St. Bethlehem
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

November 2026

Caring for the Church That Cares

One of the things I appreciate about St. Bethlehem is your heart for helping people. When there is a need, you want to respond. We see that generosity through FUEL, Ann's Closet, Helping Hand, and other ministries. That is a beautiful expression of your faith. I invite us to consider another part of that generosity: caring for the church that helps us care for others.

Giving to our general fund—the money that supports our church's ongoing ministry and everyday expenses—may feel less personal than giving to a particular mission. Yet those gifts keep our sanctuary ready for worship, sustain pastoral care, and maintain the spaces where we learn about Jesus and welcome our neighbors. Electricity, insurance, salaries, and maintenance all help make that ministry possible. When we gather for Communion, celebrate a baptism or a baby shower, or comfort a grieving family; we see what our regular giving supports.

Soon, our proposed church budget for 2027 will be completed. As we prepare for the coming year, I invite you to ask God, 'What would faithful, regular giving look like for me?" Our gifts to special missions and our regular gifts to the general fund serve different needs, and both are needed. Each of us has a part in sustaining the ministry we share.

When we become members, we promise to participate in the church's ministries through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Our financial giving is one way we live out that promise. God has entrusted us with something precious. I want St. Bethlehem to be here for many years to come—ready to welcome the next person who needs hope, the next child or adult who needs to hear that Jesus loves them, and the next family looking for a church home.

Blessings,

Pastor Jackie

Prayer Requests

Pam Barrett
Kathy Beasley
Randy Boyer
Ann Irwin
Mary Meilcarek-Clark
Kathi Parker
Roberta Polk
Kitty Seay
Alicia Dawn Siders
Harriett Silvey
Lucille Thompson

Birthdays

12th Joe Moore
13th Victoria Manross
17th Mary Leninsky
24th Adrian Jones

Liturgists & Acolytes

Doyle Clark
Sarah Clark
Josh Waterhouse
Michael Bellamy
Andrew Clark
Rosie Clark
Adrian Jones
Annalea Waterhouse

2026 Open Table Leadership

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Gardner
Chair: Margaret Fisher
Finance: ~~VACANT~~
Trustees: Doyle Clark
SPRC: Erin Jones
Lay Leader: Margaret Fisher
Lay Member to AC: Nita Heilman
Secretary: ~~VACANT~~
Treasurer: Sarah Clark

From Our Leadership

Lay Leader and Table Chair:

Mapping Our Way Forward

Exodus 16: 2-3 "In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Mapping Our Way Forward is the title of our UWF Program Resource Book for 2026. Karen and I attended the last meeting of the Red River District UWF annual meeting on Saturday, October 17, at Bethlehem UMC

and our speaker was Joyce Clark from Springfield UWF and I am borrowing some of her thoughts that she brought forth at the meeting where some of us went hoping to find answers to where we are going now with all the changes that have occurred in the last several years.

None of us knows the future. If you are like me, I have many of my days planned and then I get a phone call or a text, and someone wants to know what I am doing. My plans seem to change in an instance. Sometimes that is okay and other days, I may be in the middle of something that I need to finish or wanted to do and that may not be what it is I wanted to do with my day. I did sit down and read my devotion from Psalm and realized that through all the upheaval of the day, God was still in charge, and my day will go back to being manageable. Life comes on us hard at times. I was very fortunate to have loving Christian parents and family.

Let's look back over 157 years ago at the start of the Women's Society of Christian Service (now United Women in Faith) on a rainy night in Boston. Four ladies met at church to discuss raising money to send a woman missionary to India because a male missionary cold not help a woman who was in need for medical service, could not teach girls and most certainly could not talk to them about Jesus Christ. The church did not think there was a need and didn't want to discuss. The ladies raised the money and sent out the missionary. Next, came the problem of the men in church thinking that women could not handle their own money and tried to take over.

Then, what about the women here in Tennessee. Some sold eggs to raise money for missionaries and some even sold their jewelry. Women just seemed to find a way to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in whatever way they could. There have been many changes over the last 157+ years in names, boundaries, districts, conferences, and so forth. Remember, that United Women in Faith drafted and adopted the Charter for Racial Justice and worked tirelessly for years to get the charter accepted by the United Methodist Church and have always been willing to make room for everyone at the table.

God is doing great things and most of the time, we don't know it. But he just calls us to be faithful and he does the rest. I believe this was the message brought forth in a sermon from Pastor Jackie at St. Bethlehem a couple of weeks ago.

Now, let's look forward. Do you remember just in 2021, it was voted that we become the Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference? At that time, Memphis Conference had 4 Districts and Tennessee Conference had 5 Districts which had a total of 9 districts and that was taken down to seven (River) districts on January 1, 2022. Some of us grumbled and had to change districts rather than staying in same district with persons we already knew well. Now, we are going to 3 districts and have a lot of questions. Some of the questions may not be answered right away because we haven't even thought about asking that question.

Change – a word that brings dread to our hearts and minds. But for United Women in Faith, change is a constant. Our missions have changed over the last 100 plus years, but mission is still necessary. Mission is what we are!! Where can we help others? Some of us may have the same mission in mind, but I can guarantee that there are over 10 missions that we are passionate about. There is still a need to feed, clothe, and teach our children, women, and youth. There is still a need to make sure that our world becomes more loving and accepting of everyone. We will overcome it!!! If we have God on our journey, it will always be enough, and we can map our way forward.

Margaret Fisher, United Women in Faith

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We would like to thank everyone who came and supported our loaded baked potato luncheon and helped us raise money for our ten local mission projects.

The United Women in Faith will have a unit meeting on November 15th at the church for our pledge service for 2027, election of officers for 2027, and send the money earned for our local mission projects. The certificates we received at the annual meeting will be given to the unit for earning a Five-Star Unit, Reading program, and receiving the Gold award on Living the Vision.

The last Unit meeting of the year will be the Christmas Brunch on Dec. 5 and we will be making up and delivering our goody bags for the homebound, elderly, and those in nursing homes, rehabs, etc. We will discuss the number of bags at the November unit meeting and what to bring. We always have a great celebration for the end of year and for Christmas fun and hope everyone can come and bring a friend.

Special Events

November 1: "Remembering the Saints" Sunday

November 2: Open Table Board Meeting at 6:00 pm

November 8: SAFE offering collection



The decorating of our Church will take place on Saturday, November 28, 2026. Please watch the bulletin in the next couple of weeks for more information regarding time.

Upcoming Events



The St. B **Sewing Circle** meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00 pm at rotating attendee locations. If you have any questions or wish to join the Sewing Circle, please contact Nita Heilman.

This month they meet: November 10th at the home of Debbie Hadley



Ann's Closet would like to thank everyone who found it in their hearts to donate last month. Because of you we're able to demonstrate Christ's love and humbled to be ambassadors to those that don't know His grace and abundant love.

Ann's Closet will be open this month on: **November 4th and 18th**



FUEL s back up and running for the 2026-27 school year and we're providing food staples for 100 children at the St. Bethlehem Early Learning Center. If you'd like to participate, we meet most Wednesdays at 10:00 am during the school year. Please contact Nita Heilman for more information.

United Women in Faith

Ann Doris Circle Meeting: CANCELLED for November

Night Circle Meeting: TBD



*Join us for **BINGO** on Thursday, **November 5th & 19th** from 10:30-11:30 am.*

What better place to play BINGO than St. B. We usually meet on the third Thursday morning of each month and afterwards continue our fellowship and fun with a group lunch. Come join us for BINGO this month for a fun time and white elephant gift exchange.



***Chair Exercises** on Thursdays, **November 12th** from 10:30-11:30 am.*

A fun, gentle, and low-impact workout done completely from the comfort of a chair. You'll want to wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle but there's no prior experience or special gear necessary. Come stretch with us; we'd love to have you.



*Join us for **Family Game Night** on **November 20th*** at 6:00 pm

What a great way to spend an evening. Most of us play games while others are happy to sit around and talk. Regardless of your preference, we'd love to have you join in on the fun!

Mark your calendars for upcoming Game Nights

December 18th
January 15th
February 19th
March 19th

Here's what we've been up to...















And here's a blast from the past...







November

Word Scramble

The mischievous squirrel Nutmeg was busy gathering autumn treasures. In her excitement, she accidentally jumbled the words of the season, scattering them across the forest! Now, it's up to you to unscramble the fallen letters before the first snowfall!

URCOOPINCA _____

RDECI _____

LGMRIIP _____

COLIEETN _____

LBOFOATL _____

NFSGTFIU _____

USIIASTATGR _____

CPISR _____

TOFSR _____

ESELAV _____

OBNEERMV _____

POCISOR _____

EMSITRACI _____

YRACREBRN _____

REKA _____

VTOE _____

ANUTUM _____

SVEHTAR _____

UTEYRK _____

UPKNMPI _____

VKHGNNTIGSIA _____

ETVRAEN _____

BOBEGL _____

EATWRSE _____

November

WORD SEARCH DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

A	T	Y	L	A	F	L	Q	E	V	A	V	Z	F	F	R	I	E	R	G	R
G	T	M	I	H	C	E	Y	G	M	E	D	I	R	Y	A	H	S	S	J	G
R	D	T	J	N	F	A	M	I	L	Y	H	D	A	V	T	F	T	X	T	Z
U	A	Q	R	A	P	A	I	W	I	L	D	L	C	H	I	L	L	Y	S	N
J	F	U	E	C	I	I	C	B	A	D	Q	I	S	R	I	H	S	K	E	A
E	Z	Q	M	E	V	A	L	G	C	G	C	O	J	M	Y	Z	E	L	V	T
D	E	V	E	P	V	S	Y	G	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	V	L	R	I
U	F	E	M	N	D	Z	A	R	R	I	M	Z	H	J	A	I	A	A	A	V
T	S	T	B	G	K	C	U	K	G	I	V	T	S	W	K	U	E	B	H	E
I	T	E	R	F	I	W	T	Y	Z	S	M	I	M	W	R	D	L	T	U	A
T	U	R	A	M	T	L	U	B	K	N	P	F	G	I	E	A	D	O	A	M
A	F	A	N	Z	V	X	M	T	R	U	I	H	C	S	C	A	J	O	Y	E
R	F	N	C	U	U	G	N	O	Q	O	B	Z	H	K	K	M	T	F	E	R
G	I	S	E	B	A	K	C	U	K	D	C	Q	F	M	N	N	O	E	K	I
F	N	G	S	Y	D	A	M	W	Y	V	A	R	G	R	S	S	A	A	R	C
I	G	U	Z	Q	I	U	X	F	F	H	I	E	L	B	B	O	G	H	U	A
A	P	P	L	E	C	I	D	E	R	D	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	B	T	N
D	L	C	C	B	M	I	G	R	A	T	O	R	Y	B	I	R	D	S	X	T
B	B	C	L	Z	H	C	D	Y	C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	Y	X	A	S
A	I	P	O	C	U	N	R	O	C	Z	L	E	X	N	B	C	G	R	Q	H
T	S	A	E	F	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	C	K	K	S	U	E	Q	W	R

ACORN, APPLE CIDER, AUTUMN, BLACK FRIDAY, BONFIRE, CHILLY, CORNUCOPIA, CRANBERRY, FAMILY, FEAST, FOOTBALL, GOBBLE, GRATITUDE, GRAVY, HARVEST, HAYRIDE, LEAVES, MIGRATORY BIRDS, NATIVE AMERICAN, NOVEMBER, PECAN, PILGRIM, PUMPKIN, REMEMBRANCE, SCARF, STUFFING, SWEATER, THANKSGIVING, TURKEY, VETERANS



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time 10am - Worship	2 6pm - Choir Practice	3 Election Day Office Closed - Election 10:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scout	4 10am - FUEL 11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	5 10:30am - BINGO 7:30pm - N.A.	6 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	7 6pm - N.A.
8 10am - Worship	9 6pm - Choir Practice	10 10:30am - Bible Study 10:30am - UWF Anne 6:30pm - Cub Scout	11 Office Closed - Holiday Veterans Day 10am - FUEL 7:30pm - N.A.	12 10:30am - Chair Exercises 7:30pm - N.A.	13 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	14 6pm - N.A.
15 10am - Worship 1:30pm - UWF Pledge	16 6pm - Choir Practice	17 10:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scout	18 10am - FUEL 11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	19 10:30am - BINGO 6:30pm - Charge 7:30pm - N.A.	20 6pm - Family Game Night 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	21 4pm - NA Business 6pm - N.A.
22 10am - Worship	23 6pm - Choir Practice	24 10:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scout	25 Office Closed - Holiday 10am - FUEL 7:30pm - N.A.	26 Thanksgiving Day 10:30am - Chair Exercises 7:30pm - N.A.	27 Black Friday 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	28 6pm - N.A.
29 First Sunday of Advent 10am - Worship	30 6pm - Choir Practice	1 10:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scout	2 10am - FUEL 11am - Ann's Closet 7:30pm - N.A.	3 10:30am - BINGO 7:30pm - N.A.	4 6:30pm - Sea Scout Ship	5 8am - UWF Christmas 6pm - N.A.

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