



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."

### ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - SERIES ON UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS

John Wesley, along with many other Christian leaders, is quoted as saying, "In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity." While there is great wisdom in this quote, it does compel us to ask the question, "Which of our Christian beliefs are essential?" There are essential beliefs for the Church universal, and there are essential beliefs for United Methodists. The bible itself reveals what is important and essential to our faith. These essentials include the inspiration of Scripture, the incarnation and deity of Christ,



salvation by God's grace through Jesus Christ alone, justification by faith, sacramentalism, the physical resurrection of Christ and His return, the Holy Trinity. These are the "essentials" we should understand and believe as followers of Jesus Christ. In this new series we will unpack these essential beliefs and discover how we can live into them in a practical way as United Methodists.

- April 7 What We Believe About Plain Truth for Plain People
- April 14 What We Believe About the Problem of Sin
- April 21 What We Believe About the Beliefs and Behavior
- April 28 What We Believe About Transforming Grace
- May 5 What We Believe About Communion
- May 12 What We Believe About Baptism
- May 19 What We Believe About Christian Perfection
- May 26 What We Believe About the Church (Combined Service)

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

### SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 | 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### "What We Believe About Communion" | 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (NLT)

What do United Methodist believe about communion? What does it represent? Why do we do it? What is a Sacrament? Who can receive the elements? Do they really become the "body" and "blood" of Christ? Why do we use grape juice rather than real wine? What does this meal really mean? Jesus gave the church this sacrament as a remembrance of His dying for sinful people so that by participation in it, the church has communion and fellowship with Him. Communion is an outward and visible sign of something inward and invisible. It's a sign of God's grace given to us to strengthen and nourish our faith. When Jesus took the bread and wine, blessed them and explained what they stood for, they became a sign and symbol of what He was about to do for us on the cross. We believe Christ is spiritually present with us during communion through the power of the Holy Spirit. Not only do we remember what God has done for us in the past, we also experience what God is doing for us now as we commune with Him. When we receive the bread and wine, we do it not just to remember Jesus, but to receive His love and salvation. Communion is a time to come to Christ with joyful thanksgiving remembering the sacrifice He made for us, fellowship with one another, celebrate His presence and recommit ourselves to His work.

## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 4		
9:30 am	House of Bread Food Pantry	126
SUNDAY, MAY 5 ~ HOLY COMMUNION		
9:30 am	Contemporary Worship Svc.	WC
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Svc.	Sanct
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	123
	Rooted Youth	130
	The Chosen	128
6:00 pm	Handbell Concert	WC
TUESDAY, MAY 7		
3:30 pm	Prayer Group	121
6:00 pm	Disciple 1	127
6:30 pm	Trustees Mtg.	128
7:00 pm	Young Adults	130
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8		
9:00 am	Crochet	128
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice	119
6:30 pm	Crochet	128
THURSDAY, MAY 9		
1:00 pm	The Journey	127
6:30 pm	The Chosen	WC
FRIDAY, MAY 10		
6:00 pm	Ladies' Spring Tea	FH



### MAY DONATIONS FOR PEACE PLACE

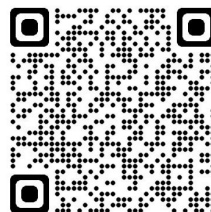
During the month of May, BFUMC's United Methodist Women are collecting for Peace Place, which provides shelter and assistance to domestic violence victims in Banks, Barrow, and Jefferson Counties. Currently, the following items are needed:

- Women & Children's Summer Pajama's (*all sizes*)
- Women & Children's Summer Clothing (*new/used*)
- Women's flip-flops (*all sizes*)
- Paper towels
- Juice boxes and kids snacks
- Pillows
- Twin size comforters
- Cleaning supplies
- Disposable plates and cutlery



Please consider donating from this list. Your donations can be placed on the green table across from Stars Café and will be delivered to Peace Place at the end of the month.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



[inktr.ee/bfumc](http://inktr.ee/bfumc)

A promotional poster for a "Ladies Spring Tea" event. It features a woman in a green dress holding a basket. The text includes: "Friday, May 10th", "Ladies SPRING TEA", "An evening of dinner and fellowship with guest speaker Amy Bowdoin", "Doors open at 6:00 p.m.", "Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.", "Bethlehem First UMC", "709 Christmas Ave. Bethlehem, GA", and "All proceeds benefit Nurture Committee ministries".



**VOLUNTEER DAY WITH HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS MAY 4TH**

You may recall in August of 2023 BFUMC hosted an event for Homes for Our Troops as the introduction of Army SSG Daniel Lister and the announcement of the house in Winder to be adapted for his injuries.

Good News: The home is nearing completion and on Saturday, May 4th, volunteers are needed to help landscape the property.

Your participation is requested. Contact Karen Whitehead, [karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com), 770-867-3727.

**VOLUNTEER DAY**

Join us as we landscape SSG Lister's future home:

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**  
(Rain or Shine, dress accordingly)

**CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

**LANDSCAPING FROM 10: AM - 12:00 PM**

Grab your garden gloves and roll up your sleeves as we beautify his future home. You will receive a HFOT T-shirt and lunch.



**NEW BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE MTG. MAY 15TH**

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult events that can happen in life. At BFUMC, we want to help our members who lose a loved one by providing a reception at the church following the funeral. The new Bereavement Committee will help streamline this process to better serve our grieving members. If you are interested in being a part of this new committee, please come to our **first meeting on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am in room 124**, or contact Pastor Megan at [megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com).



**GRADUATE SUNDAY IS MAY 19TH**

If you are graduating from high school or college in 2024, we would love to celebrate with you! We need the following information to help celebrate the great accomplishments of our graduates. Send full name, baby picture, current picture, where you are graduating from, and what your plans are for the immediate future. Please input the information here: [linktr.ee/bfumc](https://linktr.ee/bfumc) (2024 HS & College Grads) or email Matt Brown **no later than May 15th**.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Matt at [matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com), 770-867-3727, ext 103.





### **COME ALIVE MINISTRIES ANNUAL SPRING BBQ SALE IS MAY 18**

All proceeds from this Pork Butts go to the CAM Pregnancy Care Center.

- To order, go to [center@campregnancycare.com](mailto:center@campregnancycare.com). Please specify BBQ & phone number in memo.
- OR, bring cash or check to CAM Pregnancy Care Center, 127 W. Candler St., Winder.
- Questions? Call 770-867-3000



**Pre-Sales Only! \$50 per butt**  
**Supplies Limited,**  
**so buy yours early!**

**Saturday, May 18, 2pm**  
**Pick up at CAM Pregnancy Care Center,**  
**127 W. Candler St, Winder**

### **WALK TO EMMAUS REUNION ON MAY 19TH**

Please join us on **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.** for a meeting of anyone who has been on a Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Cursillo, or a Chrysalis 3-day Christian retreat.

We will meet in Room 124 for a short meeting to gather information and see who may be interested in being an active member or may want to join a Reunion Group. We hope you can make it!

Sean Johnsen- Athens Area Walk to Emmaus #8, Table of Peter  
[spjohnsen68@gmail.com](mailto:spjohnsen68@gmail.com), 678-943-5994

Lori Johnsen- Athens Area Walk to Emmaus #8, Table of Rachel  
[lori.johnsen@gmail.com](mailto:lori.johnsen@gmail.com), 770-652-7330



### **SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING**

Safe Sanctuaries is for anyone who offers themselves as leaders in ministry with children, youth and adults. Another training will be held on **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Worship Center.** It will be approximately 30 minutes long.

If you have not yet attended this training this year, please contact Amber Wigley and let her know which session works best for you, so that she will be prepared with enough handouts. Thank you for your willingness to serve in our church. For questions and to RSVP, contact [amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com), 770-867-3727 ext.110.



### **COFFEE WITH PASTORS ON MAY 19**

Coffee with Pastors is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, at 6:00 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 contact Karen Whitehead at 770-867-3727, [karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com).



### **YOUTH END OF YEAR PARTY ON MAY 19**

Dance and Karaoke Night! May 19th, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dress in any decade you want! See you there.

[matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com).



### **PRAYER PARTNERS FOR THE KENYA TRIP**

The SERVE Team is asking you to pray for the team and also *consider becoming a Prayer Partner with one (or more) of the team members listed below.*

In addition to lifting them in prayer each day, we are asking that you write *3 individual notes of support and encouragement* to your partner(s). These notes will be given to your Prayer Partner at different times throughout the trip. If your heart leads you to bless a team member in this special way, please take a moment to sign up. The team members and their prayer partners will be recognized and prayed over on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> during worship. **Our hope is for each person to have 3 prayer partners.**



To sign up, please contact Karen Whitehead, 770-867-3727, [karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com).

*Please seal each personal note in an envelope and write the recipients' name on the outside.*

**Please sign up by May 26, 2024 to be a prayer partner. Notes need to be turned into Karen Whitehead or Beth Dickinson by Sunday, May 30th.**

### **KENYA MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS**

Dan Aldridge | Judy Aldridge | Zachary Bennett | Heidi Braun | Rachel Braun  
Don Neff | Nora Neff | Bryson Pike | Hazel Plourde | Paul Plourde

### **BFUMC Disc Golf**



Saturday, May 25

10:00 a.m.

Central Park

2300 Keith Bridge Rd., Cumming, GA

[amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

5/26 10:30am  
Combined Worship

### **Memorial Sunday**

Stay for Food, Fun, &  
Fellowship after!

Join us for fellowship  
on Memorial Sunday!

DJ, hamburgers &  
hot dogs, games,  
& inflatables! Sign up  
to bring a side dish  
or dessert on  
[linktr.ee/bfumc](http://linktr.ee/bfumc)!



**FIND YOUR PLACE RISING  
K-6TH GRADERS!**

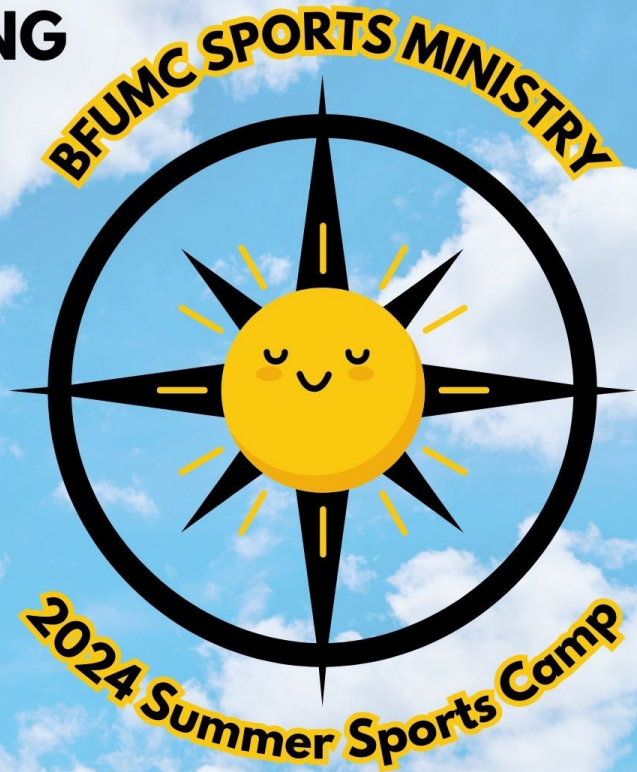
**June 24th-28th**

**9am-2:30pm**

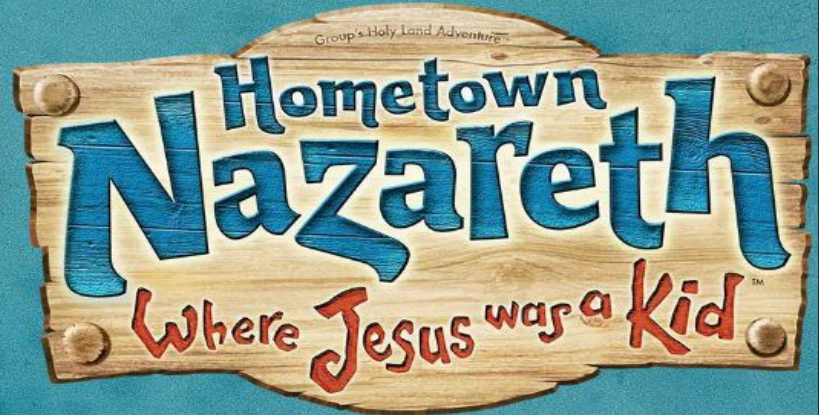
**\$125 per child**

**Must register and  
pay by June 1st!**

Sign up on [www.linktr.ee/bfumc](http://www.linktr.ee/bfumc)



Bethlehem First UMC  
Vacation Bible School  
June 10th-13th  
6pm-8pm



Open to PreK-5th Graders  
\$10 registration fee  
Space is limited

Register online by  
scanning the QR code





# PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,  
[karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com).

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

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

Alcorn, Tommy

Anderson, Susan – *chemo treatments*

Bagwell Family of Blake – *(Ken Bagwell's uncle)*

**Beltran, Mr.** – *(Nick Jacobs)*

Blackshear, Dena – *son died 4/10 (John Murphy & Nancy Turpin's friend)*

Brown, Daly – *seizures (Nancy Turpin)*

Brown, Ken – *(Pete Black)*

Dickinson, Beth – *CT Myleogram on 5/3*

Dickinson, Bob – *Hospitalized at NEGA Gainesville (Keith Dickinson's father)*

Dunagan, Linda – *back problems*

Edwards, Mandy – *desperate and urgent need for a living kidney donor.*

Ellington, Linda – *moving mercies*

Flah, Alma – *travel & ministry at Village of Hope in Liberia*

Furlow, William – *recently deployed overseas with military (Kim Furlow's son)*

Glover, Steve – *overall health (Linda Smith)*

**Gomez, Elias** – *upcoming surgery for feeding tube (son of Cris and Megan Gomez)*

**Harrison, Clara** – *family transitions build us up to become more grace-filled and loving. That my sister Susan and my brother Vic, may we be healed and face the future with trust and belief*

Hayden, Ruth – *member of our fitness center (Andrea Tyler)*

Hitchcock, Shannon – *(Nick Jacobs)*

Howard, Rachel – *studies in Mexico May 10-19*

Johnson Family – *(Nick Jacobs)*

Jones, Lainie & J.J. – *travel mercies to Houston (Tess Schultz)*

Josephine – *9-year-old with cancer being treated at CHOA (Marian Monk)*

**Josiah** – *Praise! Premature baby finally released from hospital to go home*

Kenley Family – *(Nick Jacobs)*

Landrum, Doug – *cancer*

Loomis, Diane – *at home physical therapy*

Mayfield, Melissa – *overall health (Linda Smith)*

**Melody** – *safe travels (Nancy Turpin)*

Mirkes, Monica – *prayers for Quentin and Connor*

Moon, Terry – *leg/hip pain (Linda Smith)*

Paris, Family of Dinean – *(Grace Hughes)*

Pugh, Ruth – *iron deficiency*

**Reitz, Robert** – *starting to feel weak again (Nancy Turpin's father)*

Reynolds, Jess – *severely diabetic; recent foot surgery (Amber Wigley's sister-in-law)*

**Sanders, Erica** – *(Amber Wigley)*

Slawinski, Jennifer – *debilitating back issues*

Stringer, Carolyn – *dialysis (Grace Hughes)*

Suzy – *(Ruth Berger)*

Watson, Nancy – *recovering from shoulder surgery (Diana Gregerson's sister)*

**Whitehead, Clayton** – *prayers as he purchases a new home (Beth Whitehead)*

Williams, Shawn – *heart attack (Amber Wigley)*

Wingate, Brenda – *recovering from heart attack/less stress (Linda Smith)*

## 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

Helmers, Lois – *severe back pain*

Massey Family – *health issues*

Odum, Jimmy

Partee, Mary Nell

## Special Requests

The United Methodist Church

# 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

**Dillard, Tonya** ..... 678-622-2396

44 Livingston Ct.  
Winder, GA 30680

**Ellis, Marilyn**.....[jse3801@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:frank.bernat@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Rev. Beth Dickinson, *Associate Pastor*  
770.867.3727, ext. 106  
[beth.dickinson@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:beth.dickinson@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Rev. Megan Gomez, *Associate Pastor of  
Discipleship & Spiritual Formation*  
770.867.3727, ext. 107  
[megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com)



Choir Director, Haley Cox Mitchell  
770.867.3727, ext. 110  
[haley.mitchell@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:haley.mitchell@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Pianist, Katrina Wilson  
[pbp4katie@gmail.com](mailto:pbp4katie@gmail.com)

Sound Technician, Jaron Hardy  
[jaron.hardy@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:jaron.hardy@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Worship Leader, Tim Darden  
[tim.darden@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:tim.darden@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

## OUR STAFF

Office Phone # ..... 770.867.3727

Accounts Manager, Jenn Slawinski..... ext. 104  
[jennifer.slawinski@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:jennifer.slawinski@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Children Ministries Director, Amber Wigley ..... ext. 110  
[amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Communications Coordinator/Ministry Assistant  
Trish Johnson ..... ext. 108  
[trish.johnson@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:trish.johnson@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Custodian, Anissa Sullivan ..... ext. 109  
[anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Executive Assistant, Karen Whitehead ..... ext. 102  
[karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Facilities Manager, Amber Wigley ..... ext. 110  
[amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Fitness/Rec Director, Anissa Sullivan..... ext. 109  
[anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:anissa.sullivan@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Preschool Director, Lizzy Sheffield..... 770.867.3724  
[lizzy.sheffield@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:lizzy.sheffield@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Student & Young Adult Ministry  
Director, Matt Brown..... ext. 103  
[matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

709 Christmas Avenue | Bethlehem, GA 30620  
770-867-3727  
[info@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto: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](http://WWW.BETHLEHEMFIRSTUMC.ORG)



YOU CAN ALSO FIND  
BFUMC HAPPENINGS & EVENTS  
AT [WWW.LINKTR.EE/BFUMC](http://WWW.LINKTR.EE/BFUMC)

