



**BETHLEHEM**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE HAPPENINGS

MAY 9-15, 2025

**Our Mission:** Bethlehem First is a community of believers devoted to **SHOWING CHRIST'S LOVE, SHARING THE HOPE FOUND IN HIM, AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS** that transform lives; we do this by *worshiping* passionately, *inviting* joyfully, *nurturing* faithfully, *growing* intentionally, and *serving* wholeheartedly.

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

"A Virtuous Woman" | Proverbs 31:10-31

Often when we honor women in the church, we turn to Proverbs 31:10-31. But as familiar as this passage may be, it still has lessons to teach all of us, from offering wisdom on relationships, our working lives, and especially our character.

Join us as we take a deeper look at what this passage does and does not say about life, about motherhood, about marriage, and even the wisdom it offers for those who are single or have no children. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special day as we honor the mothers in our lives—whether our mothers in faith, mothers in love, or biological mothers.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP | IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 AM & 11 AM**

### **New Sermon Series Beginning May 18, 2025**

#### **Spiritual Warfare: The Unseen Battle**

Get ready to open your eyes to a battle that's been raging since the beginning of time – a battle that impacts every area of your life. Starting Sunday, May 18, we're launching a powerful new sermon series that will uncover the truth about spiritual warfare, the reality of our unseen enemy, and the tools God gives us

to stand strong and victorious. You will learn how to guard your heart, renew your mind, use the armor of God, and fight back with prayer, praise, and Scripture. Don't miss this life-changing series that will equip you to win the battle within and live in freedom and victory through Christ.



**Enduring Spiritual Warfare | Understanding The Enemy**  
**Battlefield In Our Mind | Winning the Battle Within | Why Is Life So Hard**  
**Live By Faith! When My Plans Fall Apart | Dressed for Battle – The Armor of God**

## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY, MAY 11

9:30 am	Contemporary Worship Service	WC
9:30 am	Sunday School: Kids, Youth, Adults	
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanct.
11:00 am	Kids Sunday School	Chapel
11:00 am	Youth Sunday School	130
11:00 am	Ghana Methodist Worship	WC
12:00 pm	Hand and Foot Card Playing	128

### MONDAY, MAY 12

10:00 am	Wisteria	121
6:30 pm	MAD Life Group	124
6:30 pm	Preschool Board Mtg.	128

### TUESDAY MAY 13

3:30 pm	Prayer Group	121
6:30 pm	Kenya Mission Team Mtg.	128
7:00 pm	Young Adults	130

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

9:00 am	Crochet	128
5:00 pm	BASA Baccalaureate	Sanct.

### THURSDAY, MAY 15

5:30 pm	Pickleball Clinic	Gym
5:30 pm	UMW Evening Group	128
6:00 pm	Pickleball Play	Gym

### Hand and Foot Card Playing

Join the fun this Sunday, May 11, following the 11 o'clock worship service for food, fellowship, and to play Hand and Foot. Please 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](mailto:ragnew0550@gmail.com)

**VBS**  
June 9th to 12th  
6pm - 8pm  
PreK-5th Grade

**EGYPT**  
Joseph's Journey  
from prison to palace

**Register Today!**

### 2025 Holy Land Adventure

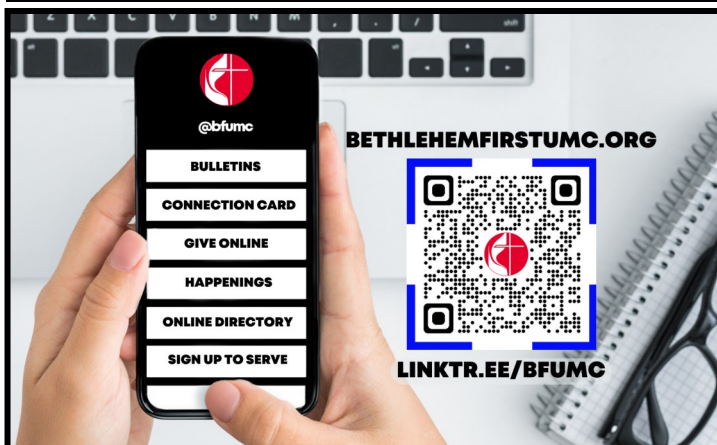
#### VBS June 9th - 12th

God's Word will come alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games! We'll travel to Egypt and explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, we'll experience the heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero. **We currently have almost 100 kids registered, so we need lots of volunteers!**

You can sign up through the link on [linktr.ee/bfumc](https://linktr.ee/bfumc).

Contact KidMin Director, Amber Wigley for more info:

[amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:amber.wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com)  
770.867.3727 ext. 110





## May Collection | Peace Place

- Women's & Children's Clothing & Shoes
- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Pillows
- Trash Bags
- Body Wash
- Individually Wrapped Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Suitcases
- Gift Cards (Ingles, Shell, RacTrac)

*Please bring donations to the Stars Cafe*



## PICKLEBALL THURSDAYS

GYM 6 PM - 8 PM  
(5:30 PM TUTORIAL)

**\$15 - FULL SEASON**

**\$5 - DROP IN**

CONTACT ANISSA.SULLIVAN@  
BETHLEHEMFIRSTUMC.COM

APRIL 24TH -  
JUNE 5TH

ALL AGES &  
SKILL LEVELS  
WELCOMED!



## UPLAND 4TH-8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

Registration April 4th-July 11th  
\$65 Early Bird rate til May 16th

Sign up on [linktr.ee/bfumc](https://linktr.ee/bfumc)  
(VOLLEYBALL)

## BAND OF BROTHERS DELIVER BEDS

Thank you to Band of Brothers for making and providing 14 beds for families in our community over the past year! This week they provided 4 beds for a family who recently immigrated from Afghanistan.

The supplies were funded by our Faith Promise Missions Giving! Thank you all for your faithful donations to missions so that we can be a church showing love, sharing hope and building relationships in the name of Jesus!

*"In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe."*

Psalm 4:8 (NLT)



Don Neff, Mom & Dad from Afghanistan  
Rev. Frank Bernat, Al Orendorff



If you are graduating from high school or college in 2025, we would love to celebrate you! We will recognize all of our 2025 graduates on Sunday, May 18th at both the 9:30 and 11:00 am worship services. Email your full name, baby picture, current picture, where you are graduating from, and what your plans are for the immediate future to our Youth and Young Adult Director, Matt Brown, **no later than May 14th**. You can also submit your info through the link on [linktr.ee/bfumc](https://linktr.ee/bfumc). If you have any questions, please contact Matt Brown at 770-867-3727 ext. 103; [matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

**Lake Zwerner Trail** is a 3.5 mile looping trail around the Yahoola Creek Reservoir at the outskirts of Dahlonega GA.



**May 17th  
11:00 am**

## BFUMC HIKERS

5/17 Lake Zwerner in Dahlonega

Hike begins @11am

Contact

[Amber.Wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:Amber.Wigley@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

## Volunteers Need the Month of June Barrow County Food Pantry Distribution



Did You Know: The Barrow County Food Pantry (previously known as The Winder Food Pantry).

- Has been in operation for over 30 years.
- Practically all the food is donated by Barrow County churches, youth groups, schools, neighborhood groups, or individuals who feel called to feed the hungry.
- Last year, they were open 260 days during the year (each week Monday thru Friday) staffed completely by volunteers from 12 different churches.
- Last year, they provided over 24,000 meals to Barrow County citizens in need, along with other programs such as Feeding Families, Mobile Food Distribution, and food to the Boys & Girls Club.

The Pantry is open for 30 minutes each night (from 5:30-6:00 p.m.), and your responsibility is to fill the food vouchers that the people bring to you. Step by step instructions are available of what you distribute. Sign up today through [linktr.ee/bfumc](https://linktr.ee/bfumc) (Serve the Barrow County Food Pantry this June). Or, contact Karen in the church office, [karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com), 770-867-3727 ext. 102.





# WE ARE HIRING

## JOIN OUR TEAM



For More Information  
Contact Pastor Frank  
770-362-7998

### RESILIENCY CENTER DIRECTOR

*Oversee day-to-day operations of the Resiliency Center, coordinating services for victims of mass violence and disaster. This full-time leadership role focuses on managing staff, programs, and partnerships to ensure responsive, compassionate, and effective care for affected communities.*

### MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN

*Provide individual and group counseling to victims and their families using a trauma-informed approach. This full-time role also supports organizing mental health services and delivering education to promote healing, resilience, and long-term recovery.*

### NAVIGATOR

*Serve as the primary point of contact for victims and families, guiding them through comprehensive recovery services for up to three years. This full-time role blends advocacy, coordination, and trauma-informed support to meet each individual's unique needs.*



**APPLY NOW**



**MINISTRY VILLAGE**

SEND CV AND RESUME TO [DIRECTOR@BARROWMINISTRYVILLAGE.ORG](mailto:DIRECTOR@BARROWMINISTRYVILLAGE.ORG)

# PRAYER CONCERNS

as of Sunday, May 4, 2025

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

Karen Whitehead 770-867-3727,

[karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:karen.whitehead@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Note: Names in Bold added or updated this week

Bailey, Shannon – *Praise! Feeding tube removed; continued prayers for recovery from GI surgery; (Jane Orendorff)*

Banks, Theo – *brother in Braselton Hospital; daughter, unspoken needs*

Brannon, Amanda – *Praise! Able to come home; Prayers for healing & future surgeries*

Bratcher Family – *(Beth Dickinson)*

Butler, Braydon – *passed away. Please pray for his family and friends*

Carey, Charleen – *ongoing health issues*

Carless, Tami – *friends going through difficult family dynamics with bonus daughter moving back home*

Carless, Steve – *job issues*

Cole – *treatments for breast cancer; for family to return to faith (Jane Buchanan's daughter)*

Davis, Katie – *resolution of headaches & dizziness (sister of Beth Dickinson)*

DiGioia, Ola – *for all my family to come to Jesus and my friends to all be saved*

**Gamboe, Jim** – *Cholangiocarcinoma cancer of the bile duct. Beginning chemo (Sue Dalton's brother)*

George, Chester – *to recover from recent hospitalization for fall; (brother-in-law of Linda Knowles)*

Gegen, Mike – *healing from arthroscopic knee surgery on 4/22*

Grant, Stu – *Praise! Weight gain & improvement; Pray for continued healing and family trip*

**Gregerson, Diana** – *breast biopsy on 5/7*

Gullion, Lisa – *Eustachian tube surgery on 04/16; Pray for signs of improvement in condition*

Hall, Jackie Bonnemer – *Praise! Skin graft surgery on 5/6 was very successful (Lynn Smith)*

Hawkins, Greg – *Please pray for Afib which has not been permanently resolved*

Howard, Rachel – *finishing student teaching and graduating May 8 from Georgia State*

**Jenkins, Jimmy** – *in his 20's and on the heart transplant list. (Jill Cash's nephew)*

Knowles, Linda & Howard – *Praise! Closing on house went through.*

Knowles, Michael – *starts immunotherapy for cancer on 4/23 (Howard Knowles' brother)*

Lee, Dawn – *Pray for continued health & healing from respiratory issues*

Litchford, Susan – *knee replacement (Pete & Letty*

*Black)*

Mercer, Susan – *complications from RSV; more tests needed*

Mirkes, Monica – *courage and peace to go where God is leading me*

Norris, Frances – *shoulder and ear burned; 1<sup>st</sup> skin graft 4/24 (Judy Smith)*

Parker, Tracy – *kidney cancer; one kidney to be removed (Pete Black)*

Radford, April – *recovering from breast cancer surgery and reconstruction (daughter of Greg & Mary Hawkins)*

Rhodes, Charleen – *seeking a new place to live locally, close to family*

Richardson, Charles – *hospitalized from fall, confused (Lisa Gullion's grandfather)*

Roberts, Linda – *prayers for sister and daughter who both have major health issues which are life threatening*

Rombs, Ronnie

Ross, Anna - *grief*

**Schay, Lynda** – *surgery on 5/9*

Sirleaf, Miatta – *pray for my brother and the entire world*

Warren, Brandon – *(Nick Jacobs)*

Wesley, Holly – *loss of 2 close friends over short period of time*

White, Earlene – *upcoming test on 5/9 for heart issues.*

*Son Lonnie recovering from eye surgery*

Whitehead, Karen – *Praise! Hand surgery completed; Praying for answers to ongoing health issues*

Zimmer, Carol – *Praise! Cancer in remission (Jean Stroud's cousin)*

## Ongoing Requests

Alcorn, Shirley – *cancer*

Allen, Tyler

Bagwell, Ken – *scan results on 4/29 with a new plan for treatment*

Bell, Charles – *Hodgkin's lymphoma-chemotherapy; recovery from prostate surgery*

Bernat, Betty – *dementia*

Boyd, Evelyn

Dean, Jamie – *breast cancer*

Dillard, Tonya – *ongoing treatments & infusions*

Fleeman, Johnny & Brenda

Freeman, Jeffery – *colon cancer (Pastor Frank's cousin)*

Jenkins, Jimmy – *long term health journey (Jill Cash)*

Continued on Page 7

## PRAYER CONCERNS CONTINUED...

Jonse, Mary & Tom – *health and safety (Monica Mirkes' parents)*  
 Lockerbie, Diane – *Recovery from long-term GI issues; overall health & strength (Beth Dickinson's mother)*  
 Massey Family – *health issues*  
 Mixon, Tommy – *going on hospice following completion of chemo (Tracey Reed's stepfather)*  
 Monk, John – *Praise! Improvement with medical issues; pray for spinal epidural on 5/12 to bring relief*  
 Odum, Jimmy – *Praise! Recent good reports from*

*chemo treatments for returned cancer*  
 Partee, John & Mary Nell – *congestive heart failure*  
 Pugh, Matt – *pray for successful treatment of cancer (nephew of Lamar & Ruth Pugh)*

### Sympathy

Our sincere church sympathy to the family of Mildred Brown who passed away on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep Lynn Smith, Stephen Smith, and Emily Jones, and all the family in your prayers.

## OUR HOMEBOUND



**Abbett, Terry & Suda** ..... 770-307-0883  
 709 Westbury Drive  
 Bethlehem, GA 30620

**Alcorn, Shirley** Spouse: Tom ..... 678-227-2914  
 147 Thorn Brook Road  
 Bethlehem, GA 30620

**Bell, Charles**, Spouse: Lynne ..... 770-262-9000  
 429 Aberdeen Way  
 Winder, GA 30680

**Boyd, Evelyn** ..... 770-867-9551  
 The Oaks at Braselton  
 5373 Thompson Mill Rd., Room 606  
 Hoschton, GA 30548-4037

**Chaffin, Patty** ..... 912-754-2402  
 133 Brookstone Way  
 Rincon, GA 31326

**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

**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

**Partee, Mary Nell**, Spouse: John ..... 770-867-9784  
 217 Carl Bethlehem Road  
 Bethlehem, GA 30620

**Smith, Connie** ..... 770-867-4171  
 622 Old Smith Cemetery Rd.  
 Winder, GA 30680

**White, Earlene** ..... 404-990-1666  
 1050 Octavia Ct.  
 Winder, GA 30680

## OUR CLERGY



### REV. FRANK BERNAT

SENIOR PASTOR

frank.bernat@bethlehemfirstumc.com  
770-867-3727 ext. 105



### REV. BETH DICKINSON

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

beth.dickinson@bethlehemfirstumc.com  
770.867.3727 ext. 106



### REV. MEGAN GOMEZ

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

megan.gomez@bethlehemfirstumc.com  
770.867.3727 ext. 107

## OUR STAFF

OFFICE PHONE 770.867.3727

Accounts Manager, Will Lowndes.....ext. 104  
[will.lowndes@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:will.lowndes@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

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

Communications Director, 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 Director, Matt Brown.....ext. 103  
[matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com](mailto:matt.brown@bethlehemfirstumc.com)

Choir Director, Haley Cox Mitchell  
[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)



## DONATIONS NEEDED

- Oatmeal & Grits
- Hamburger & Tuna Helper
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat



## DONATIONS NEEDED

- Tuna or Chicken Meat Pouches
- Soup or Stew (Pull-Tops Only)
- Juice Boxes