

## Isaiah 49:1-7 NRSVUE

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." <sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God!  
Thanks be to God!*

January 18, 2026



*Mission Statement  
Knowing Christ, Growing in Faith, and Showing God's Love*

*Vision Statement  
Bethel United Methodist Church continues its unchanging heritage of faith, striving to be a sacred place to know Christ fully, grow spiritually, and show God's love through compassion, service, and generosity.*

# Worship

Celebration of



January 18, 2026  
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “Be Thou My Vision” arr. McKibben

Greeting & Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: Listen everyone! God has given us work to do.  
People: *God has called each of us before we were even born.*  
Leader: It was God who named us.  
People: *It is God who claims us.*  
Leader: The light of God’s love shines in us.  
People: *Let’s shine God’s love into all the world!*

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\*Opening Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”.....#103 UMH

Opening Prayer: *God of Isaiah, you are our God, too. You spoke to the prophets, but your message did not end with them. There is still work to be done, and we pray to hear your call afresh. Help us joyfully claim our role as your beloved servants, knowing that you provide all that we need to do our work. You walked with us before we were even born, and you continue to hold us by the hand each and every day of our lives. We pray with the confidence of those who have been filled with your light. We pray with the assurance of those who have been called into fellowship with your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...*

The Lord’s Prayer: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

# JANUARY 18—JANUARY 25

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
Monday	Office Closed-Martin Luther King Day Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath	
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Sue Sprague Bible Study - PMH
	6:00 p.m.	“J” Crew - Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	YM <sup>2</sup> - Music Room
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	King’s Kids - Music Room
	6:30 p.m.	Missions Team Meeting - PMH
	7:00 p.m.	First Towne Ringers - Music Room
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	The Gospel of Matthew Bible Study - PMH
	6:00 p.m.	Miracle Singers - BFH
	6:00 p.m.	Wyldlife - PMH
	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir - Music Room
Friday	Pastor Jim’s Sabbath Ray Davis’s Sabbath	
Saturday	11:00	Celebration of Life for JoAnn Merrick - Sanctuary Reception to follow Service - BFH
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary

Church Livestream Available Online Sundays  
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Or anytime after the services on YouTube

BFH - Bethel Fellowship Hall  
PMH - Parsonage Meeting House



BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER LIST  
1/18/2026

Key: ***Bold, Italicized & Underlined*** type indicates a request new this week

Rehabilitation: David Hurlock, Bobby Lane, Paul Webb

Hospital: Dwayne Henry, Dottie Mckain

Hospice: Gary Arrell, Rosemary Bouvier, Jim Kardas, Brenda Keith, Sharon Messinger, Mrs. Sample, Jim Smith

General Concerns: Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Marilyn Battiste, Bryce, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, John & Linda Catanzaro, Kathy Crowley, Cathy Crown, Scott Dailey, Kim Edmonds, Pat Emmett, Jessi Ferree, Bridget Fowler, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), Ida ( Sister in-Law of Tina Eaton), Jessica, Kelly Jones, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, Paulette Lazzarro, Al Lopez, ***Paige Lucas***, Lucca, Pat McMillen, Ann Miller, Whitney Murray, June Myers, Jennifer Nobles, Xavier Nobles, Kelly Pinsky, Pauline Powell, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, Cindi Flahive-Sobel, Danny & Debbie Summers, Linda Sydell & Family

Long Term: Ansavlish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Fran Baker, Matthew Baker, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Dave Beddle, Nancy Bektolino, Betty, Gavin Birl, Daryl Bradley, Inez Brengle, Liz Carrier, John Caycedo, Janette Clavette, Clawson Family, Victor Colon, Rev. Charles Covington, Bill Dell, Delores, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Richard Dickey, Bonnie Ekas, Jim Emanuel, Marilyn Emanuel, Trish Emmett, Tom Engel, Susie Eveland, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Junie Grant, Jude Gray, Alex Grove, George Hammond, Kelly Harp, Heather & Indy, Nancy Hecker, Lou Henderson, Sharon Henderson, Jack Henriksen, Connor Hiple, Jim Hooban, Kayla Hottinger, David Jones, Erika Jones, Chubby Joseph, Deb Kellenbenz, Adam Kent, ***Faye Kintz***, Kathy Kroley, Norm Kugel, Janice Kulp, Paulette Lazarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, ***Madison MacElrevey***, Matt, Kortlyn, & Bodi, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Janet McGinnis, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Marsha Miller, Stephanie Miller, Rev. Charles Moyer, Chuck Naspinsky, Curt & Melinda Newsome, Ted Niemczyk, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Thom Pemberton, George Pepper, Earl Peters, Jodi Potter, Steve Rellihan, Beth Rinker, Carla Robinson, Tom Schaich, Mary Louise Scott, John Schulze, Joe Seay, Bill Seitz, Betty Sheats, Logan Smith, Tricia(Spangler)Gracey, Chet Sprague, Judy Stevenson, Bonnie Stevlingson, Margaret Stockslager, Dale Stough, James Taylor, Bonnie Tedesco, Peggy Thomas, Dave Trout, Bob Turcovski, Dawn Vandegrift, Michael Walker, Wanda, Kathy Watson, Kathy Wetherhold-Parrott, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, Jim & Jolie Woodward, Lucretia Y., Glenn Yetter, Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures:

Recovering From Procedures: Bobbie Flynn, June Rose Futchter, Margaret Hitchens

Other:

- All those caring for family and friends, especially spouses and those that have lost a child.
- Delaware Firefighters, EMS, and State Troopers.
- For racial justice in the United States.

Sympathy to:

- ***Family & Friends of Doug Elliott, who passed on January 10th.***

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): *"Breathe On Me, Breath of God"* arr. Folkertz

(11): *"Come Flood This Heart of Mine"* by Frombach/Lantz

\*Doxology:.....#94 UMH

Hymn of Preparation: *"Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See"*.....#468 UMH

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Message *"Laboring in Vain"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Closing Hymn: *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*.....#206 UMH

\*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

***People: May the Peace of Christ be with you.***

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

\*Postlude: *"Jubilant Ringing"* by Lehembauer

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God*

*Hearing assistance devices are located at the sound booth.*

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Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

# Come Alive Time WORSHIP



January 18, 2026  
9:15 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering: *(Please watch the screen for upcoming events)*

Greeting and Opening Prayer

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\*Opening Songs of Praise & Worship: *"Your Love Awakens Me"*  
*"Your Words"*

Children's Message: *"Working Together"*

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"Here's My Heart, Lord"*

## LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Message: *"Laboring in Vain"*

Pastor Jim Penuel

## GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Closing Song: *"We Are the Light of the World"*

\*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: *May the Peace of Christ be with you.***

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### FOR BOTH CODE PURPLE @THE CAPE SHELTERS

Shelter Season is Mon Dec 1, 2025 – Sat Mar 15, 2026



This vital resource is dependent on volunteers as Code Purple @ the Cape is a 100% volunteer run.

Both of their emergency winter shelters, at St Jude the Apostle and the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, are open every night from December 1st until March 15th.

Volunteer spots include overnight Hosts, intake Assistants & bus Drivers.

They serve single adult men and women. Provided services include a hot meal, a warm, safe and secure bed, weather appropriate clothing, and hygiene. Each guest is uniquely homeless...each vulnerable...each one matters!

To view the descriptions and dates open for each job on their *SignUp.com* page just copy and paste this address into your browser:

<https://signup.com/go/xeVKqQw>

If you have questions about volunteering email Mike Agnew at [codepurple@stjudelewes.org](mailto:codepurple@stjudelewes.org)

Thank you



### Love Inc-Code Purple Shelters:

Our friends at Love INC could also use some helping hands at the **Georgetown** and **Milford** Code Purple shelters. They're looking for overnight volunteers!

If you're able to serve, you can sign up at:

<https://40484.people.myamplify.io/external/form/807a9e0b-3191-48c1-bc4c-f6864db51097> Thank You!!



# Bethel is Pleased to Announce The New Board of Trustees for 2026



Chairperson: Tom Santaferra

Vice-Chair: Bill Powell

Recording Secretary: Susan Monroe

Our members consist of:

Walt Tydings

Cindy Cunningham

Bob Wotring

Dennis Leebel

Bill Shook

Phil Fitch



## BETHEL INFORMATION

### To our guests...

Welcome to Bethel! Thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to experience the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ today. During the announcements we would like to give you a welcome packet—just raise your hand and an Usher will bring you one. We value your feedback. Please fill out the Information Card in the mug and place it in the offering plate. For more information about Bethel, visit our website at [www.bethellewes.org](http://www.bethellewes.org) or call the Church Office. Thank you.

### Worship Opportunities

Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:00 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall, 9:15 a.m.  
Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.  
Church Livestream Watch Online Sundays @ 9:15 or 11:00  
Or anytime after the services on YouTube

### Bethel Ministry Staff Contact Information

Jim Penuel, Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorjim@bethellewes.org">pastorjim@bethellewes.org</a>
Earle Baker, Pastor of Visitation	<a href="mailto:enbaker54@gmail.com">enbaker54@gmail.com</a>
Joyce Mentzer, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:jkmmentzer@bethellewes.org">jkmmentzer@bethellewes.org</a>
Ray Davis, Youth & Family Director	<a href="mailto:ray@bethellewes.org">ray@bethellewes.org</a>
Sandy Stough, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:office@bethellewes.org">office@bethellewes.org</a>
Cindi Clavette, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:cindi@bethellewes.org">cindi@bethellewes.org</a>
Laura Petranto, Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:laura3152@live.com">laura3152@live.com</a>
Katie Davis, S.S. Superintendent	<a href="mailto:Kdavis4786@gmail.com">Kdavis4786@gmail.com</a>
Todd Mentzer, AV Coordinator	<a href="mailto:tamjam3@gmail.com">tamjam3@gmail.com</a>
Susan Kremer, PR Coordinator	<a href="mailto:suzykq@mchsi.com">suzykq@mchsi.com</a>
George Pepper, Maintenance	<a href="mailto:gpepper@bethellewes.org">gpepper@bethellewes.org</a>
Bill Gaskill, Custodian	<a href="mailto:chillydgz@aol.com">chillydgz@aol.com</a>
Kathy Pepper, Bethel Christian School	<a href="mailto:bethelpepper@yahoo.com">bethelpepper@yahoo.com</a>

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Bethel Christian School Phone: (302) 645-5132  
Church Office Hours M-F 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.



Leaders for Today’s Service

Greeters:	8:00	Joe & Edie Sipos
	9:15	Curtis Moomaw
	11:00	
Ushers:	8:00	Ernie Stanley, Head Usher
		Sandy Hunsicker, & Ron Smith Assistants
	9:15	Libby Gibson, Head Usher
	11:00	Joann Brittingham, Head Usher
		Miguel Gomez & Ralph Scott; Assistants
Liturgists:	8:00	Bill Weaver
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	Joyce Snyder
Audio Visual Techs:		Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Norm Macturk, Mauro Medeiros, Todd Mentzer, John Roman Nehrbas
Miracle Singers:	9:15	Kim Edmonds, Cathy Ferree, John Harris, Faye Kintz, Patty Marvel, Bill Powell

Weekly Statistics

Attendance: January 11, 2026: 348 ( 8:00-44; 9:15-195; 11:00-109)

Contributions for January 11, 2026

weekly deposit	\$ 15,555.58
weekly budget	\$ 16,915.18
YTD collection	\$ 35,296.04
YTD budget	\$ 33,830.36



To enroll, click on the “Giving” tab on the Church’s website.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD  
MINISTRY

Bethel’s Food Ministries

Cold Weather Sheltering programs will begin 12/1/25

Contact for both programs is Cathie Wagner at  
ccwgr@aol.com

- Anyone interested in providing food can access the sign-up sheets for the two programs by following these steps:
- Go to: [www.bethellewes.org](http://www.bethellewes.org)
  - Click on Information at the top of Bethel’s home page.
  - Select “Bethel Food Ministries” from the drop down menu. This will bring you to a page that contains the direct links to the two programs and important information for each program, (so read through carefully).
  - Click on the link for the program you want and you will be linked to the sign-up sheet for that program.

The CRC sign up has a separate link for each month.



**Love Offering:** The January Love Offering will benefit UMCOR/ US. disaster relief with a direct focus on the disaster in the Northwest. UMCOR provides vital disaster relief and recovery support to individuals and communities affected by natural and human-made disasters worldwide. UMCOR has been dedicated to alleviating suffering and serves as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. Love Offerings may be given throughout the month in the “designated” plates found at the back of Fellowship Hall & the Sanctuary or online by clicking “Choose a Fund” and then by clicking “Communion/Love Offering” in the drop down menu. If donating by check please remember to make payable to Bethel UMC and note love offering.

**Lenten Cantata Rehearsals Start Soon!** Our Lenten Cantata, “Who Is This King?” by Larson/Martin, will be presented on Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00 pm. Rehearsals will be starting soon! If you are interested in joining with the Chancel Choir to sing this musical re-telling of the ministry and final days of Jesus’ life, please contact Joyce Mentzer for more information.

## Missions First Annual

### Opportunity to Serve Fair & Chili Tasting



Sunday, February 1, 2026

4 to 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall



Our commitment to the Methodist faith calls for our “prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.” To help us meet that commitment several non-profit organizations are coming to the Fair so they can explain their mission and the work that must be completed to achieve that mission. It is an opportunity to understand the purpose of the organization and to volunteer for a single day or on an ongoing basis.

In addition, existing Bethel groups will be present to share their opportunities to volunteer. The Fair gives everyone an opportunity to volunteer for an existing church activity or project well as reach beyond the walls of the church.

To entice you to come, attendees will have an opportunity to taste different chili recipes. Chili makers are asked to contribute a crockpot of their favorite chili. So that the Missions Team can prepare, please email George Phillips (retiredman2017@gmail.com) to let him know you want to share your great chili with others. Please include your recipe in the email so the Team can make copies to share with everyone attending the Fair.

The Missions Team looks forward to seeing you at the Fair. Thank You!

## NOTE SHEET

Note Sheet

Laboring in Vain

Isaiah 49:1-7

1/18/26

1. Even when we sin and fall away, God still \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. Isaiah 49:6 reminds us that because we've been redeemed, we are meant to be a “\_\_\_\_\_” to the nations.
3. When we shine for God, it has great \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Those “blips” that come along life's path can be used for a greater \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Nothing we do that builds the kingdom of God and makes someone's life better is ever in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. God can see the \_\_\_\_\_ picture!
7. When failures happen, let's use these setbacks as opportunities for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

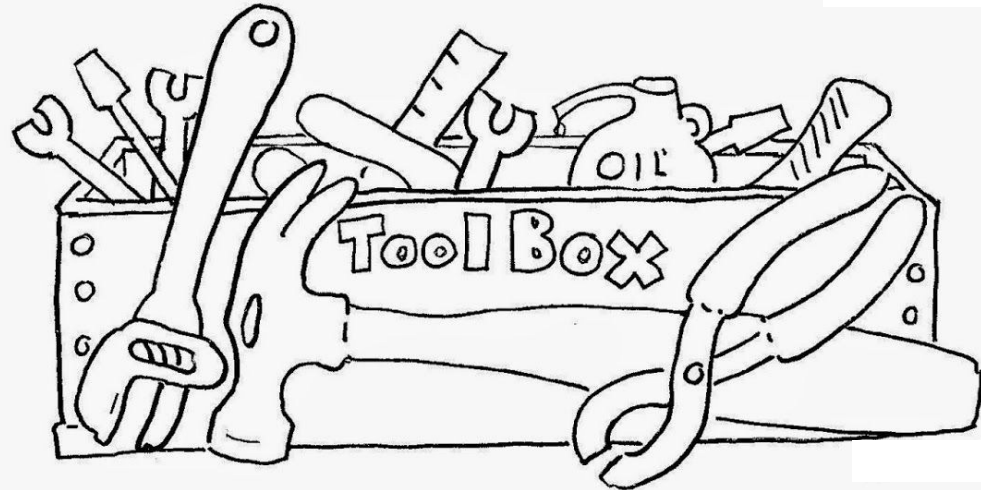
Scripture readings for further reflection: Ecclesiastes 1, Isaiah 6, John 1:1-14.

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note Page by scanning the QR Code





AND WE KNOW  
THAT IN ALL  
THINGS GOD  
WORKS FOR THE  
GOOD OF THOSE  
WHO LOVE HIM



**Miriam's Table Dining Out:** Mariachi Restaurant will be hosting the "Dining Out with Miriam" event on Wednesday, January 21, from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM. During this time, fifteen percent of all sales will be donated to Miriam's Table, a charitable organization dedicated to childhood nutrition in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Located at 14 Wilmington Avenue in Rehoboth Beach, Mariachi Restaurant offers fresh, homemade Spanish, Mexican, and Latin American cuisine. You can view their menu at <https://mariachirehobothde.com/menus/>. Reservations are welcome by calling 302-227-0115



## **Our Bethel Cookbook is returning after 15 years!**

The Bethel Cookbook is returning after 15 years! Recipe submissions will be accepted now until Feb. 1st. Forms are available in the lobby and attached to the e-blast. A collection basket is in the lobby for your completed forms. Send us your favorites to share with your church and friends. We have amazing cooks and bakers at Bethel! Sponsored by the Elizabeth Circle.

## **Altar Committee**

We have had great success with the new members on our committee, however, we are in need of a few more people. Our goal is to have another 8am person and another 11am person. This is to handle communion for two months of the year and any color changes for funerals and weddings. Both would work together as the need arises. I would like to have a meeting in March for all members. If you have any questions I am happy to answer by phone 302-236-5684 or email [charbastian@aol.com](mailto:charbastian@aol.com).

Thanks, Charlotte

**7th-12th Grade Class Cancelled Today-** There will not be a Sunday School class today due to the Fuel Winter Retreat. 7th-12th grade students will remain in worship. Class will resume next Sunday 1/25.

**Mary Martha Circle Thank You:** We would like to again thank all of the cookie bakers and everyone who so generously supported our 2025 Cookie Walk. We are happy to announce that our final funds totaled, \$3,770. The amount of \$2,000 will be distributed to Sussex County Crisis Housing and \$1,770 will be given to Whatcoat emergency shelter services, sponsored by Peoples Place. Cookies really do have power!