imposition of ashes on the forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance.

On Ash Wednesday, the “Alleluias” will be buried until Easter morning. There will be no song during Lent which includes Hallelujah or Alleluia. The Sanctuary is stripped of all flowers and flags as we focus on the cross. All to return on Easter Sunday.

There will be purple cloths on the wooden cross standing in the sanctuary and the one outside. Purple is a color for royalty but also signifies penitence and preparation.

There will be a **third**, smaller cross in the Chancel area with candles in it. During Advent, we light a candle every Sunday signifying the light coming into the world with Jesus’ birth. During Lent, every Sunday we extinguish a candle, signifying the light that came into the world, leaves the world, even if for a short time. The Christ candle is extinguished on Good Friday. It will not be until Easter morning that the light re-enters the Sanctuary.

We are Easter people, but it is when we observe and participate in Lent that we are able to experience the **FULL** joy of Easter.

May this Lenten season be one of transformation for you, your family, and our Congregation.