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OUR VISION IS TO BE **UNITED** IN SEEKING GOD'S WILL  
AND SERVING ALL PEOPLE.

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February 2019 ~ *BETHEL RECORD*  
Newsletter of: Bethel United Church of Christ  
3029 N. Green River Road  
Evansville, IN 47715  
812-473-0135      [www.bethelucc.org](http://www.bethelucc.org)

## **SUMMARY OF THE WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Fellowship Hall was full; in fact we set up an additional table. There was way more than a quorum.

The food was good; in fact with the exception of some chicken and rolls shared with UCS, it was all consumed. Thanks to all of you who shared your good cooking and to the council for setting up, cleaning up, and keeping our spirits up.

The children and youth were included: in fact the nursery, youth room, and gym were a flurry of activity during the business portion of the meeting. Great to see more than a step full of children during the Chancel Steps Talk.

We approved the minutes of the January, June, and October 2018 congregational meetings. We reviewed the Annual Report, and additional copies are available in the church office. Leesa Scales reported on the activities of the Search Committee. We are so grateful for their good work. Clark Absher gave the financial report. We are solvent!

We voted additional council leadership. Short introductions to the 2019 Leadership Council are included in this record. The proposed 2019 budget was adopted. It is a stretch. As Clark said, "We are moving forward with vigor." The inclusivity /Open and Affirming Statement was adopted with a 91%, including absentee ballots.

Deb Wilson shared that as of the March Record, we will send paper issues only to those requesting them. All the rest will be sent by email. This is wise stewardship of time, the environment, and financial resources, saving us more than \$750 in postage alone. Paper copies will be available at church and will be mailed to those who do not have email access IF you let us know. Copies will be shared with those who are home or facility bound. Please make sure that you send, or bring to church, the enclosed card by February 20.

Please share your thanks with the retiring leaders and hold those who begin or continue leading our congregation in your prayers.

**All-church discussion and planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, from 9:00 am. to noon.**

**A pastoral note:** Some of us have had difficult conversations with friends from beyond our congregation when talking about the inclusivity/ONA statement. We are in the process of learning how to respond (thus, always!). For now, one possible response is: Bethel holds the stories and teachings of the Bible to be sacred. At the same time, we've learned a lot from science and human experience about biology, psychology, and sociology since early parts of the Bible were recorded 3000 years ago and the Bible as we know it was closed 1600 years ago. We believe that God created all that is; that Jesus reconciles each and everyone one of us; and that the Holy Spirit encourages us to live in peace and harmony. We are trying to follow Jesus' example, loving God with all we have and others as we love ourselves.

### **WE'RE ON THE GROW!**

Wednesday evening attendance is increasing, as is Sunday mornings! And word has it that this Sunday, youth were so engrossed in the conversation, that no cell phones were visible! Join us for:

**February 2** - Faith Fest at Bethlehem

3 years to 5th grade, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**February 3** - Make ASP Subs during Sunday School and Church hours

**February 5** - KK has surgery (PRAYERS!)

**February 15 & 16** – Lock-in at Bethel

4th through 12th grade, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$5.00. Attendees should bring their release form, an air mattress, and overnight items. If you have any questions, contact Debra Niswonger at (812) 629-8813 or [dniswonger@bethelucc.org](mailto:dniswonger@bethelucc.org).

### **SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY:**

**February 3:** The sermon, "Prophet on the Edge," will be based on Luke 4:21-30. We will install the new leadership council. Don't forget to pick up your ASP sub after worship.



**February 10:** Ever fished all night? The disciples did in the story told in Luke 5:1-11, the basis for the sermon, “If you say so . . .” Plan to stay for our Second Sunday Celebration.

**February 17:** “A Short Course on Blessings:” Luke’s record of the beatitudes is much shorter than Matthew’s. Wonder why? What if we compare his version, Luke 6:17-26, to our own? Plan to stay for our Third Sunday Round Table; topic to come from our 2/2 planning meeting.

**February 24:** The Rev. Deborah McBride, chaplain at St. Vincent’s and friend of our congregation will preach. Rev. Weiner is away in accordance with the latest interim contract. Please help us help Rev. McBride feel at home.

**WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO BE GROUND HOG’S DAY?** At the All Church gathering from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It promises NOT to be the same old thing, over and over.



**WEATHER ADVISORIES:**

If EVSC (Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation) is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, Bethel will follow their schedule. If school is closed or gets out early, church activities that day will be cancelled. If school has a delayed start, Bethel will delay the start of the day by the same amount of time. Closing information for Sunday worship can also be found on Channel 14 News and our website. A Constant Contact e-blast, like our The Week at Bethel, will also be sent as soon as the decision is made.

**Too cold to walk outside?** Get your steps in at our gym. The best time to walk is 9:00 a.m. Stop by the office to let us know that you are in the building, or you can call from the kitchen.

**OUR COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be on Saturday, February 23 from 8:30 to 9:30.

**IRON MEN:** Will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Friendship Diner.

**LUNCH BUNCH** will meet on Wednesday, February 13 at 12:30 p.m. at Red Lobster. Contact Pat Stoltz at 812-401-0462 if you will be attending.



**ABOUT THE MARCH RECORD:** The deadline for the newsletter is the third Wednesday, February 20. A change for this month is that we will prep the newsletter for mailing on Tuesday the February 26.

**IMPORTANT USHER'S MEETING:** Ushers are vital to our congregation's growth. They are often the first and, therefore the lasting, impression that all are welcome here. There will be a meeting of ushers at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10. It is designed for head ushers and new ushers. If you are interested in serving and haven't been asked, contact Carolyn Stephens. She will be delighted to know of your interest.

**ADMINISTRATION TEAM:**

We are working at being good stewards. Given the increased use of email, the cost of postage, and the environmental issues, we are sending all church related correspondence including the Record via email UNLESS you directly request mail via the postal system. Please use the return card to indicate your desires.

**MISSIONS TEAM:**

**Such Good News!** Because of the funds raised at the recent UCS Crop day that we hosted, UCS can fund staff for Ruth's House, a Women's Emergency Shelter, on Saturdays and Sundays. That means the women don't have to leave the shelter at 7:00 a.m. on weekends. What an act of caring!

**The fourth annual Tri-State Creation Conference** will be held Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Aldersgate UMC, 9:00 a.m. to noon, with (free) registration beginning at 8:30. The keynote address will be presented by Rev. Fletcher Harper, the director of Green Faith. Breakout sessions include, "Hey Garden Guy," community-based creation activism from a faith perspective, and solar energy for home and congregation. Tri-State Creation Care is a local interfaith movement inspiring people of all faiths and no faith to love the Creation we love better.

**Days for Girls Project** - Thanks to your generosity, we have completed 50 feminine hygiene packets. These packets will be assembled at the IKC conference in May and shipped to young women in developing countries. No further monies or supplies are needed. Surplus funds will be sent to St. Peter's in Lamar, IN, to use at the March 9 all conference workshop (see below). Thanks to all of you who contributed items, monies, and labor, especially Sharon Greubel and Cindy Schnapf for the sewing portion. Amazing! ~ Deb Wilson

**Days for Girls Work Day:** We are invited by the Lincoln Land Association to a March 9 "Work Day for Girls," at St. Peter's UCC Church, 12338 N St. Peter's Church Road, Lamar, IN. This is to aid girls to attend school in Africa. There are jobs for everyone, sewers and non-sewers alike, men and women, young and old. St. Peter's is known for its hospitality. Child care is provided. Food is available all day, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Come and go as you are available. Gayle Morley Jahn is the contact person. She will be glad to answer your questions, 812-529-8232. The word is that this is among the most rewarding and most fun projects around. Bring a carload!



**The Helping Hand Fund** enables us to help members of our congregation, and the community, with extraordinary expenses. We can't be a part of someone's regular budget, but we can help in a pinch. Your support is always welcome.

**ASP Scrip** - Tamara Payne will place a Scrip order on March 1. Orders can be placed online, in the church office, or by contacting Tamara at 812-760-7680, or via email at [tpic20@hotmail.com](mailto:tpic20@hotmail.com).

**Ride for Habitat:** Our friend, the Rev. Brian Buschkill, bike rides for Habitat. He'd like to get a group together to start from Evansville, rather than having to meet others elsewhere. The ride is May 5-11. Brian assures us that everyone can ride, and the length of time committed depends on the person. You don't have to ride all six days. He encourages our participation by referencing an 85-year-old who does this each year. Contact Brian at St. Peter's UCC (Highland) 812-867-5271 or [saintpetepastor@gmail.com](mailto:saintpetepastor@gmail.com).



## FAITH FORMATION

Activities for Children and Youth are on page two.

**Looking Ahead:** Opportunities for our youth in 2019 and 2020!

- ASP: June 9 - 15. Scott Scales and Tamara Payne are heading up this ministry. Keep those Scrip orders coming in!
- General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: June 21-25, 2019.
- 2020 National Youth Event at Purdue: July 22-25, 2020. We would like to get all the youth in the ETSA involved and go as an Association. 2020 NYE Youth Leadership - Tracey Stewart has put out a call to all youth (14-19) to help plan the National Youth Event. There will be little to no travel as meetings will be virtual.

**Three classes are available for adults**, and newcomers are always welcome. Consider joining the Bethel Book Club; the Seekers (contemporary issues); or the Gideon Class (Bible study) at 9:00 a.m.



**Third Thursday Brown Bag:** Available during the day? How about gathering to discuss our faith via the Bible, a contemporary book, or a Ted Talk. Bring a sandwich! The microwave is ready for heating up your soup. Dessert and beverage are provided. Join us on Thursday, February 21, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM:



**Second Sunday Celebration**  
**Sunday, February 10**  
*You & your Valentine are invited!*

Share a cookie and great fellowship with us  
in the Fellowship Hall after worship.  
What could be sweeter?

**Nametags:** If you have a nametag, would you please wear it more often? It would help the new members and frequent visitors connect names and faces. If you don't want to clip your nametag to your clothing, there are black ribbon "necklaces" you can attach to your nametag. They are in the baskets attached to the stands. Also, there are disposable sticker nametags at the Hospitality Center that you may use. The stickers can also be used by visitors who want a nametag.

**News from the Early Childhood Committee** - Carolyn Bennett, Chair

We have exciting news! The work of the Early Childhood Committee over the last few months has resulted in two options. In December, our classrooms underwent the official inspection from the FSSA. We are approved as a daycare with the designation Unlicensed Registered Ministry! Since we are not operating as a daycare now, we will need to submit information from employees and vendors before we open. However, if we open within the designated time period, we will not need another inspection. The inspector was very complimentary of our facility and provided additional helpful advice.

Then, in January, we had a second meeting with Head Start. They are offering to rent two of our rooms for a daycare. The offer is for a one year lease. Their offer has some details to be finalized because they would require some modifications to the rooms. The financial agreement also needs to be clarified, but we are hoping that happens quickly.

These developments leave the Early Childhood Committee with a decision to make. The two options were discussed at our January meeting, and we will gather more information and discuss them again at the February meeting. Our goal is to have information ready to present at the February Leadership Council meeting.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Altar flowers in memory or honor of a person or event, may be ordered by signing up on the flower chart in the hallway at the side of Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$36, payable to Bethel UCC, and can be dropped off in the church office or placed in the collection plate on Sunday. Please let the office know which Sunday you sign up for. If you do not take the flowers with you after worship, they will be shared with others.

**BETHEL BUDDIES:** If you are aware of someone in your family, neighborhood, or workplace who really needs an extra hug, please take them one of the Bethel Buddies located in the pews. If you have any new/like-new stuffed animals to donate, contact Carmen Mazick or bring them to the church office. Thank you.



**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:**

Ashley Gilbert	Marti	Jean Bernhardt
Joan Roth	Kim	Kim Shafer
Dorothy Moore	Frank Croxton	Gary Tichenor
Arline Taylor	Jeff Ritchie	Charlie Marx
Cindy Schnapf	Gene DeForrest	Bruce Roth
Jerry Greubel		

**We celebrate:**

- Aaron Krueger’s graduation from Purdue with a double major!
- Wanda Spain, on her 8<sup>th</sup> great, great-grandchild

**Family and Friends Serving in the Active Military - We hold in our prayers:**

- Scott and Will Kirk, both in the Air Force and grandsons of Carmen Mazick
- Jacob Swanson, Army stationed in Germany, grandson of Ruth Willis

**OUR MINISTRY IS EXTENDED THROUGH:**

**Children’s Church:**

3	Leader: Cathy Johnson	Helper: Leesa Scales
10	Leader: Sharon Lawson	Helper: Julie Vogel
17	Leader: Leesa Scales	Helper: Jamessa Potts
24	Leader: Debra Niswonger	Helper: Kyle Ingram

**Greeter:**

3	Louella Komuves	17	Linda Absher
10	Ruth Willis	24	Linda Hape

**Liturgists:**

3	Bruce Lawson	17	Ron Vogel
10	Sue Layman	24	Janel Allen

**Ushers:** (The head usher for February is Steve Schmitt.)

3	Richard Condi; Carmen Mazick; Bobby Potts; Mardell Puckett
10	Barry Burleigh; Amy Carey; Brad Neidig; Gale Neidig
17	Clark Absher; Bruce Lawson; Leesa Scales; Makenzie Schentrup
24	Suzanne Farney; Steve Hape; Aaron Krueger; Carolyn Stephens

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

1	Carrie & Scott Hartig	22	Gina & Steve McCalister
11	Janet & Steven Glesige	23	Linda & Gary Williams

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

1	Suzanne Farney	10	Lillian Scales	20	Wanda Karn
2	Gail Olson	11	Vera Cusimano	22	Georgia McRae
5	Carolyn Stephens		Kris McCalister		Allison Payne
6	Nicholas Neidig	12	Ron Phillips	25	Makenzie Schentrup
7	Ronald Miller	13	Celia Langford	26	Staci Burleigh
8	Kevin Greubel	14	Marion Nauert	27	Robert English
	Jill Schlundt	15	Troy Haas		Susan Gordon
	Ryland Whiteley	17	Stuart Scales		Brad Neidig
	Jennifer Wininger	18	Kayson Wininger		
10	Don Bernhardt	19	Ruth Willis		

**MEMORIALS:** We are grateful for the contributions received:

in memory of Mearl Neiswinger to the Helping Hand Fund from Doylyn Neiswinger;

in memory of Ruth & Clifford Kleymeyer to the Carillon Maintenance Fund from Sandee & Bob Kleymeyer.

**From the Greubels:** Thank you for the cards, letters, and all the prayers from the congregation together, individuals, and the pastor during our recent health concerns. They are much appreciated. ~ Sharon and Jerry

**From the Roths:** Sincere thanks to Rev. Weiner, members and friends of Bethel during Bruce's recent surgery and Joan's recent tumbling act. Your visits, cards, and prayers were much appreciated. In Christ, Bruce & Joan Roth

Dear Gideon Class of Bethel UCC: Thank you for believing in the power of mentoring. Your gift (\$100) to **Big Brothers, Big Sisters** helps ignite the potential in our current Littles, and helps us create new lifelong friendships. Together, we are defenders of potential. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and kids, we appreciate your generosity. ~ Eric Smith, Exec. Dir.

To Bethel UCC: On behalf of the staff, Board, and most especially our members of the **Boys and Girls Club of Evansville, Inc.**, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$500. For over 60 years we have been a safe haven for the at-risk youth of our community and continue to provide a safe and healthy environment to over 2,000 kids annually. Your donation will assist us in continuing our programs and services positively promoting healthy habits. Thank you for your support of the kids who need us most. ~ Ron Ryan, Executive Director

Dear Bethel Congregation: First, let me just say thank you! Your donation to **ECHO Housing** means you understand how important ECHO Housing Corporation services are to the tristate community. Your support helps provide veterans the opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness by providing clean, safe, transitional housing. It also helps provide assistance to overcome disabling conditions, as well as to build skills and a mindset to transition into permanent housing and independent living. ~ Pat Bateman, Development Director

Dear Friends: Thank you for your give of \$100 to **Evansville Rescue Mission**. Because of your generosity, our community's less fortunate are receiving hot, nourishing meals, and those desperate for shelter are finding "room at the inn." Best of all, your thoughtful giving this holiday opens the door to services like counseling, faith-based classes, and more, through which hurting individuals can receive the greatest gift – hearing the message of God's love and His "good tidings" for them. Tracy L. Gorman, President/CEO

Dear Bethel UCC: Thank you for your contribution of \$100 to **Patchwork Central Creating Community** from the Gideon Class. We appreciate your support. ~ Laura Weaver

Dear Bethel UCC: Your thoughtful gift of \$200 to **Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** helps families and individuals who find themselves in circumstances they can't address without your help. It is our hope that you will take satisfaction in this kind gesture and the way it helps to ensure brighter futures for many. Your gift makes a difference! ~ Chris L. Cox, President/CEO

Dear Friends at Bethel UCC: As chairman for the finance committee, I have received your generous donation of \$1,493.00 to our **Point Man International Ministries** organization. I want to extend to you the thanks of all our members. You are helping to address the needs of our military veterans, which we believe must include the opportunity of spiritual healing, as well as physical rehabilitation. ~ Bruce Siebers

Dear Friends: As you pray and give, lives are being changed for eternity. May God bless you for your prayers and generous give of \$500 to **T'TT Christian Youth Ministries**. Thank you all! ~ George Doods & Tami Leigh Doods

Dear Friends at Bethel UCC: Thank you for your recent gift of \$500 to **United Caring Services**. Your generosity is helping people who are homeless, hungry, and hurting, regain their dignity. Your compassion is allowing people to rebuild their lives. Your unconditional love is bringing joy and hope to those in need, empowering them toward success. Together we will prevent and end homelessness. ~ Jason Emmerson, Executive Director

**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
Debra Niswonger, Program Associate	dniswonger@bethelucc.org
Ruth Saalweachter, Church Secretary	ruths@bethelucc.org
John Stevens, Financial Secretary	jstevens@bethelucc.org
Sue Layman, Accompanist	Geri Lovelace, Childcare Attendant
Harold Golday, Custodian	Joyce Johnson, Custodian
David Willis, Night Caretaker	
Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus	

## **Nursing/Rehab/Retirement Home/Homebound**

### **Atria Assisted Living 618-9685**

5311 Rosebud Ln., Newburgh, IN 47630

Georgia & Arlin McRae (Apt. 313)

(812)568-6119

Barbara Schmitt

### **Core of Nursing Rehabilitation**

P O Box 325, 510 W Medcalf St., Dale IN 47523

Jana Bonifer (812)937-7073

### **Cypress Grove 853-2993**

4255 Medwell Dr., Newburgh, IN 47630

Gene DeForrest

### **Good Samaritan Home 476-4912**

601 N Boeke Rd., Evansville IN 47711

Betty Gustafson (South 549-1)

Marion Nauert (541)

### **Hamilton Point 858-5300**

3833 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)

### **Mt. Vernon Nursing & Rehab**

1415 Country Club Rd., Mt. Vernon IN 47620

David Emery

### **North Park Nursing Center 425-5243**

650 Fairway Dr., Evansville IN 47710

Nancy Westbo (159)

### **Oasis 303-3310**

4301 Washington Ave., Evansville, IN 47714

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 (330-B)

### **Walnut Creek 420-1540**

525 Bentees Wes Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

Doris Lamkin

Sylvia Stamm

2501 Lexington Rd., Evansville IN 47720