

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

JANUARY 2021 BETHEL RECORD/NEWSLETTER

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Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2021
After Worship



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

“Worship Updates and Other COVID Related News”

Last year at this time none of us could have imagined what we have been through these past nine months. The COVID pandemic has certainly caused us to adjust on the fly how we do ministry. I would have never dreamed that we would be worshipping in our parking lot for weeks on end in the summer, let alone in the month of December, but here we are.

Now that we are in the cold weather months, we have had to adapt again to how we do worship. Because it is no longer comfortable to be seated in a lawn chair outside of one’s vehicle, we have adjusted to this ‘cold’ reality by purchasing an FM transmitter so that you can sit comfortably in your cars with your windows up and still hear the service. Since we have done this the past two weeks, we have run into an issue of “reverberation” or what sounds like an echo. We are going to try solving this by no longer using the large speakers in the parking lot and going to using the FM transmitter entirely. This means that the only way that you will be able to hear the service is if you use your car radio or a portable FM radio. Please plan accordingly. Also some of you have mentioned the issue of your car turning off the radio every five or ten minutes. If your car uses a key to start the engine, then only turn the key part way where the radio remains on but you have not turned it far enough to start the engine. For push button cars, some have said to push the button without depressing the brake. This may solve the problem for some of you.

For the worship leaders, we have installed clear curtains in the carport area that easily roll up and down. This has created a wind break and an area that we can warm with a heater. It worked very well for us this past Sunday when the temperature was in the 40’s. We are hoping that by using this system that we can continue to worship out-of-doors most of the winter. By using the FM transmitter and the curtains, we can now worship in “mildly inclement” weather since we will no longer need to place speakers in the parking lot.

Now that you are staying in your cars we are finding it harder to get prayer concerns that can be shared with the congregation during the prayer time. We are now adding a prayer concern note at the end of the bulletin that can be torn off and shared with an usher prior to worship. I hope that this addition will help us in our prayer time.

Needless to say, all of this is new to us. As leaders, we try to think through all of the various ways to make sure that our worship is done well, but if there are things that you think we could try that might improve the worship experience, please be sure to pass along that information to us.

Due to the surge in the pandemic in this area in recent days, we have had several “scares” with the church staff where it became apparent that one or more of us were on the verge of needing to be quarantined. I suspect it is not a matter of “if” but more likely “when” one of us will need to be quarantined. When this happens, we will be needing to make quick adjustments again to our ministry; therefore, please be sure to stay current with news that we share from Bethel UCC. ~ Peace, Pastor Sam

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . . Jo Haller

New Year, New Goals, New Plans, A VACCINE . . . Looking ahead at 2021, we see how we WANT the year to go, and we identify a few steps we can take to nudge that dream toward reality. Exercise more. Gossip less. Change jobs. Date your spouse more regularly. Eat less chocolate. Eat more chocolate. This is a GOOD thing to do! (Not the more chocolate part . . . but I’ll leave that up to you.) It’s wise to evaluate where we are in life and identify what steps we should be taking next. So . . . what about in your spiritual life?

One excellent way to feed your spiritual life is to attend Bethel’s annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31. The most important meeting for the health of our church, we have the chance to review and celebrate the past year and plan for the new year. Bethel has continued to be innovative throughout the pandemic and plans to be just as innovative once our church life returns to a more normal. At the time of this writing, the details of the congregational meeting have not been decided, but plan to attend in any form that we are able.

New Year. New Direction. New health. Let’s seek God together, outside of what makes us comfortable, and see what God wants to accomplish in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. ~ Blessings, Jo

CARD MINISTRY to Health Workers - There are several health care providers in the immediate area who are struggling mentally, physically and spiritually due to their work with patients dying with COVID related deaths. Many are struggling with how to continue to do their job with honor and dignity. Bethel UCC is being invited to write letters/cards of affirmation and prayers to these health care providers. Shortly, we will have a list of first names of some of those health care providers so we can personalize a note to them. Please help them by reminding them of God’s grace during this time. Although the providers appreciate snacks, we have been informed that words of care, encouragement and support go farther and help remind them of the great privilege they have of being with someone in their last moments of life. Many don’t think they make a difference. We know they do. Will you help support them in their hour of need? If so, gather your cards and as soon as we have the list of first names we will get them to you. Then write a note and drop the card off at the church. The cards will then be delivered to the chaplain at the hospital so that the chaplain can give the cards directly to the health care provider. Thank you. ~ Kim Stevens



CARD MINISTRY to Shut-Ins - We have a number of church members who live in nursing and retirement homes who have not been able to have in-person contact with family and friends. Many of the folks who are in these situations are now dealing with depression and other related illnesses. A generous church member is donating cards and stamps so that members of Bethel UCC can reach out to these folk with a personal note in a card. We have preprinted address labels available of the list of those to receive the cards, as well. The cards, stamps, and address labels are available to be picked up at the church. Thanks for participating in this caring ministry.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE: A blessing for which we are all thankful for is the teachers of Bethel Buddies Preschool and Childcare. In addition to working with the children, they are using every spare moment to clean and organize all of the preschool areas. They even cleaned and organized the toys in the rolling wooden storage in the gym. They have also sorted and stored all the teaching materials and supplies that have been donated. The congregation and volunteers have been very generous in their donations, but the teachers themselves have also donated their own materials and supplies. Our director, Denise, even brought in several computers donated from her husband's business. Unfortunately, the CPUs were too old to update, but she has kept keyboards and monitors in case we have more donations. If you know of a business with some retired computers to donate, please let Denise know.



In the last month, the Early Childhood Committee discussed ways of advertising our wonderful program. We revised the logo and flyer to emphasize that we are a full day program. Denise delivered flyers to businesses up and down Green River Road. Louella Komuves has also delivered some flyers to businesses she frequents. We were concerned that our sign was a little small for the speed of the traffic, so Denise has ordered a larger banner that we will display periodically. We have a waiting list of parents who have infants, and in our next meeting, we will discuss the feasibility of accepting a small number of younger children. Denise also has some parents who have asked for a spot for a child who is almost 3 years old.

We are accepting private pay students, voucher students, and Kindergarten students. Bethel Buddies Preschool and Childcare is listed as a Level 1 on the Paths to Quality program. Denise recently found out that our inspection for our Level 3 Paths to Quality is scheduled for early January. After that inspection, we can, hopefully, announce that we are a Level 3 on Paths to Quality. A Level 3 designation will allow us to apply for COVID grants, be eligible to accept On My Way Pre-K students, and increase the amount of reimbursements on vouchers.

You can help us get the word out about our caring Bethel Buddies Preschool and Childcare. Please like and share our Facebook posts. Denise has posted lovely photos of the rooms and of the children enjoying fun activities. If you know someone who is looking for a safe, loving, healthy place for their child, please ask Denise for a flyer to share (dlane@bethelucc.org or 812-491-3109). For businesses you frequent, please ask if they have an employee break room where they could post our flyer. One final way to be a walking advertisement is to purchase a Bethel Buddies t-shirt. We have a few shirts remaining for purchase.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC . . . Cynthia Grassman

ZIMBELSTERN: A German word indicating an organ sound like the tinkling bells on angel wings. This would be a great addition to the mighty Wicks organ presently in our choir loft.

Please consider giving money in honor or memory of family and loved ones for this wonderful addition to our majestic instrument.



We would like to have it installed by Easter of 2021, (or before), so get out your checkbooks and write one for the **ZIMBELSTERN**.

WISE CONGREGATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH: Bethel UCC is exploring becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health: W – Welcoming
I – Inclusive
S – Supportive
E – Engaged

Watch for more information on this in the near future. For more information, go to the following website: [Becoming a WISE Congregation Toolkit \(mhn-ucc.org\)](http://mhn-ucc.org). If you are interested to learn more, contact Rev. Buehrer at 812-473-0135 or Letta Fraccaro at 812-454-2158.

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: Sandra Altheide; Patti Coleman; Carol Garvey; James Jett; Wanda Karn; Nancy Noland; Joan Roth; Vicki Tichenor.

We mourn the loss of:

John Wetzel, who died December 4.

Wilma “Jean” Schroeder (Sharon Lawson’s mother), who died December 16.

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:

A contribution was made in memory of Betty Hawkins to the Memorial Fund from Margaret Harp.

A contribution was made in memory of William Buehrer to the Memorial Fund from Phillip Damm.

A contribution was made in memory of Alton Meinert to the Music Fund from Phillip Damm.

Happy Anniversary to January Celebrants:

2 Carolyn & Robert Bennett

Happy Birthday to January Celebrants:

3	James Jett	14	Tamara Payne	25	Steve Hape
6	Donna Mackey	16	Lucas Neidig		Harold Shafer
7	Ryan Finney	17	Deborah Neidig	26	Isabelle Bender
8	Lindsey Neidig	18	Sarah Tabor	27	Haley Schmitt
9	Mardell Puckett		Laurel Vaughn	28	Aaron Krueger
10	Doris Lamkin	23	John Ancona	30	Stetson Nance
11	Nancy Bullinger		Jennifer Nance	31	Kalia Garvey
	Ritchie Taylor	24	Doris Burleigh		
12	Clark Absher		Keegan English		
	Craig Neidig		David Willis		
	Maureen Parmar				



Thank you for your words of sympathy, comfort and care expresses by phone and card on the passing of my brother. They were much appreciated. ~ **Nancy Noland**

Dear Bethel UCC: Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 to **SAWs**. We are grateful you have chosen to invest in the SAWs mission of providing freedom to people who are trapped in their homes due to their financial and physical circumstances. Your gift provides independence and dignity to those who have lost so much. Our partnership with the UCC churches in Evansville has been a blessing from the start. With your support, each year we are able to free hundreds of people statewide and beyond. Every dollar you provide is precious and enables us to help people who are trapped in their home reconnect with their community. You play a vital role in our ability to change lives and we are most grateful for your support. Your gift will be doubled by our matching grant and used exclusively in Vanderburgh County. Thank you for providing hope for a better tomorrow for so many in need. ~ Rik Hagerty, **Servants at Work**, Founder

Dear Bethel UCC: On behalf of **The Good Samaritan Home**, we would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$100. The generous support from individuals and organizations makes it possible for our organization to exist, and makes our home a great place to live and visit. Thank you again for your support and have a blessed day. ~ Paula Kuhn, The Good Samaritan Home

Dear Bethel UCC: Your contribution to **Albion Fellows Bacon Center** stands with victims of sexual and domestic violence and silently represents the words our clients need to hear: *We respect you. We are here for you. We believe you.* We believe our community connects at a deeper level when individuals have the opportunity to feel safe, seen, and heard. Many thanks. ~ Kristie Byrns, Executive Director

Dear Bethel United Church of Christ: In these extraordinary times, your generosity inspires us in the hope we share. “. . . and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Your gift of \$1,867.00 to **Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries** is an affirmation of hope, and expression of God’s love that makes possible a seminary experience that will prepare the faith leaders of tomorrow to bring wisdom, healing, and creativity to the life of the Church. ~ Rev. Campbell Lovett; Rev. Franz Rigert

Dear Bethel UCC: I am writing to thank you for your kind and generous gift of \$200 to **Habitat for Humanity of Evansville**. Thanks to you, our Habitat partner families have something to be grateful for this year . . . a permanent place to call home during these challenging times, and always. By giving them a hand up – not a hand out – families can overcome the obstacles that stand between them and healthier, more financially stable lives. ~ Holly Edmond, Director of Development

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

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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	

BUILDING USE UPDATE, DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC: At the Leadership Council Meeting held on November 17, 2020, a motion was approved to use the following guidelines set forth by the White House Corona Virus Task Force for use in determining the size of gatherings that can be held in the church building during the pandemic.

MEETING SIZE GUIDELINES:

- Any large gatherings must adhere to the White House Corona Virus Task Force guidelines for limitation in size of gathering at the time of the meeting.
 - Must meet one of two of the following:
 - a) Code Yellow – Limit Social Gatherings to 25 people or less
 - 1) Between 10-100 cases per 100,000
 - 2) Between 5-10% Positivity Rate
 - b) Code Red – Limit Social Gatherings to 10 people or less
 - 1) More than 100 cases per 100,000
 - 2) More than 10% Positivity Rate

As of November 17, the positive cases per 100,000 in Vanderburgh County is 527. In the State of Indiana, it is 651. This clearly places us in the Red Zone according to these guidelines therefore limiting any size gathering in the church to 10 people or less. Vanderburgh County has been in the Red Zone since August 26. Given the current spike in positive cases and past trends, it appears that we will not be down to less than 100 cases/100,000 until at least some time in the spring. Depending upon the availability of vaccines,

it may very well be next summer before we move below 25 cases/100,000 therefore allowing gatherings of larger than 25 people. Please note that for the foreseeable future, we will not be scheduling gatherings larger than 10 people.

Deadline for the February newsletter is January 20, 2021.

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

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