

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

SEPTEMBER BETHEL RECORD/NEWSLETTER

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Please help us to continue our
ministry to provide meals to the
United Caring Shelters.



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”

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. So I suspect for the coming months, that I will continue to use this article to keep you all updated on recent happenings at Bethel and on what the leadership is working on for both the near term and the longer term future. To that end, this article will have updates on the following: worship, general building usage, office staffing, Bethel Buddies Preschool, and building items.

Worship: In our commitment to keep everyone safe, we are committed to following guidelines established by the CDC and other various governmental agencies. At the August meeting of the Leadership Council, it was determined that we will not return to worship in the sanctuary until at least October. We will continue to worship out-of-doors and to provide our online worship option. Since the CDC is reporting that a vaccine may not be universally available until up to six months into next year, we are beginning to plan how to celebrate Advent and Christmas, and how to navigate the winter months when it is too cold for our current outdoor worship model. We will likely be sending out another questionnaire to get your thoughts on a number of ideas we are currently tossing around.

General Building Usage: As stated last month, our building is currently divided into three general uses on a daily basis throughout the year, 1) Bethel UCC generally uses the sanctuary and office areas; 2) English as a Second Language (ESL) uses the adult education wing; and 3) the Preschool uses the Preschool wing. In an effort to keep everyone safe, we are limiting our three main entrances to be used by each respective group during the week. Therefore, we ask that if you are coming for church business you enter through the office entrance unless given express permission otherwise. The gym entrance is reserved for ESL and the entrance to the lobby near Fellowship Hall is reserved for the Preschool. In similar fashion unless instructed otherwise, we ask church members to use the bathrooms near the office or in the kitchen since the others are reserved for the other organizations. Evening meetings may be exceptions to this rule.

Office Staffing: We continue to have someone in the office during regular office hours but are trying to limit that to one staff member at a time while the others work from home. The outside entrance remains locked so be sure to ring the doorbell at least two times, or better yet call ahead.

Bethel Buddies Preschool: The rooms are being set up, teachers are being hired and we hope to have an onsite meeting this coming week with the state for certification. We are on track to open

on September 8. Denise Lane, Preschool Director will be with us for worship on August 30 and will provide tours of the preschool following worship. Safety precautions will be taken for all on the tour.

Building Items: We are following Healthy Building standards and are increasing outside air flow into the buildings through the HVAC system. In the preschool rooms and the main office, we are installing air cleaners. By doing these two things we hope to clean the air in each room every 20 minutes. We are also currently installing UV light systems in the HVAC units in those same areas to kill molds, bacteria, and viruses. We also plan to update all of our HVAC filters to MERV13. On another note, we extended the sidewalk on the east side of the church so that anyone who lives in the complex behind the church can now walk to church without having to cross the grass.

Blessings on you all and stay safe!
Peace,
Pastor Sam

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . . Jo Haller

Dear Bethel Congregation,

Overwhelmed. Humbled. Loved. I indeed felt all of these things from the number of cards, calls, and food I received after my recent accident. If you want to feel loved by the Bethel congregation, have an accident. Well, don't. It is not fun.



Bethel shows this kind of unconditional support to so many people, so many groups, so many organizations. Having been the recipient of this show of support, I can say it warms your heart to its core and is appreciated. The people who took the time to write such encouraging words, immediately made me feel better.

Wow, what an amazing church we are. I'm off to read my cards again. I still need your words every day to continue to heal. Thank you.

Blessings to Bethel,
Jo Haller, Bethel UCC president



Early Childhood Committee – Our plan for September 2020 is to officially open the Bethel Buddies Preschool, and we can't wait to get started! We will hold Open Houses (by appointment) on September 2nd and 3rd. Our proposed opening date is September 8, 2020. This is pending the FSSA inspection. We were unable to schedule the inspection earlier because we

needed Head Start to remove their materials.

If you know any parents of children ages 3-6, please let them know they can get more information by contacting Denise at dlane@bethelucc.org or 812-491-3109. In addition to younger children, we are planning to accept Kindergarten students who are enrolled in the EVSC Virtual Academy. Teachers will work with the students to complete their virtual lessons. This service may help parents who are hesitant to send their children to public school due to health concerns.

Rev. Buehrer and Building and Grounds Committee have researched the safest, most efficient ways to increase the air exchange in the preschool rooms. Air purifiers for each room have been purchased and will be installed by August 31, 2020. UV lights have also been purchased to install in the furnace system. Parents will not bring their child into the building at this time. A Preschool Teacher will meet them at the door, do a temperature check and health questionnaire for each child before walking the child into their classroom. Our goal is to provide the safest possible environment for the children and all the adults working with them. By advertising these precautions, we hope to reassure parents that we are doing everything we can to avoid spread of diseases.

If you would like to help, Denise has asked that anyone who is interested make homemade playdoh. She has two recipes that she prefers. Please contact either Denise or any member of the Early Childhood Committee for the recipes. Finished playdoh just needs to be sealed in something air tight when it is dropped off.

FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation had a cook-out for the middle/high school kids. We had water gun fights, corn hole and water balls. We had a large group and we would like to thank all the kids that came out. We had a great time.

Then we had the elementary school kids event on a very rainy Saturday. Though we didn't get to do what we initially planned, we had a good time making posters to display the next day for Parking Lot Church. We also had a silly string fight and a few other games. We welcomed Debra back, too! We ended the evening with ice cream and listening to Ellen Buehrer read a couple of stories that had them enthralled! Thank you Ellen! Keep watching for more exciting upcoming events!



Second Sunday Celebrations on the Third Sunday in August!

Due to the rain on the Second Sunday in August we celebrated on the Third Sunday in August! We had six members who wanted to share celebrations and special occasions. Sandy Altheide was celebrating her 80th birthday and thanked everyone who came to her drive-through celebration last Sunday and for all the cards and notes. Frank Schultheis one upped Sandy and celebrated his 81st birthday! Louella Komuves was celebrating the birthdays of a one-year-old great grandson and birthdays of two great granddaughters, one turning 11 and one turning 18. Cindy Schnapf celebrated her sister-in-law's birthday and that of her ex-husband. Carolyn Stephens celebrated her son's birthday, her grandson's birthday and the anniversary of her daughter and son-in-law. Bruce and Joan Roth were celebrating the birthday of a grandson and a granddaughter as well as Joan's birthday! All celebration donations go toward providing a meal at United Caring Services. Thanks to all who participated in this great event!



Stock Up Stockwell – The Final Count: Bethel's annual summer collection of school supplies for Stockwell Elementary School was again a great success! However, it was different in several ways due to accommodations made because of the pandemic. Actual items donated were down because many of us didn't feel comfortable shopping in person. Instead monetary donations were up. New Stockwell principal, Ms. Danielle Owen, requested an emphasis on individual snacks, children's underwear, Expo markers, paper towels, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes because of changes being made in the classrooms to keep everyone safe and healthy. The monetary donations were mostly used to purchase those requested items. There was also a very generous anonymous donation given to Stockwell so the cafeteria can order snacks in bulk.

Thank you for donating all of these school supplies!

72 backpacks	100 Expo dry-erase markers
268 Ticonderoga #2 pencils	14 pink erasers
21 boxes of Crayola 24-count crayons	61 scissors
11 boxes of Crayola washable markers	46 Elmer's glue sticks
1 box thin Crayola markers	16 jumbo glue sticks
2 pkgs. of 50 Crayola markers	1 bottle of Elmer's glue
5 pkgs. of colored pencils	1 pkg. of index cards
42 pocket folders	10 ink pens
18 spiral notebooks	3 bottles of hand sanitizer
6 pkgs. of loose-leaf paper	51 masks
1 container of Clorox wipes	59 rolls of paper towels
111 individual snacks	114 pairs of underwear

Friday Fellowship is alive and well. We are meeting in the parking lot on the first and third Friday of each month. If you always come, have come occasionally, or never been there, consider joining us. You are always welcome.



Bethel members please remember to update the directory. If your information is correct in the directory, please send in the form, or call or email Ruth in the office or contact Joan Roth. Your response is important. Providing the information gives Bethel permission to contact you using the information and to publish the information in the Bethel Directory.

First Person's Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Second Person's Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

BETHEL CONSIDERS CAJE: Congregations **A**cting for **J**ustice and **E**mpowerment is a community organization working toward improvements for the greater Evansville area. It currently consists of 21 Christian congregations, including 3 UCC ones, and the Hindu Temple and the Islamic Mosque.

CAJE's accomplishments to date include helping to double the capacity of the drug court, ensuring ongoing accountability of drug offenders, and saving IN tax payers 1.3 million dollars; securing \$500,000 for affordable housing for 2019 and the remainder of Mayor Weineke's tenure; expanding public transportation; equipping all first responders with Narcan, a life-saving antidote for opioid overdoses. Currently work is being done to expand affordable housing, improve possibilities for those with dual diagnosis, enable the Crisis Care Center to open, and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

This is a non-partisan group. It acts on the local level, no "big" government here. It saves money. It is people helping people to solve critical community problems. CAJE follows a four-step process to identify injustices, research evidence-based and practical solutions and use the power of organized people to bring permanent change to the greater-Evansville area.

For Bethel to consider this, the suggestion is that we travel alongside CAJE for a year. This begins in the fall with house meetings that we would attend with other congregations or on our own. We would follow the CAJE format. At the end of the year, we would decide whether to be a covenanting congregation. For more information, go to www.greaterevansvillecaje.org.

So far, 20 members/families of Bethel have expressed some interest. Won't you join them? Questions and ideas may be shared with Janel Allen, Bob Bennett, Tonya Brantley, Stephanie Weiner, or Rev. Buehrer.



UCS CINDY KLASSY GOLF SCRAMBLE

This year's United Caring Services fundraiser is scheduled for September 28th at Oak Meadow Country Club, 11505 Browning Road, Evansville, Indiana. Tee time is 9:00 a.m. and registration starts at 8:00. Individual golfer registration cost is \$100 and a team of four golfers is \$400. For more information, please contact United Caring Services at 812-422-0297.

MISSION TEAM: We **continue** to accept donations to provide meals to the United Caring Services shelters. We are partnering with local restaurants to provide the meals, and the cost per meal is between \$500 - \$750. If you want to make a donation you may use our online giving tool, or mail a check to Bethel, or put one in the offering at our Sunday outdoor worship service. Be sure to put UCS meals in the memo line. Thank you.

Dear Bethel UCC: Thank you for your generous donation to **Isaiah 117 House** and helping us lavishly love on foster children in our community! In our first week, nine kiddos walked through our red door. Thank you again! ~ Melissa

Dear Bethel UCC: The **Evansville CROP Walk** raised \$13,379.55 in 2019. We couldn't have done it without your support. Together we will end hunger, one step at a time! Your donation is greatly appreciated!



United Caring Services thanks Bethel UCC for your recent pledge of \$2,500 and hoped for congregational match. This will enable us to show good faith in applying for grants to be used to renovate the much-used restrooms in our Day Shelter. Even during the COVID 19 crisis, the UCS day shelter has never closed, enabling people to use the restroom, take a shower, do their laundry, and eat a hot meal. Your gift will enable us to do that in a more economical and ecological way. For more information, please see unitedcaringservices.org. Thank you! ~ Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner

JOYS & CONCERNS – Please continue to pray for those who are suffering, whether from physical, emotional, or mental health issues. Pray for those who work in essential services, for families, for neighbors, for the community at large. Remember that we are all connected and what we do can make a difference in the lives of others. “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi

We pray for: Jo Haller; all those suffering from Covid-19, and those caring for the ill.

We mourn the passing of Robert Hansen, who died March 26.

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 Lois Corum to the Helping Hand Fund by Jane & James Shackelford.

Happy Anniversary to September Celebrants:

6	Rachel & Ben Luttrull	23	Theresa & Jim Lamb
11	Gail & Rick Olson	28	Donna & Richard Condi
13	Patti & Larry Coleman (62)	29	Jeanne & Marty Amsler
	Laurel & Stephen Vanhooser		

Happy Birthday to September Celebrants:

1	Susan Pauli	13	Susann Jett-Phillips	26	Carolyn Klassy
2	Eva Bender	19	Kacie Whiteley	28	Lisa Parker
4	Patti Coleman	20	Wilder Allen	29	Tiffany Neidig
5	Brent McRae	21	Vicki Langford		Gabriel Schentrup
8	Regena Bell	22	Tonya Brantley		
11	Michele Vanhooser	23	Theresa Lamb		
12	Terri Schultheis	26	Karen Haas		



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. 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.

Plant Natives, a Creation Care Program: Within Indiana, our landscape is gradually being overrun by invasive plants like the Calgary Pear tree, Burning Bush, and Garlic Mustard to mention only a few. Many of us contributed to the problem unknowingly by planting these species. It's time we get informed and head off this invasion. Tri-State Creation Care will be holding a **virtual presentation given online by Megan Ritterskamp** (our local USDA agent charged with tackling this problem) **on Thursday, September 3rd, at 6:30 p.m.** Megan will inform us about invasive species and make suggestions for planting natives. **A free native plant** will be offered to anyone who would like one as part of the program. For a Zoom link to join, send an email to tristate.creation.care@gmail.com.

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

Suggested Protocol for In-Person Gatherings in Church Buildings during COVID-19

Matthew 7:12 “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.”

GENERAL CHURCH BUSINESS

- Enter the building through the office entrance only. (The other two main entrances are for the Preschool and ESL, respectively.)
- Sign in and sign out in the notebook provided so that we can maintain a record for contact tracing.
- Check your temperature with the infrared thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100.4 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home.
- Hand sanitizing is required upon entrance to the building. A portable station is provided.
- All are expected to wear face masks except children under 2 years old. Masks are available at the entryway to be picked up if someone forgets to bring their own mask.
- Social Distancing will be maintained.

- Restrooms available for use are those in the office wing. It is expected that each person that uses a restroom will wipe off the surfaces that were touched so that the facility is clean for the next person.
- All drinking fountains are disabled and not for use.

WORSHIP IN THE BUILDING (INCLUDING WEDDINGS & FUNERALS):

- Any large gatherings must adhere to the CDC, state or local guidelines for limitation in size of gathering at the time of the meeting. If these guidelines are in conflict, the Church Officers will set the limit.
- Enter the building through South Vestibule doors only. Additional entrances will be locked.
- Temperature checks at front door with infrared Thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100.4 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home.
- Hand sanitizing is required upon entrance to the building. Portable stations are provided.
- All should wear face masks except children under 2 years old. Masks will be available at the entryway to be picked up if someone forgets to bring their own mask.
- Alternate every other pew in the sanctuary to keep physical distance from anyone outside of one's household. The balcony will be closed. Access will be only to the organist and the sound person.
- Observe one-way traffic in the Sanctuary. Enter and leave through the center aisle.
- At the end of the service, exit through the center aisle starting at the front.
- The offering basket will be positioned at the entrance to the Sanctuary and will not be passed during worship.
- Worship Bulletins should be printed at home. Extras will be made available and will be positioned in an appropriate place to be picked up. Ushers will not hand them out.
- No physical touch rituals during passing of the peace.
- If communion is served - elements are displayed on table and picked up by each person as they enter the sanctuary. Individually wrapped elements will be used.
- Choir and Bell Choir are suspended. Soloists or small ensembles will be used if social distancing is maintained. Singing in worship is not endorsed until Phase 5.
- No fellowship time, Sunday School, Children's Church or nursery care is recommended. Fellowship time, Sunday School, Children's Church can be held only if safe distancing can be maintained in large rooms or out-of-doors. The nursery will be available for family use.
- Coffee hour can be held in an open space, such as parking lot or south lawn. Coffee and drinks will be poured by one designated server who will maintain safe distancing. If food is served it must be individually plated by a designated server and served at a safe distance.
- Anyone unwilling to comply to help keep everyone safe will receive a blessing and asked not to enter the building.
- Services will continue to be recorded and available for viewing on YouTube.
- Encourage people who are sick and immune-compromised to stay home and worship online or attend the drive-in service.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

(For those leading or assisting in worship)

- Sign in and sign out in the notebook provided so that we can maintain a record for contact tracing.
- Check your temperature with the infrared thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100.4 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home.
- Hand sanitizing is required upon entrance to the building. A portable station is provided.
- All are expected to wear face masks when social distancing cannot be maintained. All are expected to wear face masks in the building.

MEETINGS:

- Any large gatherings must adhere to the CDC, state or local guidelines for limitation in size of gathering at the time of the meeting. If these guidelines are in conflict, the Church Officers will set the limit.
- Meetings should happen by Zoom when possible. If meeting in-person, the group is encouraged to meet out-of-doors. Participants should bring their own chairs. The carports are useful for such meetings when it is raining.
- Meetings in the Fellowship Room. If the group cannot meet by Zoom or out-of-doors, the Fellowship Room will be available for meetings after August 2. The entrance under the south carport will be used for these meetings. Participants will wear masks, and social distancing is expected (such as one person/table unless living in the same household). Hand sanitizer will be available on each table. Other rooms are off limits.
- Sign in and sign out in the notebook provided so that we can maintain a record for contact tracing.
- Check your temperature with the infrared thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100.4 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home.
- Hand sanitizing is required upon entrance to the building. Portable stations are provided.
- All are expected to wear face masks except children under 2 years old. Masks are available at the entryway to be picked up if someone forgets to bring their own mask.
- Social Distancing will be maintained.
- Each group must sanitize following their meeting. Supplies and instructions for sanitizing will be provided.
- The coffee/tea station has been removed. Participants are encouraged to bring their own drinks.
- Restroom use. Specific restrooms will be designated for use, dependent upon the meeting location.
- In the rare event that food is provided at an event, no buffet or family-style meal shall be served. Coffee and drinks will be poured by one designated server who will maintain safe distancing. If food is served it must be individually plated by a designated server and served at a safe distance.

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

www.bethelucc.org

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

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

John Stevens, Financial Secretary

jstevens@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

SEPTEMBER 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, September 4

11:00 a.m.

Friday Fellowship (under the trees)

Monday, September 7

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, September 10

10:00 a.m.

Congregational Development (outside)

Monday, September 14

6:00 p.m.

Administration Team

6:00 p.m.

Mission Team

Wednesday, September 16

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, September 18

11:00 a.m.

Friday Fellowship (under the trees)

Monday, September 21

6:00 p.m.

Leadership Council

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

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 (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)

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)

Walnut Creek 420-1540

525 Bente West Court, Evansville IN 47715

Betty Hawkins (7)

Woodlands

4088 Frame Road, Newburgh IN 47630

Arlene Horton (214)