

Our vision is to be ***united*** in
seeking God's will and serving all people.



August 2018 ~ *BETHEL RECORD*
Newsletter of: Bethel United Church of Christ
3029 N. Green River Road
Evansville, IN 47715
812-473-0135 www.bethelucc.org

From the Interim Lead Minister . . . Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner

As if time doesn't fly fast enough, a vacation calls for writing two monthly articles within one month. This article for the August Record is being written in June. It may be a bit dated. However, given the timelessness of the issues, I think not.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

As we move through the search process, the question of whether we are "Open and Affirming" comes up frequently. A common response is, "I thought we were." We are not because we've not said so publicly, that is we've not registered ourselves as such with the UCC. It is a technical term, specific to sexuality and gender because other branches of Christianity are not open and affirming of these states of being. We will need to have congregational discussions about this before the search committee can complete the church profile. As a part of these discussions, we will have a Round Table about "Open and Affirming" on Sunday, August 12, following worship.

And in other news . . . Remember this is being written in late June. Who knows how much more news will break before you receive this in late July? We have been trying to follow the admonition of the theologian Karl Barth to keep the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

As we have pondered what it means to be a person of faith in such fateful times, some of us have questioned the accuracy of the news media. Sometimes, we use this as a dodge to keep from having to consider the issues at hand. The best advice is to listen to the least biased news and to read and/or listen broadly. Personally, I have found NPR and PBS to be fair. I also try to listen to FOX and CNN and to read the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It is impossible to keep up. However, that is no excuse for avoiding the issues of the day. As Jesus said we are to be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. Matthew 10:16

Seeking and Serving with you, Stephanie

From your Leadership Council President . . . Deb Wilson

In June I attended, along with Pastor Stephanie and Larry Appman, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. While there, I attended a workshop for women of the church. I was privileged to bring back to our congregation a mission project entitled “Days for Girls.”



Days for Girls empowers women and girls around the globe by providing sustainable feminine hygiene solutions and health education in third world countries. The project involves making kits containing a drawstring bag, moisture barrier shields, tri-fold pads made from fabric, panties, washcloth, and travel-sized soap.

A great team has been assembled, but we welcome more people to help with cutting out patterns and preparing the items for our great seamstresses, Sharon Greubel, and Cindy Schnapf. Joan Meyers is helping with the pattern cutting, but we could use at least two or three more persons.

How can you help? We need donations of:

- * dark washcloths, 100% cotton;
- * girls size cotton panties size 10-14 (no bikinis, no animal prints, no patriotic themes, or anything that would be offensive);
- * hotel soaps;
- * monetary donations (mark envelope Days for Girls); and
- * volunteers for one or more days. (The more help we have, the more kits we can make.)

These kits will be assembled at the 2019 annual conference. Please call Deb Wilson at 812-470-0147 with any questions you may have.



SAVE THE DATE for the all church retreat, Friday evening and Saturday, October 12th and 13th. The speaker will be Leah Robberts-Mosser, a Jasper native. If you would like to serve on the host and preparation team, please call Deb Wilson at 812-470-0147. We need one more volunteer by July 31.



SUNDAYS IN AUGUST: Sermon Series: Back to Basics

The Sermons during August will focus on the four gospels. Their authors, by tradition, are the four large caricatures at the base of the reredos in our chancel.

August 5: “Who’s on First?” (Matthew) Stay for the celebration of birthdays and anniversaries after worship.

August 12: “Just the Facts – Fast” (Mark) Stay for the Round Table about “Open and Affirming” following worship.

August 19: “We’ve Got Good News!” (Luke)

August 26: “Finally, Comes the Poet” (John) Stay for the coffee hour in recognition of the role of Bethel Preschool in our congregation’s ministry.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Sunday, August 5

Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship and celebrate our August birthdays and anniversaries. Donations received will benefit the Heifer Project.

GENERATION GAP? Not at all. Kudos to the First Thursday 9 to dine group. On Thursday, July 5th, this 9 to dine group met at Oak Meadow Country Club, hosted by Don Carrell. And, who showed up as guests? Donna and Richard Condi brought Allison Payne; Sandy Altheide invited Kyra Webster; and Carolyn Stephens came with Laylani Garvey! What a way to tackle the generation gap and help these young ladies know how much they are valued and appreciated. More good stories are to come from the rest of us, right?

BETHEL BUDDIES: If you are aware of someone in your family, neighborhood, or workplace who is coping with an illness or a difficult time in their life, and really needs an extra hug, please take them one of the Bethel Buddies located in the pews.



LUNCH BUNCH will gather on Wednesday, August 8th and will meet at Bandanna’s at 12:30 p.m. For more information please contact Ruth Willis at 812-602-5026.

Thank You



for your Kindness

THANK YOU: We wish to thank the many members of the Bethel Family that have been praying for and expressing concern for our daughter, Emily. She has been trying to provide her children with as normal a summer as possible. The seizure medicine they have her on has been very helpful and she has had only one mild seizure since late May and a six-day severe headache, which they think was her body adjusting to the higher dosage of medicine that became necessary to control the seizures. Her surgery is now scheduled for August 13 at Gateway, to remove the tumor from her brain (assuming all of the insurance paperwork goes through as they have just now qualified for it through her husband Phil's job.) Please keep our family in your prayers as we hope for the best outcome possible. She will be looking at approximately 30 days recovery time. Her work is mostly at a desk so she is hoping to be allowed to return to it before that. There is a gofundme.com account set up for her as she has already amassed many bills prior to having insurance and will of course have to pay a deductible and all those many things "not included" in the policy besides missing income. If anyone is interested in helping her it would be greatly appreciated. We are going on a family vacation that we had planned and paid for since March, months prior to her diagnosis. So we will have a week to relax and rest up before the surgery. God is good! Thank you for your love and support Bethelites! ~ Bob & Joan English

Dear Friends: On behalf of the students and faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**, it is my pleasure to acknowledge your gift of \$1,416 in honor of Rev. Donald Bernhardt's 50th anniversary of ordination. As you know, the future of the Church requires bold Christian disciples now more than ever. Your congregation's support of the Seminary is vital to the progressive Christian movement, and we very much appreciate our partnership. Gifts like this one are what makes it possible for Eden to offer the Explore Scholarship. To relieve the burden of debt for our students, we give a 100% tuition scholarship for all first year Master of Divinity candidates. Thank you for your ministry and for encouraging Eden's students in their call to ministry through your support. ~ Sandi Lafata, Director of Development

The deadline for the next Bethel Record is August 15.

Dear Friends at Bethel UCC: Thank you for your donation of \$45.00 to **United Caring Services**. You are helping UCS provide basic needs of life – food, clothing, safety, and shelter. Your continued support is important and appreciated.
~ Jason Emmerson, Executive Director

THANK YOU for the Christmas presents. Thank you for supporting Bethel’s Christmas in July Celebration! The Bethel congregation was so generous in giving school supplies for Stockwell students. In addition to classroom supplies, your monetary donations will purchase school shirts and pants for students in need. A detailed list of all donations will appear in the September Record. Thank you!



IT’S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME: School starts on Wednesday, August 8, and that means Stockwell School will be calling Bethel soon to ask for our help at school events. If you are interested in helping support public education in our community, please complete a Volunteer Application Form (available at the Hospitality Center). Your completed form can be taken to the church office, given to Linda Hape, or put in the offering plate. An online form is available at evscschools.com (scroll down the home page and click on the *Volunteer in our Schools* icon). Please give this opportunity some prayerful thought. Our assistance at Stockwell is needed and warmly appreciated by the principal, Ms. Tolliver, and the staff and students. Consider joining the team to help children in our neighborhood!

Stockwell Volunteer Opportunities:

<u>Morning 6:45 a.m.</u>	<u>During the School Day</u>	<u>Evening</u>
Doughnuts with Dad	Tutoring	Movie Night
Muffins with Mom	International Day	Family Game Night
Grandparents Day	Fifth Grade Reception	Bingo Night

NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE - Carolyn Bennett, Chair
During worship on August 26 we will recognize the 28 years that Bethel’s Preschool served families. Please join us for a reception in Fellowship Hall after church.



SEEKING NEW MEMBERS: On Tuesday mornings during the school year from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. some of Bethel’s “wisest women” meet in the Fireside Room for fellowship, comfort, laughter, dialogue and study. Last year the Wise Women Study Group pursued such topics as the Divine Intervention Series I and II, and Max Lucado’s “Experiencing the Heart of Jesus.” We supported Shriner’s Hospital for Children with a \$150 donation, and Bethel’s preschool with a \$102 donation. We have grown to about 16 women and we welcome others to join. Watch the Bethel Record for information or contact Deb Wilson, wilsondw5@yahoo.com or 812-470-0147; or Patti Coleman, 812-431-3317 or pnlcoleman@yahoo.com.

FAITH FORMATION (CE BOARD): July was a busy month for the youth of Bethel. Most of the kids went to Merom Church Camp, which is the highlight of their year. They had a great time. We went to visit Arlin and Georgia McRae. They are well and happy at Atria Senior Living. The kids sang a camp song for them and heard many stories from Arlin. The kids helped with the stock up Stockwell during the Christmas in July service. That evening, we continued with Christmas in July by enjoying a Christmas movie, “Home Alone.” We ate cookies and popcorn, and had a chocolate milk bar!

August brings the start of school. I’m not sure how excited they are about that BUT Celia Langford is going to kick school off by taking the middle and high school kids to Starbucks during Sunday School on August 5th. Meet us at church at 9:00 a.m. and we’ll provide a ride to Starbucks were you can catch up with Celia and talk about the new school year. The younger kids will have their own kick-off at church with donuts and other activities during the Sunday School hour. Please join in the fun! Good luck in the coming school year! ~ Sharon Lawson

SEEKERS CLASS: Our class is made up of approximately 10 senior women, but that is not a requirement to attend, as we welcome all ages and sexes. We offer each other friendship, support, and a time and place to come together each week and learn more on our journey through life. We are open to suggestions for topics, and authors to explore and grow in our faith and understanding as a Christian community. ~ Carol Garvey

WELCOME to the Gideon Sunday School class. The class is open to all singles, couples, males, females, young, seasoned - you get the picture. We have a fabulous teacher who has not only vast Biblical knowledge, but also this great resonate voice. Carlos Haskins has taught this class since 1997. We have lots of laughs, fellowship, study discussions, and discussions on a variety of topics. Please try us out any Sunday in Room 105 at 9:00 a.m. We would love to have you.

BETHEL MONTHLY BREAKFASTS: Join us the last Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. On August 25 the host will be Leggo My Eggo.



In speaking with those involved with the monthly breakfasts, there are varying opinions regarding the continuation of this event. The original intent of the breakfasts was to provide to those in the community who were in need of food and fellowship. The question that arises is, are we serving our purpose? It has been difficult to recruit cooks/hosts for this event. Are the efforts satisfying our mission in the community? Carmen Mazick has secured hosts through the end of 2018. Do we continue next year, or focus in a different direction? If so, what is that? If you have attended, served, or heard feedback from others, please share your comments with Carmen, Deb Wilson, or Pastor Stephanie so a decision can be made within the next month or so.

AROUND THE WIDER CHURCH:



UCS – Cindy Klassic: Help UCS break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Save the Date: September 24 at Oak Meadow. Be an event/hole sponsor! Get your team together! Register as an individual. This is UCS's 17th annual four-person golf scramble named, this year, in honor of Cindy Klassy, a dear friend, longtime board member, community servant, and Bethel Member. Call today at (812) 422-0297. Download the sponsor and team registration at: www.unitedcaringservices.org.

Days for Girls is a mission project for IKCUCC Annual Gathering 2019. If you need help with the DFG program you are welcome to use the Internet or to contact local DFG chapters in your respective cities for help. We would like to invite you to visit our Facebook page: INKY Women UCC.

The Evansville Tri-State Association will present the Farm Hands Bluegrass Quartet, Friday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion UCC (415 NW Fifth Street in Evansville). An offering to benefit ETSA Youth will be received during the show. There is sure to be fun and laughter the whole family will enjoy.

Shrimp Boil Advisory! Christ Church UCC is having a shrimp boil on Sunday, August 19, at 5:00 p.m. They are located at 3601 Washington Avenue in Evansville. There will be Cajun music on the radio and Cajun food on the table. This is a great way to enjoy UCC fellowship and support the Back Bay Mission, in Biloxi, Mississippi.



The Rev. Chad Abbott will be installed as the Conference Minister for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC on Saturday, August 25 at 3:00 p.m. The installation will take place at Sweeney Chapel, Christian Theological Seminary at 1000 West 42nd Street in Indianapolis. Chad has brought renewed vigor and vision to the IKC. Let's take a van load!

Other important dates with more info to come:

HabiTea: Fundraiser for Habitat, August 23 at the Evansville Country Club, tickets are \$50. Let's get a Bethel table together (\$800).

Preschool Recognition: August 26, during worship and reception after

All Church Retreat: October 12-13

A City-wide Worship on Civil Discourse sponsored by the United Churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ: November 17, here at Bethel.

A 500 voice choir for the 500th Habitat for Humanity House, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. during the U of E vs Ball State basketball game; Choir Members = free admission.

MEMORIALS

A contribution was made in memory of Dorothy Rowley to:
the Memorial Fund from the family of Helen Naab (Mary Ann & Gary Kemper; Norma Wallpe; and Paul Naab); and the Helping Hand Fund from June Bretz.

A contribution was made in memory of Phyllis Yarber to the Memorial Fund from Andy Yarber.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Since this is a composite of joys and concerns since the last newsletter, many of the health issues have been overcome. So, whether a joy or concern, we pray for:

We celebrate: Joan Ritter and Bob Ouellette

Concerns:

Mary Louise Paulson

Arline Taylor

Kevin Carthcart (the son-in-law of Joe and JoAnn Harris)

Ruth Ice's son

Shannon (Gene DeForrest's daughter)

Charlie Marx

Linda Williams

Debbie Patterson's mother

Kenneth Klingelhofer (Doris Rohlfer's brother)

Vicki Tichenor

Gene Heninger (Ron Phillips' aunt)

Mary Beth Pressley (step-daughter of Robert Batey; step-sister of David Batey)

Jeane Dodson (mother of Andrea Wright; sister of Deb Wilson)

* * * * *

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF (812) 473-0135

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner, Interim Minister

sweiner@bethelucc.org

Cynthia Grassman, Director of Music

cgrassman@bethelucc.org

Ruth Saalweachter, Church Secretary

ruths@bethelucc.org

John Stevens, Financial Secretary

jstevens@bethelucc.org

Sue Layman, Accompanist

Harold Golday, Custodian

Joyce Johnson, Custodian

David Willis, Night Caretaker

Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus

A Women's Retreat is planned for September 14-16 at Merom Camp and Retreat Center in Merom, IN. The theme is "By the Numbers." Activities include worship and communion, meditation, movies, swimming, coloring, painting, resting, walking the grounds, hand massages, puzzles, and meeting new friends. Please bring 1) your pillow and towels (linens are there); 2) a White Elephant treasure" to sell; 3) cash to purchase the White Elephant treasures. All proceeds from the sale will go to help continue the ministry of Sarah Maigari in Nigeria.

The retreat cost includes lodging and meals. Check-in is 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Friday, and check-out is 11:00 a.m. Sunday. (All times are Eastern Standard Time.)

Reservations can be made by calling Rebecca at the IN-KY Conference office at 317-924-1395 or completing the form below and mailing it with your **check payable to the IN-KY Conference of the UCC**. Send form and check to: I/K Conf. of the UCC, 1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 155, Indianapolis, IN 46208

2018 IKC Women's Retreat Registration Form (Reservations due by August 31.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Church: _____ Association: _____

Email Address: _____

Registration Fee:

Friday & Saturday Only \$ 90.00

Friday, Saturday & Sunday \$125.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

(Limited scholarship monies are available in the Lovina Wessel Scholarship. Contact Rebecca at the IKC office for more information. (317-924-1395)

Special dietary needs or considerations: _____

Roommate preference: _____

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

2	Carol Garvey	11	Corey Schmitt	21	Clay Schmitt
3	Joan Roth	13	Deborah Josey	22	Dan Kappler
4	Jacob English		Jennifer Stephens		Mary Lee Korb
6	Cindy Perigo		Jim Vogel	23	John Umbach
	Jamessa Potts	14	Frank Schultheis	24	Sarah Haerle
	Claire Rowley	16	Tracy Hunter	26	Ryan Greer
7	Lola Hill	18	Emily Gallmeister		Gary Tichenor
8	Medley Haller		Amy Vogel	29	Letta Fraccaro
10	Sandra Altheide	19	Russell Bernhardt		Eric Manley
11	Sherri Hudson		Brad Neiswinger	30	Lee McRae
	Ryan Langford	21	Pam Creek		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

1	Vicki & Gary Tichenor	19	Joan & Bob English
4	Nancy & Fred Bullinger	21	Jean & Don Bernhardt (53)
12	Patti & Mickey Manley	25	Kristin & Jason Dominick
17	Brenda & Stuart Perigo		Tracy & Todd Lamkin
18	Georgia & Arline McRae (61)	29	Brenda & Mark Neidig

OUR MINISTRY IS EXTENDED THROUGH:

Children's Church

8/5	Leader: Leesa Scales	Helper: Jenni Webster
8/12	Leader: Jenni Webster	Helper: Julia Vogel
8/19	Leader: Julia Vogel	Helper: Sharon Lawson
8/26	Leader: Sharon Lawson	Helper: Makenzie Lawson

Greeter/Hospitality:

8/5	Nita Voorhees	8/19	Linda Hape
8/12	Carlos Haskins	8/26	Deb Wilson

Ushers: (Head usher for August is Bob English.)

8/5	Bruce Lawson; Dan Patterson; Jim Rine; Leesa Scales
8/12	Clark Absher; Barry Burleigh; Frank Schultheis; Deb Wilson
8/19	Phillip Damm; Brad Neidig; Debbie & Greg Neidig
8/26	Bob English; Steve Hape; Mardell Puckett; Kai Webster

Nursing/Rehab/Retirement Home/Homebound

Atria Assisted Living 618-9685
5311 Rosebud Ln., Newburgh, IN 47630

Georgia & Arlin McRae (Apt 226)
(812)568-6119

Core of Nursing Rehabilitation
P O Box 325, 510 W Medcalf St., Dale IN 47523

Jana Bonifer (812)937-7073

Good Samaritan Home 476-4912
601 N Boeke Rd., Evansville IN 47711

Betty Gustafson (South 549-1)
Marion Nauert

Hamilton Point 858-5300
3800 Eli Pl., Newburgh IN 47630

Gerald & Barbara Griepenstroh (209)
Darlene Neidig (107)

Heritage Center 429-0700
1201 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville IN 47710

Victor Luhring (149)

Newburgh Healthcare Center 853-2931
10466 Pollack Ave., Newburgh IN 47630

Doris Lamkin

North Park Nursing Center 425-5243
650 Fairway Dr., Evansville IN 47710

Nancy Westbo

Oasis 303-3310
4301 Washington Ave., Evansville, IN 47714

David Emery (411)
Pat Perigo (412)

Protestant Home 476-3360
3701 Washington Ave., Evansville IN 47714

Eloise Buente (11-N)
Jeanne Carter (Apt. 29 S)
Warren McCullough (4-ABN)

River Pointe 475-2822
3001 Galaxy Dr., Evansville IN 47715

B. J. Caldemeyer

Signature Healthcare 473-4761
5233 Rosebud Ln., Newburgh IN 47630

Jackie Schuerger (206)

Walnut Creek 420-1540
525 Bente West Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

Sylvia Stamm

2501 Lexington Rd., Evansville IN 47720

What Should We Know?

As we enter the next phase of the search for a called pastor, it is very important to have accurate information on our members and friends. This is an opportunity to catch up with each other.

Name _____

Address _____

Email (May we share?) _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

(may we share this number?) ___yes ___no

Mailings, do you desire:

_____ Email at the address above or _____ OR

_____ Postal mail at the above address or _____

I'd like the church to know _____

It is NOT designed to clear the rolls. We want as many people on our faith journey as possible. Still, sometimes, life happens. Things change. Let us know:

_____ I am an active member of Bethel.

_____ I am a friend of the congregation.

_____ I wish to be considered an inactive member.

_____ Receiving emails or mailings _____ Not receiving them

_____ I wish to be considered a former member of Bethel.

_____ I'd like a call _____ in person _____ over the phone.

(Please mail, email or bring to the church – thanks!)