

## 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 NRSVUE

<sup>12</sup> But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup> esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup> See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

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

September 20, 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

September 20, 2026  
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

## GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” arr. Wood

Greeting & Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: We lift our eyes to the Lord!  
**People:** *God created the heavens and the earth.*  
Leader: We raise our voices in songs and speech.  
**People:** *We raise our voices in prayer and praise.*  
Leader: Lord, hear our prayers, accept our praise.  
**People:** *Lord, open our hearts to receive your blessings of peace. Amen.*

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

\*Opening Hymn: “Close to Thee”.....#407

Opening Prayer: *Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord 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.*

## SEPTEMBER 20—SEPTEMBER 27

|                  |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 8:00 a.m.<br>9:15 a.m.<br>9:30 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m.<br>6:30 p.m. | Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary<br>Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - BFH<br>Sunday School - Various Rooms<br>Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary<br>Fuel - PMH |
| <b>Monday</b>    |                                                                | <b>Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 6:00 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.                            | J. Crew-Music Rm<br>Church Council Meeting - PMH<br>YM2 - Music Room                                                                                                       |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 6:00 p.m.                                                      | King’s Kids - Music Room                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10:00 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:15 p.m.                           | Book of Acts Bible Study - PMH<br>Miracle Singers - BFH<br>Chancel Choir - Music Room                                                                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    |                                                                | <b>Pastor Jim’s Sabbath</b><br><b>Ray Davis’s Sabbath</b>                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Saturday</b>  |                                                                | <b>Lewes History Book Festival - BFH</b>                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 8:00 a.m.<br>9:15 a.m.<br>9:30 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m.<br>6:30 p.m. | Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary<br>Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - BFH<br>Sunday School - Various Rooms<br>Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary<br>Fuel - PMH |

BFH - Bethel Fellowship Hall  
PMH - Parsonage Meeting House



PRAYER LIST 9/20/2026

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

**Rehabilitation:** David Hurlock, Paul Webb

**Hospital:** Rosalba Bellen (Friend of Kathy Engel), John Horne, Trent Prechatka

**Hospice:** Norah Atkins, Rosemary Bouvier, Donald Dickey, Mrs. Sample, Barbara Starkweather, Jim Willhite

**General Concerns:** Andy Baker, Mike Bakker, Bill, Donna Bowers, **Catherine Brittingham**, Patricia Bull (Sister of Frank), Sharon Cherry, Chris Clark, Brett Conaway, Daniel, Susan Davis, Ruth Dougherty, Kim Edmonds, Tom Fincham ( Brother of Nancy Logan), Bridget Fowler, Chandler Fox, Joan Fox, **Lisa Gaskill**, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna, Rev. Sterling Green, **Alex Grove**, Jack Harrison, **Sarah Hastings**, Connie Hearn, Jim Holt, Bob Hunsberger, Ida, Laura (Daughter of Marilyn Emanuel), Karen Lessey, Harry Marker & Family, **Mason**, Ginny Mitchell, June Myers, Tammy Myers & Family, Brody O'Neill, Evie Orton, Doug Peters, Pop Pop D, Pauline Powell, Margaret Quillen, Steven, **David Strow**, Danny Summers, Debbie Summers, Helen Walter

**Long Term:** Ansavlish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Mike Beaucheman, 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, Jim & Marilyn Emanuel, Pat Emmett, Tom Engel, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Carol Frampton, 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, Ted Niemczyk, Ray Norris, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Mike & Sallee O'Neill, Peter (Brother of Pauline Powell), Earl Peters, Dick Plambeck, Suzie Pryor (Niece of Elizabeth Fields), Ray Quillen, Beth Rampson, 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, Margaret Stockslager, Dale Stough, 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:** Dick Plambeck

**Recovering From Procedures:** Carol (Sister of Marilyn Emanuel), Greg Cobb, Ellie Colon, Tim Fleming, Libby Gibson, Pat Kearns, Dick Leisse, **Kenny Mahan**, Carla Robinson, Dale Stough

**Other:**

- All the Students and Staff Returning to School.
- Mother African Union Church North, Wilmington, DE sanctuary destroyed by fire
- 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, State Troopers & Local Police.
- For racial justice in the United States.

**Sympathy to:**

- **Family & Friends of Lee Maxwell, husband of Jean Maxwell, who passed on Sept.14th**

LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God’s Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory (8): “Choral Song” by Wesley  
(11): “Down to the River to Pray” arr. McDonald

\*Doxology:.....#94

Hymn of Preparation: “Seek Ye First” .....#405

Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Message: “A Methodist Prays Constantly” Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

\*Closing Hymn: “O Jesus, I Have Promised” .....#396

\*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: “O Worship the King” arr. Paxton

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

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
in memory of Harold and Margaret Leach  
given by Peggy and Jim Gastner*

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

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Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

# Come Alive Time WORSHIP

September 20, 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: *"Sing Hallelujah"*  
*"Glory and Majesty"*

Children's Message: *"Praying Everyday"*

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"The Lord's Prayer (Deliver Us)"*

## LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Message: *"A Methodist Prays Constantly"* Pastor Jim Penuel

## GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Closing Song: *"Lord I Need You"*

\*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.)

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

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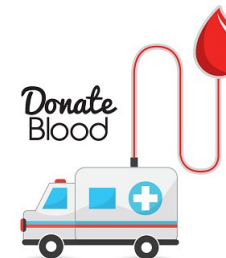
## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Bethel Golf Outings are Back

This golf season we still have **October 24th** booked for Bethel Golf Outings at The Rookery in Milton. These outings are open to men, women and children alike.

These outings are just fun ways for golfers in the church to connect and play together on Saturday afternoons. Our tee times start at 3:00 and we can accommodate up to 20 golfers for each date. You can play 9 holes or 18 and you can walk or ride carts and each outing will be at the twilight rate to be more affordable for everyone. All you need to do is email or text Ray and he will coordinate the details with everyone the week of. ***This is the last date we have on the books*** so let Ray know if you will be joining. Please reach out to Ray with any questions. [ray@bethellewes.org](mailto:ray@bethellewes.org)



**Elizabeth Circle's Fall Blood Drive:** The Blood Bank of Delmarva will be here Tuesday, October 13 in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Registration is open online for those 17 (16 with parental consent) and older who are in generally good health and over 110 pounds.

The blood supply is at crisis levels. We need to reach a goal of at least 30 successful donations to have a successful drive.

Sign up at: [delmarvablood.org/drives](https://delmarvablood.org/drives)

Enter code: BUMC

Questions: Please contact Marilyn Mead at:  
[marilynwm26@gmail.com](mailto:marilynwm26@gmail.com)

  
Blood Bank  
of Delmarva



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

The next Methodist Men sponsored work day with Habitat for Humanity is Tuesday, September 22 and we have ten slots to fill. Any adult man or woman is welcome to join our team and hopefully this date will see cooler weather and less business in everyone's schedules now that summer has passed. 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](mailto:rmmead50@gmail.com). Ron will then forward you the necessary information to sign up with Habitat and to register for this date. Registration must be done by Friday, September 18.



**Bethel is preparing to restart its Stephen Ministry!** Stephen Ministry is a world-wide, proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members - called Stephen Ministers - to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people who are experiencing life difficulties and transitions. For more information, please reach out to Cathy Iocona at [cathyiocona@gmail.com](mailto:cathyiocona@gmail.com) or 609.618.2659.

### **UMCOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING:**

All men and women are encouraged to register for and participate in the United Methodist Committee on Relief Emergency Response Team training that is being held on Saturday, October 17th in the Parsonage Meeting House. This is an opportunity to qualify to serve others in their time of need because of a natural disaster that has occurred where they live. A detailed question and answer sheet is available at [Bethellewes.org/information](http://Bethellewes.org/information). If your questions are not answered please call Rob Robison at 732-331-5292 or send an email to [robrobison78@verizon.net](mailto:robrobison78@verizon.net). The \$25.00 registration fee will be waived for the first fifteen people who register and attend the one-day training session.

## 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>                   |
| Todd Mentzer, Maintenance             | <a href="mailto:tamjam3@gmail.com">tamjam3@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Susan Kremer, PR Coordinator          | <a href="mailto:suzykqhope@gmail.com">suzykqhope@gmail.com</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>         |

Bethel United Methodist Church  
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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  | Beth Mills                                                                                                             |
|                     | 9:15  | Bob Dathe                                                                                                              |
|                     | 11:00 | Ushers                                                                                                                 |
| Ushers:             | 8:00  | Ernie Stanley, Head Usher<br>Sandy Hunsicker, & Ron Smith Assistants                                                   |
|                     | 9:15  | Libby Gibson, Head Usher                                                                                               |
|                     | 11:00 | Joann Brittingham, Head Usher<br>Jim Brown, Miguel Gomez, & Ralph Scott; Assistants                                    |
|                     |       |                                                                                                                        |
| Liturgists:         | 8:00  | Herky Billings                                                                                                         |
|                     | 9:15  | Ray Davis                                                                                                              |
|                     | 11:00 | Nancy Logan                                                                                                            |
| Audio Visual Techs: |       | Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Drew Fyock, Norm Macturk,<br>Mauro Medeiros, Lauren Mentzer, Todd Mentzer,<br>John Roman Nehrbas |
| Miracle Singers:    | 9:15  | Kim Edmonds, Joyce Famelio, Cathy Ferree, John Harris,<br>Patty Marvel, Bill Powell                                    |

Weekly Statistics

Attendance:    September 13, 2026: 258 ( 8:00-53; 10:30-205

Contributions for September 13, 2026

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| weekly deposit | \$ 10,603.12  |
| weekly budget  | \$ 16,915.18  |
| YTD collection | \$ 690,133.24 |
| YTD budget     | \$ 625,861.66 |



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Love Offering:** The September Love Offering will benefit La Esperanza. The word means hope. Latinos and immigrants have the same hopes as we all do and La Esperanza helps them achieve stability, integration and success. Founded in 1996 it is a multiservice non-profit organization that addresses all aspects of the immigrant experience. Their services fall into four categories: College and Career Coaching; Counseling on all issues related to immigration; Navigation services that focus on integration into a new society and Victim Assistance Services that include advocacy for victims of domestic violence and other forms of victimization. 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.



**Breakfast Bites:** Breakfast Bites is looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup on Sunday Mornings at the 9:15am service. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Pat Emmett at 215-776-5471 or by email at pemmett47@verizon.net.

**Women’s Ministry:** Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21st • 10:30 AM, Parsonage Meeting House

Come join us as we begin a new season of Women’s Ministry! Bring a friend! If you’ve never joined us before, this is the perfect time to come and see what we’re all about. We welcome new faces, new friendships, and new ideas!

Our mission is to provide support for women and children in need in Sussex County and abroad. Together, we hope to make a difference through fellowship, service, outreach, and faith.

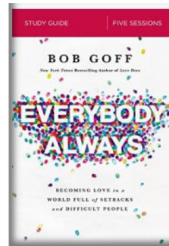
We’d love to have you join us! For questions, please reach out to Janine Phillips at 610-905-6674

## **Bethel UMC Men's Ministry Opportunities!**

*Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith and connect with other men from Bethel UMC? Two opportunities are offered each month to gather and grow:*

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

**- Upcoming dates August 9 and September 13**

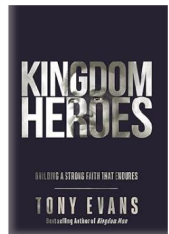


### **Everybody Always by Bob Goff**

In Everybody, Always, Bob Goff's joyful New York Times bestselling follow-up to Love Does, you'll discover the secret to living without fear, constraint, or worry. Bob teaches you that the path toward the outsized, unfettered, liberated existence we all long for is found in one simple truth: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits. Light reading – great discussion!

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

**- Upcoming dates August 26 and September 23**



### **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](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) or Ray Davis at [ray@bethellewes.org](mailto:ray@bethellewes.org) for more details.**

## **NOTE SHEET**

Note Sheet

A Methodist Prays Constantly

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:12-18

9/20/26

1. What Bonhoeffer is saying is that our relationship with God and the living of our daily lives is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In other words, to "abide" in Jesus means to stay \_\_\_\_\_ to him.
3. Our Christian discipleship journey is always meant to be a combination of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ practices.
4. We are called to live out our faith \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Prayer is the \_\_\_\_\_ for our spiritual lives.

Scripture reading for further reflection: John 15 (Whole chapter)

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note

Page by scanning the QR Code



[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zv9YmktNDz44TuKo1yv\\_APoK8KwBmiidUxdkH805IVQ/copy](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zv9YmktNDz44TuKo1yv_APoK8KwBmiidUxdkH805IVQ/copy)

# Teach Me to Pray



Pray without ceasing.  
—1 Thessalonians 5:17



**Sandwich & Side for 18 for Tharros.** Tharros is fully operational, with 18 residents. Bethel is one of several faith-based organizations that will be supplying a cold supper of a sandwich and a side for each resident. To sign up just go to [bethellewes.org](http://bethellewes.org); click on the “Information” tab and select “Bethel Food Ministries” from the dropdown menu. Under the heading “Tharros Village - Sandwich and Side” there are instructions and a direct link to the [SignUp.com](http://SignUp.com) signup page. Openings are available every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Deliver sandwiches and sides to 18006 Coastal Highway, Lewes between 4pm and 6pm.

Gate is kept locked: Detailed instructions are below  
Go to [SignUp.com](http://SignUp.com) page. To view click on the words  
“Sandwich & Side for 18”, under any of the dates.  
Contact is Cathie Wagner [ccwgr@aol.com](mailto:ccwgr@aol.com).



## Important Tharros Village Update for Volunteers Delivering Food

On the pedestrian entrance gate there is now a lockbox that contains a FOB. The FOB pad is beside the lockbox.

1. The lockbox code is 1225.
2. Put in code and switch black toggle to the left of the numbers.
3. Get FOB and use it with FOB pad to unlock gate.
4. When finished put FOB back into the lockbox and scramble numbers.

Any questions, contact Cathie Wagner [ccwgr@aol.com](mailto:ccwgr@aol.com)

Thanks to all who are providing sandwiches and sides.