

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Today**
- 9:30 am Contemporary Worship Service (WC)
 - 9:30 am Kids Church (Chapel)
 - 9:30 am Shared Journey Sunday School Class (128)
 - 9:30 am Wesley Class (101)
 - 9:30 am Youth Sunday School (130)
 - 10:45 am Just Say Jesus Sunday School Class (125)
 - 11:00 am Kids Sunday School (Chapel)
 - 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 - 11:00 am Youth Sunday School (130)
 - 12:15 pm Grow 1 Mtg. (FH)
 - 5:00 pm Band of Brothers (123)
 - 5:00 pm Kids Sunday Nights (Chapel)
 - 5:00 pm Youth Nights (130)
- Mon., 1/20**
- 9:15 am Mommy & Me (121)
 - 4:00 pm Book Art (128)
- Tues., 1/21**
- 1:00 pm United Methodist Women (128)
 - 3:30 pm Prayer Group (121)
 - 6:00 pm Disciple 2 Fast Track (124)
 - 6:00 pm Upward Basketball & Cheer Practice (Gym)
- Wed., 1/22**
- 9:00 am Crochet (128)
 - 9:15 am Connect & Coffee Pre-K parents (121)
 - 6:00 pm Worship Team (128)
 - 6:30 pm Choir Practice (119)
 - 6:30 pm Crochet (128)
- Thurs., 1/23**
- 6:30 pm Visioning Mtg. (WC)
- Sat., 1/25**
- 9:00 am Health & Beauty Expo (Gym)



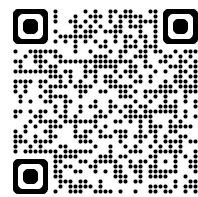
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WINTER BLESSING BAGS

Between now and next week, we are collecting items for the homeless. We need: bottled water, drink mix, granola bars, easy open food, hats and gloves, socks (thick, dark with no design), feminine products, and ivory soap. **Please bring items to the Stars Café and place in the drawers at the blue Missions wall by Monday, January 27th.**

WILDFIRE COLLECTION

If you would like to donate funds to the Wildfire disaster in California, through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), you may write a check payable to BFUMC. Notate in Memo: UMCOR/Wildfire. Or, donate On-Line by scanning this QR Code.



Complete details are printed 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.

January 19, 2025 | 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service



We all want to be close to God. In fact, the closer we get to God the greater He will transform our lives. The opposite is also true, the farther we are from God the less transformed our lives will be. The key to transformation starts not in our actions, our behavior, or our will, it starts with our thoughts, it starts in our minds. If we can change our thoughts, we can change our feelings, and ultimately our actions and behavior. But the problem is *"We all like sheep have gone astray. We each have turned to our own way."* – Isaiah 53:6. In other words, just like sheep, and the prodigal son, we tend to wander away. You don't have to teach sheep to wander, they do it naturally, and so do we. We don't tend to stay close to God, we tend to wander off, and as a result our lives are filled with trouble. That's why God wants to transform our lives by the renewing of our minds. The questions we want to deal with this morning as we continue in our Transformed series are: How do I get closer to God so He can transform my life? How do I stay close to God? And when I wander away from God, how do I get back into that close relationship with Him?

WORSHIP | INVITE | NURTURE | GROW | SERVE

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



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www.bethlehemfirstumc.org

11:00 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY

**please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE *How Great Thou Art* Ron Agnew
BRINGING IN THE LIGHT Tess Blanchetti, John Jacobs
GREETING Rev. Frank Bernat
CALL TO WORSHIP Fran Bower

Come, all who are weary and burdened,
for the Father is calling us home.

We hear His voice of grace and run to His arms of mercy.

Though we have wandered and strayed,
His love remains steadfast.

He welcomes us with open arms and celebrates our return.

Let us rejoice in the God who seeks
and saves the lost and wandering,

**With grateful hearts, we worship the One
who calls us His beloved Children!**

OPENING PRAYER Fran Bower

***OPENING HYMN** UMH 381, 354

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (Vv. 1, 2)

I Surrender All (Vv. 1, 3)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The Apostles' Creed Rev. Frank Bernat

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 70
*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.*

PASTORAL PRAYER /THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Gomez

***OFFERTORY HYMN** UMH 419
I Am Thine O Lord (Vv. 1, 2)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS Rev. Bernat

OFFERTORY SPECIAL Kris and Gary Otts
Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

***DOXOLOGY** UMH 95

*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.*

At this time, children are dismissed for Kids Church

MESSAGE "Staying Close to God Transforms Us" Rev. Bernat
John 15:11-24

***CLOSING HYMN** (selected in response to message)

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Bernat

***POSTLUDE** Katie Wilson

Prayer Requests

Email your requests to info@bethlehemfirstumc.com, and they will be emailed out Wednesdays in the weekly PrayerNet and included in The Happenings, which is available by print and emailed out each Friday. You may also contact the church office by phone at 770-867-3727.



Prayer Shawl

You are invited to come to the altar, before or after the worship service, touch the shawl for Jennifer Palmisano and say a prayer that she will have peace and comfort through Jesus Christ. The prayer shawl is given by the Crochet Group at BFUMC.

