

Bethel United Church of Christ  
3029 N Green River Road  
Evansville IN 47715  
812-473-0135  
www.bethelucc.org

## **OCTOBER BETHEL RECORD/NEWSLETTER**

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Bethel UCC ~ Congregational Meeting  
October 25, 2020  
After the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service



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

**Because we affirm the face of God in all, we fully welcome and include people of all abilities, ages, cultures, gender identities, races, sexual orientations, and socio-economic backgrounds, into our life and ministry.**

FROM THE PASTOR . . . Rev. Sam Buehrer

### “Updates on Ministries”

As I shared last month, since Bethel UCC is not gathering in person for meetings and foot traffic through the building is almost non-existent some of our normal and natural means of communicating are no longer available to us. Therefore, as I did last month I intend to use this article to keep you all informed of where we are in our various ministries here at Bethel.

**Worship:** Since it is now pretty apparent that there will not be a vaccine universally available until sometime next year we are actively planning how best to gather for worship in the intervening months. We are currently exploring ways to extend our outdoor worship into the colder months. We are also following up on the idea in the meantime to open up the sanctuary for meditation at various times during the week. We will be decorating the sanctuary for the coming harvest and Christmas season so that will add additional beauty to an already beautiful space. In this newsletter is a questionnaire that I encourage you to fill out and to return us. Your responses will help guide us as we plan for the future.

**Bethel Buddies Preschool:** We are almost ready for business. We were open with two preschoolers present for the past two weeks. Once we receive certification as a Registered Ministry through the State of Indiana, as well as being certified on the Paths to Quality, which by all appearances should happen around October 1, we will be open officially for business. The rooms all have a fresh coat of paint and are set up and ready for children. Teaching staff have been hired, trained and certified. We are excited about being well on the way to building a quality preschool program, especially one where we can have a positive impact on the children and their families as we share our faith perspective with them. We are preparing to hold an Open House on Sunday October 4 for the congregation so that you can meet the preschool staff and also tour the classrooms following worship that morning.

**Justice Ministries:** We are now several months into our journey of exploring participation with CAJE, Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment. CAJE is a coalition of various congregations who have united to expand beyond doing only mercy ministries, by banding together to address issues of justice here in Evansville and in the Tri-County area. In the recent years, this coalition has been able to make significant inroads into addressing the issue of quality affordable housing by getting \$500,000 committed each year in Evansville to address that issue, getting local first responders equipped with Narcan a life-saving antidote for opioid drug overdoses, as well getting bus service extended up the Route 41 corridor so that those without reliable transportation could have access to employers like Toyota as others along the northern route. In one year alone,

over 19,000 rides were provided. We believe joining with CAJE may be a great way for this congregation to broaden its justice ministries.

As you can see, we are not letting the COVID pandemic stand in our way of doing new ministries. Continue to prayer for these ministries as well as the many others that we are about here at Bethel UCC. Blessings on you all and stay safe!

Peace, Pastor Sam

## **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . . Jo Haller**

As we enter into the month of October, we enter into our third season living day to day with a pandemic continuing to infiltrate our lives, the lives of our families, our friends, our work, and...our church. Three seasons. With the renewal of spring, I thought the pandemic would be eradicated by May. Then, when it became apparent our summer vacation plans would need to be cancelled, we set our sights on a fall trip. Now, entering into fall plans are again being altered and changed for so many people.



This also means we are entering our third season of an altered, very different church life. Who could have imagined? But, what is it about a change of season that always feels like a new beginning? Autumn brings fires, cozy sweaters, warming soups, and FOOTBALL (at least for some teams). Even with the pandemic, there is a new season ahead and a season to think about new beginnings.

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.*

*-----Ecclesiastes 3:1*

That is exactly what we need to be thinking about for Bethel. It is time to look ahead and plan for the future of our church. Please plan to attend Bethel's annual fall congregational meeting after church on Sunday, October 25. We have many items to consider with one of them filling vacant positions on teams, administration, and council. Maybe you have never considered serving on one of our teams; maybe you do not believe you have the talents needed. Believe me, you do. It is very satisfying working on projects like the Little Free Libraries, or worship services for special occasions like Christmas and Easter. Maybe you like to accomplish tasks and would be great at making sure our campus stays beautiful. There has never been a greater need. Please consider helping move Bethel forward. Email me at [jmhaller@hotmail.com](mailto:jmhaller@hotmail.com) if you can help just a little, or a lot.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ---1 Peter 4:10*

Blessings, Jo

## **Bethel United Church of Christ Worship Questionnaire**

Bethel UCC is now into our sixth month of the pandemic and have settled into a routine of on-line and parking lot worship. In response to the worship questionnaire we sent out several months ago, we made two decisions, 1) to plan on continuing the on-line worship option as long as the pandemic continues, and 2) to provide worship in the parking lot on Sunday mornings for as long as needed and/or as long as weather permits.

At the time of the questionnaire, I suspect few of us truly believed that the pandemic would last as long as it now appears to be lasting. The far and away majority of the responses to that questionnaire indicated that they were not interested in returning to in-person worship in the sanctuary until there was a vaccine. The leadership at the CDC indicates that it will most likely be winter before a vaccine is available. This timing clearly effects our current outdoor option for worship. It also impacts how we plan for the worship during the season of Advent, and how we plan for Christmas Eve and beyond. With that in mind, please consider answering the following questions.

- When would you feel safe returning to worship in the sanctuary?

Ideas for Cold Weather months & Special Services (when it is below 55 degrees)

1. We could extend worship in the parking lot by 1) purchasing an FM transmitter and 2) purchasing a heater for the garage. You could then stay in your car with the windows up, and heater running and still gather as a community for worship. Worship leaders would be in the garage with two garage doors open. If you are attending worship in the parking lot now, would you continue to come under this option?

Any suggestions to this option?

- Would you attend a Christmas Eve Service using this outdoor FM format?
2. There are conversations happening about opening the sanctuary for times for meditation. Would you come if we opened it up for meditation?
- Are you younger than 65 years of age or older than 65? Younger / Older (Circle One)



Preschool Staff will be introduced during our October 4 worship service at 10:15 a.m. Following worship, the congregation will have the opportunity to tour the newly painted classrooms. If you would like one of the new Preschool shirts, please use the order form in the Record.

**CAJE: Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment** is an interfaith group seeking systemic change for the betterment of individuals and our community. It is a perfect place for conservatives and progressives to come together to follow the mandate of Micah 6:8, “to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” It is about our working for ourselves and others from the ground up, determining the issues we want to work on, seeking the support of our public servants, and holding one another accountable.

There are 23 Evansville area organizations that currently belong, including Bethlehem, St. Lucas, and St. Peter’s United Churches of Christ. Twenty individuals and family units of Bethel UCC have expressed interest in our congregation’s joining. We hope you will too. You can find out more at [greaterevansvillecaje.org](http://greaterevansvillecaje.org) or by talking to Janel Allen, Bob Bennett, Tonya Brantley, Rev. Buehrer or Stephanie Weiner. To know more, please attend a zoom meeting of Bethel folk on Tuesday, October 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Let the church office know of your interest, so we can send you the link. Thanks!

**SECOND SUNDAY CELEBRATION** donations are being used to aid in renovating the bathrooms at United Caring Services. This project is important in helping bring the UCS facility up-to-date.



Bethel had a Second Sunday Celebration in the parking lot after church on the 13<sup>th</sup>. September was a good month for weddings— Carmen Mazick celebrated her son and daughter-in-law’s anniversary, Cindy Schnapf daughter and daughter-in-law’s 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary; and a niece of Louella Komuves had an anniversary. Nancy and Fred Bullinger celebrated 36 years, Richard and Donna Condi 46 years, and Patti and Larry Coleman reached a whopping 62 years!

We also celebrated the birthday of Carmen’s sister, Cindy’s uncle, Deb Wilson’s daughter-in-law, and Patti Coleman’s 81<sup>st</sup>, in addition to Louella’s great-grandson and granddaughter. Carolyn Stephens added birthdays for a granddaughter, grandson, and son-in-law. The Roths honored the birthday of a daughter, two grandsons, and a granddaughter. A visitor recognized his dad’s 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Louella Komuves expressed appreciation on behalf of her husband for the kindness and prayers of the congregation during his illness. Come and join us next month and celebrate the important events in your life.



Dear Bethel Family: Richard and I want to thank everyone who made a donation to **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life** last month. With your help we met our goal this year. We hope that you can find access to Facebook to watch our luminaria ceremony online. To view it --open Facebook-- and choose Relay For Life of Evansville —Videos-- and then --Virtual Luminaria Ceremony. We filmed it on Bethel's parking lot and we hope you like it as much as we did. Thank you again, and we will continue to Fight, Celebrate, and Remember until a cure for cancer is found.

~ Sincerely, **Donna and Richard Condi**

Dear Friends: On behalf of the students and faculty of **Eden Theological Seminary**, it is my pleasure to acknowledge your gift of \$1000 in support of the Annual Fund. Your congregation's support of Eden means a great deal to us. Churches are at the core of our culture and faith, and we appreciate the work you do. More than anyone, you know how important it is to prepare the next generation of ministers and leaders, so we are especially grateful for your help in maintaining Eden as an ecumenical educational center for the progressive Christian movement. ~ Peace, Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Vice President for Advancement

Dear Bethel UCC: Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$750 to **Habitat for Humanity of Evansville**. Your gift will give more hardworking, low-income families the opportunity to build *and buy* their very own homes. Access to decent and affordable housing helps families achieve the independence they need to build brighter futures for themselves and their children. By giving them a hand up – not a hand out – families can overcome the obstacles that stand between them and healthier, more financially stable lives. Because of your financial support and the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers, more than 520 families in Vanderburgh and Posey Counties have found strength, stability and independence by partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. Your support will help us continue to build more homes and change more lives! ~ Sincerely, Holly M. Edmond, Director of Development

Dear Bethel UCC: We at **Stockwell Elementary School** are so blessed to have a partnership with Bethel! Thank you for the school supplies, and all you do! ~ Stockwell Students and Staff

**JOYS & CONCERNS** – Please continue to pray for those who are suffering from physical, emotional, or mental health issues. Pray for those who work in essential services, for families, for neighbors, for the community at large. “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

**We pray for:** William Buehrer (Sam's father); James Jett; Wanda Karn; Ed & Louella Komuves; Jamessa Potts.



## We mourn the passing of

- Ray Meinert (Cynthia Grassman's father) who died August 26;
- Vernon Cooksey (Kathy Parker's brother) who died September 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.

**MEMORIALS/IN HONOR:** A contribution was made in memory of David & Jean Emery to the Choir Music Fund, by Peter Emery.

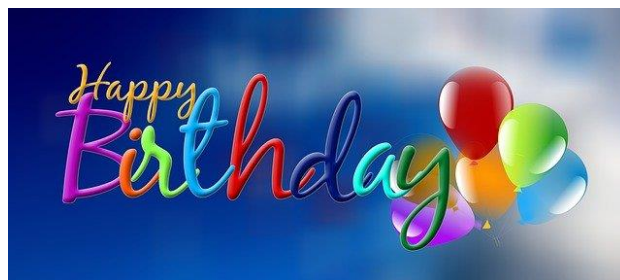
### Happy Anniversary to October Celebrants:

4	Debbie & Dan Patterson	13	Jennifer & Greg Stephens
7	Ruth & David Willis	15	Allison & Josh Brune
8	Deborah & Greg Neidig	20	B.J. & Lloyd Caldemeyer (69)
10	Shirley & Bob Mangold	27	Alyssa & Carson White
13	Jessica & Brian Cusimano	28	Linda & Greg Shekell
	Mardell & Joseph Puckett		

### Happy Birthday to October Celebrants:

3	Nancy Noland	15	Gerald Griepenstroh	23	Chris Matthews
4	Linda Absher		Kim Wolf	24	Adam Hartzel
6	Ellen Buehrer	17	Kevin Manley		Kraig Nance
7	Benjamin Baxter		Chad Wininger		Jerry Noland
	Patti Manley	18	LeAnna Brown		Randy Sander
	Greg Neidig		Judith Schultheis	26	Marty Amsler
8	Debbie Wilson	20	David Batey	28	B.J. Caldemeyer
9	Joan English	21	Kim Shafer		Jerry Langford
10	Sadie Atkisson	22	Theodore Scales	29	Luke Brown
12	Brandi Harmon	23	Lynn Finney		

Apologies go to Bella Brantley for missing her birthday, which she celebrated September 11.





**YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED. Contribution Options:** You may always mail contributions, or bring them to our parking lot worship services (weather permitting). This is a good time to make use of online giving. To use this giving tool, go to the Bethel website [www.bethelucc.org](http://www.bethelucc.org). Click on the “Giving” link in the top menu bar. The first time you use it you will need to create an account. You may also give by texting to 844-949-0952, or by using the QR code printed on the left.

**Bethel UCC is now registered on Amazon Smile!** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.



To shop on Amazon Smile and designate Bethel UCC as your charitable organization of choice, use the following Amazon link in place of <https://amazon.com>:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1375763>

After signing into your Amazon account via this link, Amazon Smile will remember your charitable organization choice, and you can sign in at <https://smile.amazon.com>, or just search for “Amazon Smile login” in any browser.

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

[www.bethelucc.org](http://www.bethelucc.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/BethelUCCEvansville/>

Rev. Sam Buehrer, Senior Pastor

[sbuehrer@bethelucc.org](mailto:sbuehrer@bethelucc.org)

Cynthia Grassman, Director of Music

[cgrassman@bethelucc.org](mailto:cgrassman@bethelucc.org)

Debra Niswonger, Program Associate

[dniswonger@bethelucc.org](mailto:dniswonger@bethelucc.org)

Ruth Saalweachter, Office Administrator

[ruths@bethelucc.org](mailto:ruths@bethelucc.org)

John Stevens, Financial Secretary

[jstevens@bethelucc.org](mailto:jstevens@bethelucc.org)

Denise Lane, Preschool Director

[dlane@bethelucc.org](mailto:dlane@bethelucc.org)

Sue Layman, Accompanist

Allison Payne, Nursery Attendant

Harold Golday, Custodian

Holly Beswick, Custodian

Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sundays, 10:15 a.m.	Outdoor Worship (in parking lot)
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (via Zoom)
Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	Prayer Service (via Zoom)
Friday, October 2	11:00 a.m. Friday Fellowship (under the trees)
Saturday, October 3	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall (Makenzie Schentrup)
Sunday, October 4	After worship, Preschool Tour
	2:00 p.m. Youth Tie-Dyeing (in parking lot)
Thursday, October 8	10:00 a.m. Congregational Development (outside)
Saturday, October 10	6:00 p.m. Youth Halloween Movie (in parking lot)
Monday, October 12	5:00 p.m. Personnel Team
	6:00 p.m. Administration Team
	6:00 p.m. Mission Team
Friday, October 16	11:00 a.m. Friday Fellowship (under the trees)
Monday, October 19	6:00 p.m. Leadership Council
Wednesday, October 21	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Sunday, October 25	Congregational Meeting, after 10:15 a.m. worship service

## Nursing/Rehab/Retirement Home/Homebound

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

5311 Rosebud Ln., Newburgh, IN 47630

Georgia McRae-Apt. 313 (812)704-0059

Barbara Schmitt

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

4255 Medwell Dr., Newburgh, IN 47630

Gene DeForrest (135)

### **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 Griepenstroh (209)

Darlene Neidig (107)

### **Heritage Center 429-0700**

1201 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville IN 47710

Victor Luhring (149)

### **Newburgh Healthcare**

10466 Pollack Ave., Newburgh IN 47630

Doris Lamkin

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

650 Fairway Dr., Evansville IN 47710

Nancy Westbo (159)

### **Protestant Home 476-3360**

3701 Washington Ave., Evansville IN 47714

Barbara Krick (Apt 15)

Warren McCullough (4-ABN)

### **River Pointe 475-2822**

3001 Galaxy Dr., Evansville IN 47715

B. J. Caldemeyer (305-A)

Lloyd Caldemeyer (510)

### **Transcendent Healthcare**

725 S Second St., Boonville IN 47601

Jana Bonifer (812)937-7073

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

525 Bente Wes Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

### **Woodlands**

4088 Frame Road, Newburgh IN 47630

Arlene Horton (214)



Bethel Buddies Preschool Shirt Sale

We have Bethel Buddies shirts for sale. Wearing your shirt in the community will help promote Bethel's mission to provide quality childcare.

The adult shirts run large and the youth shirts are small.

Polo shirts are \$20 and are embroidered.

V-neck tees are \$14 and are embroidered.

Crew neck tees are \$12 and are printed.

We have Medium, Large, and Extra Large in all adult shirts.

Youth tee shirts are \$10. We have XS and S.

Shirts are available to view and purchase in the church office. There is an envelope for your payment. If you would rather have your shirt delivered to your home, please fill out the form below and send it to the church.

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Bethel Buddies Preschool Shirt Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of shirt and size \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Bethel's online donation system