

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

NOVEMBER BETHEL RECORD/NEWSLETTER

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*All Saints/Memorial Sunday ~ November 1
Stewardship Sunday ~ November 8*



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”

Last month we put out a questionnaire regarding how we can safely worship during this pandemic season. Since that questionnaire was first prepared, the COVID cases in Vanderburgh County have all but doubled. The news from the hospitals is not good as they are being overwhelmed with COVID cases. Some months ago, the Leadership Council determined that we will follow the guidelines put forth by the CDC for determining the best way to gather. In addition to the CDC, the White House Corona Virus Task Force made the determination that if you live in an area that has more than 100 positive COVID cases for the past 7 days per a population of 100,000 people, then you are in a red zone. The task force guidelines suggest that if you are in a red zone then you should have no indoor meetings with groups larger than 10 people. We have been over 100 since August 28 and over 300/100,000 since October 4. Given that information I encourage you all to stay as safe as possible for the coming time.

In light of the above information, the leadership here at Bethel UCC is continuing to try to find ways to meet for worship that are safe. We are very aware that several churches in the area had super spreading events because they worshipped in their sanctuary with large numbers of people not socially distanced. We do not want to be numbered among those churches. After reviewing the request to open the sanctuary for meditation, we believe that we can do this and keep those in attendance safe. We have set a number of rules in place that we believe will help us meet our goal of providing a worshipful place and at the same time a safe place to gather. In this newsletter is a document that has those rules outlined on it so that if you choose to come for meditation you will be aware of the precautions to take. The sanctuary will be open on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – noon and on Thursday afternoons from noon to 3:00 p.m. for personal meditation.

We have made plans to extend our worship in the parking lot into the cooler weather months. We have purchased clear curtains for the carport that can be rolled up when not in use. We hope to have those in use by the middle of November. We also purchased a patio heater for that same area so that we can gather when the temperature drops into the 40-degree range.

We are currently in the planning stages for preparing for a Christmas Eve service that we believe will be memorable; possibly reading the Christmas story around an outdoor nativity, with Christmas caroling (out-of-doors and socially distanced of course), with moving into the sanctuary for a time with candles and possibly having Silent Night played on guitar. If the pandemic has done nothing else, it has pushed us to be more creative in our thinking. Blessings on you all and stay safe!

Peace, Pastor Sam

Rules of Meditation in the Sanctuary

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Thursday Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Honor Bethel UCC COVID Rules:

1. Sign in and out so that a contact tracing list can be kept.
2. Take your temperature upon entering the building. Your temperature must be below 100.4 degrees to stay for meditation.
3. Wear a mask properly at all times.
4. Use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.

Entering and Exiting:

Enter and exit through the door by the office entrance. Be sure to honor the social distance of others at all times.

Seating:

1. Wednesdays – Sit on the Lectern side.
2. Thursdays – Sit on the Pulpit Side.
3. Only members of one household can sit together on one cushion.
4. Sit at least 3-4 pews from the closest person.
5. Place a “Used” placard on the cushion before you depart so that others will know not to sit in that pew until it can be cleaned.

Meditation Resources:

Resources for Meditation are available on a table at the front of the sanctuary. Place any item you use in the basket provided so that it can be cleansed between uses.

Bathrooms:

The west bathroom in the Narthex and the bathroom in the Fireside room are available for use.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please consider donating to this special offering.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . . Jo Haller

Welcome November – the quiet month. Welcome November – the month of gratitude. Welcome November – the prelude to one of the most special times of the year. The month we all need to remember the thanks we can give and the giving we can do.

Tony Evans, a pastor in Texas, author, and radio host said the following statement: “God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn’t mean you need to give thanks FOR everything. You don’t need to give thanks FOR that bad day. Or FOR that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks FOR the difficulties, but rather IN the difficulties. That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks IN everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that He can use them, if you approach Him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and His glory.”

This is indeed a difficult time where the only thing certain is uncertainty, so it is especially important to remember to give thanks in the midst of this unprecedented time. As this pandemic wears on, many of us are becoming more anxious, isolated and maybe even depressed. It is now more important than ever to check on each other, to call that family member and friend to remind them how important they are to you, and to reach out to the lonely.

I look forward to being able to be in the sanctuary again for meditation. I give thanks in being able to see the altar with the fall bounty and knowing that the bounty will go to families in need. I give thanks in donating to the youth’s annual Thanksgiving Baskets. I give thanks for our Bethel Buddies and to watch it grow and to see the impact we can have on the children in our community.

Sending Bethel members love, light, strength, prayers, and gratitude. ~ Jo



THANKSGIVING BASKETS - In place of doing the turkey where you pick a feather for an item to donate to the Thanksgiving Baskets, you will select an envelope. The envelopes each have three different donation items listed inside that you may purchase and return to the church. The envelopes will be in a box at outdoor worship on Sundays. If you cannot get an envelope, and would like to donate, please let Debra know. These envelopes were prepared wearing gloves and sealed with tape to take safety precautions for the coronavirus. If you have questions you can contact Debra at dniswonger@bethelucc.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE – Donna and Richard Condi are donating a Christmas tree for our outside Worship Space. We would love for every Bethel Family to be represented on this tree! Please make an outdoor sustainable ornament with your family name on it so we can hang it on the tree for the Advent season. If you are not the crafty type, not able to obtain supplies, or can’t make one for your family for whatever reason, please submit your name to Ruth or Pastor Sam and we will be happy to make one for you. ~ Creative Worship Committee





Early Childhood Committee

Bethel Buddies Preschool and Childcare is officially open! We are accepting private pay students, voucher students, and Kindergarten students. We hope you will be proud to know that not only are we a Registered Ministry facility, but we also comply with all the more rigorous requirements from the state that allow

us to accept vouchers. We're also thrilled to announce that Bethel Buddies Preschool and Childcare is listed as a Level 1 on the Paths to Quality program. We are in the process of applying to be a Level 3 program, and we feel confident that we've met all the requirements to be a Level 3.

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 or those working remotely with the teacher in the classroom. Bethel Buddy Preschool 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.

The Early Childhood Committee would like to thank Bethel members for all they have donated. We can still use empty yogurt and fruit cups for paints. Craft supplies such as stickers, buttons, yarn, ribbon, are always welcome. If you have questions about donating something, contact Denise at dlane@bethelucc.org.

SECOND SUNDAY CELEBRATION - October Second Sunday Review

We had 11 special "celebrations" this month. They included Carlos Haskins celebrating Debbie Wilson's birthday, Bruce and Joan Roth celebrating a son-in-law's birthday, Frank Schultheis celebrating Judy's 75th (?) birthday, and Laurel Vaughn celebrating what would have been her parents' anniversary and her late grandfather's birthday. In addition, Louella Komuves celebrated her step-grandson's 26th birthday in Arizona and her grandson's 24th birthday in California. Louella also celebrated the good health of her husband, Ed, and thanked the church for the many prayers and cards. Cindy Schnapf celebrated her great niece's 20th birthday and the anniversary month of her late parents. Scott and Leesa Scales' granddaughter, Lilly, wished everyone a great Sunday, and Ellen Buehrer said she was celebrating a birthday that ended in a 0! Patti and Larry Coleman celebrated the 5th wedding anniversary of grandson Logan and Amber in Denver, the 21st birthday of granddaughter Elizabeth Coleman in San Francisco, and the 27th birthday of grandson Luke Brown, Evansville. Pastor Sam celebrated the life of his 93-year-old father, William, who died Saturday, October 10 in Ohio.

Our celebration donations are going to the United Caring Services for bathroom renovations. Continue to come and celebrate with us on the Second Sunday of every month!

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: James Jett; Wanda Karn; Jamessa Potts.

We mourn the loss of:

- Betty Hawkins, (mother of Nancy Tabor), who died October 3rd.
- William Buehrer, (father of Rev. Sam Buehrer), who died October 10th.

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:

Contributions were made in memory of Betty Hawkins to the Memorial Fund from:
Sandra Altheide; Judy & Frank Schultheis; the Reverend Stephanie Weiner;
Vanstone & Kornblum LLC;

Contributions were made in memory of Betty Hawkins to the Helping Hand Fund from:
Helen Ancona; John Ancona; and Gale & Patricia Miller.

Contributions were made in memory of William Buehrer to the Music Fund from:
Marianna & Jim Vogel

Happy Anniversary to November Celebrants:

- 1 Jeanette & Lewis Plane
- 17 Lisa & Chris Little
- 19 Sharon & Bruce Lawson
Jennifer & Richard Neiswinger
- 27 Sharon & Chris Matthews

Happy Birthday to November Celebrants:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|----|---------------|
| 2 | Bob Britt | 17 | Sylvia Stamm | 24 | Kathy Parker |
| | Jennifer Sandusky | | Nancy Tabor | 27 | Greg Nauert |
| 6 | Stephan Haas | 19 | Juanita Paniamogan | 28 | Andy Yarber |
| 8 | Brandon Owens | 22 | Meghan Scales | 30 | Marci Schmitt |
| | Bobby Potts | 23 | Bruce Lawson | | |
| 15 | Richard Condi | 24 | Don Carrell | | |
| | Jacob Tabor | | Robin McRae | | |



Remember to change your clocks back one hour at
2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1.

What is a Congregation Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE)? Sounds like Bethel to lots of us. CAJE is a community organizing group that works for positive change through congregations and connections. There are 23 congregations currently a part of CAJE in Evansville. Three are United Churches of Christ: Bethlehem, St. Lucas, and St. Peter's (Highland). Some members of Bethel are exploring what it might mean for us to join. We are traveling with CAJE as if we are a member for the year and will decide in late spring 2021 if we are going to become official members.

We held a virtual listening session in October. Such a meeting is usually held in homes and is called a house meeting. It was an opportunity for 17 of us to listen to the concerns of one another and to get to know each other in the process. Most of the concerns expressed are aligned with the current priorities of CAJE: mental health, unsafe housing and neighborhoods, abuse, race relations, and more.

By the end of the meeting, all those attending indicated support. The next opportunity to connect is November 16, the Community Problems Assembly. We will hear reports from the house meetings. December 7 will be the Research to Action Kick off. Two of the most important characteristics of CAJE are: 1) The topics and concerns are researched. CAJE doesn't rely on gut instinct or rumor; and 2) It results in action, so that all our lives are changed for the better, from the grass roots.

Bethel's coordinating team members are Janel Allen, Tonya Brantley, Stephanie Weiner, and Rev. Buehrer. We are in no way limited the 17 who attended the first meeting. We ask for your questions, ideas, and prayers. ~ Rev. Stephanie Weiner



Members & Friends: Ellen and I write to extend sincere words of gratitude for the gift of the flowers and the many cards and calls in response to my father, William Buehrer's, death. We both greatly appreciate the care and concern that you have extended to us both. Your thoughtfulness has been heartwarming.

Thanks, **Samuel & Ellen Buehrer**

Dear Bethel UCC: Thank you for your current year, and ongoing contributions to the work of the **Indiana-Kentucky Conference** through your gifts to **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**. With all of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 health pandemic this year, your giving is even more deeply appreciated as it allows us to continue our mission as a Conference in supporting our pastors and congregations as we "love and serve like Jesus." As you know it is through these contributions that we are able to offer the churches of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference assistance with search and call, congregational vitality events, support for the Committees on Ministry, the annual gathering, and global mission projects. Now more than ever, these are critical ministries and services that we offer to help churches, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity. Please know that we are holding your congregation in our prayers through this time of continued pandemic and may God guide you in the months ahead. ~ Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister



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.

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	

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays, 2:00 p.m.	Outdoor Worship (in parking lot)
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (via Zoom)
Wednesdays, 3:15 p.m.	Yoga in Fellowship Hall
Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	Prayer Service (via Zoom)

Tuesday, November 3	6:00 a.m.	Gym – Voting
Friday, November 6	11:00 a.m.	Friday Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
Monday, November 9	6:00 p.m.	Administration Team Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Team Meeting
Wednesday, November 11	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Thursday, November 12	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Development Meeting
Tuesday, November 17	6:00 p.m.	Leadership Council Meeting
Friday, November 20	11:00 a.m.	Friday Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
Thursday, November 26	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving	
Friday, November 27	Church Office Closed	

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 Gripenstroh (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

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.

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