

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.

	U	•		
February 18	3 "Water Into Wine"	John 2:1-11		
February 25	5 Mission Sunday, Rev. Scott Parish P			
	"A Church of Signs & Wonders!"	John 4:46-54	Please Join Us for Worship	
March 3	"Feeding the 5,000"	John 6:1-15	In-Person or On-Line	
March 10	"From Lame to Living"	John 5:1-17		
March 17	"Walking on Water"	John 6:16-21	9:30 AM & 11:00 AM	
March 24	Palm Sunday "Healing the Blind Man"	John 9:1-41		
March 31	Easter Sunday "Raising Lazarus"	John 11		

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 | PALM SUNDAY

"Healing the Blind Man" | John 9:1-41

Eyesight is a glorious thing, but something that we often take for granted. Our eyesight can diminish so gradually we don't notice it. Our faith is similar. We can be so overwhelmed with the chaos of everyday life that faith can slowly diminish. Where once we saw the glory & beauty of God's creation, we now see only shadows.

In John 9, a beggar blind from birth is healed by Jesus on the Sabbath. The blind man is surrounded by people who can see with their eyes, but who are blind spiritually. Jesus sees a person in need, and he reaches out with miracle light to bring sight to the man. The blind man now with sight is questioned and challenged. As the man defends the healing, his faith grows. Where once he saw only shadows with his heart, now he sees clearly. Often faith becomes stronger as it is tested and questioned. Jesus came to give sight to those who are spiritually blind. Jesus came to the world to bring light to the darkness of sin and death.

How is your spiritual eyesight? Do you see miracles of God's creation all around you or are you sitting in the dark?

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 23					
1:00 pm	Easter Eggstravaganza				
SUNDAY, M	March 24 - Palm Sunday				
12:00 pm	Hand & Foot Card Playing	128			
12:30 pm	Mini Me Handbell Choir	114			
3:00 pm	Handbell Practice	114			
4:00 pm	Handbell Practice	114			
5:00 pm	Band of Brothers	128			
5:00 pm	Kidz Club	Chapel			
5:00 pm	Rooted Youth Nights	130			
Monday,	MARCH 25				
4:00 pm	Book Art	128			
6:30 pm	MAD (Making a Difference)	124			
TUESDAY,	MARCH 26				
3:30 pm	Prayer Group	121			
6:00 pm	Disciple 1	127			
6:30 pm	Handbell Practice	114			
6:30 pm	Seder Meal	FH			
7:00 pm	Young Adults	130			
WEDNESDA	AY, MARCH 27				
9:00 am	Crochet	128			
10:00 am	Acts Group	124			
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice	119			
6:30 pm	Crochet	128			
FRIDAY, M.	ARCH 29 - G OOD FRIDAY				
7:00 pm	Good Friday Service	Sanct			





KIDZ FUNDRAISER CHOCOLATE DIPPED PRETZEL RODS

This 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.

HAND AND FOOT CARD PLAYING

Join the fun this Sunday, March 24, following the 11 o'clock worship service for food, fellowship, and play Hand and Foot. We would love to have you join us for the afternoon in Room 128. Bring a favorite dish to share. Want to know more about this fun game? Contact Ron Agnew, 706-491-9211, ragnew0550@gmail.com.



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)



FLAG FOOTBALL

BFUMC Sports Ministry has a new sports season coming up for spring: FLAG FOOTBALL AND CHEER! Registrater at linktr.ee/bfumc (Spring 2024 Flag Football and Cheer Registration). Registration will close on March 25th, with NO late registrations so we can be sure to get our uniforms in time for Picture Day! Practices will be Mondays from 6-7pm and games will be on Saturday mornings from 8:30-11am.





Saturday, March 30th 1 0:00 a.m. Sandy Creek Park (*Free Parking*) 40 0 Bob Hol man Rd. Athens, GA 3060 7

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 relainer29@gmail.com



SPRING FITNESS CHALLENGE

Spring Class Challenge! Whoever attends the most fitness classes in April wins a FREE 1-Month Individual Membership (\$35 value). You do not have to be a member to participate, you must stay for the full class, and you must sign-in to the class (\$3.00/class).

Anissa.Sullivan@BethlehemFirstUMC.com



You are invited to a Cake Auction & Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, April 21st, at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds support our Mission Team going to Kenya in June. You can also use your special talents as a cake baker.

If you have a special cake you want to bake, please let our Cake Boss Hazel Plourde know (404-434-2748, paperhazel@bellsouth.net).

For more information and to purchase tickets, Phyllis Landers, 404-274-9381 npmom61@gmail.com

BIBLE STUDY ON "THE CHOSEN" MINI SERIES!

Join us for an enriching journey through the acclaimed mini-series, "The Chosen," as we dive deep into its biblical themes and characters. Discover the profound lessons and insights that this captivating portrayal of Jesus and His disciples offers.

Young Adults: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm | April 9 – May 28

Adults: Thursdays @ 6:30 pm | April 11 – May 30

What to Expect: Engaging discussions, spiritual growth, and a deeper understanding of the Gospel narratives.

All are welcome, whether you're a lifelong believer or simply curious about exploring the life of Jesus in a fresh and dynamic way. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow believers and uncover the timeless truths of Scripture in a modern context. Contact Pastor Frank or Pastor Megan to sign up for this new grow group.



LADIES SPRING TEA | FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

An evening of dinner and fellowship with guest speaker Amy Bowdoin. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the BFUMC Nurture Committee ministries. Tickets will be available beginning March 31st through April 19th (\$25 Ladies, \$5 Girls-12 and under). Look for the tea cart! On Sunday mornings.

TABLE HOSTESSES NEEDED!

Sign up to be a table hostess at our Ladies Spring Tea! We'll provide a white table cloth with 8 seats per round table. Hostesses will provide: Decorative Centerpiece, China, Silverware, Crystal (optional), Napkins (optional), Salt and Pepper Shakers, Cream and Sugar Set.

Hostessess will set up their table(s) in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 9th from 9-11 am or 6-8 pm. Please plan to bring your table décor in a tote or box that can be kept under the table during dinner.

Jane Orendorff | 770-598-2783 | jane.orendorff@gmail.com

BETHLEHEM TRAVEL CLUB | JUNE 3 - 8, 2024 LANCASTER SHOW TRIP AND THE DUTCH COUNTRY

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, March 27th

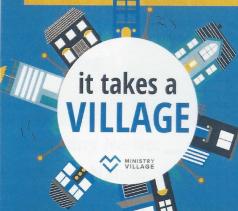
Motorcoach transportation with Diamond Tours includes 3 consecutive nights in the Lancaster area, 8 meals, 5 breakfasts, and 3 dinners. Admission to the "Daniel" Show at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, admission to a show at the Magic & Wonder Theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, a visit to charming 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 or Wanda Doster, 770-601-8570

THE MINISTRY VILLAGE PRESENTS



IT TAKES A VILLAGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

30 APRIL 2024 Registration at 8:00 Shotgun at 9:00 AM

Registration at 8:00 AM

Providence Golf Club 656 Providence Club Dr, Monroe, GA 30656



\$400 per team/\$100 per player

Light breaskfast provided Lunch courtesy of Chick-Fil-A Winder/Bethlehem

Great raffle prizes, and prizes for the top 3 teams!

Register at barrowministryvillage.org

Would you please let BFUMC know the gift bags were such a nice treat? Everything in there were things teachers love. And to know each bag was prayed over made the gift even more special.

Laurie Noles

Thank you for the lovely little bag of goodies! I can tell the items were thoughtfully chosen to meet wants/needs of all of us. You are much appreciated!!!

Dr. Ellis

Thank you so much for the "eggstra" special goody bag! Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

Farrah Haney

Thank you prayer warriors for covering the staff at Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy. May God continue to keep each and everyone of you. With gratitude,

Ysheena Lyles

THANK YOU so much for kind support of teachers. The items came at a perfect time of the year. Our Sharpies were running low, our post-it notes were almost gone, and we were on our last Expo marker. This was one sweet surprise.

Brandon Mitchell, Ed.S

A PAGE OF THANKS FROM BARROS ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY (BASA) **FOR YOUR GREAT DAY OF SERVICE EFFORTS!**

To the wonderful members of Bethlehem First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for supporting us with your prayers, kindness, thoughtfulness in praying to uplift and protect our BASA staff and students. Your support means so much!

Gretchen Hollingsworth

The gift bags were perfect! Post Its, Expo Markers, and dark chocolate: they understand the needs of teachers! Please thank them from me!

Casev Nissenbaum

BFUMC,

Thank you for the pencil pouches filled with so many nice teacher goodies. I picked a hot pink one because it is one of my favorite colors and brings me joy whenever I look at it. I appreciate all the thoughtful items in the pouch but even more than that I am thankful for your prayers. I would love it if you prayed for the students on my caseload who are facing multiple life situations that are potential roadblocks to graduation. Please pray that they keep their eyes on the goal and that the roadblocks will not prevent them from successfully graduating in May. Thank you again for your kind gift and prayers.

Amber W. Hagy, Ed.S.

Bethlehem First United Methodist Church, my heart goes out to you and what you do for the community. Thank you so much for the words of affirmation, gifts, and prayers that you direct to our school. It is comforting to know that our school is covered by prayers every day by your amazing team. I feel the Lord's blessing every day I walk through the doors, and I know that you all have an

impact on what happens. God bless you all

Nicholas Schuff

Good Morning Haley

Please thank all of the wonderful people at BFUMC for their blessings. In a time when some people feel more and more isolated, it's great to know that there are groups out there willing to help and spread some sunshine. To me, the gift bags represent more than just a pencil case with some stuff in it. They help make connections, provide instant smiles, and even if for a brief moment, they remind al of us that we are not alone on this journey. Just want to say thank you.

Nick

Thank you for the incredibly fun and much appreciated gift bag! I love the color and just used the lip balm to start off my day with a smile! I learned that there is a team of prayer warriors lifting up our school in prayer each day, and I am so grateful for that. My sincere thanks.

Sherelle Patisaul

PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOLS. PARTICULARLY BASA AND SIMS ACADEMY AS WELL AS THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 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)

Bagwell, Angie – Mohs procedure on 3/20 to remove a cancer spot on nose

Banks, Theodosia – prayers for daughter and grandson

Benton, Rachel – *employment search*

Black, Letty – recovering from elbow surgery

Bradley, Tiffany – *diagnosed with breast cancer*.

Connerley, Lu – health issues

Dickinson, Bob – ICU NEGA Gainesville (Keith Dickinson's father)

Everette, Mike – (Letty Black)

Flahn, Alma – travel & ministry at Village of Hope in Liheria

Furlow, William – will be deployed overseas with military very soon (Kim Furlon's son)

Gomez, Elias – upcoming consult with GI surgeon re: feeding tube (son of Cris & Megan Gomez)

Harris, Family of Zigad – (Nick Jacobs)

Hankins, Koda – brain tumor (Andrew Dean's nephew)

Heffner, Darlene –75 yr. old, on dialysis. Kidneys functioning at 8% (Diana Gregerson)

Howard, Mary Lee – finding a student teaching placement Innecken, Paul – stroke, in hospital (Susan Wages)

Jonse, Tom – collapsed at church 3/17; issues with allergies & blood pressure meds (Monica Mirkes' father)

Josiah – Praise! Premature baby now up to 5 lbs! (Lynn Smith)

Knight, Ainsley – in ICU with blood infection, deep vein thrombosis (Martha Knight)

Knowles, Howard & Linda – moved to Bowdon to care for Howard's father

Laura C. – had a massive stroke, unresponsive, now in hospice care (Tami Carless)

Lily – youth having tests for swollen lymph nodes (Lisa Gullion)

Loomis, Diane – Winder Rehab for physical therapy

McCall, Lauren – pray for wisdom and guidance for healing and strength to her body (Dawn Lee)

Mirkes, Monica – prayers for grandchildren and parents Moore, Ivy – diagnosed with ALS

Parker, Judy – spinal issues (Amber Wigley)

To receive prayer updates and notices for e-prayers, contact Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,

karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

Partee, Larry – dealing with severe diverticulitis

Pieper, Bruce — Praise: home from hospital (Aaron Pieper's father)

Rachael – cyst found on brain; MRI on 3/29 (Tami Carless)

Reitz, Bob – weakness in legs; anemia (Nancy Turpin's father)

Reitz, Suellen – psoriasis (Nancy Turpin's stepmother)

Smith, Lynn – home recovering from knee replacement surgery 3/18; Praise-surgery went well

Stringer, Carolyn – (Grace Hughes)

Sturchio, Emily – loss of stepmother Paula Jones.

Sullivan, Brooke – gave birth to a stillborn child on 3/17, Tucker Sullivan. (Cheryl Hurst)

Weiman, Rick – has not been well for awhile (Beth Whitehead)

Wesley, Gail – recovering from surgery

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

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

Barrow County Spring Break

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
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
Ellis, Marilynjse3801@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
Kelley, Betty
McCauslan, Harriet

Morris, Bobbie
Odum, Jane 770-867-2256 422 Aberdeen Way Winder, GA 30680
Partee, Mary Nell, Spouse: John770-867-9784 217 Carl Bethlehem Rd. Bethlehem, GA 30620
Thompson, Rachel770-867-9518 107 Sunningdale Dr. Winder, GA 30680
White, Earlene 404-990-1666 1050 Octavia Ct. Winder, GA 30680

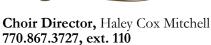


OUR CLERGY

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



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 #				
Accounts Manager, Jenn Slawinskiext. 104				
jennifer.slawinski@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Children Ministries Director, Amber Wigley ext. 110				
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Communications Coordinator/Ministry Assistant				
Trish Johnsonext. 108				
trish.johnson@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Custodian, Anissa Sullivan ext. 109				
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Executive Assistant, Karen Whiteheadext. 102				
karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Facilities Manager, Amber Wigleyext. 110				
amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Fitness/Rec Director, Anissa Sullivanext. 109				
anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Preschool Director, Lizzy Sheffield770.867.3724				
lizzy.sheffield@bethlehemfirstumc.com				
Student & Young Adult Ministry				
Director, Matt Brownext. 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

