

King's Light

April 2021



Dearly Beloved,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Here we are again at the close of one month and the opening of a new month. Spring is trying to break through, and Easter is nearby. As well as Spring and Easter we well on the journey for persons being vaccinated. This means that hopefully we are headed to something coming back to normal. Our church is opening up for in-person worship. The restaurants and other places are opening up. Soon we may be even able to go take in a baseball game. Inside I am jumping for joy!!!!!!

Coming through winter, COVID-19, and quarantine is almost like coming out of a dark place or a tomb into the bright sunlight. This reminds me of Jesus coming out of the tomb on Easter, "He has risen just as he said".

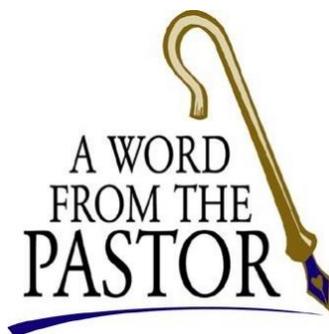
I am looking forward to celebrating Jesus' resurrection with you on Easter morning and to seeing all your bright smiling faces as we venture into a brand-new day. Psalm 30:5 "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." ([KJV](#))

Spring is before us, reopening of many places is before us, the reopening of our church is before us, and I can hardly wait. I pray that you are as excited as I am of what is just about to be.

May God continue to bless you and your families, and may God allow you to experience that fullness of joy, and may you too jump for joy as I am experiencing within.

Love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Judy



First Bethel Sundays

**First Bethel is re-opening for in person worship
in the sanctuary beginning March 28!**

Services will be streamed **LIVE** from the sanctuary beginning on Easter Sunday
The link will be shared on Facebook, YouTube, and the church website
Watch LIVE or at a later time



Palm Sunday

March 28

11AM in the sanctuary

(pre-recorded service on YouTube)

FaithLink at 9:15AM



Easter Sunday

April 4

8:30AM and 11AM in the sanctuary

Live stream on YouTube

[First Bethel YouTube Channel](#)

No FaithLink on Easter Sunday



Sunday Worship

April 11 – September 5

10AM in the sanctuary

Live stream on YouTube

[First Bethel YouTube Channel](#)

FaithLink at 8:45AM [FaithLink ZOOM link](#)

CDC guidelines for social distancing and mask wearing will be followed

The noon ZOOM worship service has been discontinued

Kelly V. Armstrong

May 22, 1968 ~ March 18, 2021 (age 52)



Kelly V. Armstrong (Velmer), of South Park, after a long illness, on Thursday, March 18, 2021, age 52, beloved wife of Scott Armstrong, loving mother of Nathan and Hannah, daughter of Geraldine Velmer and the late Samuel, daughter-in-law of Charles and Dorothy Siemon, sister of Gerald Velmer (Deborah), Doreen Rolince (David) and Marc Velmer (Barbara), sister-in-law of Leslie Lorow (Gerald), also many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visitation Sunday 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at the David J. Henney Funeral Home, 6364 Library Road (RT 88), Library. Funeral Service will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. in First Bethel United Methodist Church,

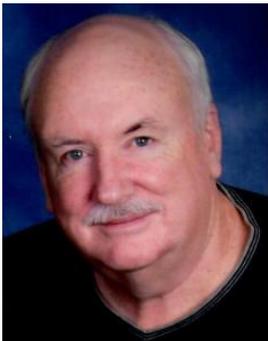
<https://www.davidhenneyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Kelly-Armstrong>

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to their GoFundMe page
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-armstrong-family-with-medical-bills>



Stephen G. Bright

August 4, 1951 ~ March 20, 2021 (age 69)



Stephen G. Bright, of Bethel Park, on Saturday, March 20, 2021, age 69, beloved husband for 30 years of Pamela Bright (Ackley), loving father of James, Jeffrey and Christopher Bright & Jill Velte, son of the late Irvin & Margaret Bright, brother of the late James and Frederick Bright and brother-in-law of Deborah Ackley-Killian (the late Earl) and Linda Bright. Steve was a registered nurse for 32 years with the majority of his time spent at the Rehabilitation Institute of Pittsburgh and Mercy Hospital in the Stroke Rehabilitation Center. Steve enjoyed woodworking and fishing. He loved his family and spending time at home with his family. Visitation Wednesday

2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at the David J. Henney Funeral Home, 6364 Library Road (RT 88), Library.

A funeral service will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in First Bethel United Methodist Church. Due to COVID restrictions, we ask that you wear masks and practice social distancing.

<https://www.davidhenneyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Stephen-Bright>

WELCOME!

Rev. David L Ewing appointed to First Bethel



On July 1st, we will welcome **Rev. David L Ewing and his wife, Christina**, to our church family! Rev. David is a Pennsylvania native, currently serving the Blackburn, Epworth, and Greenstone United Methodist Churches in the Pittsburgh District.

He has a passion for church renewal and community engagement, and his primary spiritual gifts are listed as: Leadership, Discernment/Church vision casting/innovation, Exhortation and Administration. David and his wife both enjoy and play music, they both like to ski and snowboard, and David is an avid bicyclist. Welcome to First Bethel!

For more details, see the WPA Conference website at <https://www.wpaumc.org/appointments>

New Pittsburgh District Superintendent

We are also pleased to share the announcement of our new District Superintendent

Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian effective July 1st.



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi named this new member of her Cabinet to lead the Pittsburgh District, where the Rev. Dawn Hand currently serves as Superintendent. Rev. Hand has accepted an appointment in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, effective July 1.

Many of you will remember Deborah since she grew up at First Bethel with her sister Pam Bright and she was actively involved in many areas in the life of the church. She has since served all over Western Pennsylvania as a pastor, has been involved in many areas of ministry, and she embodies what it is to be a life-long learner. It will be great having her back with us.

For more information, please see: <https://www.wpaumc.org/newsdetail/ackley-killian-to-serve-as-pittsburgh-superintendent-15073704>



April BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1 Gary Graney
Apr 2 Bob McCormick
Apr 2 Daniel Tomkins
Apr 4 Emily Yetiskul
Apr 7 Sandy Dutcher
Apr 7 Todd Swan
Apr 12 Laura Ashworth
Apr 12 Linda Graney
Apr 13 Robin Cecala
Apr 13 Amy Zeminski

Apr 14 Laura Amodie
Apr 15 Rich Alstadt
Apr 16 Collin McCormick
Apr 16 Rachel Phillips
Apr 17 Brian Guzek
Apr 18 Nancy Miller
Apr 24 Jessica Evans
Apr 27 Lexi Schlutz
Apr 28 Karol Snead

If your birthday is missing, or incorrect, please give us a call so we can update our records

A note of thanks

Jack, John, and I greatly appreciate the delicious meals and offers of support over these past two weeks. I continue to recover well from my first eye surgery, and though still unable to drive, have been given the green light to move forward with the second operation.



As some of you may know, Jack's Dad, former FBUMC pastor Roger Rulong, is under hospice care at Asbury Heights. He is in the final stages of melanoma, and the time when he will be reunited with his beloved Jane is coming very close. The meals and prayers you've provided have been a double blessing, as it has freed us to spend every moment possible with him.

Thank you all for your amazing love and care.

Lisa, Jack & John Rulong

LIBRARY NEWS

FORGIVENESS

FORGIVING WHAT YOU CAN'T FORGET: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful

In this thought-provoking 251-page book, bestselling Christian author *Lysa TerKeurst* tells how she dealt with the pain and heartbreak caused by betrayal in her marriage. TerKeurst, a mother of five and cancer survivor, said she hopes her story will help others move on -- and embrace what the Bible says about forgiveness. She asks, "Have you ever had a reason to break your life into a Before & After?" One reviewer called this "a guide to healing from past hurt." Another said: "I admire the author so much for putting her struggles out there so boldly to help others." TerKeurst is the president of *Proverbs 31 Ministries*.



THE STORYTELLER

Sage Singer, 25, a lonely woman in New Hampshire, has a grandmother, Minka, who survived the Holocaust. Minka has not talked about the horrors of her past, even when Sage asks her about the numbers tattooed on her arm. Then Sage befriends a beloved local resident, Josef, and she is stunned when he tells her he was a Nazi death camp officer. He asks her to kill him because he can't live with his memories. Minka is persuaded to tell her story, Josef tells his, and Sage gets involved with a federal Nazi hunter. *BookPage* says this 460-page novel explores the "perhaps unanswerable questions of who has the power to forgive -- and are there some acts which are simply unforgiveable?" The author is *Jodi Picoult*.

Call Lea if you wish to check out books and we will get them to you
-- YOUR LIBRARY STAFF --

United Methodist News

2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church has again been postponed until August 29, 2022. A Special Session of the General Conference is to be convened online on May 8, 2021. This Special Session will be limited to gaining a quorum in order to suspend the rules for the sole purpose of allowing the use of paper ballots to act upon 12 pieces of legislation that would enable the church to effectively continue its work until the postponed 2020 General Conference is held in 2022.

2021 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference will be held in a VIRTUAL format 2021 Annual Conference will be held in hybrid form on June 18-19. The hybrid 2021 Annual Conference session will be live streamed from the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

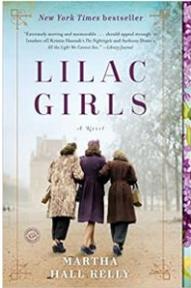
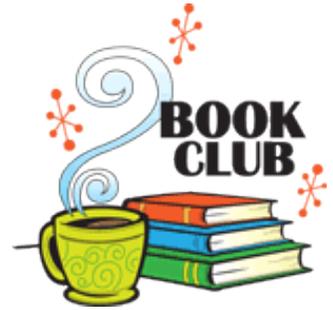
For more information, see <http://www.wpaumc.org>

Book Club

Book Club will continue to meet via ZOOM until it is safe for us to meet in person.

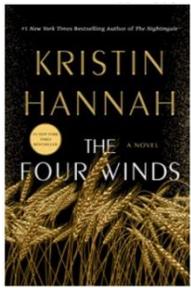
Here is the ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89582084675>

Meetings will be 7:30PM on the **third** Friday of April, the **fourth** Friday of May, June, July and August, and back to the **third** Friday of the month in September.



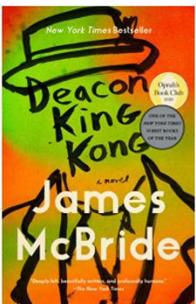
April 16 ***Lilac Girls*** by Martha Hall Kelly

For readers of *The Nightingale* and *Sarah's Key*, inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom, and second chances. .
--Amazon.com



May 28 ***The Four Winds*** by Kristin Hannah

"*The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah is a captivating, heartbreaking tale of a family who will do anything for each other — and everything to survive. The strength of Hannah's prose brings the characters to life in a way that will make you unable to tear yourself away from them. You will celebrate their triumphs, mourn their tragedies, and commend their bravery. Through it all, it is easy to feel Hannah's desire to honor those who lived and fought through this devastating time in history. *The Four Winds* is also an ode to the strength and ferocity of mothers, and a declaration that sometimes, love is the only thing that holds us together. Above all else, *The Four Winds* is merely a really good story, one that hits you in all the right places and will keep surprising you until the end."—Associated Press



June 25 ***Deacon King Kong*** by James McBride

James McBride, author of the National Book Award winning *The Good Lord Bird* and the beloved memoir *The Color of Water*, has written a propulsive and comic neighborhood epic set in the 1960s with a cast of characters that are beguiling, boozed-filled, and larger than life. When a young drug lord is shot in broad daylight by a bumbling drunk known to everyone as Sportcoat, the Brooklyn neighborhood they live in is upended. As Sportcoat comically and unknowingly dodges the police, his actions ricochet around him, igniting a web of drug wars, backdoor dealings with mobsters, and church brawls that demonstrate just how vital, yet fragile communities can be. *Deacon King Kong* tells the fictional story of one Brooklyn project, but in so doing tells a broader story of race and religion, getting by and getting out, and how grudges and alliances become embedded in the foundations of our neighborhoods. An incredibly satisfying read. —Al Woodworth, Amazon Book Review

Outreach News

by Sally Irick

A huge thank you to all who participated in the blanket drive for the McKeesport YMCA sleeping room. We collected 16 blankets, 18 pairs of sweatpants, and 8 sweatshirts for the YMCA also.

We received a heartfelt thank you note from Pastor Keith Kaufold from 8th Avenue Place, which is included below.

Great work everybody!



*Dear friends,
Thank you so much
for the very generous
donations for the many
homeless shelter. Many
couldn't believe someone
cares enough for them
to buy new items. Your
kindness showed them
God's love and how we are
all part of his family, all
God's children. You are
true disciples of God.
Thank you again
God bless*

Our March project is still on going and we are about 15 personal care kits away from meeting our goal of 50. It is not too late to contribute to this cause. Global Links requests that each kit contains full-size items (no travel or extra-large sizes), fragrance-free if possible, and in original packaging. All seven items should fit within a 1-gallon Ziploc bag.

The seven (7) items requested are (one each): bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, moisturizer/lotion, deodorant, and dental floss. The kits will be distributed in the Western PA region. The kits can be dropped off at the church office or call the church office for a pickup. You can also donate via your offering envelope or online giving form by designating your gift "Outreach Personal Care Kits".

We will be serving at Daily Bread for our April project. The date for that feeding is Sunday April 11. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please call Sally Irick at 412-833-9324.

**Nourish Every Body, Stimulate Every Spirit,
Satisfy Every Soul, for the Glory of God**

ONWARD



by Gloria Stephan

"Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up."

Galatians 6:9



First Bethel's ASP ministry team continues to plan for our "**ASP@Home**" program the week of June 21-25. Now that we have moved past the exceedingly difficult decision to not travel to Appalachia in June, we're getting creative about what we can do instead.

Here are some of our ideas and goals:

- Offer community service opportunities every day the week of June 21-25
- Include opportunities for upper elementary and middle school aged helpers
- Keep traditional ASP week activities intact (Evening Gathering, Culture Night, Cook-Out)
- Continue to fundraise for local projects and projects in Appalachia
- Complete short-term projects before and after our ASP week in June
- Help with Outreach projects like the Daily Bread feeding ministry
- Work with KSK and the Trustees to identify projects around our church facilities
- Painting (youth room, nursery, parsonage)
- Landscaping, home repair, etc for church family members

For more information, contact Gloria at gstephan57@gmail.com or see ASP's website at <https://www.ASPHome.org>



ASP Bistros.....YES! They're back!

The next ASP Bistro will be **Sunday, April 11th**

Menu will be Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread and Dessert

Pre-Order and Take-Out only

Our first Bistro on March 14th was a huge success, and we can't wait to do it again.

**All proceeds benefit our ASP ministry fund.
Thanks for your support!**



Boon Supply has a great mix of *eco-conscious* products, seasonally designed and *sustainably sourced*.

With every purchase, we will get 40% back towards

First Bethel's ASP ministry fund

Help us by shopping the **Boon Supply** online store using this link:

<https://www.boonsupply.com/collections/611525-first-bethel-asp>



All products ship direct to you! Fundraiser runs through June 2021

Special Offerings for Ministries

Church Council highlights a special ministry area each month for extra mile giving. These important ministry areas are highlighted here for your consideration.

Simply indicate your gift in the Other area of your offering envelope or online giving form



APRIL FOCUS MINISTRY IS:

Appalachia Service Project



<http://www.asphome.org>

**Critical Home Repair and Replacement.
Transformational Relationships.**

warmer. safer. drier.®



Mark your calendars!

Church Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 15 from 9AM - 11AM

The Trustees need our help. Please lend a hand to "red-up" our church grounds as we get ready for for warmer weather. All ages welcome.



First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**5901 Library Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102**

Church Office: 412-835-0700

King School Kids Office: 412-835-6141

<https://www.firstbethelumc.org>

FBUMC@Verizon.net

We are here to serve!



Lead Pastor: Pastor Judy Winston Thomas
Home: 412-833-1986 Mobile: 412-609-8003
PastorJudy@FirstBethelumc.org

Office Manager: Patty Willmott
OfficeManager@FirstBethelumc.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10AM–3PM and Wed 1PM-4PM

Music Coordinator: Sam Campbell
Organist: Phil Himmler
Director of Maintenance: Jim Howells
Custodian: (open)

Director of KSK and Children's Fellowship: Lynda Pore
KSK Office Administrator: Charlene Phillips
KSK10@Verizon.net



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



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1102686>

KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The deadline for the March issue of the Kings Light is **Noon on March 20, 2021.** Please have your article in on time to avoid the disappointment of not having it appear in the next edition. Mail it to us, or send via email to FBUMC@Verizon.net