

Lamentations 1:1-6 NRSVUE

¹ How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become subject to forced labor. ² She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers, she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. ³ Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations; she finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. ⁴ The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. ⁵ Her foes have become the masters; her enemies prosper because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. ⁶ From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

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

October 26, 2025



*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

October 26, 2025
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “*Processional Rondeau in D Major*” by Lasky

Greeting & Announcements

*Call to Worship:

Leader: The promises of the world turn to ashes and dust,
People: *but the promises of God last forever.*
Leader: The Holy One calls to us: “Come!”
People: *We come to rekindle the gift of God ablaze within us.*

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Hymn: “*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*”#126 UMH

Opening Prayer: *Source of grace and peace, you call us into being; you keep us in safety; you hold us in life. Far too often, we turn from you, placing our trust in frail promises. Be with us now. Bring us into your presence. Comfort our pain. Challenge our pride. Enter into our prayer and our praise, that our worship may be pleasing to you. We pray these things in the name of the one who loved us first, 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.*

OCTOBER 26—NOVEMBER 2

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
	4:30 p.m.	Trunk or Treat - Parking Lot
Monday		Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath
	6:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation Class - PMH
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Sue Sprague Bible Study - Meeting Room
	10:00 a.m.	Galatians Bible Study - PMH
	6:00 p.m.	“J” Crew - Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	YM ² - Music Room
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	King’s Kids - Music Room
	7:00 p.m.	First Towne Ringers - Music Room
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Kay Poole 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
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
	6:30 p.m.	Fuel - PMH

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
10/26/2025

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

Rehabilitation: ***Jack Henriksen***, David Hurlock, Bobby Lane, Paul Webb

Hospital: ***Frances Baker***, Dottie Mckain, Tucker & Parents

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

General Concerns: Amelia, Meg Anderson, Felena Bartlett, Marilyn Battiste, Joann Brittingham, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, Clawson Family, Kathy Counts, ***Cathy Crown***, Scott Dailey, Bob Dathe, Pat Emmett, Sean Eviston, Jessi Ferree, Lisa Gaskill, ***Bill Gibbons***, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), Jessica, Kelly Jones, Dionne Parker Keeler, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, ***Paulette Lazzarro***, Ann Miller, Whitney Murray, June Myers, Kelly Pinsky, ***Pauline Powell***, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, ***Cindi Flahive-Sobel***, Janice Skok, Linda Sydel & Family, Jayne Tamborello, Theresa Walls, Joan Webb

Long Term: Ansalvish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Fran Baker, ***Matthew Baker***, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Nancy Bektolino, Gavin Birl, Daryl Bradley, Inez Brengle, Liz Carrier, John Caycedo, Janette Clavette, Rev. Charles Covington, Bill Dell, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Richard Dickey, Christine Drew, Bonnie Ekas, Marilyn Emanuel, Trish Emmett, Tom Engel, Susie Eveland, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Susan French, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, ***Junie Grant***, Jude Gray, Alex Grove, George Hammond, Kelly Harp, Nancy Hecker, Lou Henderson, Sharon Henderson, Connor Hiple, Jim Hooban, Kayla Hottinger, David Jones, ***Erika Jones***, Chubby Joseph, Deb Kellenbenz, Adam Kent, Faye Kintz, Karen Kitchen, Kathy Kroley, Norm Kugel, Janice Kulp, Paulette Lazzarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, Madison MacElrevey, Matt, Kortlyn, & Bodi, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Janet McGinnis, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Marsha Miller, 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, 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, Lucretia Y., Glenn Yetter, Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures: Rev. Gloria Attix, ***Bob Monti***, ***Tom Schiach***

Recovering From Procedures: Liz Carrier, Ruth Daughtery, Joyce Famelio, Claire Fegley, Ed Keefer, Lee Maxwell, Cecelia Offidani, Amber Penuel, ***Anne Schulze***, Rob Skok

Other:

- Democratic Republic of the Congo - under attack by M23 rebels
- Ongoing Wars in the Middle East & Eastern Europe.
- 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 John Glass, who passed away.
- Family & Friends of Josiah Peace, who passed away Oct. 16th.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory: *"Just As I Am"* by Elliott / Martin

Presented by (8) Steve Coats, (11) Chancel Choir

See page 13 in your bulletin for the history of this "Song From the Storm".

*Doxology:.....#94 UMH

Hymn of Preparation: *"More Love to Thee, O Christ"*.....#453 UMH

Scripture Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-6

Message *"Allowing Space for Grief"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn: *"Be Still, My Soul"*.....#534 UMH

*Benediction

*Postlude: *"Toccata"* by Lardelli

**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.

Bethel CCLI License #1774982, Streaming License #20110751
Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

Come Alive Time WORSHIP

October 26, 2025
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 Song of Praise & Worship: *"Christ Be Magnified"*

Musical Offering by the "J" Crew: *"Don't Stop Praying"*

Children's Message: *"Joy and Sadness"*

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"Lead Me to the Cross"*

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-6

Message: *"Allowing Space for Grief"*

Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Song: *"All the People Said Amen"*

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bethel Website Resource Spotlight

Have you visited the church website recently? There are many resources to be found that you might find helpful, and we want to share them with you!

Today's resource spotlight is the Virtual Worship page. If you missed a service and would like a quick way to find the recording, the bulletin, and the announcement inserts, simply go to the church website (www.bethellewes.org) and click the Virtual Worship tab at the top. There you will find the information and links for Bethel's most recent services.

Be sure to check out other great website resources in the weeks to come!



Veteran's Day Dedications: The Mary Martha Circle is again sponsoring a Veteran's Day Dedication Booklet which will be included in the November 9th bulletin. Submissions can be made online or by filling out the Veteran's Day Dedication forms found

in your bulletin. You may also pick up forms in the church office. All requests must be received by no later than Monday, November 3rd. Please remember if paying by check it should be made payable to Bethel UMC, marking Veteran's Day in the memo line. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to US Kennels, Inc., who services vets throughout the Delmarva area. They provide trained service dogs, as well as supplies to our combat wounded veterans with various disabilities. All dogs are from animal rescue agencies and matched with vets at no cost to them. Your donation will be "Saving Vets One Paw at a Time."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Love Offering: The November Love Offering will benefit Meals on Wheels. This charity brings warm meals and a friendly wellness check to senior citizens in our area, allowing them to live independently in their homes. 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.

Nancy Hecker’s Address: Nancy has moved to Auldin Assisted Living . She would love to hear from her Church family. If you would like to send a card or note, please send to: Auldin Assisted Living, 503 Gunby Road, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Joann Merrick: Joann Merrick moved to 6945 Dogwood Dr. Seaford, DE 19973. She would appreciate cards and well-wishes.
Thanks so much! Pastor Jim

Birthday Cards for a Surprise 80th: Quite a few years ago, Jan LoBiondo attended Bethel regularly. Jan was a very active member of the Women's Ministry during her time with us. On October 16th, Jan will be celebrating her 80th birthday. I had an email from her daughter, Jen, asking for all who remember Jan to please send her a birthday card, the goal being to surprise Jan by flooding her mailbox with good wishes in celebration of this momentous birthday. For those wishing to participate in this SURPRISE, Jan's mailing address is: 10 Brunswick Lane, Lewes, DE 19958. And please remember this is a secret! of the best kind.
Thank you, Pauline Powell

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 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	pastorjim@bethellewes.org
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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	Harold & Pat Short
	9:15	Bob Dathe
	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	Jim Vandegrift
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	Lisa Emery
Audio Visual Techs:		Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Norm Macturk, Mauro Medeiros, Todd Mentzer
Miracle Singers:	9:15	Kim Edmonds, Cathy Ferree, John Harris, Faye Kintz, Patty Marvel, Bill Powell

Weekly Statistics

Attendance: October 12, 2025: 305 (8:00-54; 9:15-136; 11:00-115)

Contributions for October 12, 2025

weekly deposit	\$ 18,247.27
weekly budget	\$ 16,461.43
YTD collection	\$ 641,277.83
YTD budget	\$ 691,380.06



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

The Methodist Men are again sponsoring a work day with Habitat for Humanity. Our next assigned date is Saturday, November 8 and we have ten slots to fill. Any adult man or woman is welcome to join our team. You do not need to have any construction experience to contribute. We are looking for some new faces to join the team this time. If you would like to participate please email Ron Mead at rmmead50@gmail.com. Ron will then forward you the necessary information to sign up with Habitat and to register for this date. While we do not have a definite assignment yet we will most likely be working either in Seaford where we have two houses being built or on one of the nine houses scheduled to be built in Milford this year as part of the Sussex County Habitat's "community revitalization" program.



All Saints Sunday, November 2nd Every year on the first Sunday of November, we pause in worship to remember our friends and family who have gone to their eternal reward during the past year. We have written to the families of 14 people whose remarkable lives of faith and service were for a time lived out in the Bethel Family. Please welcome and greet them as we give thanks for their service to the Kingdom of God in this place through Bethel Church. Please

also hold them in prayer as families mourn the passing of someone precious to them. We will read the names of the Bethel Members who were promoted to the Church Triumphant, ring a bell, and light a candle in their honor. We will also invite everyone to lift the name of “Saints” in other churches who entered eternity this year. But most importantly, we will celebrate the promise of everlasting life for those who “fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race,” and give thanks to God for their final victory.



Daylight Savings Time Ends-Fall Back:

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2nd. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed and enjoy the extra hour of sleep.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hymn Series Featured Song: This morning’s featured ‘song from the storm’ was written in 1834 by Charlotte Elliott, an English hymn writer and poet. In her youth, Elliott was carefree and lighthearted; her days were occupied with drawing people’s portraits and writing funny poems. It all came crashing down, however, when at the age of 32, she became seriously ill and spent the balance of her life dealing with chronic pain and fatigue. Trapped in her grief over what her life might have been, Elliott turned to her friend and mentor César Malan for guidance. He counseled her to “Come to Christ just as you are” and allow Him to replace her rage and grief with peace and trust in God. From that day on, she turned her literary talents to writing hymns.

Although sometimes depressed by her condition, she used her writing as a way to combat the grief and sorrow. Today’s hymn, “Just As I Am,” is an example of that response. In 1834, Elliott moved to Brighton and lived with her brother, the Rev. Henry Venn Elliott. One day when everyone in her family had gone to a church bazaar to raise funds for a charity school, Elliott was left alone, confined by her sickness. Though depressed with feelings of uselessness and loneliness, she recalled the message “Come to Christ just as you are,” which she had received from César Malan during the darkest period of her soul. She then overcame her distress to write this hymn, which stresses that none of us are “good enough” to come to Jesus. But it is through God’s initiative, pardon, promises and free love mentioned throughout the hymn that everyone can come to Him. Just like Elliott, we will all face “conflict,” “doubt” and “fighting and fears within [and] without,” but we can find rest and hope in Jesus, who loves us just as we are.

NOTE SHEET

Note Sheet
“Allowing Space for Grief”
Lamentations 1:1-6
10/26/25

- 1. _____ is our response to a deep loss, affliction, or trauma.
- 2. Kubler-Ross model, Five Stages of Grief:
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - 4. _____
 - 5. _____
- 3. Grief can make us _____.
- 4. The greatest gift that we can provide is allow people the _____ to grieve.
- 5. One of the greatest lessons that Lamentations teaches us that is grief can bring _____.
- 6. We can also serve as _____ for those who grieve.
- 7. God is _____ in our grief.

Scripture reading for further reflection: Lamentations as a whole, especially 3:21-24.

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



CHILDREN'S PAGE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You To Pastor(s) Jim & Earle:

In God's perfect wisdom. He knew what to do.
He sent us faithful pastor(s) with faith as their rock
and a spirit so bright. They guide us in truth.

Walking in his light.

A Shepherd for their flock, so strong and true.
They give of themselves in all that they do.

For their devotion, we simply want to say
We are blessed by their service each and every day.

We Appreciate You



New Member Class: Are you ready to take the next step on your faith journey? Pastor Jim will be hosting a new membership class on October 27th from 6pm - 8:30pm in our Parsonage Meeting House. Pizza will be provided for dinner. Anyone who is ready to join the church or is wanting to learn more about Bethel and its ministries is welcome to attend. Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Jim at PastorJim@bethellewes.org.

Save
the
Date

Save The Date: Elizabeth Circle is sponsoring
"Parent's Night Out" December 13, 2025
from 4 - 7:30 pm for children ages 3 - 11.
Please mark your calendar.
This gives parents time around the holidays.
Registration is now open!

PARENT'S
**Night
OUT!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bethel's 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat Tonight from 4:30-5:30

Join Family Ministries and Sunday School Ministry for Bethel's 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday October 26th from 4:30-5:30. This event is free to our congregation and the public! We are looking forward to seeing you. Any questions please contact

Ray or Katie Davis; ray@bethellewes.org or kdavis4786@gmail.com



BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU: Elizabeth Circle thanks all blood donors who donated at the Delmarva Blood Bank blood drive here at Bethel on Tuesday, October 14th. We had 43 check-in with 3 deferrals for 39 whole blood and 1 double red for a total of 41 units collected. This can help up to 123 people with life saving blood products! This is our best result yet! We are working to get our next Blood Drive here on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 and hope to have many return donors as well as additional ones. This is yet another way to serve others for Christ. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



Operation Christmas Child Boxes: The Missions team will be handing out the Operation Christmas Child Boxes today after all three services. We ask that when filling your box that you keep one gender per box. \$10.00 must accompany each box for shipping. This payment can be done on line if you prefer. If making payment by check please make check payable to Samaritan's Purse. The boxes must be returned to Bethel on November 16th at one of the three services.

Elizabeth Circle Meeting: Will meet on Tuesday, November 4, at 12:45 p.m.

We will serve refreshments and enjoy a social gathering, then begin our business meeting shortly afterwards. For more information about the Circle, contact Donna Fleischauer (djmarin@yahoo.com) or any Circle member.

We welcome all women of Bethel to join us.

Calling All Bakers



Help support our Elizabeth Circle Bake Sale on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

This year our proceeds will go to help fund Family Promise. We will be selling pies, breads, cakes and cookies between the services beginning at 8:45 A.M.

If you are able to donate a baked item we would be most appreciative. *Please have it wrapped in 'see through' wrap or a zip bag.* All containers should be disposable.

Clearly mark each item and list any 'nut' content.

Cookies, brownies, candy, and muffins should be pre-packaged in single serve amounts (2 cookies/bag, 1 muffin/bag, etc.)

Cakes, breads & pies will be sold as 'whole items.'

Please have items delivered to the Lobby by 8:30 A.M. or ASAP, the earlier the better. Any questions call or text to Deb Dickey @ (302)604-4117. Email: debs13corner@aol.com



Sign Up to Donate Cookies for Bethel Annual Cookie Walk

Call for Homemade Cookies ♦ Cookie Walk December 6

The Mary Martha Circle is asking our church family to donate homemade Christmas cookies to be sold at the COOKIE WALK. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate, the cookie box on display in the rear of Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary, or return the form to the church office. There is also an **online Cookie Walk form** if you would prefer to fill it out online.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Name of Cookie: _____

Contains Nuts – indicate kind: _____



Cookies can be delivered to the Bethel kitchen
The week of Monday 12/1 through Friday 12/5/25
from 8:30-3pm. Label with cookie name.

Questions?

- Carlene Spangler @ 302-945-5635; scspang@verizon.net
- Mary Hall, 302-584-4903; mary.hall34@verizon.net.

Frozen cookies can be layered with waxed or parchment paper to maintain your beautiful cookies. Thank you for helping us to make this a successful Cookie Walk! Happy Baking! Proceeds to benefit Youth, Families and the unsheltered. You will find your transport containers in the kitchen after the Cookie Walk.