

## Matthew 1:18-25 NRSVUE

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

December 28, 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



December 28, 2025  
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*” arr. Sue  
Handbell duet by Joyce and Lauren Mentzer

Greeting & Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: To you who are filled to the brim with expectation,  
**People:** *The Savior is on His way.*  
Leader: To you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,  
**People:** *He Who is The Resurrection and the Life is coming for you.*  
Leader: To you who feel like you are stumbling about in the darkness,  
**People:** *Jesus comes as the Light of the World to guide your Steps.*  
Leader: To you who rest in gratitude and contentment,  
**People:** *The Prince of Peace, the hope of the world, is born.*  
Leader: To you who feel the ache of loneliness,  
**People:** *You are not alone, Jesus calls you His friend.*  
Leader: Come, let us worship.  
**People:** *Come, let us worship God who has come to dwell among us!*

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\*Opening Hymn: “*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*”.....#240 UMH

Opening Prayer: *We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, and your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. At your birth you avoided displays of grandeur and power. You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold, but came as a tiny spark - a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals; announced by a host of angels -out in the countryside to farm workers; and a sparkling star - guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we pray that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you, through Jesus who taught us to pray...*

## DECEMBER 28—JANUARY 4

<b>Sunday</b>	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** *Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath*

**Thursday** *Happy New Year-Office Closed*

**Friday** *Pastor Jim’s Sabbath*  
*Ray Davis’s Sabbath*

<b>Sunday</b>	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  
12/28/2025

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

**Rehabilitation:** David Hurlock, Paul Webb

**Hospital:** ***Bobby Lane***, Dottie Mckain

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

**General Concerns:** Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Marilyn Battiste, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, Kathy Crowley, Cathy Crown, Scott Dailey, Bob Dathe, Pat Emmett, Jessi Ferree, Bridget Fowler, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), Ida ( Sister in-Law of Tina Eaton), (Mike Ingerson, Jessica, Kelly Jones, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, Paulette Lazzarro, ***Lucca***, Pat McMillen, Ann Miller, Whitney Murray, June Myers, Mike O'Neill, Jennifer Nobles, Xavier Nobles, Kelly Pinsky, ***Pauline Powell***, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, Cindi Flahive-Sobel, Janice Skok, Linda Sydel & Family

**Long Term:** Ansalvish 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 Krole, 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, ***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, Margaret Hitchens, Pam Monti, Peter Moyer

**Other:**

- Shooting at Brown University.
- Terrorist attack of Jewish Community in Bondi Beach, Australia
- Christian persecution in Nigeria and other parts of the world
- 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 Randy Johnson, who passed away on Dec. 21st.***
- Family & Friends of Julie Deppner, who died in a car accident this past week.
- Family & Friends of Jean Babiarz, who passed away peacefully at home on Dec 15th.

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.***

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): ***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*** arr. McDonald  
(11): ***"Carol of the Faithful"*** by Martin

When directed, the congregation is invited to join in the final verse:

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

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

Hymn of Preparation: ***"In the Bleak Midwinter"***.....#221 UMH

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Message ***"The Visited Planet"*** Pastor Earle Baker

**GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Closing Hymn: ***"Angels We Have Heard on High"***.....#238 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: ***"Masters in This Hall"*** arr. Dixon

*\*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.*



# Come Alive Time WORSHIP



December 28, 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: *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

Children's Message

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella"* arr. Sue  
Handbell duet by Joyce and Lauren Mentzer

## LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Message *"The Visited Planet"* Pastor Earle Baker

## GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Closing Song *"He Shall Reign Forevermore"*

\*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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Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

## 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!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**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.



**Blood Drive Reminder:** It’s hard to believe that we need to mention something going on in March when it is only early December but, for those of you planning on donating at our March 10, 2026 Blood Drive, please note that the last date to give prior to that donation is January 13 to allow the required minimum of 56 days between donations. We encourage everyone who can to donate.

Thank you, Elizabeth Circle



**Coming on Thursday Mornings Beginning January 15, 2026**  
What a great way to begin the New Year: A new Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew emphasizing the 5 Great Discourses or Conversations contained in the book. Jesus had a lot to say and a very short time to say it. Come and join in as we explore His words together in the Sermon on the Mount, in the instructions he gave to the 12 before sending them out to proclaim the Gospel, the Parables on the Kingdom of Heaven, the Church, and the End Times.

This class is for everyone: those who want to learn more about how to study the Bible, those who love studying the Bible, and everyone in between. All you need is your Bible and a heart that’s inclined to studying God’s Word and listening to His teaching. The class is led by John Hammett and will meet for 11 consecutive Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 in the PMH.

Please contact John by text at 410-733-5736 or by email at hammettjohnj@comcast.net if you’d like to attend or if you have questions.

## 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>
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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	Janet Jack
	9:15	Libby Gibson
	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	Phil Fields
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	Alison Parsell
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:    December 21, 2025: 379 ( 8:00-56; 9:15-221; 11:00-102)

Contributions for December 21, 2025

weekly deposit	\$ 14,628.58
weekly budget	\$ 16,461.43
YTD collection	\$ 798,540.39
YTD budget	\$ 839,532.93



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.



Men’s Ministry-New Monthly Gathering!!

A NEW monthly gathering started this fall. This group usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 PM at Barry Eaton’s home for a time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth. However, due to the holiday we will be meeting on the Jan 28. We’ll be using video-based studies throughout the year, kicking things off with an Andy Stanley series on the importance of community. All men of Bethel UMC are invited and encouraged to join us.

Please contact either Barry Eaton at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) or Ray Davis at [ray@bethellewes.org](mailto:ray@bethellewes.org) for directions or any questions and to let them know you’re planning to attend. Let’s grow together in faith and friendship!

Elizabeth Circle Meeting: Will meet on Tuesday, January 6, at 12:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have refreshments and reconnect after the holiday and then begin planning our activities for the new year. We welcome all women of Bethel to join us! For more information, contact Donna Fleischauer ([djmarrin@yahoo.com](mailto:djmarrin@yahoo.com)) or any circle member.



## Missions First Annual Opportunity to Serve Fair & Chili Tasting

Sunday, February 1, 2026

4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Non-profit, local organizations will be invited to promote their organizations and share volunteer opportunities. The goal of the event is to connect our congregation with community needs. Service to others is a cornerstone to the United Methodist faith. A chili tasting will provide a tasty addition to the event. More details to follow. We hope you will plan to attend this event on the Sunday between the end of the NFL Playoffs and the Super Bowl.



The Birth of Jesus

E I E G R E E R C E D L A F A A E A S N  
Y N E S I H M M H E H R S E J I F J M D  
U P A E M F A R E D A H C A G R Z E E M  
E P O Z M E P E Y C E T S A L A M R H H  
M A F R A I D G E R L U H S S S H U E R  
R M S N N R S R E N U R R D R U T S L S  
E A E E U R E G N A M L R A T S H A H R  
A E E R E M E T A M S E E E R E L L T Y  
R A G O L N G J H S H D S I S J E E E R  
U E Y E U R Y S H P E J Y J I G A M B H  
E U L S H M P H E P E N J O H T O H L D  
I M M L R H T H M M P S M O E T N E E M  
N H R R U R S M U P H I T D S N E M E E  
L E U Z S A M T S I R H C T W E H H T N  
L R I B A M E H B E M Z M E P L P D J A  
P D A E A A E K U L D Z H E A L C H K A  
A A P U L R K T W S E T S H S E H I E T  
S S J M O Y R H M M T W P S A H K E H Y  
H H E D I H I P A A H S A H C D M S H R  
A A H G S A Y O M R O E P S G U A E N E

MATTHEW  
BETHLEHEM  
AFRAID  
MARY  
JERUSALEM  
LUKE

MAGI  
NAZARETH  
SHEPHERDS  
STAR  
EGYPT  
MANGER

CHRISTMAS  
HEROD  
JOSEPH  
DECREE  
IMMANUEL  
JESUS



**Thanks to All Worship Participants:** We wish to thank everyone who participated in our Advent and Christmas Eve Services. Please accept our deep gratitude for making our worship both beautiful and festive. We thank all our greeters, ushers, advent readers, singers, instrumentalists, liturgists, sound & lighting operators, and video techs. We give thanks to those who served communion. We also thank those who worked behind the scenes, and everyone who donated poinsettias or contributed to the Cape Henlopen Food Basket. Finally, we thank everyone who attended, lifted their voices in song, and shared the light of Christ. Thank you all!



**Staff Thank You:** On behalf of the staff of Bethel, I want to personally thank everyone for their generous contributions to the staff appreciation gift. Your gift was truly a blessing to us all. It is such an honor to serve such a wonderful congregation! Many blessings to you, and I look forward to all God has in store for 2026!

In God's love, Pastor Jim Penuel



**Pastor Jim Vacation:** Pastor Jim will be away on vacation after Christmas Eve. from 12/25/2025 to 1/3/2026. Pastor Earle will lead worship on 12/28 and will cover any pastoral care needs while I'm away. He can be reached at 302-841-1305.



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

The Elizabeth Circle will be collecting your favorite recipes from January 11 to February 1st to publish in a new cookbook. As you prepare your holiday best, set aside the recipes to share. Forms and a collection box are available in the Lobby.