

Ephesians 1:15-23 NRSVUE

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

May 17, 2026
Ascension Sunday



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

May 17, 2026
8:00 & 11:00a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: "How Firm a Foundation" arr. Hayes

Greeting & Announcements

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Shout to God with songs of great joy!
People: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
Leader: God has made us whole.
People: God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.
Leader: Come, let us celebrate the love of God!
People: Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully. Amen.

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Hymn: "Jesus Is All the World to Me"#469

Opening Prayer: *Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of our Advocate, The Holy Spirit. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior 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.*

MAY 17—MAY 24

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - BFH
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Spring Musical - BFH
Monday		Joyce Mentzer's Sabbath
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Sue Sprague Bible Study - PMH
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Meeting - PMH
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Missions Team Meeting - PMH
	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
	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 - BFH
	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



PRAYER LIST 5/17/2026

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

Rehabilitation: Mike Beaucheman, David Hurlock, Paul Webb

Hospital: Dwayne Henry, John Horne

Hospice: Norah Atkins, Larry Bonbrake, Rosemary Bouvier, Brenda Keith, Sharon Messinger, ***Mother of Dale Buckwalter***, Mrs. Sample, Barbara Starkweather, Jim Willhite

General Concerns: John Andalora, Meg Anderson, Andy Baker, Scott Dailey, Ruth Doughtary, Bridget Fowler, Chandler Fox, Joan Fox, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna, ***Connie Hearn***, Raven Hudson, Ida, Mason, Ginny Mitchell, June Myers, Bob Nicholson, Marian Norwood, Brody O'Neill, Kelly Pinsky, ***Margaret Quillen***, Bruce Sheppard, Steven, Danny Summers, Debbie Summers

Long Term: Ansalvish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Fran Baker, Matthew Baker, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Dave Beddle, Nancy Bektolino, Daryl Bradley, Elaine Bramante, Inez Brengle, Dale Buckwalter, Dan Carrier, Liz Carrier, Janette Clavette, Victor Colon, Rev. Charles Covington, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Richard Dickey, Jim & Marilyn Emanuel, Pat Emmett, Tom Engel, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Michael Gallagher, Peggy Gastner, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Jude Gray, Jeanne Hafer, George Hammond, Kelly Harp, Heather & Indy, ***Nancy Hecker***, Jack Henriksen, Jim Hooban, David Jones, Erika Jones, Chubby Joseph, Deb Kellenbenz, Adam Kent, Faye Kintz, Norm Kugel, Janice Kulp, Donna LaValle, Paulette Lazarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Medhi, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Stephanie Miller, Rev. Charles Moyer, Nancy (Friend of Janine Phillips) Chuck Naspinsky, Curt & Melinda Newsome, Ted Niemczyk, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Mike O'Neill, Peter (Brother of Pauline Powell), Earl Peters, Dick Plambeck, Ray Quillen, Beth Rampson, Steve Rellihan, Beth Rinker, Carla Robinson, Martha Rougeux, ***Tom Schaich***, Mary Louise Scott, John Schulze, Bill Seitz, Denny Shultz, Logan Smith, Tricia(Spangler)Gracey, Chet Sprague, Judy Stevenson, Bonnie Stevlingson, Pat (Huff) Stinger, Margaret Stockslager, Dale Stough, James Taylor, Peggy Thomas, Dave Trout, Dawn Vandegrift, Kathy Watson, Kathy Wetherhold-Parrott, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, Lucretia Y., Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures:

Recovering From Procedures: ***Alex, Kevin Toohey***

Other:

- The people of Iran and Venezuela.
- 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 Gary Arrell, husband of Carolyn, who passed on May 8th.***

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer (with response)

*"Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline Thine ear to us and grant us Thy peace."*

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): *"For Me to Live Is Jesus"* by Pachelbel
(11): *"The Mighty Power of God"* by Hayes

*Doxology:.....#94

*Hymn of Preparation: *"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"*.....#430

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

Message *"Jesus On the Mainline"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn: *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"*.....#664

*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 'Creation'"* by Lasky

**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



May 17 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: *"How Can I Keep From Singing"*
"Faithful Now"

Children's Message: *"ACTS Prayer"*

Recognition of Sunday School Teachers

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer (with response)

*"Hear our prayer, O Lord," from the ends of the earth I cry.
Your peace will lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.*

Offering: *"Is He Worthy?"*

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

Message: *"Jesus On the Mainline"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Song: *"Friend of God"*

*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



Bethel Cookbooks Are In!!!

If you've already preordered and paid for your cookbook, they will be available for pickup in the lobby today from 8:45am-12:30pm.

Cookbooks will also be available for purchase at this time.

The cost is \$15 and the profits will be donated to local missions.



Church Office Summer Hours: Starting May 26th the church office hours will be Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10am to noon with the balance of my hours working remotely. If you need assistance outside of the hours listed above please call the church office and I will call you back as soon as

possible to assist you. Church Office will be open regular hours for the week of Lewes Antiques & Home Decor Show & Sale and will be open for Vacation Bible School.

Sunday School Update

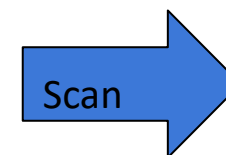
Our last regular Sunday School will be on Sunday May 17th. Please join us this summer for Summer Sunday School starting on May 31st ending on August 30th.

We are looking for volunteers for 2 different classrooms;

2 years old to 1st Grade & 2nd to 5th Grade

Curriculum and supplies are available. Please scan below to follow the link for a sign up or contact Katie Davis at kdavis4786@gmail.com.

Thank you for a wonderful Sunday School year!

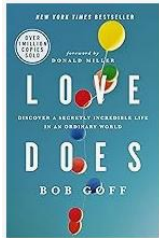


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethel Men's Ministry Gatherings

Second Sunday of month, 8:00-8:45am in the Parsonage Meeting House

Upcoming dates May 10 and June 14



Love Does by Bob Goff A collection of 30+ lighthearted, personal stories that illustrate a "proactive faith" where love is an action, not just a feeling. Goff shares whimsical anecdotes—from visiting world leaders to chasing down a law school admission—to encourage readers to stop planning and start acting, showing love to others through practical, hands-on, and often spontaneous, deeds. Light reading – great discussion!

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30pm at Barry Eaton's home

Upcoming dates May 27 and June 24



Kingdom Heroes by Tony Evans A six-session video study exploring the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. 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. Are you living out your faith?

All men of Bethel are invited and encouraged to join us. Even if you haven't been before, we welcome you to check out either/both gatherings. Light refreshments.

Please contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@gmail.com or

Ray Davis at ray@bethellewes.org for more details.

Heartfelt Appreciation from the Keefer Family

The Keefer family wishes to express our sincere thanks for every prayer offered on our behalf. These prayers continue to uplift and sustain us each day, providing comfort during challenging times. We are deeply moved by the hugs, thoughtful words, cards, gifts, and letters we have received. Each kindness touched our hearts and reminded us of the support that surrounds us. We are also very grateful for the meals provided for our family. These meals nourish us and are a sign of the care extended by so many. To us, you have truly been the hands and feet of Christ.

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
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Todd Mentzer, Maintenance	tamjam3@gmail.com
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Bethel United Methodist Church
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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.

Leaders for Today's Service

- Greeters:** 8:00 Joe & Edie Sipos
 9:15 Bob Dathe
 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 Bud Frampton
 9:15 Ray Davis
 11:00 Alison Parsell
- Audio Visual Techs:** Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Drew Fyock, Norm Macturk,
 Mauro Medeiros, Lauren Mentzer, Todd Mentzer,
 John Roman Nehrbas
- Miracle Singers:** 9:15 Kim Edmonds, Cathy Ferree, John Harris,
 Patty Marvel, Bill Powell

Weekly Statistics

Attendance: May 10, 2026: 342 (8:00-62; 9:15-188; 11:00-92)

Contributions for May 10, 2026

weekly deposit	\$ 15,953.74
weekly budget	\$ 16,915.18
YTD collection	\$ 369,844.49
YTD budget	\$ 321,388.42



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Love Offering: The May Love Offering will benefit Camp Tharros. The love offering will support up to 28 residents who were living in wooded areas. Camp Tharros will provide them with a tent, trash collection, and restrooms until Nov. 30th when Code Purple winter shelters open. Most of its residents are working. Residents must agree to a list of rules in order to live on site - noise isn't

allowed after 10 p.m., and no drugs, alcohol or weapons are permitted. Violations can get residents ejected. 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.



Spring Musicale 2026: The music programs of Bethel UMC cordially invite you to attend the Spring Musicale tonight, May 17th at 6:30 pm. The evening will feature a mix of music, drama, and fun presented by the King's Kids and "J" Crew children's choirs, with featured appearances by members of the Youth Music Ministry.

There is no price for admission but we encourage you to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Cape Henlopen Food Pantry in lieu of an admission fee. Thanks in advance!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY - WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

The Methodist Men are again sponsoring a work day with Habitat for Humanity. Our next assigned date is Wednesday, May 27 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 always looking for some new faces to join the team. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lewes Antiques & Home Décor Show & Sale Sponsorships Forms:

Sponsorships are now being accepted. Sponsorship forms can be found on the Bethel Website, LAHDSS Display Table in lobby, or by clicking on the QR Code. If you pay by check please make check payable to Bethel United Methodist Church and on the memo line please write LAHDSS. Thank you for supporting this very worthy ministry that supports missions and ministries of the church. This year a 10% pledge will go to our friends at Clothing Our Kids and Family Promise.



Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction

Save the Date! Coming up on Sunday, May 31st, from 5:30-7:30 will be our famous Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction. Auctioneer Wade Willson will be back with us again this year! We are asking the congregation to make some beautiful pies, cakes, cookies, etc. for us to auction off that night. We are also asking everyone to come out and join us for this fun event and support the Fuel students.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and kids 10 and under are free. Reach out to Ray with any questions. ray@bethellewes.org.



Women's Ministry - Priceless Curiosity Shop & Yard Sale

Start gathering your gently used treasures! Donations will be collected every Sunday during the month of June at the PMH garage, immediately following the 8:00 AM and 9:15 AM services.

Please note: we are unable to accept clothing, furniture, electronics, or artificial Christmas trees.

The Priceless Curiosity Shop & Yard Sale will take place July 10th and 11th. All proceeds will benefit women and children in Sussex County and beyond. Thank you for your generosity and support!

NOTE SHEET

Note Sheet

Jesus on the Mainline

Ephesians 1:15-23

5/17/26

1. Jesus calls the disciples his _____.
2. We are to _____ one another as Jesus loves us.
3. I think it's so important for us to realize this invitation of friendship not only belongs to the disciples, but it also belongs to _____.
4. It is my prayer that the Christian church of today can also come together by embracing the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.
5. Paul reminds us, not only here in Ephesians, but in his other writings, that Jesus died and rose again for "_____ " of humanity.
6. We are called to be _____ to all the world about the love and friendship of Jesus.

Scripture reading for further reflection: John 15:12-17, Acts 1:1-11.

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note

Page by scanning the QR Code



CHILDREN'S PAGE



ANNOUNCEMENTS



RAINFOREST FALLS VBS - VOLUNTEERS UPDATE!

Join us Monday, July 27 through Thursday, July 30, 2026 for a memorable week of *Exploring the Nature of God!*

We have 88 students enrolled and need all hands on deck!

We currently need the following volunteers to join our team:

- Snack Station Assistant
- Teen Helpers
- Adult Group Leader Assistants

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer positions, please email or see Katie Davis.

We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming part of this wonderful team as we help guide

children as they explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God!

To volunteer, email Katie Davis at kdavis4786@gmail.com

We look forward to serving together!

Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School Registration: Registration now open!

Students entering Kindergarten Fall of 2026 to completed 5th grade June of 2026 are invited to join us for a fun filled week. Students will step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Rainforest Fall VBS will take place Monday July 27th to Thursday July 30th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Registration link can be found on bethelwes.org under the information tab. Contact Katie Davis for more information; kdavis4786@gmail.com.