

## **Bethel United Methodist Church Awarded "Servants Like Jesus" Grant**

We are overjoyed to announce that Bethel United Methodist Church has been awarded the "Servants Like Jesus" Grant by the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church! This blessing will allow us to launch an exciting new ministry—"Bethel's Garden," a Community Garden Initiative—dedicated to nourishing both the body and the spirit of our community.

### **A Ministry Rooted in Faith & Service**

Nestled in the heart of East Roanoke, our church has long been a pillar of hope in a community where many families face economic hardships, food insecurity, and social isolation. With this initiative, we are answering God's call to serve, uplift, and empower our neighbors in a meaningful way.

At its core, Bethel's Garden is more than a place to grow food—it is a place to grow faith. Our mission is deeply inspired by biblical principles of sowing and reaping, stewardship, and God's provision:

*"The Lord will guide you always... You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." – (Isaiah 58:11)*

### **Through this initiative, we will:**

- ✔ Provide fresh produce to families in need, reducing food insecurity.
- ✔ Offer hands-on gardening opportunities to encourage fellowship and self-sufficiency.
- ✔ Develop a faith-based curriculum centered on biblical teachings about agriculture, stewardship, and God's provision—including lessons on the

Garden of Eden, the Parable of the Sower, and the concept of reaping and sowing.

✅ Create a peaceful space for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal—just as Jesus often retreated to gardens for solitude and communion with God.

### **The Urgent Needs We Are Addressing**

Roanoke, like many rural communities, has struggled with economic downturns, high unemployment, and limited access to fresh, affordable food. Our church serves a population where many are widowed seniors, single mothers, and families facing financial hardship. We believe that no one should have to choose between feeding their family and paying their bills.

Additionally, our congregation is small but deeply connected, and we see this project as a way to bring our community together, strengthen relationships, and share the love of Christ in a tangible way.

### **How You Can Get Involved**

This ministry needs **YOU** to help make a difference! There are many ways to be a part of Bethel's Garden:

🌱 **Volunteer** – Help us plant, tend, and harvest crops. No gardening experience needed—just a willing heart!

📖 **Join Our Bible Study** – Learn how scripture connects to gardening, stewardship, and the principles of faith.

🤝 **Partner With Us** – If you're a local farmer, educator, or community leader, we'd love to collaborate