



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter

September

2023

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



I serve on our Annual Conference's Connectional Leadership Table (CLT). This serves as the Annual Conference's Administrative Council. As the CLT prepares to formulate new vision for the Conference, CLT members were asked last week to answer a number of questions and share our answers with the group at large. One of those questions was: *"What Makes the WPA Conference Unique?"* My brief answer is as follows: *"Its geography and culture...both operating in concert with one another. Its culture is rooted in a parochial, Appalachian identity. Its stark foothill geography has helped foster this culture and identity where its hills create pocketed, familial & independent neighborhoods. This provides a unique challenge to unity-building and mutual understanding."*

"In a nutshell," I am saying we have specific challenges in Western PA in getting folks to agree on things or getting to the point of agreeing to disagree. Our familial and parochial (insular, localist) culture is partly a by-product of our geography. This impacts our local churches and Conferences as we seek to build consensus on matters pertaining to belief and practice. There is a tendency for each of us to feel our way of belief and practice is the only way that works and the only way that honors God.

Where this trend becomes very apparent is in matters connected to government & politics. As I write this, the first of the debates that will occur during this presidential election season is just hours away. A presidential election season can pull us into pressure cookers of political debate. This season has the potential to foster conflict and harm as it becomes easy to slip into an insular and narrow "State of Mind" (no Billy Joel song for this one!).

In these times, I call us to a “**Wesleyan State of Mind**” espoused by Bishop Reuben P. Job in his *Three Simple Rules*: **1. Do no harm; 2. Do good; 3. Stay in love with God.** As we seek to “do good” and to “do no harm,” let us remember that at most times, there is more than one path to a destination. Let us challenge our tendency to think our way is the only way. Attempt to recognize the views from varying perspectives. Seek understanding. May we consider how our differences may be brought together for the collective good. At the same time, think critically. Scrutinize the source(s) of messages you hear. Then formulate your words and actions through the filter of love...the love of God and the love of all God created. If we passionately pursue the third Simple Rule, we will find the first two rules are carried out more easily. Let’s pray for one another in this effort.

That’s From the Heart,
Pastor David



Join us for blessing of the backpacks and praying for all our teachers and students during worship on **Sunday, September 3rd.**



FIRST BETHEL SUNDAYS



9:30AM

Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30AM

**Coffee Hour and
Fellowship Time**

**Sunday School and Worship Enrichment for
Children will resume on September 10th**

**Wired Word Adult Sunday School resumes on
September 17th**

Hi everyone,

I am going to start working on a documentary about First Bethel this fall. I am not exactly sure how the video will unfold yet, but I need everyone's help!



If you have old or recent pictures or video of First Bethel church events, special celebrations, weddings, baptisms, confirmations etc. I would love for you to share them. If they are digital files, you can share them with me at rcecala@gmail.com

If you have actual pictures, VHS tapes, Super 8 or 8mm video, I can use those too! I will place a box in the narthex where you can put your items. Be SURE to put your name on all items so I can get everything back to you.

If you have any questions, email me or give me a call.

Robin Cecala (607) 760-8069



Kenneth W. Scott
May 9, 1942 ~ August 15, 2023 (age 81)



Kenneth W. Scott, of Bethel Park, on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, age 81, beloved husband for 59 years of Rhoda J. (Gruntz), loving father of Jeffrey Scott (Doreen), Amy Scott, Karen Anthony (Michael) and Brian Scott (Heather), brother of Ronald Scott (Sandra), Nancy Garrett, Patti Page and the late James Scott (Sharon) and the late Richard Scott, grandfather of Katelyn, Madelyn, Geana,

Sean, Dominique, Colton, Ryan and Jolene, also several nieces, nephews and cousins and his dog Chloe.

Ken was a school teacher at South Park High School for over 30 years, where he was a high school football coach and also coached at various other high schools. Ken enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews and going to their activities. The family would like to thank OSPTA Home & Hospice Care for their excellent care and compassion. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to First Bethel United Methodist Church. www.davidhenneyfuneralhome.com



Sep 1 Ella Harmon

Sep 8 Regan Gray

Sep 10 Joanie Loper

Sep 10 Todd Slater

Sep 10 Donna Stewart

Sep 12 Ida Palmer

Sep 14 John Albright

Sep 18 Owen Newman

Sep 20 Carol Brevard

Sep 20 Jeff Bright

Sep 27 Mary Lou Molnar

Welcome

Welcome to our new Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Lisa Stefanowicz joined First Bethel UMC on July 25th as our Office Manager/Bookkeeper.

Her experience ranges from the Construction Industry to working in the Operating Room at Allegheny General Hospital as the Data/Financial Analyst. She is a certified Red Cross Instructor for CPR/AED and First Aid.



"I have truly been blessed by God with an amazing husband, Bob, 2 beautiful daughters, 3 wonderful stepchildren and 10 grandchildren with the 11th on his way this fall. I have met a lot of great people since I arrived at First Bethel and look forward to meeting the rest of them!"



Office Hours

**THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY
7AM - 5PM**

Contact Lisa Stefanowicz at
OfficeManager@firstbethelumc.org

or

FBUMC@Verizon.net

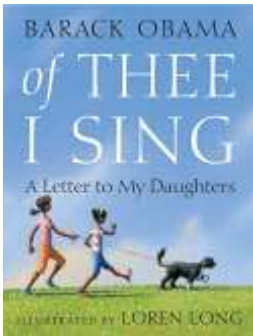
or call

412-835-0700

LIBRARY NEWS

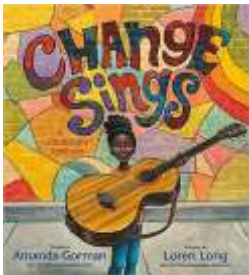
For Our Youngest Readers

We have four books donated in memory of Linda Pore and Deb Dennick-Ream, who were devoted to First Bethel and the children at King School Kids. These two, for our youngest readers, are beautifully illustrated by noted artist Loren Long:



OF THEE I SING: A Letter to My Daughters

This book, by former *President Barack Obama*, has been described as a letter of love and inspiration for his daughters -- and all young people. It begins by asking, "Have I told you lately how wonderful you are?" Children are taught how "people of all races, religions, and beliefs" can work together everywhere. It includes sketches of 13 famous Americans, including presidents, a sports star, jazz singer, artist, and civil rights leader. 40 pages.



CHANGE SINGS: A Children's Anthem

Bestselling young poet *Amanda Gorman* wrote this "musical celebration of change" -- how a group of young musicians learn about their power to make changes that are needed. They join in a clean-up project, make a ramp for a child in a wheelchair, offer food to a homeless mother, deliver groceries, and help in other ways. 32 pages. Gorman, who is 25, writes:

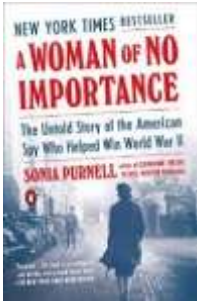
*"I can hear change humming.
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so, I sing along."*

YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets at 7:30PM on the third Friday of each month at Panera Bread in South Park Shops.

We welcome you to join us anytime!



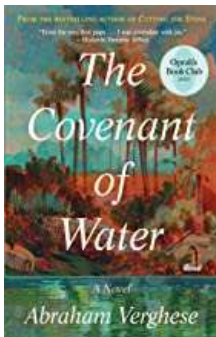
Friday, September 15 – A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II

Based on new and extensive research, Sonia Purnell has for the first time uncovered the full secret life of Virginia Hall--an astounding and inspiring story of heroism, spycraft, resistance, and personal triumph over shocking adversity. *A Woman of No Importance* is the breathtaking story of how one woman's fierce persistence helped win the war.

Friday, October 20 and Friday, November 17

The Covenant of Water - Abraham Verghese

October discussion will be from the beginning of the book through Part 5, November discussion will be from Part 6 to the end.



The *Covenant of Water* is the long-awaited new novel by Abraham Verghese, the author of the major word-of-mouth bestseller *Cutting for Stone*, which has sold over 1.5 million copies in the United States alone and remained on the New York Times bestseller list for over two years.

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere.

At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.

A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.

Friday, December 15 – A Life in Light – Mary Pipher



In her luminous new memoir in essays, Mary Pipher—as she did in her *New York Times* bestseller *Women Rowing North*—taps into a cultural moment, to offer wisdom, hope, and insight into loss and change. Drawing from her own experiences and expertise as a psychologist specializing in women, trauma, and the effect of our culture on our mental health, she looks inward in *A Life in Light* to what shaped her as a woman,

one who has experienced darkness throughout her life but was always drawn to the light.

Her plainspoken depictions of her hard childhood and life's difficulties are dappled with moments of joy and revelation, tragedies and ordinary miseries, glimmers and shadow. As a child, she was separated from her parents for long periods. Those separations affected her deeply, but in *A Life in Light* she explores what she's learned about how to balance despair with joy, utilizing and sharing with readers every coping skill she has honed during her lifetime to remind us that there is a silver thread of resilience that flows through all of life, and that despite our despair, the light will return.

OUTREACH



On July 19th, eight folks from First Bethel spent a few hours at the Mission Barn UMCOR Depot in New Castle painting, clearing overgrown brush, packing UMCOR Cleaning Kits, and building a section of handicap ramp. Plus we brought back several UMCOR hygiene kits that were donated to SHIM.



Thanks to everyone that helped with the Kids Meal Network this summer! It was a blessing to be a part of this food ministry for children who live right down the road. A special shout out to Lilly Zeminski for filling the role of Manager.

Our next Daily Bread will be Sunday October 15.
Contact Sally Irick if you can help.



**It's Back to School Time—
Here AND
at the Home of Hope
Outreach!**

Anyone who looks at the latest Target knows that it's back to school time—get your school supplies, clothes, lunch boxes, backpacks and shoes and everything the college crowd “needs.” School kids in the Home of Hope Outreach (HOHO) need some really important help — namely for their school fees and some supplies. Unlike here in the States Public School is not “free” in Zimbabwe.

Students in the HOHO are kids whose parent(s) and /or guardians can't afford their school fees. Sponsors donate \$100 to cover one year's fees and a backpack of supplies. Sponsors receive information and a picture of the child and the opportunity for “mail” whenever a Mission Team visits Nyadire.

For information, contact Stephanie Alstadt at RSJVA@aol.com or 412-831-1937.

Please consider giving a child the chance to go to school!

From Phil Himmler aka "The Chicken"

Dear wonderful, generous, and caring people of my FBUMC family, What follows is about the Rotary Chicken BBQ on October 28th, 2023.

What follows shall be brief **BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE DRILL:**

#1 – **Buy tickets to donate to SHIM**

OR

#2 – **Buy tickets for your own meal pleasure.**

Ticket cost: \$15.00,

Meals can be picked up via drive-thru at Bethel Park High School.

Your dollars provide higher educational support for students in Nyadire, Zimbabwe via The Nyadire Connection (TNC) Sister Rut Scholarship Program.

The Rotary awards TNC a grant based on our ticket sales. There will be a pictorial display in the Narthex of students who have benefitted from the funds raised.

Thank you for your consideration.
Phil Himmler (412-491-9238)

Saturday, October 28th is the Rotary Chicken BBQ

Drive Thru only at Bethel Park High School



Please remember: **"We are provided for so that we can provide for!"**

Your purchase provides dollars for higher education for students in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.



Dear First Bethel Friends,

Donna and I want to express our deepest gratitude for all of the kindness and caring you have shown to my mother Marge Leonhardt and to us for so many years. All of the cards you've sent, your constant inquiries regarding her health, the beautiful memorial service and the continuing prayers for our family have been such a blessing. We have truly felt surrounded by God's love. Thank you so much!

Donna and Jeff

Dear First Bethel UMC,

On behalf of All God's Children Ministries and Erie United Methodist Alliance, I would like to thank you for your shoe donation at the 2023 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference in Erie. Your contribution of shoes will help to fund ramps that provide accessibility to local recipients and their families and will help those dealing with homelessness. May God bless you!

Leslie Skidmore, Executive Director

All God's Children Ministries and Ramps of Hope



MEN'S GROUP

FROM THE FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting for the Men's group will be Saturday, September 2 at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church.

More information will be available about the Men's Retreat scheduled for the weekend of September 8-9. The guys are discussing different options.



MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 13 at 1:00PM in the Susanna Wesley room. All ladies are welcome.

Please see Donna Hennen for more information.



Focus Ministry

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MINISTRIES

SEPTEMBER FOCUS MINISTRY

THE NYADIRE CONNECTION

Sponsor one or more children by providing \$100 in school fees for kids at the Home of Hope Outreach center in Zimbabwe and/or purchase a ticket for a BBQ Chicken Dinner from the Rotary on Saturday, October 28th. Takeout orders are available via drive-thru at Bethel Park High School, or meals can be donated to SHIM.



We're working on the Fall/Winter volunteer schedule, and we really need some new volunteers for Coffee Hosts, Sanctuary Cleaning Teams and Greeters. Please contact Gloria Stephan or the Church Office if you can serve.

We use an online scheduling system that makes it easy to indicate when you're not available to serve, and it's super easy to request a substitute when needed. Please consider it!



ASP SUMMER 2023 IMPACT STATEMENT

We received the following information from ASP entitled: **Summer 2023 Impact** and thought we'd share it with our volunteers and supporters



“While you were ONE volunteer working in ONE county and helped make ONE home warmer, safer and drier, we want you to know the collective impact you made together with other volunteers.

In the summer of 2023, we were honored to have **7,774** volunteers serving in **18** different counties in **4** different states, and thanks to YOUR involvement, ASP was able to work on **202** homes this summer and complete 1,472 projects (floors, HUGs, roofs, etc.).”

Thank You to each volunteer and supporter of ASP!

We are planning an Adult ASP weekend trip for this fall from Thursday, September 28th to October 1st. Contact Gloria Stephan ASAP if you're interested. We'll travel to Lee County on Thursday (7 hour drive) and stay at the ASP-owned Jonesville, Virginia facility. This is a lodge-like setting in the mountains, with bunk beds. Workdays are Friday and Saturday, and we'll travel home on Sunday. Trip cost is \$140/person. See www.ASPHome.org Year-Round Trips for more information.



Join us for the Church Picnic

Sunday, September 17

3PM – 8PM

At Peterswood Park - Shelter 1

**(McMurray Road to Bebout to Meredith Avenue
Note that part of Valleybrook Road is closed)**

We'll provide the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks

Please bring a dish to share

See the signup sheets in the Narthex

Let us know what you can bring

**Let us know if you can help with setup, cleanup, games,
etc.**

Fun for all ages!

**Contact Christine Morris or Charlene Phillips if you have
questions or need more information**



Don't miss the Car Wash on
Saturday, September 23rd
9AM in the church parking lot
This is a Youth Fundraiser

CHURCH CONFERENCE



Saturday, October 28th
at 10:30AM

Baldwin Community
United Methodist Church
5001 Baptist Road
Pittsburgh 15236

Paul Ritchey, the new District Superintendent of the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Districts, will be presiding.



First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 Library Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

<http://www.firstbethelumc.org>

Church Office

412-835-0700

FBUMC@Verizon.net



Kings School Kids

412-835-6141

KSK10@Verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. David Ewing

Mobile: 412-818-0889

PastorDavid@FirstBethelumc.org

Office Manager: Lisa Stefanowicz

OfficeManager@FirstBethelumc.org

Choir Director and Organist: Phil Himmler

Director of Maintenance: Jim Howells

KINGS SCHOOL KIDS

Director of KSK: Mary Beth Deckard

Assistant Director of KSK: Nicole Crisson

KSK Office Administrator: Charlene Phillips



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

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

KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The 20th of each month is the deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Kings Light. Please have your information in on time to avoid the disappointment of not having it appear in the next edition. Mail it to us, drop it off, or send via email to FBUMC@Verizon.net

FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 LIBRARY ROAD

BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

www.firstbethelumc.org

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