

Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am

August 2025

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Matthew 25:34-36, 40

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Through July, we have been diving more deeply into the themes that you, as St. B, prayerfully offered as God's dream for St. B. We have looked closely at spiritual growth and formation, community and service, hospitality and welcome, and intergenerational connection. I have been thinking about these themes a lot, especially as we continue to watch what is happening in the world around us.

As we commit to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world, it is more than standing on a street corner asking people if they know where they will go after they die. It is about showing up for the "least of these" when those in power tell us that they deserve the oppression they experience. Hospitality and welcome and service and connection and, especially, our faith calls us to care for our siblings in Christ who find themselves on the margins.

I recently read an article by Bishop Robert Schanse about Christian hospitality. He writes, "Christian hospitality is the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ."

We celebrate what God has given us in this community and seek to be a place that welcomes, receives, and cares for those who enter our community. This hospitality is more than just assurance of a future richness. It is intentionally seeing God in everyone and offering all that we can to begin to ease the suffering and marginalization. It is seeing their uniqueness, their gifts, their diversity. It is seeing that together, we are the complete body of Christ.

We are entering a season where, as Albus Dumbledore says, "there will come a time where we will choose between what is right and what is easy." May we be courageous to choose what is just and right.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Corrie

Prayer Requests

Pam Barrett Randy Boyer Henry Durbin Ellen Graham Tammve Green

Ann Irwin **Nell Kirkpatrick** Annette McGary Mary Meilcarek-Clark Mary Neitzke

Jim Page Virginia Page Kathi Parker Harriett Silvey Lucille Thompson

Birthdays

2nd Alicia Dawn Siders 2nd Lucille Thompson

3rd Phyllis Haddock 3rd Wealthea Manross 12th Josh Jerles 30th Margaret Fisher

Liturgists & Acolytes

Doyle Clark Sarah Clark Josh Waterhouse Michael Bellamy Adalyn Waterhouse Andrew Clark

Annalea Waterhouse

Rosie Clark

From Our Leadership

From our Lay Leader and One Table Chair:

Conference Racial Justice Event

Five members from St. Bethlehem UMC traveled to Nashville on Saturday, November 12, to attend a Conference Racial Justice event at McKendree UMC. The event centered on the book "Pushout" by Monique W. Morris, which examines the criminalization of Black girls in schools. Attendees viewed a film adaptation of the book, featuring interviews that highlighted these issues.

Monique W. Morris's work chronicles the experiences of Black girls whose lives are often misunderstood, judged, and degraded by teachers, administrators, and the justice system institutions meant to support their growth. "Pushout" reveals the reality of restricted potential and advocates for the movement challenging policies, practices, and cultural ignorance that drive students out of schools and into uncertain and sometimes unsafe futures.

Described as "compelling" and "thought-provoking" (Kirkus Reviews) and called "timely and important" (Booklist), "Pushout" has become a classic resource not only for educators and families, but for anyone concerned with the well-being of children. The book has garnered praise from

figures like Gloria Steinem and Kimberle Crenshaw, and has been featured in outlets such as The Atlantic, Education Week, NPR, New York magazine, Essence, and Elle. Readers report that its impact lingers well beyond the final page. The UWF library offers this book and other titles on racial justice as part of its reading program.

After a group lunch, all participants engaged in discussion at nine tables. The experience was found to be both helpful and educational. The St. Bethlehem attendees were Margaret Fisher, Karen Keen, Grace Manning, Alisha Dawn Siders, and Mary Turner. Anyone interested can speak with them about the event and its value.

Upcoming District Mission U Study

The next United Women in Faith event is our District Mission u study at Hilldale UMC on August 23, 2025, and the study book is Practicing Hope. The Conference Mission U was held at Scarritt Bennett in Nashville which Margaret attended on June 12-14. The teaching team at the District event will be Sheila Allen (Bellevue), Margaret Fisher (St. Bethlehem), Joanna Newberry (Mt. Carmel), Holly Plump (Bellevue), and Jerlean Bass (Gordon Memorial), who was one of the youth leaders. Additionally, Claudia Newberry of Mt. Carmel UMC attended the children's class.

The study book is Practicing Hope for the Adult Curriculum. We come to this study reflective of the spiritual and political moment we are in, a time when many of our churches are discerning where Christ is calling us to be morally courageous when our world leaders fail us and our communities work to "come back" together after being on the brink of collapse. This study's purpose is to allow all our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions, hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent, and hope that is possible even when we transgress. Our lesson on Saturday will be approximately a three-hour summary of the eight-session curriculum and we do hope many from St. Bethlehem will plan to attend.

Upcoming Unit Meeting

The St. Bethlehem UWF will have a birthday celebration UNIT meeting on August 17, 2025, at 2:00 pm in Heritage Hall. This will be a unit meeting (both circles) where we collect money for a scholarship handled by the TWK Conference for a young lady attending TN college. This is also considered our Birthday celebration and hope you come to enjoy a surprise program along with cake and ice cream.

Margaret Fisher, United Women in Faith District President and St. Bethlehem Unit President.









Notes & Thoughts

Special Music

We have had some phenomenal talent shared with us this Summer. Who knew we were so very well endowed in the music department. A big thank you goes out to everyone that's been willing to showcase their gifts. We have more coming your way though, so make sure you show up every Sunday to benefit from all of the beautifully uplifting music.

A T-shirt Fundraiser Update

Our T-shirt Fundraiser has been successful. We've had 14 t-shirts purchased so far which has raised \$126.50 for St. B. A huge thank you to everyone that purchased a t-shirt but know this...the fundraiser continues. Visit https://bonfire.com/store/stbumc to view additional items like long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies for those colder months and other fun things like a coffee mug and water bottle.

Special Events

FALL BAZAAR

When: Saturday, September 20th

What Time: 10 am-4 pm

Discover the joys of an Autumn bazaar as St. B hosts vendors from all around our area. Just as with the Spring Market, you can expect to see a vibrant and diverse marketplace filled with freshly baked goodies, handmade crafts, food trucks, and a wonderful community atmosphere.

Stay tuned for more information on this exciting event and, for some, what might be a great opportunity.



Routine Upcoming Events

The St. B **Sewing Circle** meets on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 pm at rotating attendee locations. If you have any questions or wish to join the Sewing Circle, please contact Nita Heilman.

This month they meet: August 11th at the home of Melinda Riggins.





Ann's Closet provides food for our hungry neighbors. Please consider picking up a box of rice or a few packets of Ramen while you're at the grocery store. If we can each grab just one extra item per week, we could keep our shelves stocked and continue to assist those in need.

Ann's Closet is open this month on: August 6th and 20th.

Our **FUEL** program has ceased its operations for the 2024-25 school year but will return for the 2025-26 school year soon but at present, it's too early to project an increase or decrease in children who will need our assistance. Our FUEL team is excited about the work they do for under-nourished, developmentally challenged children and with your help we'll be able to continue this vital work for years to come.





Ann Doris Circle Meeting: August 12th at 10:30 am

Night Circle Meeting: August 11th at 6:30 pm

Join us for **BINGO** on Thursday, **August 21**th from 10:30-11:30 am.

What better place to play BINGO than St. B. We usually meet on the third Thursday morning of each month and afterwards continue our fellowship and fun with a group lunch. Come join us for BINGO this month for a fun time and white elephant gift exchange.





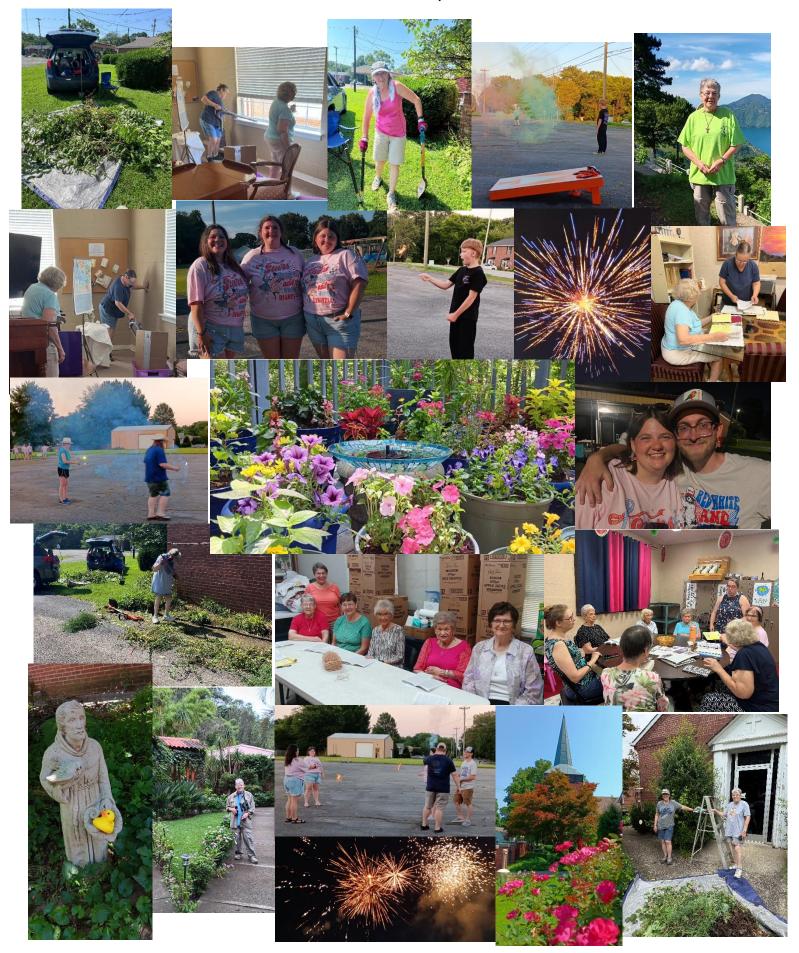
Join us Friday, August 15th for Game Night:

Game Night is your best option to cool off during these hot Summer nights. For anyone that hasn't yet, please join us for our next event. Most of us play games but others are happy to sit around and talk. Regardless of your preference, we'd love to have you join in on the fun!

Mark your calendars for upcoming Game Nights

September 19th November 21st
October 17th December 19th

Here's what we've been up to this month...



And here's a blast from the past...





Brain Teasers

alphabet except for i, j, q, u, v and z. finishes with the same letter. There is one word for each letter of the DIRECTIONS: For each clue, find a corresponding word that starts and

Water storage area.	Trepidation	Feudal land.	Excessive.	The most.	Forty-eight hours before tomorrow.	Very knowledgeable.	Pizza herb.	Deadly.	Temporary loss of memory.	Pleasure traveller.	Roll in the mud.	Where a rubber duckie lives.	Chinese medicinal root.	Eskimo canoe.	Gas in some signs.	Bitterly sarcastic.	Pioneer in photocopying.	Intuitive inkling.	Spend time in front of the mirror.	
																			PRIMP	
SOAR	RAPTOR	PROTECTED	PLUMAGE	NORTH AMERICA	NO PREDATORS	NATIONAL SYMBOL	MATES FOR LIFE	HUGE NEST	FISH	EYESIGHT	EMBLEM	EAGLET	DDI	CONSERVATION	BROWN FEATHERS	BALD EAGLE	AERIES		diagonally.	hackwards and

directions including Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look DIRECTIONS: backwards and for them in all diagonally.

UNITED STATES WHITE HEAD WHITE TAIL WETLANDS TALONS

Bald Eagle Word Search

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DID YOU KNOW?

WINGSPAN

YELLOW BEAK

and reach speeds of up to national bird and symbol America. They can fly up to 10,000 feet in the air of the United States of The bald eagle is the 40 miles per hour.

10am - Worship	10am - Worship	10am - Worship 2pm - UWF Unit Meeting	10am - Worship	10am - Worship	10am - Worship	Sun
Labor Day Office Closed	24	eting	6:30pm - UWF Night	ω	27	Mon
1	25 26	18	11 10:30am - UWF Anne		28 29	Tue
11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	9 20 11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	9 7:30pm - N.A.	Wed
7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	10:30am - BINGO 7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	7:30pm - N.A.	Thu
6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	Fi
6pm - N.A.	6pm - N.A.	4pm - N.A. Business 6pm - N.A.	6pm - N.A.	6pm - N.A.	6pm - N.A.	Sat

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