

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 NRSVUE

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

February 22, 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

February 22, 2026
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: "There Is a Balm In Gilead" arr. Childs

Greeting & Announcements

*Call to Worship:

Leader: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

People: **Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new.**

Leader: This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

People: **Rejoice and be glad! Everything has become new.**

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise".....#116 UMH

Opening Prayer: *God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. For far too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole. This we pray in Jesus' name, 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.*

FEBRUARY 22—MARCH 1

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

Monday *Joyce Mentzer's Sabbath*

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Sue Sprague Bible Study - PMH
6:00 p.m. "J" Crew - Music Room
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - PMH
7:00 p.m. YM² - Music Room

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. King's Kids - Music Room
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
6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Music Room

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

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Combined Service - BFH
10:30 a.m. Sunday School - Various Rooms
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

Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is a
new creation;
old things have
passed away; behold,
all things have
become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17



BETHEL UNITED 2/22/2026

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, Norah Atkins, Rosemary Bouvier, Jim Kardas, Brenda Keith, Sharon Messinger, Mrs. Sample, Jim Willhite

General Concerns: Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Pastor Earle Baker, Marilyn Battiste, Billie Ann Buckaloo, Bryce, Archer Caim, Donna Carr, Paula Carridan, Tracy Carson, John & Linda Catanzaro, Christina, Danielle Cook, Joelle Criswell, Kathy Crowley, Cathy Crown, Scott Dailey, Jessi Ferree, Bobbie Flynn, Bridget Fowler, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna (Sister of Mauro De Mederios), **Tucker Graham & Family**, Howard Family, Raven Hudson, Ida (Sister in-Law of Tina Eaton), Jessica, Kelly Jones, Kelsea, Kelly Lahorcek, Al Lopez, Paige Lucas, Lucca, Pat McMillen, Ann Miller, **Whitney & Keagan Murray**, June Myers, Jennifer Nobles, Xavier Nobles, Kelly Pinsky, Beth Rampson, Naomi Rickards, Cindi Flahive-Sobel, Danny & Debbie Summers, Linda Sydell & Family, Marshall Trigg, Marshall Trigg, Jr.

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, Dale Buckwalter, Liz Carrier, John Caycedo, Janette Clavette, Clawson Family, Victor Colon, Rev. Charles Covington, Bill Dell, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Richard Dickey, Bonnie Ekas, Jim Emanuel, Marilyn Emanuel, Pat Emmett, Trish Emmett, Tom Engel, Susie Eveland, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Michael Gallagher, Peggy Gastner, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Jude Gray, Alex Grove, George Hammond, Jack Harrison, Kelly Harp, Heather & Indy, Nancy Hecker, Lou Henderson, Sharon Henderson, Jack Henriksen, 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, Medhi, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Marsha Miller, Stephanie Miller, Rev. Charles Moyer, Chuck Naspinsky, Curt & Melinda Newsome, Ted Niemczyk, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Mike O'Neill, Thom Pemberton, George Pepper, Peter (Brother of Pauline Powell), Earl Peters, Jodi Potter, Steve Rellihan, Beth Rinker, Carla Robinson, Tom Schaich, Mary Louise Scott, John Schulze, Joe Seay, Bill Seitz, 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, Helen Walter, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, Jim & Jolie Woodward, Lucretia Y., Glenn Yetter, Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures: **Donna LaValle**, Marjorie Mounts

Recovering From Procedures: **Ginny Mitchell**

Other:

- The people of Iran and Venezuela.
- The ongoing Situation in Minneapolis.
- 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 Junie Grant, Who passed away Feb. 16th.**
- Family & Friends of Betty Sheats, who passed away Feb. 11th.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): *"Lenten Melody"* arr. Dorset

(11): *"Seek the Lord"* by Carter

*Doxology:.....#94 UMH

Hymn of Preparation: *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"* (twice).....#349 UMH

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Message *"He Chose to be One of Us"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn: *"And Are We Yet Alive"* (stanzas 1-2, 5-6)#553 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: *"Fanfare on 'Sing Praise to God'"* by Portman

**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

February 22, 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: *"Made New"*
"Jesus, Messiah"

Children's Message: *"The Vastness of God's love for Us"*

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"Word of God, Speak"*

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Message: *"He Chose to be One of Us"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Song: *"All Things New"*

*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

Code Purple
DELAWARE

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

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



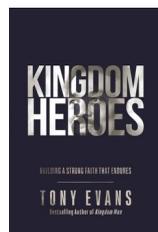
Show the Babies with Love...Again!

Today is the final day for donating items or monetary gifts for Community Resource Center's Baby Pantry. Any questions, call Barb Shelton (302-430-1894) or

email barbshelton47@comcast.net). Women's Ministry greatly appreciates your generosity!



Women's Ministry Bible Study: Women's Ministry will be offering a Bible Study based on Ruth. The bible study will run March 2nd thru April 20th (Off for Easter) from 6:30 to 8p in the Parsonage Meeting House. The cost of the book is \$22.00 and the deadline to have Women's Ministry order is February 16th. Registration will be open until March 1st. Books after February 16th will have to be purchased on your own. Look forward to seeing you!



Men's Group Gathering: The 4th Wednesday evening Men's gathering will meet on Wednesday March 25 from 7:00-8:30pm at Barry Eaton's home. They are starting a new video series called "Kingdom Heroes" by Dr. Tony Evans. Please contact Barry Eaton or Ray Davis with any questions. Filmed at the Museum of the Bible, it examines Old Testament figures like Noah, Abraham, and Rahab to teach how to build an enduring, trust-filled faith during difficult times. The series focuses on breaking cultural norms, navigating trials, and applying biblical principles for a lasting legacy.

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

Bethel United Methodist Church

129 West Fourth St., Lewes, DE 19958

Phone: (302) 645-9426 Fax: (302) 645-0976

Email: office@bethellewes.org Website: www.bethellewes.org

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leaders for Today's Service

Greeters:	8:00	Joele Criswell
	9:15	Libby Gibson
	11:00	Ushers
Ushers:	8:00	Ernie Stanley, Head Usher Sandy Hunsicker, & Ron Smith Assistants
	9:15	Libby Gibson, Head Usher
	11:00	Joann Brittingham, Head Usher Jim Brown, Miguel Gomez, & Ralph Scott; Assistants
Liturgists:	8:00	Bill Collick
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	Emory Buck
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: February 15, 2026: 347 (8:00-49; 9:15-196; 11:00-102)

Contributions for February 15, 2026

weekly deposit	\$ 23,261.96
weekly budget	\$ 16,915.18
YTD collection	\$ 122,929.00
YTD budget	\$ 118,406.26



To enroll, click on the "Giving" tab on the Church's website.



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
- 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 March Love Offering will benefit Camp Hope an eight week summer, day camp for disadvantaged children going into 2nd - 5th grade. Camp Hope is a ministry of Bethel UMC, Conley's UMC, Epworth UMC and Israel UMC. Camp Hope is funded by financial contributions from our four churches, grants, local businesses and individuals like you. Through your support,

children who might not know Jesus are introduced to the Bible and his unconditional love. Activities include arts & crafts, meals, games, field trips, Bible stories and scripture lessons. The memories and experiences our kids leave with are priceless! 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.

Save the New Date!

Missions First Annual

Opportunity to Serve Fair & Chili Tasting



Sunday, March 15, 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

He Chose to Be One of Us

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

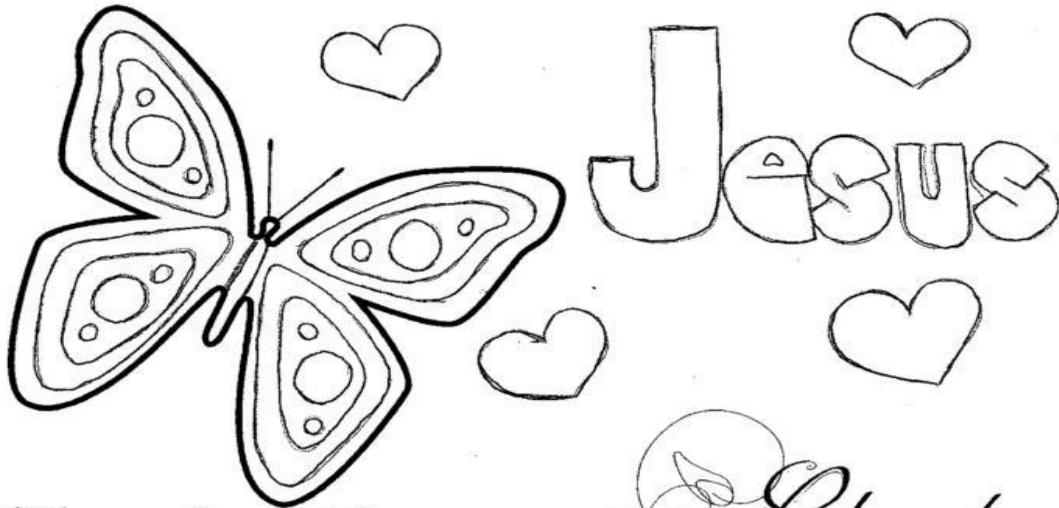
2/22/26

1. Lucado sees Lent as an extension of _____.
2. Everything that Jesus did: from his birth into world, to his resurrection on the third day, was a _____ for us.
3. Of all the things Jesus did, taking our _____ upon himself was the greatest gift of all.
4. When we are a new creation in Christ, we are to see one another as _____ sees us.
5. 2nd Corinthians 15:20, “So we are _____ for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ; be reconciled to God.”
6. Because Jesus’ life, ministry, and sacrifice are the greatest gifts of all, let us approach Lent with _____.

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note

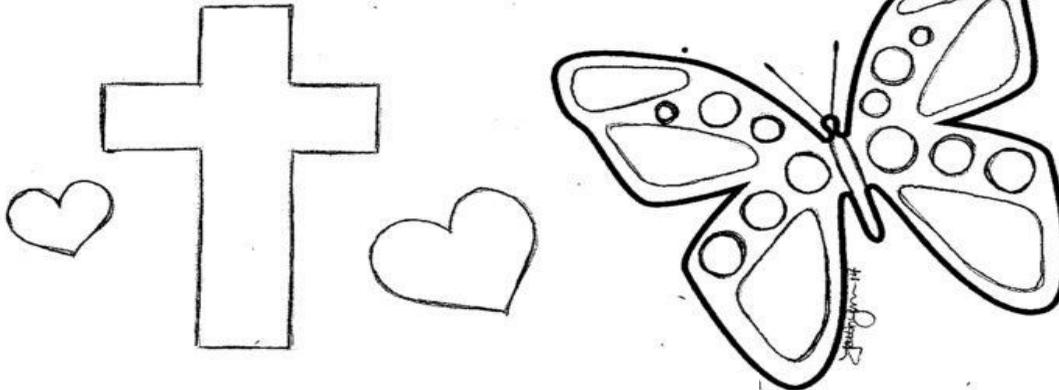
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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the *new creation* has
come: **THE OLD** has gone, the
new is here!”

2 Corinthians 5:17



Our Bethel Cookbook is in need of recipes

The Bethel Cookbook is returning after 15 years! **Recipes urgently needed for the cookbook!** All categories are welcome! Recipe submissions will be accepted until Feb. 22nd. Forms are available in the lobby and attached to the e-blast. Please place in basket or send by email to kimmalta3@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Elizabeth Circle.



Youth Sunday Combined Service

Will be next Sunday, March 1st at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bethel's youth will be presenting their annual youth-led service which will feature music, drama, a message, and more that will be sure to inspire. The

theme of the day is "FEAR<LESS" and the service will focus on "God's strength in our weakness, God's calm in our storms". Please plan to attend! A traditional 8:00 service will also be available that morning.



Elizabeth Circle's Spring Blood Drive for the Blood Bank of Delmarva will be held Tuesday, March 10 from 10am to 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. The donation site is open for you to sign up. Anyone in generally good health and over 17 years of age may register. There is a high demand for lifesaving blood

donations. Use this link for easy signup:
https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11428
Any questions, please contact Marilyn Mead at marilynwm26@gmail.com

Elizabeth Circle Meeting: Will meet on Tuesday, March 3, in Fellowship Hall at 12:45 p.m. for fellowship and refreshments. Our meeting will begin shortly after. We are hoping to have a speaker from the Community Resource Center. All women of Bethel are welcome! For more information, contact Donna Fleischauer (djmarrin@yahoo.com) or any Circle member.