

Bethel United Church of Christ
3029 N Green River Road
Evansville, IN 47715
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www.bethelucc.org

May 2022 Bethel Record/Newsletter

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Mission Focus: Strengthen the Church



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.

BETHEL UCC GOOD NEWS UPDATES

Visitors: Since Christmas time, we have experienced a constant flow of visitors for Sunday morning worship. We are excited to have so many folks checking out Bethel for worship and our various ministries. If you are a long-time or even a short-time member of Bethel and you see a face you do not recognize, be sure to greet that person and welcome them into this 'Beloved Community.'

New Member Class: Several of our recent visitors have asked about becoming a member of Bethel UCC. We have scheduled a new member session on Sunday May 1, at 9:00 am with an alternate second session on the following Sunday, May 9 also at 9:00 am. If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethel UCC, either call the office and let us know or show up for the new member class on Sunday, May 1.

Second Sunday Celebration Goal Met!! We met our goal of raising \$2,500 to help the Good Samaritan Home purchase a transport van for their residents. We are currently in the process of deciding on the next goal. A final decision has yet to be made, but we are leaning towards having the next goal be a scholarship fund to help young people who would like to be a part of our work camp with Appalachia Service Project but who do not have the means to cover the registration fee. We have had several of our young men who are part of our Tuesday evening basketball program ask about attending.

Young Adult Basketball Program: In November when Cynthia Jones, who was hired on staff to work with our youth became part of our staff, saw the gym she stated that she knew of several young men that would like to play basketball if we opened it up to them. We did and what started out as a small group in December has now grown to 15 plus in attendance every Tuesday evening. Some are even bringing their wives/partners and their young children. During the evening they receive a good meal and also participate in a devotional time led by Cynthia.

Bethel Buddies Updates: For several months now we have had a waiting list of children since we are at full enrollment. Do to being in a good financial position with the preschool, at the urging of the Early Childhood Committee the Council made the decision to bump the wages of the preschool staff to the "livable wage of \$15.00 / hour as of May 1. This is 8 months ahead of what we had planned to do. This wage helps us retain staff as the going rate for preschool staff in the area is closer to \$11.50 / hour. We are also having the MusicScape equipment installed in the playground this week. Many thanks to the generous donors who made this possible. The total cost of this project was in the realm of \$10,000.

Community Garden as a Future Ministry? Over the past year or two, periodically there have been discussions about using some of our open land to the east of the church and creating a community garden. We already have several members of the Building & Grounds Team who have indicated interest in creating raised beds and providing rain water that would be collected from our roofs. To do this ministry, it would take someone who loves gardening and has a strong interest and the skill to spearhead this project. If you know of someone that may be interested in this project, please contact the church office.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! BETHEL'S ALL CHURCH PICNIC IS BACK!

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 RIGHT AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE IT'S PICNIC TIME.
SMOKED PORK AND CHICKEN WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG WITH DRINKS AND DESSERTS.

WE ASK YOU TO BRING:

A SALAD IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH A-K
A VEGETABLE DISH IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH L-Z

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

MAY MISSION FOCUS Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

CAJE Update

CAJE -- Ten members of the Bethel Justice Network attended a CAJE Rally in April, where we learned about the issues of justice to be presented at the annual Nehemiah Action on **Monday, May 9**. Elected officials and representatives of CenterPoint Energy have been invited to answer questions related to: (1) funding the Diversion Center at United Caring Shelters; (2) access to mental health services for children on the autism spectrum; and (3) the effect of increased utility rates, especially on low-income households and families. Solving these critical problems is a matter of justice for many of our neighbors. We want Bethel will be well-represented at the Nehemiah Action! Make your plans now to attend by registering with the church office or by emailing Janel Allen at jsallen007@aol.com.

Bethel is a full partner with CAJE in the pursuit of justice for all in our community. Join hundreds of other CAJE supporters on May 9 and represent Bethel as the congregation that believes in its vision to seek God's will and serve all people. Together we can make positive changes!

Bethel Buddies

Our Musical Playscape equipment has been delivered and we are hopeful that installation will be completed by the end of April! We are so excited to be able to provide these musical and sensory experiences with a xylophone and two different drums for the children. Thank you to Bethel members for making our wishes come true. We value our teachers and want to provide the best working environment in the city. We are increasing teacher pay as one way of showing our appreciation. We have also planned small gifts and a special lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week. Our director, Denise Carter, has also implemented a healthy living program for our staff that includes nutrition, mindfulness, and workouts at Bob's Gym. The teachers are very excited about the gains they are seeing in their overall well-being. Denise is hoping to provide a summer program for our graduates who will be moving onto kindergarten in the fall. All of the parents would like their children to stay with us until August.

If you know anyone looking for a part time summer job working with children, please have them contact Denise at dlane@bethelucc.org.





From: Ruth Saalweachter

Ruth wanted to let everyone know in the congregation that she greatly appreciated the anonymous donation towards her retirement.

From: The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister and The Rev. Dr. Greg Denk Disaster Coordinator:

“A note to express our sincere thanks for your cash donation to support the recovery efforts in Kentucky. The heartfelt support that you and others have given to help the people of Kentucky is Greatly appreciated. Your donation was placed in the DPRMT Fund and designated for the Kentucky Recovery, Thank you.”

From Aurora Housing our Homeless

“Dear Bethel,

On behalf of Aurora’s Staff, Board, and Clients we thank you for donation of \$200.00 we received on 2/24/2022.

At Aurora, we believe that everyone has value and deserves a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. Your gift helps us move the needle on fulfilling Aurora’s mission of creating solutions to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

Thank you again for your compassion and willingness to be Aurora’s partner in serving our community’s most vulnerable people.”



Happy May Birthday to:

1	Linda Garrett	16	Carlos Haskins	28	Charles Haller
	Trace Schmitt	17	Carter Burleigh		Randall Heidorn
3	Ryan Luttrull				Keith Madison
	Julia Vogel	22	Mary Louise Oswald	29	Michael Vanhooser
5	Chance Webster	23	Michael Vannatter	30	Stephanie Weiner
10	Sharon Lawson	24	Marilyn Baggerly		
	Lauren Olson		Bob Bennett		
	Richard Olson		Thatcher Kempf		
13	Jennifer Webster	26	Kayla Kemper		
14	Kyra Webster	27	Axel Gallagher		
15	Damien Bonifer		Steven Schmitt		
	Kaylynn Payne				

Happy May Anniversary to:

2	Steven & Marci Schmitt
4	Kraig & Jennifer Nance
8	Robert & Suzanne Farney
9	Dr. Harshad & Maureen Parmar
	Robert & Lori Vogel
10	David & Michele Vanhooser
19	Elmer & Juanita Paniamogan
29	Chad & Staci Burleigh

We celebrate the birth of Maeve Elizabeth Vogel born on April 8th, 2022. She is the daughter of Ben & Emily Vogel of Charlotte, NC, granddaughter of Ron & Julie Vogel, and Great-granddaughter of Jim & Marianna Vogel. “Maeve” is Irish and was Emily’s Great Grandmother’s name.

We Mourn the death of Robert Britt Sr. who passed away on April 13th, 2022.

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

* Scott and Will Kirk, Air Force, grandsons of Carmen Mazick

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

www.bethelucc.org

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

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Denise Carter, Preschool Director

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Melissa Conville, Office Administrator

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Sue Layman, Accompanist

Maddie Jones, Audio-Visual

Harold Golday, Custodian

Rev. Donald Bernhardt, Pastor Emeritus

Nursing/Rehab/Retirement Home/Homebound

Atria Assisted Living 618-9685
5311 Rosebud Lane, Newburgh, IN 47630

Sandra Altheide-Room 121
Georgia McRae-Apt. 313 (812)704-0059
Barbara Schmitt

Cypress Grove 853-2993
4255 Medwell Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630

Gene DeForrest (135)

Hamilton Point 858-5300
3833 Eli Place, Newburgh, IN 47630

Darlene Neidig (801)

Heritage Center 429-0700
1201 W Buena Vista Road, Evansville, IN 47710

Victor Luhring (149)

North Park Nursing Center 425-5243
650 Fairway Drive, Evansville, IN 47710

Nancy Westbo (159)

Protestant Home 476-3360
3701 Washington Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714

Barbara Krick (Apt. 15)
Warren McCullough (4-ABN)
Jeanette Plane (Room 10)

River Pointe 475-2822
3001 Galaxy Drive, Evansville, IN 47715

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725 S Second Street, Boonville IN 47601

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4088 Frame Road, Newburgh, IN 47630

Arlene Horton (214)