

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.

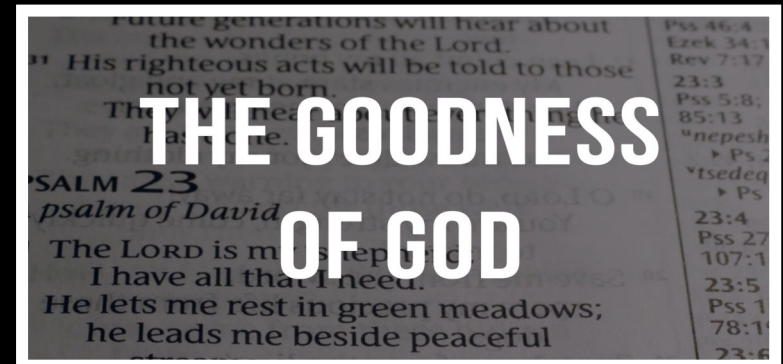
COFFEE WITH PASTORS | TODAY | 7:00 PM

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 | 9:30 am Casual/Contemporary 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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www.bethlehemfirstumc.org

Welcome!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us this week as we worship together in-person and online. We are glad that you are with us and hope that you find the service engaging and encouraging.

If this is your first time with us, please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card and visit the welcome booth for a red bag.

If you have any prayer requests to share with the church, you may write that on your Connection Card, or email us at info@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

Our staff is available by phone anytime. We hope you are blessed by your time with us this week.

Our Clergy

Rev. Frank Bernat, *Senior Pastor*
770.867.3727, ext. 105
frank.bernat@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Rev. Beth Dickinson, *Associate Pastor*
770.867.3727, ext. 106
beth.dickinson@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Rev. Megan Gomez, *Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation*
770.867.3727, ext. 107
megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Learn More About Bethlehem First UMC

www.bethlehemfirstumc.org | 770.867.3727

www.linktr.ee/bfumc

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9:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

IN THE WORSHIP CENTER

Welcome and Praise

House Of The Lord | *Yes I Will*

Greeting | Rev. Frank Bernat

Graduate Recognition | Matt Brown

Pray and Give

Time of Prayer | Rev. Beth Dickinson

Giving Back | Video

Listen to the Word of God

“God’s Goodness in the Dark Valleys” | Rev. Bernat
Romans 5:1-5 (NLT)

Highlands (Song Of Ascent)

Ministry Opportunities

WINGS Highlights | Rev. Frank Bernat

Depart and Serve God

Send Off | Rev. Frank Bernat

Following this service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to view the Graduate Tables.

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.

