



Bethel United Church of Christ
3029 N Green River Rd.
Evansville, IN 47715

----Bethel Record - September 2025----



BETHEL UCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly Mission: Back Bay Mission

Communion Sunday → September 7th

Welcome Home Meal → September 7th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE → September 17th

MISSION FOCUS - SEPTEMBER 2025 – BACK BAY MISSION

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM - 2 PM, FRIDAY CLOSED
812-473-0135 • office@bethelucc.org • www.bethelucc.org

MISSION BACK BAY

strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, transforming lives

We **strengthen neighborhoods** through ministries like our education and empowerment programs and our housing rehabilitation program. These vital ministries help the people we serve be a part of, and build, their communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As volunteers take what they learn at Back Bay Mission home with them, they have the opportunity to strengthen their own neighborhoods.

We **seek justice** by helping the people we serve become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in our community.

All of our programs **transform lives**. Whether we're helping a homeowner keep their home, mentoring a single mother as she plans her path out of poverty, or working with an intern who is thinking about a career in social work, we're making the lives of the people we serve better.

Find out more about us at:

<https://thebackbaymission.org/>

The Next Mission Trip will be November 1 – 8, 2025!

Comfortable accommodations in the Mission House in Biloxi, Mississippi

Construction and on-construction jobs

- ✓ **Micah Day Center:** Assist staff with serving the needs of our homeless guests and assist in running the laundry equipment, cleaning the showers, and monitoring the supply room on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- ✓ **Client Choice Food Pantry:** Two volunteers can help us restock shelves, keep them in order, sort for expiration dates, and generally help with related tasks on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- ✓ **Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen:** Assist with meal prep, serving, and clean up.
- ✓ Painting, drywall, carpentry, roofing, cabinetry work, flooring, etc.

Cost of \$250 for shelter and materials, and \$60 for food

We hope you will prayerfully consider going on this trip.

To join this mission, contact Lee Ann Shafer at 812-746-2984 or lashafer75@gmail.com

A SUMMER OF RENEWAL: PASTOR SAM'S SABBATICAL JOURNEY

This August, Pastor Sam took time for rest and renewal during his summer sabbatical. He spent part of the month at Tall Pines Camp in the beautiful wilderness of Ontario, Canada, where he enjoyed the peace of nature. His journey continued through several national parks in California, soaking in the grandeur and inspiration of God's creation.

We are grateful for this time of restoration for Pastor Sam and look forward to the energy and vision it will bring to his ministry in the months ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Lynn Marino, who so graciously stepped in during Pastor Sam's absence. Her leadership, care, and presence were deeply appreciated by our church family.

**A Welcome Home meal will be held at the church
September 7th after the Worship Service.**

STOCK UP STOCKWELL – THE FINAL COUNT!

Thank you for donating school supplies!!

Thank you for the financial donations!!!

Stockwell students are using these items right now as you read this.

590 Ticonderoga #2 pencils	27 Art boxes
76 Jumbo Kindergarten Ticonderoga pencils	38 1-inch binders
82 Crayola 24-count crayons	75 Composition notebooks
49 Crayola colored pencils	68 Post-it notes
120 Black Expo dry-erase markers, chisel tip	28 Kleenex
25 Clorox wipes	4 Spiral notebooks
2 pkgs. Wide ruled paper	3 Glue sticks
1 pkg. Color markers	1 Bottle of glue
1 Pencil sharpener	3 Erasers
25 Pencil top erasers	18 Pairs of socks

Amazon provides a site where teachers can create wish lists for their classrooms. It works like the online wedding gift registries. Again, this year, due to your generosity, we were able to purchase a gift for each teacher from their wish list! Those items will be delivered to the teachers once they arrive here at Bethel and are inventoried and labeled. *Thank you, Christy, for overseeing this project!*



BLESSING OF THE CUBBIES

Please join the Preschool on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 10:00 am for Blessing of the Cubbies**. We will meet in Children's Church Chapel. We will be reading a short story, singing a few songs and then we will bless the crosses that the children will place in their cubbies for the school year. We would love for all who might be available to join us and make this a memorable experience for these little ones and teachers. This is a tradition we started several years ago and is a highlight for the Preschool. Help us start their year off right, showing them that God is always with them. You can just show up, or if you would like to participate, contact Sharon Lawson at 812-205-8948.

REPORT ON THE SOW HOPE SCHOOL IN NIGERIA

This was a Mission Focus in August 2023



This past June, Sarah Maigari's ministry in Nigeria was celebrated in two ways. First, her family and friends gathered for a service to place a wreath of flowers on her grave in commemoration of her death one year ago.

Secondly, (And this would have been the most exciting for Sarah), the roof was put on the second story of the Sow Hope International School! The school had been functioning, in spite of the fact that the building was incomplete. Now, students and staff are thrilled!

The school is blessed with a good principal, five teachers, two security guards, and two custodians. There are 36 pupils in grades 1st - 6th (ages 4 to 12). There are 28 in secondary level grades 7th - 9th (ages 13 to 26), for a total of 64 students. The curriculum includes Math, English, Basic Science, and Social Science. It is a technical school, so there are also classes to teach practical skills for job training.

Each student pays 15,000 naira (approximately \$9.53) for a semester. This is minuscule to us, but for many of the families in the area, even that is a significant sacrifice. The school plans to grow slowly as they can afford to pay more teachers. They are working hard to provide a quality education and sustain the school program.



Sarah's niece, Elizabeth Akson is the person who sent us this information. She helps to supervise Sarah's various projects, continuing her legacy. Elizabeth wants all the donors to know how grateful everyone is for their gifts that made the school possible. She wrote, "It has been and will continue to be a tremendous blessing. Praise God!"





Bethel Buddies

Child Care & Preschool



NATURE EXPLORERS AT BETHEL BUDDIES

Learning About Nature with a Grasshopper Friend!

This month at Bethel Buddies Preschool, our little explorers had an unexpected visitor—an energetic grasshopper on the playground! The children were thrilled to get an up-close look at the insect, sparking lots of curiosity and great questions.

Our teachers used this surprise encounter as a hands-on learning opportunity. The children learned how grasshoppers move, what they eat, and why they're important. More importantly, they also practiced respecting living creatures by observing the grasshopper gently and carefully, then letting it hop away freely.

These real-world encounters help children connect classroom learning with the world around them—one hop at a time! our tiniest friends have been joining in the action!

YOU'RE INVITED TO LUNCH BUNCH!

Join us for good food, great conversation, and warm company at the next Lunch Bunch gathering!

Date: **Wednesday, Sep. 10, 2025**

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Sunrise Café North

Whether you're a regular or it's your first time, we'd love to see you there. Bring your appetite and a friend!

Please let Pat Stolz know if you plan to attend.

YAWH Youth Ministry

You Are Welcome Here

The YAWH group had 5 kids who had a great time at Urban Air at the end of July. They would like to thank their Bethel Family for the opportunity. We are slowly getting back into the swing of school. We met at the end of August and we will meet again **Sunday, September 28th at 10:15-11:15** in the Youth Room. We'll have a short devotion and discussion. Of course, there are always snacks and games. We will open up the gym for any wanting to play basketball and other activities as well. We would love to have you!!! Call Sharon Lawson with questions: 812-205-8948



PRAYER TEAM

Join us every Thursday at 11 AM for uplifting prayer and fellowship via Zoom.

Experience community and support in your spiritual journey!

There is also a link below to the "Prayer Team" for September.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809058817?pwd=bzhGVGtYLzhQbWhVUW5pOGcw dlp2Zz09>

FRIDAY FRIENDS

The Friday Friends meet on the first and third Friday at 11 AM every month in the Fellowship Hall. We each bring our own sack lunch, and someone brings dessert for all of us. Then we play cards or dominoes or "Apples to Apples."

Sometimes we just chat, solving world problems or our own! We sure would like to make more friends! Everyone is welcome!



CONGREGATIONS ACTING FOR JUSTICE AND EMPowerMENT

CAJE organizes people of diverse faith traditions to stand together for justice. We envision a community where all people, regardless of social and economic status, are treated fairly and empowered to achieve their human potential.

House meeting will start back up this month. Please get in contact with Barry Burleigh if you are interested in attending or would like to know more about this outreach.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy September Anniversaries to:

28 Donna & Richard Condi

Happy September Birthdays to:

8 Aleena Webster

20 Wilder Allen

29 Gabriel Schentrup

11 Michele Vanhhoser

24 Bonnie Tindle

13 Susann Jett-Phillips

26 Karen Haas

Donations to the Memorial Fund were made by Frank Schultheis & Family, in memory of Larry Coleman

H•O•M•E BOUND

Nursing Homes, Rehab, Retirement Homes, and Homebound Members

Name	Room #	Address
Victor Luhring	149	Heritage Center 429-0700 1201 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville, IN 47710
Harriet Anderson		West River Health Campus 714 S Eickhoff Rd., Evansville, IN 47712
Letta Fraccaro		<i>Please drop off any letters at the church and they will be forwarded to Letta's family</i>
Linda Garrett	117	Primrose Retirement Community 9800 Lincoln Ave., Newburgh, IN 47630
Jeanette Plane Carlos Haskins	S. RM.3 N. RM 26	Protestant Home (812) 476-3360 3701 Washington Ave., Evansville, IN 47714
Ritchie Taylor	528	River Pointe (812) 475-2822 3001 Galaxy Dr., Evansville, IN 47715
Doris Rohlfer	108	Brickyard / Woodlands Care Center 4088 Frame Rd, Newburgh IN, 47630
Cliff Kley Meyer		<i>Address Unavailable at this time</i>
Don Carrell	1	Bethel Manor 6015 Kratzville Rd, Evansville, IN 47710
Joan Roth		6337 Elise Lane, McCordsville, IN 46055

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