



THE HAPPENINGS

MARCH 15 - 21, 2024

BETHLEHEM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by making *Worship* a priority, extending an intentional *Invitation*, *Nurturing* Godly friendships, committing to *Grow* spiritually, and making a difference by *Serving* others."

SIGNS AND MIRACLES!

A miracle is a supernatural work of God, birthed with divine power, carrying a divine purpose. Miracles are everywhere in the Gospel of John! Water became wine. Blind eyes were blessed with sight. The lame were able to walk. Multitudes were fed. Even the dead rose again! Every miracle in John's Gospel is a sign that makes us wonder about who Jesus truly is. The book of John brings us a heavenly perspective filled with wonderful

revelation in every verse. Nothing in the Bible can be compared to the writing of John. He was a prophet, an evangelist, an author, an apostle, a son of thunder, and a witness to the power of Christ revealed in His miracles. The other three gospels give us the history of Christ, but John writes to unveil the mystery of Christ. John records seven of Jesus' miracles. These miracle are divine signs meant to convince us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that we must believe in Him to be saved. To read John's gospel is to encounter Jesus in a personal and powerful way. During the season of Lent we will examine these miraculous signs to gain a deeper understanding of who Christ is for us today.



February 18 "Water Into Wine" John 2:1-11

February 25 **Mission Sunday**, Rev. Scott Parish Preaching
"A Church of Signs & Wonders!" John 4:46-54

March 3 "Feeding the 5,000" John 6:1-15

March 10 "From Lame to Living" John 5:1-17

March 17 "Walking on Water" John 6:16-21

March 24 **Palm Sunday**
"Healing the Blind Man" John 9:1-41

March 31 **Easter Sunday**
"Raising Lazarus" John 11

Please Join Us for Worship
In-Person or On-Line
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 | FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

"Walking on Water" | John 6:16-21 (NLT)

Jesus was in the mountains praying when His disciples set off across the Sea of Galilee. While they were rowing, a strong wind started blowing, the water turned rough, and the disciples became frightened. Jesus came to them walking on the water, startling them even more. Jesus calmed their fears and revealed His divinity by traversing the stormy sea on foot and bending nature to His will. Throughout the Bible, oceans and seas were seen as dangerous and chaotic forces, and often used to represent evil itself. When God shows His power over water, He clues us in to the fact that His powers know no bounds. Jesus demonstrates His divinity by showing the same power as His Father. The disciples learned from this sign miracle that Jesus had power over natural laws and would never forsake them, even in the midst of a storm. Though they are afraid, Jesus shows that He is in control of the situation and comforts them. As believers, we know God is sovereign over all creation and is in control of all circumstances. We know that we can trust Him in any storm or situation in our lives that may produce fear, stress, or worry.

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

12:30 pm	Mini Me Handbell Choir	114
3:00 pm	Confirmation	130
	Handbell Practice	114
4:00 pm	Handbell Practice	114
5:00 pm	Band of Brothers	128
	Kidz Club	Chapel
	Signs and Secrets of the Messiah	123

MONDAY, MARCH 18

4:00 pm	Book Art	128
6:30 pm	MAD (Making a Difference)	124

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

1:00 pm	United Methodist Women (UMW)	128
3:30 pm	Prayer Group	121
6:00 pm	Disciple 1	127
6:30 pm	Church Council	128
7:00 pm	Young Adults	130

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 am	Crochet	128
10:00 am	Acts Group	124
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice	119
	Crochet	128

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

6:00 pm	UMW –New Evening Group	128
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SATURDAY, MARCH, 23

1:00 pm	Easter Eggstravaganza	
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NEW EVENING UMW

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 @ 6:00 PM

You've wanted to participate with the United Methodist Women (UMW), but are unable to attend during the day. Come be a part of UMW as we offer a **an additional 6:00 p.m. meeting on the 3rd Thursday night, beginning March 21st.**

Our president, Karen Austin will share details on the projects currently planned for 2024, and ways that busy/working women can participate.

There will be time for fellowship and discussion of ideas for this evening group to serve our community, and also work toward planning a retreat for the fall or winter. Come, grow with us!

SERVE AT BFUMC THIS SPRING

Your help and smiling face is needed at BFUMC this spring! Sign up to help prep our Seder Meal: Jesus in the Passover, be a table host at our Seder Meal, help with the Kids Eggstravaganza, or sign up to greet at the Spring Craft Fair at linktr.ee/bfumc (Serve at BFUMC this Spring).



Everything BFUMC

can be found
on our app:



linktr.ee/bfumc



KIDZ FUNDRAISER | CHOCOLATE DIPPED PRETZEL RODS

On Sunday, March 24th, between morning worship services and after the 11 o'clock service, please support our Kidz Ministry with the purchase of Chocolate Dipped Pretzel Rods for \$1 (all donations welcome). You can make your selection of these delicious pretzels, created by our very own Kidz, in the Stars Café, the Narthex, or one of the Vestibules and enjoy these special treats and know that you are supporting our Kidz Ministry Outreach.

BFUMC Disc Golf



**Rescheduled
See New Date**

**Saturday, March 30th
10:00 a.m.**

**Sandy Creek Park (Free Parking)
400 Bob Holman Rd.
Athens, GA 30607**

THE JOURNEY...YOU NEVER WANTED TO BE ON"

Losing a loved one is difficult and shared journeys can lessen the pain and provide a network of support, comfort, and possibly new friends. There is no exact timeframe of - nor for - grieving, but just as Jesus wept when Lazarus died, we too weep when those we love die. **Please join us on this journey starting Thursday, April 4th and ending on Thursday, May 9th, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Class size is limited so contact Elaine Robbins to sign up or if you have questions.

Elaine Robbins
retainer29@gmail.com

BETHLEHEM TRAVEL CLUB | JUNE 3 - 8, 2024

LANCASTER SHOW TRIP & THE DUTCH COUNTRY

Motorcoach transportation with Diamond Tours includes 3 consecutive nights in the Lancaster area, 8 meals, 5 breakfasts, and 3 dinners. Admission to the "Daniel" Show at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, admission to a show at the Magic & Wonder Theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, a visit to charming Kitchen Kettle Village, a guided tour of Lancaster, and admission to The Amish Experience & Jacob's Choice at the F/X Theatre.

\$869 for 6 days, 5 nights (per person, double occupancy). Add \$189 for single occupancy. **Payment due by March 27th.**

For information and reservations, contact:

Ron Agnew, 706-491-9211

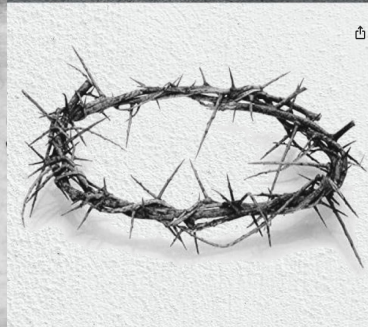
Wanda Doster, 770-601-8570



HOLY WEEK

at Bethlehem First UMC

Sunday thru Sunday | March 24 - March 31



SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | PALM SUNDAY | CONFIRMATION

WORSHIP TIMES: 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Palm Sunday recalls the story in Christian Scripture of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, greeted by people waving palm branches. It is a reminder for Christians to welcome Jesus into their hearts and to be willing to follow him. Our message will be about the miracle of the blind man.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 | SEDER MEAL: JESUS IN THE PASSOVER | 6:30 -8:30 PM

A Passover table is set with all of the elements traditionally used. You will hear an explanation of how Passover is celebrated today, what all of the symbolic foods represent, and how Jesus is beautifully pictured in the Passover celebration and story. You will come to understand the origin and meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Seating is limited, so sign up through linktr.ee/bfumc (Seder Meal), or email the church at info@bethlehemfirstumc.com.



FRIDAY, MARCH 29 | GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE | 7:00 PM

Tenebrae (ten' eh bray) is an ancient rite of the Church. The Latin word "tenebrae" means "darkness." During this service the candles on the altar will be extinguished one by one. In this we remember that God the Father cloaked the land with darkness during the death of his Son. This is a service of meditation and reflection, Scripture interspersed with music, for our reflection on what Christ has done for us.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 | EASTER SUNDAY - HE IS RISEN !!!

Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion. You are welcome!

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Svc. on the Front Lawn

9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Svc. | **11:00 a.m.** - Traditional Worship Svc.

10:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (*sponsored by Rooted Youth*)



PRAYER CONCERNS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Note: Names in **Bold** added this week

Alcorn, Tommy – *recovering in rehab facility*
 Anderson, Susan – *chemo treatments*
 Aunt Bea – *properly cared for through her end of life (Jenny Johnson)*
 Banks, Theodosia – *prayers for daughter*
 Benton, Rachel – *employment search*
Black, Letty – *elbow surgery on 3/19*
 Bradley, Tiffany – *diagnosed with breast cancer. Surgery 3/26*
 Connerley, Lu – *health issues*
Dickinson, Bob – *surgery for broken hips 3/12; Parkinson's Disease (Keith Dickinson's father)*
 Doster, Wanda – *shoulder surgery Thurs., 2/22*
 Dyar, Thomas – *at home, recovery of broken ribs and shoulder (Judy Smith)*
 Everette, Mike – *(Letty Black)*
 Flahn, Alma – *travel & ministry at Village of Hope in Liberia*
 Greta C. – *battling cancer 3rd major surgery & financial crisis created by medical bills*
 Hall, Roy – *needs heart surgery, but kidney function too low (Jenn Slawinski's step-father)*
 Harris, Family of Zigad – *(Nick Jacobs)*
Hawkins, Koda – *brain tumor (Andy Dan's nephew)*
 Heffner, Darlene – *75 yr. old, on dialysis. Kidneys functioning at 8% (Diana Gregerson)*
Innecken, Paul – *stroke, in hospital (Susan Wages)*
 Knight, Ainsley – *in ICU with blood infection, deep vein thrombosis (Martha Knight)*
 Knowles, Howard & Linda – *moved to Bowdon to care for Howard's father*
Loomis, Diane – *Winder Rehab for physical therapy*
 Mirkes, Monica – *prayers for grandchildren and parents*
 Moore, Ivy – *diagnosed with ALS*
 Partee, Larry – *dealing with severe diverticulitis*
 Pieper, Bruce – *had a stroke Saturday, 3/2 – currently in hospital (Aaron Pieper's father)*
 Rachael – *cyst found on brain (Tami Carless)*

To receive prayer updates and notices for e-prayers, contact

Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,

karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

Reitz, Bob – *weakness in legs; anemia (Nancy Turpin's father)*
 Reitz, Suellen – *psoriasis (Nancy Turpin's stepmother)*
 Ruth H. – *brain tumor surgery 2/19. Part of our fitness family (Andrea Tyler)*
Schultz, Tess – *safe travels to Texas Thurs., 3/14-3/16*
Smith, Lynn – *knee replacement surgery 3/18*
 Stringer, Carolyn – *(Grace Hughes)*
Sturchio, Emily – *loss of mother Paula Jones. Prayers for travel to Ohio*
 Thompson Family – *death of Wayne Thompson (brother-in-law of Howard & Linda Knowles)*
Turpin, Kathleen – *safe trip to Ireland and back*
Weiman, Rick – *has not been well for awhile (Beth Whitehead)*
Whittaker, Sandra – *passed away on 3/10; pray for her family (mother of Victoria Jacobs)*
 Wilson, Glenna – *breast cancer, mother fell and broke pelvic, and sister has downs syndrome (Theo Banks)*

Ongoing Requests

Alcorn, Shirley – *cancer*
 Allen, Tyler
 Bell, Charles – *eye issues – Recovery from eye surgery on 2/12*
 Bernat, Betty – *memory issues*
 Boyd, Evelyn & JP – *at home with health issues*
 Brown, Mildred – *(Lynn Smith's mother)*
 Dean, Jamie – *breast cancer*
 Dillard, Tonya
Fleeman, Brenda & Johnny – *Brenda is hospitalized*
 Helmers, Lois – *severe back pain*
 Massey Family – *health issues*
 Odum, Jimmy

Special Prayers Requested

- Teachers
- Students on Spring Break
- Our Nation

Our HomeBound

Please feel free to send them a card or note and let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers.

Abbett, Terry & Suda 770-307-0883

709 Westbury Dr.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Alcorn, Shirley Spouse: Tom..... 678-227-2914

147 Thorn Brook Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Boyd, Evelyn & JP..... 770-867-9551

16 Joseph St.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Chaffin, Patty 912-754-2402

133 Brookstone Way
Rincon, GA 31326

Ellis, Marilyn.....jse3801@gmail.com

Great Oaks Senior Living
920 GA-138 NW
Monroe, GA 30655

Fleeman, Brenda & Johnny..... 678-863-1765

Winder Healthcare
263 E. May Street
Winder, GA 30680

Haralson, Evelyn..... 770-466-0550

Riverside Healthcare
5100 W. Street
Covington, GA 30014

Kelley, Betty 770-867-2251

422 Aberdeen Way
Winder, GA 30680

McCauslan, Harriet..... 678-520-5692

2750 Atlanta Hwy., Apt. 114
Athens, GA 30606

Morris, Bobbie 678-447-9670

774 Exchange Mill Place
Dacula, GA 30019

Odum, Jane..... 770-867-2256

422 Aberdeen Way
Winder, GA 30680

Partee, Mary Nell, Spouse: John..... 770-867-9784

217 Carl Bethlehem Rd.
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Thompson, Rachel 770-867-9518

107 Sunningdale Dr.
Winder, GA 30680

White, Earlene..... 404-990-1666

1050 Octavia Ct.
Winder, GA 30680



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

Choir Director, Haley Cox Mitchell
770.867.3727, ext. 110
haley.mitchell@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Pianist, Katrina Wilson
pbp4katie@gmail.com

Sound Technician, Jaron Hardy
jaron.hardy@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Worship Leader, Tim Darden
tim.darden@bethlehemfirstumc.com

OUR STAFF

Office Phone # 770.867.3727

Accounts Manager, Jenn Slawinski ext. 104
jennifer.slawinski@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Children Ministries Director, Amber Wigley ext. 110
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Communications Coordinator/Ministry Assistant
Trish Johnson ext. 108
trish.johnson@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Custodian, Anissa Sullivan ext. 109
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Executive Assistant, Karen Whitehead ext. 102
karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Facilities Manager, Amber Wigley ext. 110
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Fitness/Rec Director, Anissa Sullivan ext. 109
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Preschool Director, Lizzy Sheffield 770.867.3724
lizzy.sheffield@bethlehemfirstumc.com

Student & Young Adult Ministry
Director, Matt Brown ext. 103
matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com

709 Christmas Avenue | Bethlehem, GA 30620
770-867-3727
info@bethlehemfirstumc.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday ~ 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday ~ 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WWW.BETHLEHEMFIRSTUMC.ORG

