

THIS WEEK AT BFUMC

- Today** 12:00 p.m. **Graduate Reception (FH)** *Everyone Invited!*
 4:00 p.m. Disciple 1 (128)
 Teens/Young Adult Financial Peace (123)
 5:15 p.m. Band of Brothers (127)
 5:30 p.m. Rooted Youth (130)
 7:00 p.m. Coffee With Pastors (128)
- Tuesday** 6:30 p.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)
 7:00 p.m. Church Council (128)
- Wednesday** 9:00 a.m. Crochet Group (128)
 6:30 p.m. Crochet Group (128)
 Chancel Choir (119)
- Sunday** 9:30 a.m. **Pancake Breakfast-Youth Fundraiser (FH)**
 10:30 a.m. **Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary)**



GRADUATE RECEPTION | TODAY | 12:00 PM

Our graduates will be recognized during the worship services. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11 o'clock service. There will be a 4-foot table for each graduate and we hope you will come and wish them well. If you would like to write them a card or give them a small gift of encouragement, you may place it on their table.

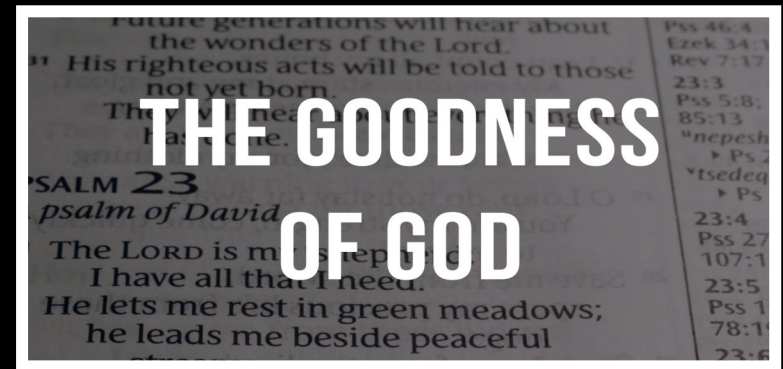
COFFEE WITH PASTORS | TODAY | 7:00 PM

CWP is scheduled for this evening at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in exploring membership to BFUMC is welcome to come and tour the church, hear about BFUMC and to ask questions, and get to know our pastors. Anyone who would like to attend, please see one of the pastors after the worship service.

Everything BFUMC linktr.ee/bfumc

Complete details are printed each week in The Bethlehem Happenings. Copies are available in the Stars Café, Narthex, and side Vestibules. The Happenings is also emailed church-wide on Friday of each week. To receive this email, please contact the church office at info@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

May 21, 2023 | 11:00 Traditional Worship
7th Sunday of Easter | Graduate Recognition



The phrase “*Valley of the shadow of death*” that appears in Psalm 23 refers to a real valley outside of Jerusalem. In this valley, travelers were at risk from thieves, bandits, and wild animals lurking in the shadows. Psalm 23 is a psalm of confidence reminding us of God’s goodness and His care for His people, even in the darkest times of life. For the Israelite familiar with traveling through this dangerous valley, they knew what it was like to journey through the darkness, wondering when something or someone would jump out from the shadows. To be reminded that God watches over His people would have given them confidence in all their valleys – real or symbolic. While we don’t often travel through dark valleys in a physical sense, we understand it figuratively. Our dark valleys today might look like physical suffering or chronic pain. We might experience loss and sorrow. We might go through emotional valleys of doubt, despair, depression, defeat, or fear. In all of these valleys, it can feel like we are all alone. Psalm 23 reminds us God is with us in the darkest valleys, and He will lead us through!

WORSHIP | INVITE | NURTURE | GROW | SERVE

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



BETHLEHEM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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770-867-3727 | info@bethlehemfirstumc.com

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11:00 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

IN THE SANCTUARY

**please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE	Katie Wilson
BRINGING IN THE LIGHT	Addison and Andrew Smith
GREETING	Rev. Frank Bernat
CALL TO WORSHIP	Elaine Robbins

As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.
**We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,
which renew and refresh our souls.**

God guides us along paths of righteousness
**And walks with us through shadowed valleys
so we are not afraid.**

The shepherd's rod and staff comforts us.

God sets a banquet table for us in the presence of our
enemies. There we are anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us
as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

OPENING PRAYER	Elaine Robbins
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Lord, our Good Shepherd, as we walk through the dark valleys
of life, valleys that at times feel like death itself, valleys that
engulf us with darkness, valleys of depression, doubt, despair,
and fear; emotional valleys, financial valleys, and relational
valleys, we will not be afraid, for you are close beside us. Help us
to always keep our eyes on You, not the painful circumstances
of life or the problems we are facing but on Your powerful
presence. Thank You that You are always with us and never
leave us. Hold us tightly in Your care. In the comforting name
of Jesus, we pray, **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN	<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i> (Vv.1,3)	UMH 89
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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:	The Apostles' Creed	UMH 881
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**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and
earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried, the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended
into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father**

**Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI	UMH 71
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***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM	Rev. Bernat
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James William NeSmith | February 2, 2020
John Christopher NeSmith II | August 27, 2022
Parents: Joshua and Catherine NeSmith

GRADUATE RECOGNITION	Matt Brown
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PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER	Rev. Beth Dickinson
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*GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS	Rev. Bernat
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OFFERTORY	<i>This I Pray</i>	William Collins
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*DOXOLOGY
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

MESSAGE	"God's Goodness in the Dark Valleys" Romans 5:1-5 (NLT)	Rev. Bernat
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*CLOSING HYMN	<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>	UMH 393
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*BENEDICTION		Rev. Bernat
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*POSTLUDE		Katie Wilson
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WE ARE A PRAYING CHURCH

Please email your prayer requests to
info@bethlehemfirstumc.com and they will be emailed out
Monday in the weekly PrayerNet. You may also contact the
church office, 770-867-3727.

