

Bethel United Church of Christ
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MARCH 2024 Bethel Record/Newsletter

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Monthly Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

Communion Sunday → March 3rd

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE → March 20th

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM - 2 PM, FRIDAY CLOSED



**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.

MISSION FOCUS - MARCH 2024 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



2024 Theme: Share the Light

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

IMPORTANT DATE

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - MARCH 10TH

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24TH

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29TH

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31ST

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

As we started our study of Mark, we shared the definition of gospel as “a passion narrative with an extended introduction” (Martin Kahler). That is, the core of the gospel is about the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God’s alternative to Caesar. With that in mind, we will focus on Chapters 11 – 16 during Lent. Here is the run up to that holy season as well as the first two weeks of it:

- March 3 – Mark 13
- March 10 – Mark 14
- March 17 - Mark 15
- March 24 – Mark 16
- March 31 - EASTER, no class

Please join us. We meet in the Youth Room, 103 each Sunday at 9 AM

VISION TEAM

Convergence, the company Bethel has contracted with to assist us in our visioning and movement toward an even more vital faith community has encouraged all of us to view various videos they have developed regarding church revitalization. Since they have numerous videos with a variety of subject matter, we as a Convergence committee here at Bethel, have selected a few for all of us to view as we look to our future.

The first video we would encourage everyone to view is approximately 13 minutes long. Cameron Tremble is the CEO of Convergence who is interviewing Rabbi Esther Lederman. Most faith traditions and faith communities are looking at themselves as how they might grow into becoming even more vital addressing the needs of people within the faith community as well as the people outside the walls of the worshiping community.

As you view this short video, please be aware of a few key words. Those are “why,” “purpose,” and “essential.” After viewing the video, we invite you to consider:

1. Why are we here as Bethel?
2. What is our purpose as Bethel?
3. What are the essentials being Bethel?
4. And finally, how do you and how do we live out relationship?

A discussion group will be meeting every Sunday morning at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall from March 3rd - March 24th to discuss the content. An email will be sent out with the link to the videos each week.

WISE GROUP

WISE group led by Letta Fraccaro meets every other Tuesday.

Group will begin at 4 pm with others joining as they can. **March Dates: 5th and 19th.**

FRIDAY FRIENDS

The Friday Friends meet on the first and third Friday at 11 AM every month in 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!

How about having lunch with us on March 1st and 15th?

NINE TO DINE

This unique name was given to emphasize that both singles and couples should consider joining one of these dining out groups. Bethel currently has 3 groups who meet on a monthly basis. Those of you who do not participate in one of these groups, and would like to join, please give me a call. I am currently pondering starting a new group, and would be very pleased if those of you who are new to Bethel would consider joining in. It's a great way to learn more about each other while breaking bread at your favorite restaurant. I look forward to hearing from you.

Debbie Wilson

812-470-0147

INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT

Saturday April 27, 2024 at 6:00PM

Tickets will be on sale shortly: \$30/ticket or 2 for \$50

You will be able to purchase tickets through the office or online through Vanco. Tickets purchased in-person will need to be in the exact amount as we do not have change available.

There will be a silent auction, candlelight, and soft music.

We need help from the congregation to buy and help sell tickets; set-up and clean up; sponsor a cook team; help solicit donations for the silent auction; spread the word; and of course, cook an international dish! Contact Donna Herum if you are interested in helping.

YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28th, the following motion was approved: "That we return the Youth Music Director to the budget pending our raising \$10,000 by April 1 and a total of \$25,000 by the end of the year. Most of that money will be used as the salary for the director and will be paid as the funds become available."

Since that meeting, a lot of work has been done to achieve the goal of the motion. A Support/Oversight Committee has been convened. Its members are Rev. Sam Buehrer; Cynthia Grassman, Director of Music; Leesa Scales, President of the Congregation; Jennifer Nance, a music educator and member of the Adult Choir; and Rev. Stephanie Weiner.

A budget for the Youth Music Program has been drafted and shared with the Administrative Team for review.

Fund raising to meet the April 1st goal of raising \$10,000 and eventually a grand total of \$25,000 has begun. The good news is that as of February 21st, we have received \$3,550 towards our goal. We also have received additional pledges of \$28,500. Although this is a huge show of support, we need to receive an additional \$6,450 by April 1 to meet our initial goal of \$10,000. It is critical that we raise that amount because we are likely to have expenses by that date of over \$7,600 in this program.

The Support/Oversight Committee is also applying for grants to help cover expenses. A grant application with the West End Nut Club has already been sent. Another with the Lilly Foundation is in with drafting stage. If you know of additional appropriate grants that we could apply for, please let us know.

A pledge card is currently being drafted. Gifts of every amount are welcome.

The Support/Oversight Committee is currently working on a revised job description, terms of employment and a memorandum of understanding.

This program is important to the congregation and the community at large. There is a definite connection between spirituality and the performing arts. "Benefits include: help to build confidence and self-esteem; improved focus and concentration; development of language and communication skills; co-operation, team work and friendship; empathy and emotional intelligence; improved problem-solving skills; physical and mental health benefits; academic performance; and creativity and imagination." (Source: Young Talent Academy)

The poet Rabindranath Tagore said long ago, "God respects me when I work; God loves me when I sing." A more contemporary reflection holds that, "God smiles when our children sing; so, does the congregation."

Pledge Card →

YOUTH MUSIC PLEDGE CARD

In support of the Youth Music Program,
a musical and theatrical educational
program for children and youth,
provided by Bethel United Church of
Christ, I/we give/pledge:

\$_____

To be paid by (date)_____

_____I'd like to set up recurring giving;
please contact us:
office@bethelucc.org.

_____It is okay to use my name.

_____My gift is given anonymously.

This donation is (please check one)
_____in honor of _____in memory of _____

_____ (name/event)
_____neither.

Donor's Name _____

Phone and/or email: _____

Give online via the church's website:
bethelucc.org
Call us @ (812) 473-0135

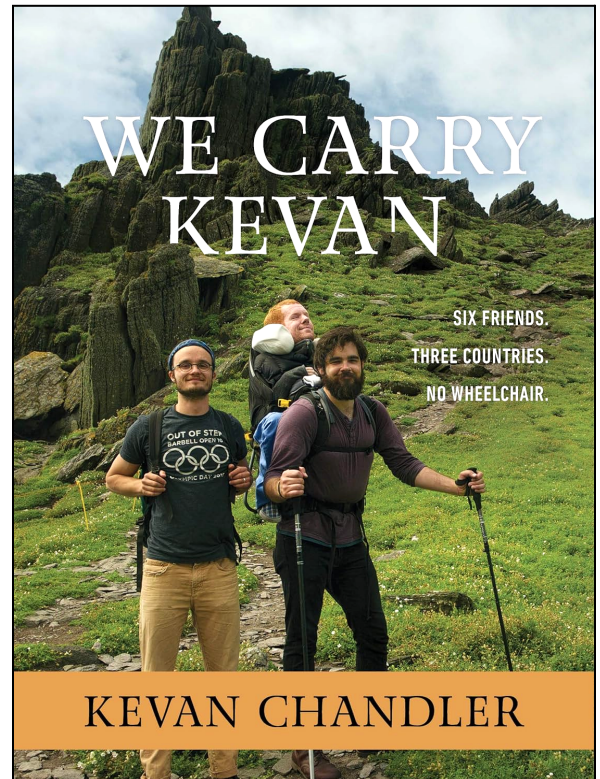
Checks should be made payable to
Bethel United Church of Christ
Attn: Youth Music Program.
3029 North Green River Road
Evansville, IN 47715

INVITATION FROM STOCKWELL SCHOOL

Stockwell School is inviting the congregation to attend an assembly on Friday, April 12 in the afternoon. The speaker is Kevan Chandler, the author of "We Carry Kevan," his story about the European trip he took with 5 friends. His book is available in both the original adult book and now as a children's book. Kevan is a young man who uses a wheelchair and manages to take part in many activities and adventures with the help of his friends. For the trip to Europe, they'd like to dispense with the wheelchair. So how will Kevan get around? They start with a camping backpack and adapt it for a person! A sporting goods company helps with the final product.

Bethel connection

Frank & Judy Schultheis have a great grandson, Jackson, who is in kindergarten at Stockwell. His teacher is Ms. Allison Shepherd who has come to our Christmas in July service the last 2 years with Ms. Owen, Stockwell's principal. Jackson uses a wheelchair daily in school. A very good friend of Ms. Shepherd's is married to Kevan Chandler. Ms. Shepherd arranged for Jackson to receive a backpack! There are 2 copies of the book in the narthex. Please take a copy and when you've finished the book return it to the narthex for others to enjoy. There will be more information about Stockwell's assembly in the April Record.



SABBATICAL LETTER

As a congregation, Bethel has a history of faithful pastoral ministries and recognizes the unique and challenging responsibilities of a pastor – responsibilities to the church, to individual members, and to the community. As members, we support pastoral leadership by providing appropriate compensation and working in concert with the pastor to support the church and its mission.

We now have an additional opportunity to support our current pastor. Through the Clergy Renewal Grants Program, Lilly Endowment will fund both a pastor's sabbatical experiences and a church's expense of an interim to provide pastoral services in his absence. A Grant Proposal Committee is at work preparing a detailed document. If accepted, the grant would fund Pastor Sam's sabbatical, possibly in spring or summer 2025.

The option of a sabbatical is included in our pastor's Call Agreement and Bethel has previously witnessed the benefits of sabbatical leaves. Bethel members will remember the late Dr. Joe Fraccaro taking a sabbatical to study the relationship between science and religion. Another sabbatical opportunity was undertaken by Rev. Don Bernhardt, who researched and visited UCC-related missions and institutions.

The goals of a sabbatical are education, rest, and rejuvenation. It is a time to step away from routines and the status of being "on call," a time to be refreshed and renewed, a time to gain new insights. The theme of the grant program is What Makes Your Heart Sing? Lilly Endowment explains it this way: "Clergy renewal periods are not vacations, rather, they provide opportunities for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing through well-planned purposeful activities. Renewal leaves allow for times of intentional exploration and reflection and regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry."

In consultation with the Leadership Council and the Grant Proposal Committee, Pastor Sam will finalize his sabbatical plans, which may include work at Back Bay Mission (a community mission of the UCC in Biloxi, MS); a study of meditation; instruction in personal interests such as woodworking, art, and music; dedicated travel time with family and friends; and leisure time.

Pastor Sam and the committee will continue to engage the congregation in this on-going process. The Grant Proposal Committee includes Pastor Sam, Leesa Scales (president of the Leadership Council), Janel Allen, Jo Haller, and Rob Hartmann.

At Bethel United Church of Christ, our vision is to
be ***united*** in seeking God's will and serving all people.



Bethel Buddies

Child Care & Preschool



Outdoor exploring



Special visits



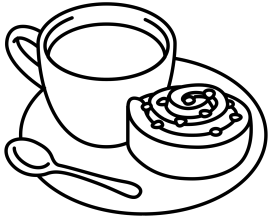
Enjoying some outside time!



Ash Wednesday with Pastor Sam

Looking for congregation volunteers to run the Coffee Bar the last Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 a.m. to welcome families

LENTEN BREAKFAST



March 2, 2024
Here at Bethel UCC in the
Fellowship Hall

Breakfast will begin at
7:30 AM, with a service to
follow at 8:30 AM

Future Schedule:

3/09/24 - Fourth Breakfast - Bethlehem UCC
3/16/24 - Fifth Breakfast - Zoar UCC
3/23/24 - Sixth Breakfast - St. Paul's GT



Doris Rohlfer was crowned the
Valentine Queen at
Brickyard Health Care in Newburgh.

She is shown here with a member of her court.
Doris has been a member of Bethel UCC since
her marriage in 1947. She is now in her 10th
decade, as dear to us as ever.

BREAD AND BURGERS

Members of the Bethel Justice Network and
our Green Team invite you to an after-church
lunch on Sunday, March 24.

We will: View the 30-minute documentary,
“The Working Hungry,” sponsored by
Ascension/St. Vincent and Bread for the
Word; Participate in Bread for the World’s
Lenten Off of Letters, which is an effort to go
a step beyond immediate needs to make the
food distribution system more equitable; and
Share a Beyond Burger which one butcher’s
daughter says is a good plant-based alternative.

This is in recognition of many realities. Among
those realities: 38% of all food within the USA
is wasted every year, that is 80 million tons of
food or 149 billion meals (Source: Feeding
America)

All are welcome for burgers, salad, and
beverages. Bring a side or dessert to share, if
you want. Please be sure to let us know you are
coming. We want to have enough – and not to
waste! You can reserve by signing up at the
welcome table, returning the attached
reservation, or calling the church office.

Yes! I/we are coming to Bread and Burgers,
Sunday, March 17 after worship.

_____#attending;
bringing_____ (optional)

Name_____

Birthdays

AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy March Anniversaries to:

7 Steve & Linda Hape 17 Lori & John Glaser 26 Jenni & Chance Webster

Happy February Birthdays to:

3 Sharon Greubel	17 Kyle Perigo	27 Scott Scales
4 Janel Allen	22 Cliff Kleymeyer	29 Helen Ancona
9 Jo Haller	26 Phil Damm	31 Fred Bullinger
10 Lori Glaser	26 John Glaser	
16 Debra Marx	27 Louella Komuves	
17 Doris Rohlfer	27 Sue Layman	

Family and Friends Serving in the Active Military - We hold in our prayers: * Jacob Swanson, Army, grandson of Ruth Willis.

Memorials:

Funds were given to the Helping Hands account in Memory of Jana Bonifer from Helen Ancona

Funds were given to the Youth Music Program in Memory of Bill & Darlene Neidig from Gale Neidig & Amy Carey

Nursing/Rehab/Retirement Home/Homebound

Mailing Address:

c/o Noel McRae

1676 N. Luther Rd., Georgetown, IN 47122

Georgia McRae
(812)704-0059

Physical Address:

Celebrations Assisted Living

5311 Rosebud Lane, Apt. 313, Newburgh, IN 47630

Victor Luhning (149)	Heritage Center 429-0700 1201 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville, IN 47710
Harriet Anderson (103)	Holiday Villa 1200 W Buena Vista Rd., Evansville, IN 47710
Nancy Westbo (153)	North Park Nursing Center 425-5243 650 Fairway Dr., Evansville, IN 47710
Letta Fraccaro (233) Linda Garrett (117) Marianna & Jim Vogel (226)	Primrose Retirement Community 9800 Lincoln Ave., Newburgh, IN 47630
Jeanette Plane- (South Rm.3)	Protestant Home 476-3360 3701 Washington Ave., Evansville, IN 47714
Sandra Altheide (316) Ritchie Taylor (528)	River Pointe 475-2822 3001 Galaxy Dr., Evansville, IN 47715
Doris Rohlfer (108)	Brickyard / Woodlands Care Center 4088 Frame Rd, Newburgh IN, 47630
Cliff Kley Meyer	600 S Cullen Ave #603, Evansville, IN, 47715

Updated 02.08.2024