



Volume 16 Number 7

August 2026

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Heard through...

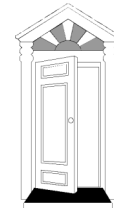
WILDWOOD CHURCH

Come Home to Bethel - Since 1858

The OPEN DOOR

17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, Missouri 63038

www.bethelwildwood.org Phone: (636) 458-2255



BETHEL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT GOALS OF E.A.T. THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING



Bethel has been a supporter of E.A.T. Equine-Assisted Therapy for several years, and recently made a special donation to the organization. Proceeds from the annual Plant Sale, and also the December 2025 Cookie Festival were combined to deliver a check for \$4,375.

Barb Jacobs has chaired both Bethel events for several years. She chose E.A.T. to benefit from the fundraisers. Barb has been a longtime volunteer at E.A.T. Lulu Bogolin, director at E.A.T. at the Highway 109 location, accepted the check. With the funds donated, Bethel will again be a sponsor for E.A.T.'s Fall Hoedown for Hope fundraiser held each year. The funds will also cover the sponsorship of one horse for a year.

The E.A.T. center is located at 3369 Highway 109. The non-profit also has a facility at 13525 Clayton Road in Town and Country. Equine-Assisted Therapy states as its purpose: "to provide horsemanship experiences to persons with mental, physical or emotional challenges in order to enhance the quality and productivity of their lives."

The center at Highway 109 has 22 horses that serve as therapy animals. The crew at the center is greatly helped by 250 volunteers who assist with the daily care of the horses and

also serve as side walkers and leaders when clients work with the horses. The center has 150 participants each week, and always has a waiting list of more people wanting to come for the therapy experience.



Posing with an E.A.T. Quarter horse are from left, Bethel representatives Ruth Anne Krueger, Chylene Daub and Barb Jacobs. They are joined by E.A.T. volunteer Grace Phillips and Executive Director Lulu Bogolin.

BETHEL WILDWOOD CHURCH INVITES VISITORS TO CELEBRATE “ROUTE 66” ANNIVERSARY

The famous “Route 66” highway marked its 100th anniversary in July, and a community-wide celebration was planned to honor the milestone. Bethel Wildwood Church had a front row seat on Route 66, which was originally the Old 100 Highway known as Manchester Road.

To participate in the event, Bethel opened our doors on Saturday, July 18, for historical tours of our 150 year old sanctuary, and also included tours of the church cemetery on a hay wagon, pulled by an antique tractor by our neighbor Tom Kelp. Tom’s family has generations of ties with Bethel.

Visitors to our church could park on our grounds, or take advantage of a “trolley” ride on a bus furnished by the City of Wildwood. Bethel also offered “Pet Blessings” for dogs and all pets. Pastor Jeff Fothergill officiated with the furry friends.

A special collection of classic cars and trucks was another attraction. Mike Severns displayed four of his beautiful old cars. Also on display was the Walsh family classic MG roadster.

Freshly squeezed lemon aid was offered along with popcorn and cotton candy. The Bethel Crafters opened their cottage for browsing of beautiful handmade items. They also offered free homemade cookies to everyone who entered.



Mike Severns brought “lots of class” to the Route 66 Celebration with his impressive collection of Classic cars and trucks.



Bonnie and Grant Swanstrom enjoyed seeing the automobile collection. They brought their 1962 MG – A roadster convertible.

BETHEL WILDWOOD CHURCH INVITES VISITORS... (continued)



More car enthusiasts were Jeff Roberts, Bonnie Swanstrom and Nina Hayes.



Tom Kelpo offered tours through the Bethel Cemetery aboard his tractor-drawn hay wagon. It is interesting to see the names of so many people buried at Bethel that were early settlers of the West St. Louis County area.



Kathleen Beardsell brought her pup to be blessed by Pastor Jeff. This is always a popular event at Bethel.



The cute little Boston Terrier was brought to the pet blessing by Abby Lawrence and Steve.



Our crafters donated 2 lovely gift baskets for a raffle, both contained 2 free dinners for our upcoming 100th Chicken Dinner on Sept. 26, 2026. The two winners were: Patti Bader & Wyatt-a community member.

BETHEL WILDWOOD CHURCH INVITES VISITORS... (continued)



Patti Bader with her terrier Ruby Slippers who was also blessed by Pastor Jeff.



Ginger Doherty shares a smile with Pastor Jeff as she presents her dog to be blessed.

Throughout the day, the church scene was captured in an original painting by local artist Konstantin Kublanov. It was fascinating to watch this talented artist begin his canvas with a basic outline, and then add stroke after stroke of stunning color. The beautiful finished painting will be displayed at Wildwood City Hall beginning on August 7, along with other paintings created the same day.



Artist Konstantin Kublanov captured the beauty of the day when Bethel celebrated along with the City of Wildwood on the 100th Anniversary of Route 66. First, he made a sketch of the church building outline, with the classic cars on display. Then, in the next two hours, he filled in the colors and completed the painting. Wildwood had artists at several of the historic stops on the route.

2026-2027 BETHEL'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

MORGAN McCARTHY

Morgan is beginning her final year of college to obtain her law degree from St. Louis University. She is the granddaughter of Diane Smith.



SARAH HOTZE- SMITH

Sarah is entering her senior year at Lindenwood College where she is majoring in Fashion Design, with a minor in dancing. She is the daughter of Kim Hotze-Smith.



SAVANNAH DAUB

Savannah will begin her junior year at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, studying in Spain for her fall semester. She will attend the university in Malaga, Spain. In the spring semester, she will be in Argentina. In both countries she will be living with local families. Savannah is majoring in Spanish and plans to pursue a law degree. She is the granddaughter of Ray & Chylene Daub.



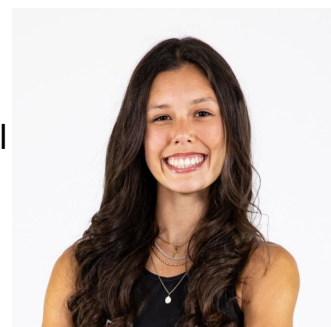
GRANT SWANSTROM

Grant will be returning to MO State Tech School in Linn, MO. This will be his sophomore year. Grant is the son of Matt and Bonnie Swanstrom and grandson of Diana Walsh.



GRACE DOHERTY

Grace will be entering her second year in the nursing program at Maryville University. She is looking forward to starting clinicals this school year. She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and will continue to work hard to stay on the Dean's list. Grace is the daughter of Ginger Doherty.



ROSE OF SHARON IS A FLOWER OF THE BIBLE MENTIONED IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

The beautiful Rose of Sharon shrub that blooms profusely each summer across Missouri is a flower that is mentioned in the Bible. From the Song of Solomon 2:1, the speaker says: “I am the Rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.” Some scholars interpret this to mean that the flower is a metaphor for Jesus Christ, representing beauty and humility.

In ancient Israel there was a fertile coastal plain known for its lush wildflowers. Located between Mount Carmel and Joppa, it was called the “Sharon.” Perhaps this is where the name of the flower is derived.



No one is certain if the Rose of Sharon we know today is exactly the flower that is described in the Scriptures, but it is a comfort to know that this flower has certainly been on earth for many centuries. It is easy to maintain, blooms from summer into early fall, and has a variety of colors.

The Rose of Sharon is a member of the Hibiscus family. It attracts bees and butterflies with its trumpet shaped flowers. Look for them in deep purple, pink and white, and enjoy their beauty which has bloomed on earth for thousands of years.

BIRTHDAY GIRLS

Two special Bethel ladies share a birthday on July 22, and that calls for a celebration. Why not? Both Katie Schuch and Brenda Krueger were born on July 22. (Doesn't matter what year.) They each bring sunshine into our church each week so they each received a sunflower to take home.



Each week, Katie makes sure the Fellowship Hall is ready for the congregation to meet after church for visiting and sharing a snack. Brenda serves as a church usher week after week, and also helps with Joys and Concerns. Happy, Happy Birthday to you both!

‘BIG BOY’ STEAM LOCOMOTIVE DRAWS CROWDS AS IT CROSSES MISSOURI

The Union Pacific “Big Boy 4014” steam engine rolled into the St. Louis region July 20 as it continued on a cross-country trip, headed for California. The 4014 is the largest operating steam locomotive in the world and it attracted on-lookers all along its way. The tour was to honor America’s 250th Anniversary.

Stopping at only two Missouri cities, the Big Boy was still a popular attraction to crowds of people who came to witness it just passing through. Ginger D. caught a photo of the train as it rumbled through Pacific. There were also crowds in Kirkwood, Washington and many more locations.

The train stopped in locations that had historical significance for the railroad. In Missouri, the steam engine stopped at Hermann, which was the site of the first fatal railroad bridge disaster in American history. The date was Nov. 1, 1855, and the train was crossing the Gasconade River on a bridge that was not capable of handling the load. The train ended up in the river and more than two dozen people were killed.

The second Missouri stop was in the City of California which was on the main line of the first Missouri railroad excursion in 1852. That line connected St. Louis to Kansas City. The final stop was scheduled to be in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Built in 1942 to haul heavy freight over the Rocky Mountains, the steam engine operated until 1959. It was retired that year and spent the next several years at the Rail Giants Train Museum in Pomona, California. It was at the museum from 1962 until 2013.

In 2013, Union Pacific reclaimed the old locomotive, moved it to Cheyenne and started the restoration. It was converted from coal to oil, and was returned to service in 2019 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the trans-continental railroad.

There were originally 25 “Big Boy” locomotives. The 4014 is the only operating member of these massive machines.

The coast-to-coast tour included a Fourth of July celebration in Philadelphia and then proceeded on the westward tour.



PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM REV KEV

Rev Kev reminds us that as Christians it is not unusual to be disliked by some who do not believe in Jesus as our Savior. In fact, he said that “when you live a righteous life, you make enemies.” In many parts of the world, Christians are persecuted or even killed just for their beliefs. “We are blessed to be living in a country that embraces the right to worship our God.” We may think that persecution of Christians is something that happened to the early followers of Christ. Most of the apostles of Christ became martyrs for their faith.

But, in fact, he said that today, across the world, there are an average of 12 Christians killed every day. However, he reminds us that it is God who will fight for us. “You want to right the wrongs” when others have hurt you, but you must: “Let God fight for you.” There always has been and always will be injustices in this world, but it will be the Lord who will “repay both the good and the bad.”

Rev Kev quoted from the Book of Micah, chapter 6 verse 8: ‘And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?’

GIVING

In an effort to make you aware of our ongoing income and expenses Greg, our treasurer, has calculated our monthly expenses and we have provided a total of our offerings for the given month as follows:

Total estimated monthly expenses:	\$14,000
Total offerings received as of 7/26/26:	\$13,347

MISSION SUNDAY

Our August Mission focuses on U.S. Military Care Boxes. Your donations will enable Bethel to send care boxes to the military before the holidays. Please bring a mix of practical items and comfort items that are non-perishable, durable, and easy to ship. Examples include: socks, toiletries, lip balm, and snacks such as beef jerky, protein bars, and drink mixes. Personalized items like handwritten letters and photos are also greatly appreciated.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, note your contribution with:

US Military Care Boxes

Please have all donations turned in by August 30.

Also, if you know of an active military member that would benefit from a care box, please let the office know their name and address asap. Thanks!

Thanks for donating to our July Mission—**Mercy Ships**. We collected: **\$170**



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Wayne M 8/10
Dave S 8/15
Ron G 8/16
Carol F 8/21



AUGUST ANNIVERSARYS

Tom/Diane K 8/15

If your anniversary or birthday is missing from this listing and you would like it included in the future, please email the information to secretary@bethelwildwood.org. Thanks!

Ruth A, Diane S, Ruth Anne, Diane D, Sheila,
Thanks for your donation of stamps.—**Bethel**



Pastor Jeff,
Thanks for coming out in the heat Saturday to bless our beloved pets.—**Ginger**

Bethel Volunteers,
Thanks for helping out with the Route 66 Car Show/Pet Blessing. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. I'm so pleased that we have such a dedicated group.—**Ginger**

Bethel Wildwood Church,
Thanks so much for your generous donation to E.A.T. Your support allows us to continue our life changing programs, host our Hoedown for Hope and continue the exceptional ongoing care of our horses. Together we are changing lives one hoof print at a time. We are deeply grateful for your support and for your trust in our mission.—**Lulu Bogolin**

Chylene & Ginger,
Thank you for the Open Door. I enjoy reading it. The article on "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" was wonderful. It was a great project.—**Diane Smith**

Bethel Wildwood Church,
Thanks so much for your recent contribution. It is greatly appreciated.—**Circle of Concern**

Bethel Wildwood Church,
Thank you for sharing with us online each week. We pray your church circle continues to grow and bring glory to God's Kingdom.—**Jim & Sue Holler**

Katie S,
Thanks so much for your help in getting the garden weeded. I truly appreciate it.—**Ginger**

On The Calendar @ Bethel

Bethel Fitness—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am

Music Ministry Practice—Tuesdays @ 3pm

Crafters & Prayer Shawl Warriors—Thursdays @ 9:30am

Bible Study at the Roberts—Resumes in September

Communion—Sunday, August 2 @ 10am

Board Meeting—Tuesday, August 4 @ 7pm

Women's Bible Study—Thursday, August 13 @ 10:30am

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, August 11 @ 11:30am

July mission deadline—Sunday, August 30

Fellowship Time

Join us for coffee in fellowship hall after worship every Sunday. All are welcome.

Nursery

Childcare provided during Sunday service.

**We are blessed to have a good number of gifted lay leaders
willing to help make our Zoom service a success.**

Our schedule for August is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
8/2	PKevn	PKevn	Will	PKevn	TBD	TBD
8/9	PKevn	PKevn	Katie	PKevn	TBD	TBD
8/16	PKevn	PKevn	Suzi	PKevn	TBD	TBD
8/23	PKevn	PKevn	Suzi	PKevn	TBD	TBD
8/30	PKevn	PKevn	Patti	PKevn	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

	Sheila	Greg	Greg	Greg	Greg
August	2	9	16	23	30

Counters Schedule

	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Greg	RuthAnne/Jan	Greg/Suzi	Greg
August	2	9	16	23	30

BETHEL WILDWOOD CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE FOR 2026

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

PHONE#: _____

AMOUNT: _____

2 Corinthians 9:6-7...

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his head to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.

I/We pledge a total of \$_____ to be given within the next six weeks. I/We plan to pay this pledge as follows:

Weekly gift of \$_____ or Other \$_____

Signature

Date

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2026

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) Door to Fellowship Hall | \$ 9,000 |
| 2) Power wash building & paint sanctuary exterior window trim | \$ 7,000 |
| 3) Replace 2nd floor drinking fountain | \$ 1,000 |
| 4) Upgrade website | \$ 8,000 |

Goal	\$25,000
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Don't forget our 100th Annual Chicken Supper!

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 2-7PM

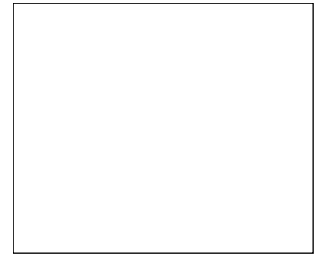
Dine in or Carry-out available!

Come and See our Crafters' Cottage @ 2-7 PM

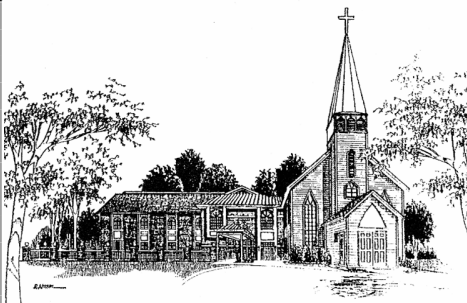
Handmade, seasonal home décor items and delicious baked goods!



Bethel Wildwood Church
17500 Manchester Road
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907



August 2026 News!



Bethel Wildwood Church

***Love God,
Love Others,
Serve All!***

Please Join Us Sunday For Service

Service will be **LIVE** in the sanctuary @ **10 a.m.**
or you can use one of the following:

Church webpage: www.bethelwildwood.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BethelWildwoodChurch/> "Like Us" on Facebook

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethelWildwoodChurch>

Zoom: Please contact the church office at 636-458-2255 to receive the link.