

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



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

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

“For everything there is a season . . .” My season as Bethel’s interim minister is coming to an end, actually our seasons. Together, we’ve experienced the hope of spring, the growth of summer, the richness of fall, and even the lull of winter. As an interim, all of this has been a bit truncated.

The good news is that there are more seasons, of greater length, intensity, and productivity ahead. As a member, I’m excited about the ministry of our newly called pastor, Rev. Buehrer.

As a member of the wider church in particular and of society at large, I am aware of the enormous challenges ahead – and of the enormous possibilities. There is work to be done in every area of our common life. It could be overwhelming.

The good news is that Bethel has resources to put to work, people of good will, and especially the promise of our faith that God accepts us as we are but doesn’t leave us that way. I’m not sure who said that first but it is true. It is right and good.

As you know, Bethel has been a tremendous part of my family’s life, in ways it has been my family. We share the same DNA: a commitment to learning and worship, to service and community, knowing that we are more together than we could ever be alone, that our mandate is clear, to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves.

In order to let the new relationship with Rev. Buehrer flourish, I am entering a season of separation from activity with Bethel. I’ll be supportive in any way that Rev. Buehrer asks. We’ve already talked about my tutoring at Stockwell and getting in better shape with yoga. I’ll be worshiping with other congregations, sometimes preaching, and perhaps covering for sabbatical leaves. We will continue to be members of the same body, just in different locations for a while. Rev. Buehrer has been very clear and hopeful about our modeling a collegial relationship. I’m all in – and up – for that.

Please know that you are dear to me as individuals and as a community. There is room for all of us in God’s heart, all of us, no exceptions. Onward!

Grace and peace,
Stephanie

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . . Debbie Wilson

Time for the Wise Women to get even wiser. Ladies of the congregation, we have had a little break for the summer, and now it's time to reconvene for fun, fellowship, AND most importantly, to share our spirituality, and grow and share our faith through God's word. All ladies are welcome. Come and see and share and help mold what we are all about. Let's begin Tuesday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Bring a friend if you like. Our first meeting will be catching up with everyone's summer happenings, etc. Love to have you.

The women of the IKC Conference will be hosting a women's retreat entitled, "Quiet Spaces: A Time for Meditation and Storytelling." This will take place at The Benedict Inn & Retreat Center, September 27-29. Our Associate Conference minister, Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette, will lead the opening session on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Please see the brochure on the Welcome Center for further information on fees, sessions, and registration. It would be so good to have a group from Bethel to attend. Please give it your consideration.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC . . . Cynthia Grassman

I hope everyone has enjoyed the wide variety of special music this summer. Now, on to fall! All rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 4, with bells at 6:15 p.m. and choir at 7:00 p.m. I need singers and ringers of all ages, so if interested, please let me know. The children will begin rehearsing at 9:00 a.m. on September 8! Music is a fun and educational way to experience the community of Christ! Come join us!

FROM THE PROGRAM ASSISTANT: Debra Niswonger

September 15 - Rally Day

September 22 - Postcards for Peace at 11:45 - the middle and high schoolers will meet and have lunch and make postcards in honor of the UN's day of peace and nonviolence.



Good News from the Child Care Room: Grace Kennady has agreed to be our Sunday morning child care assistant, pending the approval of the council at its September Meeting. Grace will be a December graduate of Bosse and also works at Red Lobster. The word from her references and the parents on Sunday is that she is great with kids. The kids are still working on their words but their smiles tell the same thing!

To help Grace get to know the congregation and as a back-up for the Sundays when we need more than one person, we are asking for a volunteer for each Sunday to check in with Grace and to be available to her if we have a full house. Many, many thanks to all who have done that already.

Working on Good News on the custodial front: We continue to look for a weekend custodian. We need at least eight hours between Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Sunday hours are negotiable. Please, please let us know of any leads. Thanks!

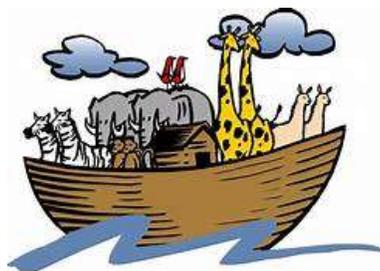
PLEASE LET US KNOW: Have you changed your telephone, address, or email in the last year or two? If so, please contact the church office with the current information. You can call the office at 812-473-0135, or email Ruth, the church secretary at ruths@bethelucc.org. Thank you for helping us keep our directory information up-to-date.

From the Church Council: Until recently, it was illegal to bring firearms onto church property. On July 1, 2019 an Indiana law was enacted making it illegal to bring firearms onto church property only if it is posted, “No Firearms,” and legal to bring them if it is not posted. Therefore, churches need to decide whether to post the prohibition or not.

After discussion at two council meetings, the Leadership Council has decided to post a sign prohibiting smoking, alcohol, drugs, and firearms. Here’s the reasoning: Our building use agreement already prohibits, smoking, alcohol and drugs. By adding firearms, we are maintaining our understanding and the law as it existed pre-July 1.

We are a congregation with a variety of views on most topics and including this one. The issue was brought to the Leadership Council by the Administration Team. There was thoughtful and vigorous discussion by both groups at several meetings.

Fun and Inspiring Ways to Make a Difference



The Ark is full! We are sending \$5,000 to Heifer International. Heifer will turn it into 2 water buffaloes, 2 cows, 2 sheep, 2 goats, bees, chicks, rabbits, and more. This will allow a community in the developing world to become self-sustaining. One of the best parts of the project is that those receiving animals give their first born to someone without: the gift that continues to gift. The ark is a result of Second Sunday Celebration Giving over the past two years.

Hygiene Kits: While the next project is being formulated, the September SSC giving will help us fill out the hygiene kits that were begun at the IKC meeting. Our goal is 60 kits. We need \$300 dollars! We’re hoping for lots of birthdays, anniversaries, and blessings to celebrate.



An idea for the next project: Our hearts were stirred this Sunday by Lee Chandler's presentation about **Bracelets4Buildings**, a housing effort in Cambodia. The description of the living situation there was heart rending. What if Bethel committed to funding a house (\$3500)? The Mission Team has already given \$300 and with Second Sunday Celebrations and additional offerings, we could do that in a year. Lee was quick to let us know that those who travel to Cambodia pay their own way. Find out more at www.bracelets4buildings.com. Thanks for introducing us to this very worthwhile project, Cathy Johnson!

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

You are invited to join Don Carrell in working through Soul Design: A Worshipful Guide to Writing and Sharing Your Spiritual Autobiography by Martha Friz-Langer. Don's wife Judy, who we remember fondly, was working through this before her death. Knowing that Judy found it helpful, and that it was written by the daughter of our former pastor the Rev. Adolf Friz, have combined to encourage Don to pick up the process again. He would be glad to have you join him. You can contact him at 812-303-4141. The book is available on Amazon. Its author and our friend Martha is pastor of Dale (IN) Presbyterian Church.



Second Sunday Celebrations: Our August event was fun-filled and room-filled. One of the first celebrations was welcoming visitors Susan Cobb and her caregiver, Vito Fernandez, who came for church and stayed for the party. Jan Nevill donated, saying it was time to get rid of the "old goat" and the "heifer" and get that water buffalo for the Ark!

We celebrated Fred and Nancy Bullinger's 35th wedding anniversary; Don and Jean Bernhardt's 54th anniversary; Jim Vogel's 91st birthday; Kim Farney's 37th birthday; and Sandy Altheide's birthday. Louella Komuves celebrated her husband Ed's birthday, and the birth of her great-grandson on August 1. Carolyn Stephens was celebrating the birthdays of her son and grandson, and the anniversary of her daughter and son-in-law.

Stephanie remembered her father, Mo Weiner, on what would have been his 96th birthday; and Tamara Payne celebrated the beginning of the school year and her 26th year of teaching, and her wonderful daughters, Allison and Kalynn and their return to school. Cookies, lemonade, and coffee were enjoyed by all. The September Second Sunday Celebrations will be held during the farewell lunch for Stephanie on September 8 following church.

First Friday Friends: Being part of a community, sharing a meal, relaxing, talking, and playing games make for a happier life. Join us the first Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. for a brown bag lunch, with scrumptious desserts and drinks provided. Invite your friends, men and women, old and young, single and married; all are welcome!



Chair yoga continues in Fellowship Hall. This stretch, strength training class is done via DVD, and in a chair, free of charge. Both men and women will benefit from these exercises. Classes last around 45 minutes. Work at your own level of comfort, no judgment, no expectations except what your own body tells you. Come join us Tuesdays right after Wise Women, around 10:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter. We're expecting you! Regular Yoga is on Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (fee charged).

Ironmen Group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Friendship Diner.

Lunch Bunch is meeting at O'Charley's on September 11 at 12:30 p.m. Contact Sharon Hoffman at (812) 473-0253 to make a reservation.



NEWS FROM CAPE:

The Community Action Program of Evansville (CAPE) has a mission which encompasses the community as a whole. It is supported by employees committed to addressing the needs of the community we serve. Our objective is accomplished by collaboration with the community to provide tools, skills, and services through programs that meet individual needs.

Since being established on May 18, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson as a war on poverty, Head Start has served more than 35 million children, birth to age five, and their families. Children who participate in Head Start are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and receive a post-secondary degree, license, or certification.

We are excited about beginning the partnership between CAPE Head Start and Bethel UCC. This partnership will promote school readiness for children in low-income families, helping us to achieve our mission. Three classrooms will provide opportunities for children ages three-to-five, to receive quality early education, and achieve their goals in a safe, nurturing, enriching environment in partnership with the community.

TWO MORE MEROM OPPORTUNITIES:

For more info: www.merom.org or www.ikcucc.org

- **Fall Assembly:** For youth, November 1-2.
- **Simple Crafts:** For children and adults, December 6-7. Check-in, Friday 7:00-8:00 p.m. Departure, Saturday 4:00 p.m. \$150 for 2 or \$155 on Pay Pal.



THE HELPING HAND FUND: This portion of our ministry is close to 100 years old. It is designed to help members and friends in the community in time of need. It is funded by designated gifts. As of August 23, we have helped 16 individuals and families this year with \$2,667 of support. 80% of this has been utility assistance; 11% rent assistance; 4% food assistance; and 4 % transportation costs. Utilities are costly, and exorbitant to reconnect when they are turned off, which sometimes leads to eviction. Thank you Bethel for making a difference in so many lives.



MISSIONS TEAM:

The Mission Team is collecting new and clean, gently used sheets, blankets, and pillow cases for the **United Caring Shelter/Women's Shelter** (formerly known as Ruth's House) for our September mission project. All sizes of bedding are appreciated. Please place all donated bedding in the box that will be located in the foyer between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.



Isaiah 117: We (organizers of Isaiah 117) Have Found a House! After many prayers and lots of house hunting, we couldn't be more excited to share that we have found the perfect home for Vanderburgh County's Isaiah 117 House. We are one step closer to opening our doors for children in need in our community! We are grateful to be working with an awesome homeowner who is also so thrilled how their home will be used. They will be holding the house for us as we raise money to purchase it. (This is not our actual house due to privacy reasons, but ours will also have a red door like all the other Isaiah Houses.)

We have set a goal of \$250,000. This will allow us to pay cash for the house and have a fully funded first year's budget to operate the home. To do this, we ask that you keep sharing about the home with friends and family, like and share our posts on social media, and share how to donate.

Gifts may be made through Bethel, with Isaiah 117 in the memo line of the check, payable to Bethel, or via online giving at our website" www.bethelucc.org. This will help us realize, recognize, and celebrate the many benevolent causes being promoted by our congregation.

Let's Head South: Back Bay Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi; sponsored by the Evansville Tri-State Association of the UCC and Bethlehem UCC. Contact Bill Gilbert: 812-204-1616 wmdgilbert@gmail.com.

Schnuck's Give Back Cards: Perhaps you are a part of the rewards system at Schnucks. An alternative is to participate in Schnuck's community organization support. We have budgeted \$1000 toward the 2019 budget.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM: Bethel's Green Team meets the last Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room or Fellowship Hall, depending on the program. We welcome everyone. Tonya Brantley has agreed to keep us organized and communicating with you! Bob and Carolyn Bennett shared information from Solarize Evansville, which has hope for the planet and interesting implications for our congregation. Stay tuned.



Greg Gordon is president of the Master Gardeners, and the following is an interesting paragraph from his president's letter: "I have had lots of lightening bugs (*Photuris pennsylvanica*) in my yard this year. When friends say they haven't had any fireflies, I ask one simple question, "Did you have Tru-green or some other lawn service spray your yard?" When they answer in the affirmative, I explain those chemicals kill all the insects, not just the bad ones. By the way, in his book, Joe Lamp states that less than 1% of all known insect species are known to be pests. There will certainly be more about this in coming months and years."

Don't miss the Indiana Native Plant Sale, Saturday, September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Eykamp Boy Scout Pavilion, 3501 E. Lloyd Expressway in Evansville. Cash or credit cards only, no checks accepted.

Are you interested in being a Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer? The 13 session course begins September 19 and concludes December 19. It is held at the 4H Center on Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener>

UPDATE: The Early Childhood Committee meeting date for this month is changed to September 17, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



ABOUT THE WIDER CHURCH

Hurray for Bethlehem UCC and the Rev. Emily Slade. Emily Slade will be installed as the lead pastor of the church, 6400 Oak Hill Road in Evansville on Sunday, September 15 at 3:00 p.m. A reception follows. Clergy are invited to robe. RSVP: church@bethlehemucc.org

The Indiana-Kentucky Conference concludes our conference-wide series of Church Vitality Events this fall. Join us Saturday, September 28 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Highland, 7014 Darmstadt Road in Evansville. Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, Team Leader, Faith INFO (Faith Education, Innovation, and Formation) at the UCC National Office.

Chris will engage congregations on issues related to congregational vitality from the “Be the Church” Assessment booklet including: Congregational Asset Assessment; Equipping Congregational Leadership; Assessing New Ministries; Collecting Community Data for Mission. This event is funded by the Brown Grant, and there is no cost to attend.

Reservations are required, as lunch will be provided. Please contact Rev. Brian Buschkill (saintpetepastor@gmail.com) to register. The word is that Rev. Buehrer was the first to sign up. We’re sure he’d like your company!



Advance Care Planning Opportunity: Every adult over the age of 18 needs to consider his/her end of life care. The document that defines these directions is called an Advance Directive. It is used by members of the health care team and your family to ensure that your requests are being honored, if you cannot be included in those discussions and decisions. Without an Advance Care Directive, health care workers and family will make those decisions, possibly with no input from the person who is dying.

USI Nursing students are providing free consultations on Advanced Care Planning in September, at St. Peter’s UCC, 7014 Darmstadt Road. The students will meet individually with persons wanting to better understand the importance of an Advance Directive Document, and to answer questions. This is a private, free consultation, which consists of two appointments. The initial appointment lasts two hours and the follow-up appointment (approximately two weeks from the initial appointment) will take one hour. Contact USI Professor Amy Pierce, RN, MSN at 217-898-3416 to schedule your appointment. This invitation comes from Cheryl Whitmore, RN, BS, FCN St. Peter’s UCC Parish Nurse.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

To find fortune . . . through giving.
To find fame . . . through serving.
To find power . . . through loving.
In other words, you will find pleasure by doing them all!



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

Bettie Batey	Mary Jean Johns	Janet Robertson
David Batey	Michelle Kirk	Jackson Schultheis
Jana Bonifer	Kraig Nance	Jacob Schultheis
Larry Daniel	Jerry Noland	Sandy Stinnet
Abby Fenwick	Nancy Noland	Journey Thomas
Kayla Fenwick	Dan Oats	

Joys:

- * Congratulations to Derek Perigo and Kelly Andres, who were married August 17.
- * Debra's mom has adopted Axel.

We give thanks for the lives of:

Jeanne Carter, who died July 27.
Bob Batey, who died August 5.
Marion Nauert, who died August 21.

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.

(If you know of others, please let us know.)

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.



MEMORIALS:

Contributions were received in memory of Evelyn Vanhooser, to the Comfort Committee, from Helen Ancona, Marcia Evans, and Michele & David Vanhooser; to the Memorial Fund from Mark Graninger and Betty Hanson; and to the Music Fund from Jack Hartig.

Gifts, in memory of Jeanne Carter and in thanksgiving for her interest in young children, have purchased a new refrigerator for the Children's Wing.

Contributions were received in memory of Jeanne Carter, to the Helping Hand Fund, from Judy & Frank Schultheis; to the Memorial Fund from Patricia C. Reisinger and Ruth Ulrich; and the Music Fund from Sandra Altheide and Marianna & Jim Vogel.

A contribution was received in memory of Bob Batey, to the Music Fund, from Joan Ritter.

A contribution was received in memory of Jerry Greubel, to the Memorial Fund, from Cliff Kley Meyer.

FROM THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Stock Up Stockwell, The Final Count! Thank you for donating all of these school supplies and for the donations that provided the clothing! Stockwell students are using these items right now. Donations included: 39 backpacks; 6 art boxes; 140 Ticonderoga #2 pencils; 17 boxes of Kleenex; 28 boxes of Crayola 24-count crayons; 1 Expo dry-erase markers; 7 boxes of Crayola washable markers; 38 pink erasers; 6 boxes of Crayola jumbo crayons; 2 pkg. pencil top erasers; 102 Elmer's glue sticks; 10 composition books; 8 bottles of Elmer's school glue; 15 scissors; 84 pocket folders; 18 pkgs. loose-leaf paper; 66 spiral notebooks; 31 pkgs. index cards; 5 pkgs. post-it notes; 2 reams of copy paper; 8 boxes of sandwich and gallon bags; 7 containers of Clorox wipes; 68 ink pens; 1 calculator; 2 three-ring binders; 10 permanent black markers; 21 pairs of pants and 24 shirts.



“Still Waters” presents a 25th anniversary Concert, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. (Recommended by Joan Ritter and Bob Ouellette.)

OUR MINISTRY IS EXTENDED THROUGH:

Children's Church

1	Leader: Julie Vogel	Helper: Carol Garvey
8	Leader: Sharon Lawson	Helper: Julie Vogel
15	Leader: Jamessa Potts	Helper: Carol Garvey
22	Leader: Joan English	Helper: Leesa Scales
29	Leader: Debra Niswonger	Helper: Kyle Ingram

Greeters:

1	Delores Padgett	15	Sandra Altheide	29	Linda Hape
8	Nita Voorhees	22	Delores Padgett		

Liturgists:

1	TBD	15	Makenzie	29	Leesa Scales
8	TBD	22	Mike Vannatter		

Ushers: (The head usher for September is Richard Condi.)

1	Don Carrell; Richard Condi; Jamessa Potts; Leesa Scales
8	Patti & Larry Coleman; Lori & John Glaser
15	Joe Harris; Steve Schmitt
22	Bobby Potts; Frank Schultheis; Jennifer & Chad Winger
29	Phillip Damm; Steve Hape; Aaron Krueger

Happy Birthday to September Celebrants:

1	Susan Pauli	10	Joan Hamilton	22	Allen Lafferty
2	Eva Bender	11	Caden Harms	23	Theresa Lamb
	Dawn Ryan		Jami Kinney	26	Karen Haas
3	Daren Harmon		Michele Vanhooser		Carolyn Klassy
4	James Brown	12	Terri Schultheis	27	Frances Brown
	Patti Coleman	13	Susan Jett-Phillips	28	Lisa Parker
5	Brent McRae	19	Kacie Whiteley	29	Jeanne Amsler
6	Hunter Nance	20	Wilder Allen		Tiffany Neidig
8	Regena Bell	21	Vicki Langford		
	Stacie Wallace	22	Tonya Brantley		

Happy Anniversary to September Celebrants:

6	Rachel & Ben Luttrull
11	Gail & Rick Olson
12	Barbara & Jerry Griepenstroh (55)
13	Patti & Larry Coleman (61)
	Laurel & Stephen Vanhooser
23	Theresa & Jim Lamb
29	Donna & Richard Condi



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

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner, Interim Minister
Cynthia Grassman, Director of Music
Debra Niswonger, Program Associate
Ruth Saalweachter, Church Secretary
John Stevens, Financial Secretary

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jstevens@bethelucc.org

Sue Layman, Accompanist Grace Kennady, Child Care Attendant
Harold Golday, Custodian David Willis, Night Caretaker
Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus



Join us Sunday, September 15 at 10:15 a.m.
when our newly called Lead Pastor,
the Rev. Samuel Buehrer
will lead us in worship.
Immediately following the service,
we will meet for lunch in
Fellowship Hall, and to
welcome Sam and Ellen.

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)

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

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 West Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

Doris Lamkin

Sylvia Stamm, 2500 Lexington Road, Evansville, IN 47720

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

SEPTEMBER RECORD/NEWSLETTER

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Join us in welcoming
our new pastor, the
Rev. Sam Buehrer,
on September 15th.
Worship: 10:15 a.m.
Rally Day &
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.

