

Bethel United Church of Christ  
3029 N Green River Road  
Evansville IN 47715  
812-473-0135  
[www.bethelucc.org](http://www.bethelucc.org)

**FEBRUARY 2021 BETHEL RECORD/NEWSLETTER**

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(Outdoor) Ash Wednesday Service  
February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Communion & Ashes



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**

“Fully Alive”

A couple of years ago I was talking with Rev. Ken Daniel. Ken is the CEO of United Church Homes. United Church Homes is an institution of the United Church of Christ that ministers with the aging population. As I was talking with Ken, he shared with me the vision that God had given that institution. That vision was that United Church Homes was to be a place “Where the Spirit creates Abundant Life in Community.” When he shared that vision, my thought was that I could very well get excited about participating in that vision and, therefore, in their ministry.

That got me pondering about the vision that God has for my life. Some years ago, I came across a statement attributed to a second century bishop named Irenaeus. The statement is, “The glory of God is a human being fully alive.” That statement captivated me when I first heard it and it still captivates me today. “The glory of God is a human being fully alive.” If Irenaeus is right, essentially God’s dream for each of us is to be fully alive. That got me thinking, what is God’s vision for me? If Irenaeus is right, God’s vision for me and for you is that we are to be fully alive. God’s vision for our church is that we are fully alive.

As I read the gospel stories of Jesus, clearly Jesus lived a life that was fully alive. If we follow Jesus’ way of living, it means living a life of love. It means seeing all people as children of God. It means loving our neighbor so much so that we are willing to die to our self so that our neighbor might become fully alive. It means that we are sensitive to those in need, the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the foreigner, the widow, those who grieve, and those in prison. It means that wherever there is one who is suffering, we are called to be with them in their suffering. It means living a life of peacemaking and working for justice. By living in such a way, we become fully alive.

As I look to the coming year, my dream for Bethel UCC is that we might take up this statement by Irenaeus and use it to guide us this year in all that we do as congregation. By doing so, my dream is that everyone associated with Bethel and touched by our ministries might become more fully alive.

Peace,  
Pastor Sam

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC . . . Cynthia Grassman

**Zimbelstern:** An organ stop that mimics the sound of angel's wings. Wouldn't you love to hear that on Sunday mornings? YOU CAN! Just write Zimbelstern on your checks, in memory or honor of loved ones and friends, and the dream will become reality! I would like to have it in place before we return to the sanctuary for worship!



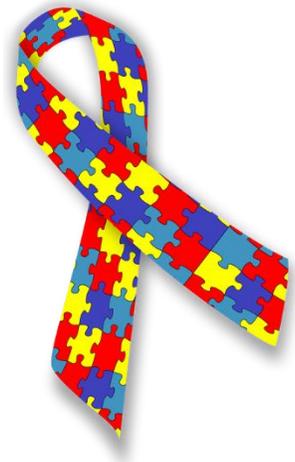
### Early Childhood Committee - Here are some things that are happening at Bethel Buddies:

- We are proud to announce that Bethel Buddies is a Level 3 in the Paths to Quality program! This is a huge accomplishment. Usually, it takes programs a year to achieve each level, and we went from a Level 1 to 3 in less than six months. The certification process involves a day long inspection as well as many pages of written documentation. Denise has been gathering the necessary documentation ever since we opened, and the teachers did a wonderful job during the classroom observations.
- We enrolled four more students, so as of this writing, we are at 8 students. We have 4 toddlers on a waiting list for when they turn 3 years old. We have 4 infants ready to join us as soon as we are approved for infants. We also have a waiting list of 9 infants!
- The fire inspection for the infant room is finished. We needed some additional emergency lighting, and Buildings and Grounds took care of that within a week of the inspection.
- In preparation for the inspection of the infant room, Buildings and Grounds also replaced the carpet tiles in the nursery with flooring that was left over from the Fellowship Hall. I am told there was exactly enough flooring to finish the nursery, and it looks amazing!
- We will have some smaller purchases to make for the infant room. At our meeting on January 13, 2021, we decided that Denise should purchase the things we need to pass the inspection. This will probably be at least one crib mattress, Bumbo trays with trays, Boppy covers, sheets, etc. After we get the room open, we'd like to ask the congregation to participate in helping us with some smaller items such as bibs, sippy cups, baby toys, and possibly more linens. Denise has volunteered to take care of the laundry for this room, so we are hoping to have enough sheets, burp cloths, bibs, etc. that laundry could just be done twice a week.
- Our goal is to have the infant room open by February 1, 2021. The exact date will be determined by how quickly the inspector can come to Evansville.



**Wise Congregation for Mental Health:** The UCC Mental Health Network is seeking welcome, inclusion, support, and engagement of all persons in every congregation.

W-Welcoming  
I-Inclusive  
S-Supportive  
E-Engaged



No one had any idea of the changes we would experience in 2020 and the effect the pandemic would have on mental health. Feelings of loneliness, anxiousness, and uncertainty are normal and expected. A Wise Congregation can be a source of support and connection for these feelings. Our Church can be a source of help and comfort.

Letta Fraccaro, a member of the Indiana Kentucky conference for the Wise Church initiative is exploring Bethel's interest in this program. Please contact her at 812-454-2168 if you need more information, or if you are interested in being a part of planning of this important ministry.

**It is our goal to begin programs in April;** however, the congregation can begin now. Each of us can be a source of support and comfort simply by calling someone who lives alone or may be struggling. Letta and Kim Armstrong from St. Paul UCC have already begun by scheduling meetings with the UCC youth to provide an opportunity to discuss their feelings and challenges during the pandemic.

**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 mourn the loss of:**

- Joan Hamilton, who died December 15.
- Elizabeth Gustafson, who died December 16.
- Jack Ost, (former Bethel member and brother of Joan Ritter), who died December 27.
- Betty Caldemeyer, who died January 15.

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

- \* Scott and Will Kirk, Air Force, grandsons of Carmen Mazick.
- \* Jacob Swanson, Army, grandson of Ruth Willis.

**Memorials:**

Contributions were made in memory of John Wetzel to the Memorial Fund from: Tessie Grimm; Marcia Combs Meeks; Anne Schleper; Joann Schwentker; and Evansville Jaycees Old Timers Club.

Contributions were received in memory of Elizabeth Gustafson to the Memorial Fund from Judy & Frank Schultheis; and Carolyn Stephens.

**Happy Anniversary to February Celebrants:**

11 Janet & Steven Glesige

23 Linda & Gary Williams



**Happy Birthday to February Celebrants:**

1	Suzanne Farney	10	Lillian Scales	22	Georgia McRae
2	Gail Olson	11	Vera Cusimano		Allison Payne
5	Carolyn Stephens	12	Ron Phillips	25	Makenzie Schentrup
	Donte Thomas	13	Celia Langford	26	Staci Burleigh
6	Nicholas Neidig	17	Stuart Scales	27	Robert English
8	Ryland Whiteley	18	Kayson Wininger		Susan Gordon
	Jennifer Wininger	19	Ruth Willis		Brad Neidig
10	Don Bernhardt	20	Wanda Karn		



Dear Bethel family: Larry and I want to thank you for the cards, telephone calls and encouraging voicemails as we struggled with the Corona virus this winter. We also want to thank you for your sympathy at the death of Larry's sister, Lorna Hampsten. ~ Much love, **Patti Coleman**

**Sandra Altheide** wants to thank people for the prayers and cards. *(Sandra is home now, finishing her recuperation.)*

**BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF (812) 473-0135**  
[www.bethelucc.org](http://www.bethelucc.org)    <https://www.facebook.com/BethelUCCEvansville/>

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Rev. Sam Buehrer, Senior Pastor         | sbuehrer@bethelucc.org           |
| Cynthia Grassman, Director of Music     | cgrassman@bethelucc.org          |
| Debra Niswonger, Program Associate      | dniswonger@bethelucc.org         |
| Ruth Saalweachter, Office Administrator | ruths@bethelucc.org              |
| Denise Lane, Preschool Director         | dlane@bethelucc.org              |
| Sue Layman, Accompanist                 | Allison Payne, Nursery Attendant |
| Harold Golday, Custodian                | Holly Beswick, Custodian         |
| Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus  |                                  |

## **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)

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

3833 Eli Pl., Newburgh IN 47630

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

Lloyd Caldemeyer (510)

### **Transcendent Healthcare**

725 S Second St., Boonville IN 47601

Jana Bonifer (812)937-7073

### **Woodlands**

4088 Frame Road, Newburgh IN 47630

Arlene Horton (214)