



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

MAY 2019 – *Bethel Record*
Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
812-473-0135 www.bethelucc.org.

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR . . . Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner

Easter Sunday was glorious. Thanks to many people, we watched the sunrise – and so did our spirits. We enjoyed two breakfasts – and perhaps added a few pounds. We experienced all of our senses from the beauty and scent of the flowers and the softness of the harp and the stirring of the trumpet and the organ and the choir and the children and youth on the Orff instruments to the taste of the bread and juice to the touch of a hand or the embrace of a hug. On behalf of our grateful congregation, thank you to everyone who provided the Lenten build up to Easter and who contributed to the glory of the day.

Now comes the “tough” part . . . the living of these days as Harry Emerson Fosdick put it in the hymn that tops the charts for some of us, “God of Grace, and God of Glory.” How does one live as a person of the resurrection?

One lives hopefully, for sure, for the old patterns are broken. We are no longer bound by death dealing ways.

One lives joyfully, because of that hope.

One lives lovingly, because joy, true joy, is that only if it is shared.

So what is so tough about any of that? Much of the world, and even a part of each of us, is still hung up with those death dealing ways.

So Fosdick asks for wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

Wisdom! One of our saints said he wasn't very smart but he was wise – and he was. He knew how to influence and involve others for good. That took a lot of energy, a lot of insight, a lot of persistence. The world is aching for that kind of wisdom.

Courage! Brene Brown is one of my secular heroes. She has connected vulnerability and courage, a mere 2000 years after Jesus did. She has said, “Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable, but they're never weakness.”

My prayer for you – for Bethel – is wisdom and courage, for the living of these days,

Seeking and serving with you,

Stephanie

From the Leadership Council President . . . Deb Wilson

Have you ever felt as if you were drowning? I'm sure each of us has experienced this feeling at one time or another.

What is causing this insecure feeling? Is it a problem that has overwhelmed you with trying to solve it, an agenda that has gotten completely out of control, an unresolved relationship issue, or a myriad of other reasons?



Do you need to be rescued? Did you jump into the deep end with confidence only to realize that you cannot swim? Who's going to assist you, and who do you trust enough to call on? What do you need to strengthen yourself?

Call on your team; but who is that? Your team is those people with whom you spend time and who support you. For me, one of my greatest teams is the Wise Women group. We not only come to experience God's word through Bible studies, but also to share personal issues and trials. There is an overwhelming feeling of trust, knowing what you share with them will not be revealed to others.

Do you belong to a small group of Bethel friends who support and nurture you? If you want that great feeling of security and support, reach out, join, experience, trust.

Venture out into those uncharted waters to both give and receive all there is . . . assistance, security, conviction for God to be your center through others.

Do you need to know, how, what, or where to fit in? Just ask me.
In God's love, Deb Wilson

The IN-KY Conference, and therefore, Bethel, has a special supportive relationship with the UCC churches in Sri Lanka. Given the recent floods and terrorism, your gifts – and prayers, of course - will go a long way to support them. Make checks to Bethel with the memo Sri Lanka.

WORSHIP IN MAY

We sang, "Pass it on!" at the sunrise service. One of the lines is, "What a wondrous time is spring!" May will be that for us. Please join us for worship!

It is National Foster Care Month. We are observing it as a congregation with the community. Click here for a message from Mayor Winnecke and Representative McNamara:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30kydAmzHsQ&feature=youtu.be>



Our special offering for May is the Church World Blanket Appeal. For \$10 you can purchase a blanket that provides warmth after a disaster, like the hurricanes and tornadoes that have hit the US. We will receive gifts all month with a special emphasis on Mother's day. What a wonderful way to honor your mom!

May 5: The Rev. Thom Webster will preach, "Fighting Like Christians," based on the texts: Proverbs 15:1 and 8, Proverbs 16:7, and Matthew 10:34-39. From Thom, "The sermon will address several questions:

1. Given the level of political conflict we're subjected to, can we conduct ourselves like Christians?
2. Can Scripture help us fight like Christians when we participate in political discussions and debates?
3. When we find ourselves in the middle of a political argument will others-even those with whom we disagree-know we are disciples of Jesus?

Wow! A tall task. Don't miss it!

Jamessa and Bobby Potts are members of Bethel who are fostering a child and will share a moment for mission.

May 12: It's Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home, and a great day to hear of Sharon Lawson's experience as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for the Moment for Mission. The next information day is May 6; check it out at vandcasa.com.



It is also a Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday. The pink ribbons will be on the church door and awareness packets will be given to all women. The texts for the day are from 9:36-43 and Luke 13:31-35, for the sermon, "Heeling to Heal."

Note: In honor of Mother's Day, the Second Sunday Celebration will be on the Third Sunday.

My 19: During the Moment for Mission, Kathleen Branham will share the story of Villages, a not-for-profit community service that helps children and families through foster care, adoption, and other services. The sermon, "Imagine" will be based on Acts 11:1-18, and Revelation 21:1-6.

We'll combine the Second Sunday Celebration with lots to celebrate, and the Third Sunday Round Table on Mental Health, a topic that is vital to all of us, and especially to our youth.

May 26: On this Memorial Holiday Sunday, we'll give thanks for all who have served our country. The texts are Acts 16:9-15, and John 14:23-29, "A Different Kind of Peace." Don't forget to pick up your ASP Barbeque.

GREAT NEWS from the Early Childhood Committee: Carolyn Bennett, Chair



The lease contract with Head Start has been signed! They will be using rooms 107, 108, the adjacent bathrooms, and the small director's office from August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020. Their program will be a full day, full year Head Start program for 3-5 year olds. Their construction crew will install a security door at the beginning of the hall, but Bethel members will still be able to access the other rooms as necessary. Of course, Bethel will still be able to use the rooms whenever the Head Start program isn't in session. This is an exciting way for Bethel to use our resources to connect with the community. Please help us welcome Head Start to Bethel.

BETHEL GOES GREEN!

Our thanks to all who are taking the plight of our planet seriously. As was shared at the last Roundtable, we only have until 2030 to turn things around. We need to do everything we can: large and small.

The Building and Grounds committee continues to change out light bulbs. The current project is the gym – not only will we shave electricity and money but we'll save the number of times they need to be changed – no small task.

The Kitchen Crews are minimizing the use of single use paper and plastic. The food tastes so much better on "Bethel" dishes.

The Governance Committee has included a ban on Styrofoam in our procedures.

Here are 3 things you can do:

1. Contribute to our composter, located by the gym entrance. Bring your compostable items (no meat or bread) weekly; put it in; we'll turn the composter!
2. Combine rides. We love to see the parking lot full but not at the expense of our carbon footprint.
3. Help us go paperless. We are producing way too many agendas and minutes. If you need a paper copy let the church office know and we will gladly provide it. Otherwise, use the electronic version and print your own if necessary.



Our Experience with Solar Panels: Bob Bennett

We first seriously considered putting solar panels on our home after the Solarize Evansville presentation at Bethel in the summer of 2017. After attending a couple more talks, we decided to look into it further. The engineer came out and climbed up on the roof to plan the solar panel arrangement. He explained that the panels are rated to produce a certain amount of energy, and that's how he calculated the number of necessary panels. The goal was to cover all of the electric needs from the last year of Vectren bills, but he did confide that usually the panels produce more energy than their stated rating.

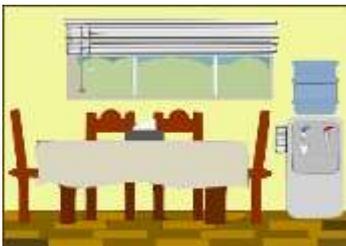


Our panels are all on the garage roof since that side of the house faces south. They are barely visible from the street. The only other equipment is a unit mounted inside the garage that changes the solar energy into a form that can be sent to Vectren. There is absolutely no noise or other disturbance of anything in the house.

The installation took place in November 2017, and it took about three more weeks for all of the inspectors to approve the system going live. By February 2018, we were producing enough energy to cover all of our needs! The only electric charge we've had since then is the minimal charge for being part of the electric grid. Although it's fun to have smaller bills in the winter (we have natural gas for the water heater and furnace), we really love opening the electric bill in the summer. Our experience was totally positive. If you are considering solar panels for your home, we highly recommend you look into it.

SPRING CLEANING:

Sycamore Services - Do you have trophies from former glories that you are ready to let go? Sycamore Services welcomes them and repurposes them for their programs.



Kitchen News - We can now say that spring is finally here. If you haven't noticed, there has been a great deal of "sprucing up" as well as "cleaning up" around Bethel Church. For those of you who are familiar with the kitchen at Bethel, and have not had an opportunity to frequent where our cooks make the meals, I just want to make everyone aware of a few housekeeping changes.

Plastic pitchers for tea now have a rather large "T" on them. The reason for this is that those pitchers need to be used only for making tea as tea discolors the plastic. So, remember when making tea, please use only the ones marked with the large "T."

The salt and pepper containers that are usually placed on the table for our meals can now be found in the end cabinet next to the window. They are located on the same side of the kitchen where the other staples are located. Carry out containers: We certainly appreciate all the plastic containers that many of you bring to the kitchen. However, due to limited space, we would ask that the containers brought in only be cottage cheese and cool whip containers, with lids. These not only serve the purpose of storage but also stack quite well.

Also, we respectfully request that if you are hosting a meal or have taken the responsibility of a meal served, we would like for you or someone in your group to take home the dirty linens to launder, returning them as soon as possible. This will help reduce expenses and distributes the chore. Thank you for your cooperation! ~ Ruth Willis

As the kitchen is the heart of the home, here are a few house rules:

1. Please turn out all lights that aren't in use, even if you didn't turn them on and especially if you turned them on.
2. Never park under one of the porticos or within a cars length either side of them, even if you think you are the only one here. There may be someone right behind you!
3. Thanks for recycling but . . . if any used paper products, like paper plates, napkins, tissues, plastic with food on it, or food itself is in the recycling, it means that batch must be pitched and will end up in a landfill – yikes! Glass is no longer acceptable. Please rinse out containers and crush them so that we have room for the next piece.
4. If you see something that needs to be done, please do it, since this is your church home. If you can't, please leave a note in the office.
5. Thank you for keeping confidences, anything of a pastoral nature? Please let the pastor know. She will check it out with the person involved before any information is shared.

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Yoga - Women and men are welcome. Chair Yoga is on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Children's Church (no cost). Regular Yoga is on Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in the Children's Church (fee charged).



Lunch Bunch to the West Side: The Lunch Bunch travels to the west side on May 8 for some good old German food at the Gerst Haus! Their specialties are pig knuckles and sauerkraut, bratwurst, sauerbraten, homemade potato cakes, and applesauce, as well as delicious sandwiches (like the Reuben), salads, and their special chicken tortilla soup. The restaurant is located in the old Heldt and Voelker Hardware Store. Parking is limited, so please carpool. The

Gerst Haus is located on West Franklin and 10th Avenue. Please make your reservation with Patti Coleman, 812-431-3317.

Wise Women meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., and will hold their last meeting on May 21 in the Fireside Room. The group will take a break for the summer, resuming in the fall at a date TBD.

Iron Men continue to meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Friendship Diner.



MISSIONS TEAM:

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 – Don't forget to order your scrip cards in support of ASP (Appalachia Service Project). Orders can be placed online, in the church office, or by contacting Tamara at tpic20@hotmail.com or at 812-760-7680. A percentage of your card purchase is returned to Bethel for the ASP program.

FAITH FORMATION

Children and Youth: The Merom Camping Schedule is available at the church or at Merom.org. The church will sponsor half the cost of a camp for each of our children and youth. Please see Debra Niswonger.

Vacation Bible School: June 16-20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Kick-off Night is June 16, and this year's theme is BIBLE SCIENCE.

The Bethel Book Club is a fun and wonderful learning experience. At this time we are reading George Orwell's 1984. This timeless classic plays well in today's world. There is always lively discussion and you will never leave without learning something new. There is plenty of room around the table for new friends so please come to the library and check it out, on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Here's to happy reading. ~ Julie Vogel



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.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

Small Group Time: Would you like to enjoy some time with others? Come for lunch at noon on Friday, May 3 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch, and beverages and dessert will be provided. Then stay, if you want, for cards (bridge or clabber) bunco, board games, dominos, jigsaw puzzles, or just to talk. Help us brainstorm other groups that might be interesting: a book club, knitting, any and all ideas welcome. Bring your friends and be ready to share some laughter and easy conversation, or perhaps just a sandwich and quiet time with others.



Second Sunday Celebrations: Our special Second Sunday Celebration in May will be on May 19, the third Sunday in May, since the second Sunday is Mother's Day. We had a great attendance at our April celebration, which included hot cross buns and fresh fruit. Some of the special celebrations that day included Ruth Ulrich's 88th birthday, Carlos Haskins celebrating 20 years of teaching the Gideon Class, and Carlos and Deb Wilson celebrating six years of their togetherness. We continue to get closer to our goal of funding a full Ark for the Heifer Project. The event is always fun and uplifting. Please plan to stay after church on May 19 and join in the special celebrations!

IN AND AROUND BETHEL

Stockwell International Day - Volunteers Needed

Stockwell School has a wide-ranging celebration to recognize all the countries represented in the student body. International Day begins with all the classes visiting the exhibits in the gym. During their lunch hour the students can try food samples from around the world made by the parents. Then International Day ends with a colorful and energetic program not to be missed! Our help is needed all day on International Day and also the previous evening. Please check out the details below and contact Barry & Doris Burleigh or Linda Hape if you'd like to help. No experience needed! Great benefits! Here are upcoming opportunities:

Thursday, May 9: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (set up display of books, posters, items)

Friday, May 10: 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. (stamp student passports)

10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (serve food samples)

BETHEL BUDDIES: If you are aware of someone in your family, neighbor-hood, 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.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

We need delegates for the Evansville Tri-State Association meeting, Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Bethlehem UCC; and for the IN-KY Annual Gathering, May 31 (education day) to June 1 (meeting), in Indianapolis. Please see Deb Wilson, president; Carmen Mazick, chair of missions; or Stephanie for more information

Salem UCC, 11325 Old Lower Mt. Vernon Road has celebrated its 170th anniversary.

Tanya Schmitz, an active member of the Evansville Tri-State Association, will receive a Master of Divinity degree from Oakland City University Seminary on May 4.

IN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE: As residents of Evansville, we are fortunate to have so many resources.

Protestant Home announces a new monthly family support group that is open to the public. “Transitions” meets the 4th Sunday of each month in the South Parlor at 3:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for people to come together, to support, to listen, and to learn from each other. The first program is a three-part series on guilt, presented by Nicole Toy of Deer Oaks Community Services. (Factoid: Bethel and other, then, Evangelical Churches were instrumental in beginning the Protestant Home: “where life is good.”)

United Caring Services invites us to Jazz, Cruise, and Blues on Saturday, May 4th beginning with the Derby Diversion at 5, Land Cruise at 6:30, Exquisite Dining at 7:15, Music and Dancing at 8, and a Piano Bar at 10:30, all in support of UCS' mission "to provide values based, low barrier, sustainable, and high-quality homeless shelters, services and solutions." (Factoid: Bethel was instrumental in the idea and development of UCS)

Deaconess: VNA Home Care and Hospice: "Comfort for Grieving Hearts," every other Saturday, May 4-July 27, 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the Linda E. White Hospice House, 611 Harriet Street. The group will work through the book, "Comfort for Grieving Hearts," by Gary Roe. To learn more, or to RSVP, call Jessica Wilson at 812-549-4382. (Factoid: The UCC churches were instrumental in forming Deaconess Hospital.)

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:**

Ray Meinert	Eloise Buente	Debbie Paterson
Bob Batey	Robert Mangold	Doris Lamkin
Charlie Marx	Debra Josey	

We give thanks for the lives of:

Mary Lois Hartig, who died March 20.

Jerry Hoover, teacher and church musician, who died March 21.

Robert Johnson (Joan Ritter's cousin) who died in late March.

Dorothy Moore, who died April 7.

Alton William "Bud" Schultheis (Frank Schultheis's brother), who died April 16.

We celebrate: The birth of Harvey Crockett Smotherman, the first great-grandchild of Jim Rine, born March 28.

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.
(Do you know of others? Please contact the church office.)

**Thank
You**

We received a heartwarming note from **Michelle Kirk**, the director of the Evansville branch of **Sycamore Services**, thanking us for the Christmas offering. It was posted on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

Charlie and Debbie Marx have appreciated the cards and notes that they have received during Charlie's recent and extended illness. They are eager to be back among us.

Thank you for the food and flowers. It was a wonderful, sweet surprise. **Debbie Patterson & Family**

To Bethel UCC & Ironmen Group: Thank you sincerely for your wonderful, continued support of **Point Man Ministries** of Newburgh. We appreciate our great relationship with your church. ~ Mike Burkdoll, Board Chairman/Treasurer

Dear Friends at Bethel UCC: Thank you for your recent donation to **United Caring Services**. You are helping UCS provide values-based, low barrier, sustainable, and high-quality homeless shelters, services, and solutions. Together, we will be the Community of Caring that people deserve. ~ Jason Emmerson, Executive Director

Dear Friends: On behalf of the students and faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**, thank you for your gift of \$1,600. Please do know how much your support of Eden means to us. Churches are the core of our culture and faith, and we appreciate the work you do. ~ Rhonda Lally, Development Coordinator

OUR MINISTRY IS EXTENDED THROUGH:

Children's Church:

5	Leader: Debra Niswonger	Helper: Kyle Ingram
12	Leader: Sharon Lawson	Helper: Julie Vogel
19	Leader: Leesa Scales	Helper: Jamessa Potts
26	Leader: Debra Niswonger	Helper: Kyle Ingram

Greeter:

5	Louella Komuves	19	Doris Rohlfer
12	Ruth Willis	26	Linda Hape

Liturgists:

5	Louella Komuves	19	Sue Layman
12	Leesa Scales	26	Larry Appman

Ushers: (The head usher for May is Bob English.)

5	Bruce Lawson; Carmen Mazick; Mardell Puckett; Makenzie Schentrup
12	Amy Carey; Phillip Damm; Brad Neidig; Gale Neidig
19	Nancy & Jerry Noland; Dan Patterson; Leesa Scales
26	Suzanne Farney; Steve Hape; Jim Rine; Carolyn Stephens



ALTAR FLOWERS 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.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

2	Sherrri & Jerry Hudson	10	Michele & David Vanhooser
	Marci & Steve Schmitt	17	Louella & Edward Komuves
4	Jennifer & Kraig Nance	19	Neneng & Elmer Paniamogan
7	Julie & Ron Vogel	25	Sharon & Jerry Greubel
8	Suzanne & Robert Farney		Melissa & Rusty Williams
9	Maureen & Harshad Parmar		
	Lori & Robert Vogel		

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

1	Linda Garrett	14	Kyra Webster	22	Mary Louise Oswald
3	Ian Baxter	15	Damien Bonifer	23	Mike Vannatter
	Edward Hartig		Kalynn Payne	24	Marilyn Baggerly
	Julie Vogel	16	Carlos Haskins		Bob Bennett
5	Chance Webster	17	Carter Burleigh	26	Kayla Kemper
7	Joshua Forshee	18	Elizabeth Gustafson	27	Axel Gallagher
9	Micah Pricher	20	Noel McRae		Steve Schmitt
10	Luke Lawson		Sarah Parker	28	Charlie Haller
	Sharon Lawson	21	Pat Perigo	29	Michael Vanhooser
12	Chris Neiswinger	22	Robert Hansen	30	Stephanie Weiner
13	Jenni Webster		Logan Howell		

MEMORIALS

Contribution was made in memory of Dorothy Moore to the music fund from Sandra Altheide; and to the memorial fund from Laurel Vaughn.

A contribution was made in memory of Phyllis Yarber to the memorial fund from Andy Yarber.

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 (Rm 29)

Jeanne Carter (Apt. 29 S)

Barbara Krick (S Rehab #7 A & B)

Warren McCullough (4-ABN)

River Pointe 475-2822

3001 Galaxy Dr., Evansville IN 47715

B. J. Caldemeyer (330-B)

Walnut Creek 420-1540

525 Bente Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

Doris Lamkin (22)

Sylvia Stamm

2501 Lexington Rd., Evansville IN 47720

Bethel United Church of Christ
3029 N Green River Road
Evansville IN 47715

Support the Appalachia Service Project youth mission trip by shopping at our annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m. – noon.

