

Bethel United Methodist Church
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost/ Independence Sunday

July 1, 2018 11:00am

Gathering

Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The risen Christ is with us.

People: Praise the Lord!

*Hymn.....“America (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee)”.....#697

*Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Prayer for Our Country:

O God, keep our whole country under your protection.

Wipe out sin from this land;

lift it up from the depth of sorrow, O Lord, our shining light.

Save us from deep grief and misfortune, Lord of all nations.

Bless us with your wisdom, so that the poor may not be

oppressed and the rich may not be oppressors.

Make this a nation having no ruler except God,

a nation having no authority but that of Love. Amen.#429

*Hymn.....“Glory Be to the Father”.....#71

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

Word of God, sharper than a two-edged sword,

as we hear your word in our midst,

penetrate our lives to expose our secrets

and the world’s secret sins;

and open us by your grace to cleansing and to cure,

in the name of the Risen One,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Lesson.....Psalm 130

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson.....John 8:30-36

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon.....“Independence Day - True Freedom in Christ”

Response

*Hymn.....“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”.....#717

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Invitation

Confession and Pardon (*in unison*).....Page 12

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. (All pray in silence.)

Leader: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glorify to God. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology.....#95

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving.....Page 13

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Table of Grace

Prayer After Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the

ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamor and dispute; may the

tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which

have seen your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which

have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory

to you forever. Amen.

Sending Forth

*Hymn.....“Freely, Freely”.....#389

Dismissal with Blessing

*Benediction

**Please stand as you are able*

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Bethel United Methodist Church is to make each and every man, woman, and child whom we reach aware of God's love for them as it revealed to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to give them an opportunity to worship and to serve our Lord.

The Churches Are in Prayer For:

Monticello UMC- Wyllene Boulware, Allen Brock, Sammie Burley, Margaret DeHart, Noelani Dirnbauer, Lenny Goldman, Luther Gunter family, Sandra Harrison, Virgil Harrison family, Carolyn Hinson, Ray Kiser, Kevin Knight, Kenny Martin, Audrey Miles, Brian Pipkin, Will Pope, Alex Rabb, Margaret Robinson, Marion Robinson, Sybil Robinson, Carole Sankbeil, Bruno Schrieber, James Shugart, Peggy Steller, Betty Tanner

Bethel UMC- Betty Jo Beckham, William Bundrick, Karolina Burnette, Chas Dixon, Margaret Gardner, Herb Hobgood, Stephen Keller, Ella Kate Leitner, Frankie Lewis, Janette Mann family, Jackie McDaniel, Sherrill Perry, Grayson Shealy, unity in our county, state, nation, and world.

The Fairfield Circuit United Methodist Churches welcome all who enter to worship here. Our prayer is that you find us churches of “open hearts, open minds, open doors.” If you are visiting and looking for a church to call your home, this Fairfield Circuit church invites you to prayerfully consider our family of faith. If you are a member of another United Methodist congregation or a baptized member of another denomination, we will be delighted to receive you by transfer of letter. If you have not been baptized, we would rejoice to have you proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ and begin your Christian journey with us. We welcome all requests to consider membership and we are more than happy to visit with you at your invitation.

About the Pastor:

After three years in North Carolina at Duke Divinity School, I am excited to return to South Carolina. I was raised in Blythewood, SC and completed my undergrad at The Citadel. My fiancé and I are recently engaged (I proposed on the beach in Kiawah Island and she said yes!) and she will be making the move to SC this summer in hopes of continuing her elementary teaching career. We are both thrilled to join the Bethel and Monticello communities and look forward to getting to know you all!

James B. Rogers, Pastor
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