



First Bethel Church  
King's Light newsletter



2023

# FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



First Bethel is a ministry powerhouse! We carry out at least twenty distinct ministries...ones that change lives locally, regionally, and globally. We are fulfilling Jesus' command to "go out into all the world and make disciples!" And our ministry plans are ambitious as we prepare to set goals for next year!

The dynamic ministry First Bethel is engaged in requires a large number of human resources (approximately 20 employees and dozens of volunteers). It also requires a large amount of monetary resources; approximately \$500,000 annually. It is possible you did not know this, because First Bethel (like most churches) is not communicating its financial position regularly.

Our church's Finance Committee and Church Council have identified the need to establish a method of communication regarding the church's ministries and the resources it requires to carry them out. That will begin with this issue of Kings Light and will be a regular part going forward. Lorna Schlutz has agreed to resume the writing of "Beyond the Plate," a brief ministry newsletter that will be sent to you quarterly. I will send out brief letters and we will schedule dates to have congregational conversation after Sunday worship. It is my plea that you read these pieces of communication. Many, if not most of us, read books regularly that consist of two hundred pages, three hundred pages, or more, reading every single word. Reading a page of information regarding the ministry of the church we love will require a mere fraction of that time and effort.

You may be asking what is precipitating this movement to provide more information? Most importantly, enhanced communication will aid you in connecting to the church more deeply. God is doing great things at First Bethel and that needs shared! Secondly, you need to know the challenges we face in our post-COVID landscape with sustaining the level of our life-changing ministries. And we'll be anxious to share with you the plans that are developing to generate the resources we need to do God's work & will in Bethel Park and beyond 😊

*But Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (Hebrews 3:6 ESV)*

That's From the Heart,  
Pastor David

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# Fall Worship Schedule



**9:30AM**

**Worship in the Sanctuary**

**10:30AM**

**Coffee Hour and  
Fellowship Time**

**10:30AM**

**Sunday School for all ages  
Wired Word – Adults**

# JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITES

## “THE CHOSEN”

**1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM**



This fall, we continue to offer this **small group** that is platformed on “The Chosen” television series. Each Wednesday consists of fellowship time together, episode viewing, followed by discussion regarding the

scriptural context and participant’s impressions of the episode and how it impacts their understanding of the Gospel text.

## COVENANT BIBLE STUDY

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM**



This is a small group meeting that will be platforming itself on Covenant Bible Study, somewhat of a traditional Bible Study. Each Wednesday will consist of studying a Bible text, with

the aid of a 20 minute video conversation where the Covenant hosts engage leading Bible scholars to discuss application to real life and to the church.



Nov 1 Michelle Fawcett

Nov 1 Barbara White

Nov 2 Noah Zakrzewski

Nov 4 Maureen Williams

Nov 5 Marilyn Clark

Nov 7 Shawn Evans

Nov 10 Joann Bischoff

Nov 14 Miles Fawcett

Nov 15 Zane Dennick-Ream

Nov 15 Rich Hennen

Nov 17 Margaret Nolte

Nov 18 Hannah Armstrong

Nov 21 Kim O'Donnell

If we've missed listing your birthday, let us know!  
Call the Church Office and give us your birth date (including the year) so we can add the information to our system.



**Office  
Hours**

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

Contact Lisa Stefanowicz at  
[OfficeManager@firstbethelumc.org](mailto:OfficeManager@firstbethelumc.org)

or

[FBUMC@Verizon.net](mailto:FBUMC@Verizon.net)

or call

**412-835-0700**

Sunday Bulletin announcements are due by 10AM Thursday

# OUTREACH



The Parkford Feeding Program has gone very well this year, ending with the school year in August. The meals during the school year are planned and provided by the Department of Agriculture and consist of a serving of meat, vegetables, milk and perhaps a sweet. We were blessed in this effort to have leadership from Lilly Zeminski, and I suspect she will tell you she had a marvelous serving crew. The suggestion has now been made to include additional dates on weekends to further augment the feeding effort to ensure the kids get warm meals during weekends. The new dates are Saturday, October 28; Saturday, November 25; and Sunday, December 17; and all are planned to be held from 11AM. to 1PM. We will provide a light lunch, a packed bag to take home with non-perishable food items, a craft for the kids to work on, and someone to help with homework, if needed.

Our last Daily Bread date was on October 15, and a hearty 178 meals were served to hungry people. We had some excellent new recruits and spent a busy afternoon serving (and having fun, as well). The new kids knew what they were doing.

Our next Daily Bread will be held on December 10. Please let Sally Irick know if you'd like to share that date with us.

Our Angel Tree will be up by November 12. You will find, as usual, Angels will appear magically on the tree. Those Angels will name Family Links, Kings School Kids, and The Nyadire Connection as our recipients. Each Angel will include a name, the age, sex, and generally will contain three Christmas wishes for us to fulfill. Please know that if you choose an Angel and wish to fulfill all three, that is great; if you wish to fulfill two, that is great; and if you are able to only fulfill one, that also is great. All donations are gratefully received. Some of the wishes may be expensive, so do only what you can. The kids will be grateful for whatever we can provide.

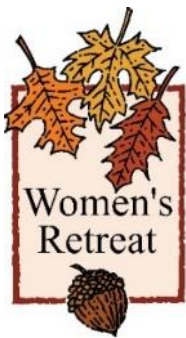
For Family Links, we have found that they have “residential sites”. In a residential site, a young adult may need only new bath towels or bed linens or such. If the recipient is a child, we will try to specify what the need may be, given information from Family Links. Young adults may need only new bath towels or sheets for a single bed. Children and Mothers staying in the residential sites may have different needs. We will try to be specific on the Angels.

The gifts for under the Angel Tree need to be back by Sunday December 10. We thank you in advance for willingness to support this Outreach.



Watch for us in the December King’s Light for news on our October 22 Trunk or Treat, and for how the October Parkford Outreach feeding program goes on October 28.

Heading into a very busy holiday season, we are grateful for your prayers and support.



## **WOMEN’S RETREAT**

**Friday, November 10th to  
Sunday, November 12th, 2023**

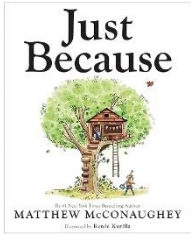
Rev. Kathy Clark will be the leader of our annual Women’s Retreat at Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA. All rooms are booked – we’re at capacity! Plan to arrive before 5PM if possible, or let Amy Scott know that you’ll arrive later.

**Please send the balance of your payment marked  
“Women’s Retreat” to the church as soon as possible.**

Contact Amy Scott at 412-874-0250 or Lisa Stefanowicz in the church office at 412-835-0700 if you have any questions.

# LIBRARY NEWS

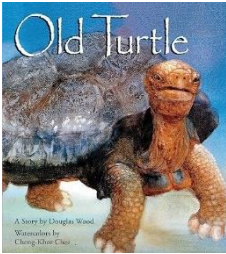
We have two beautiful books recently donated to our children's library:



## JUST BECAUSE

Filled with his trademark humor and wisdom, Academy Award–winning actor and #1 New York Times bestselling author Matthew McConaughey, has crafted a soulful and irreverent collection of life lessons that empowers readers, big and small, to celebrate how we are all full of possibility. Why? Just because.

This donation was made in memory of our much-loved Deb Dennick-Ream.



## OLD TURTLE

Who is God? Is He a wind that is never still? Is He a rock that never moves? Is He high above or here among us? Venerable Old Turtle answers quietly: God is all of these things. Old Turtle first burst upon the publishing scene in 1992, and it was instantly recognized as a classic fable about ecology, peace, and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Simple yet profound, it has since brought hope and inspiration to children and adults around the world.



## CARENOTES

A reminder: These highly-praised, eight-page pamphlets – are displayed on a shelf on our back wall. They are well-written, easy to read, popular around the world, recommended by ministers, social workers and health care pros. Among those on display include **Finding a Way to Forgive**, **Losing Someone You Love Through Addiction**, **Climbing up from Depression** and **Hanging on to Hope Through a Serious Illness**. Take what you need, for yourself or others. And we are always glad to order a certain topic at your request.





## FREE BOOKS AND LITERATURE

Please take what you'd like to read from this bookshelf beside the Library desk. There are books, booklets and pamphlets. Subject matter has recently included: **Finding self-reliance after the loss of a spouse, helping children cope with the death of a loved one, inside the simple life of the Amish, reflections for mothers in a hurry, daily devotions, Guideposts, Alzheimer's research.**

## YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

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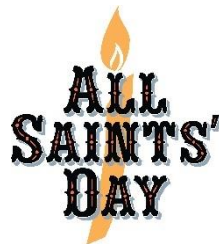
Don't forget to **Fall Back!**

Daylight Saving Time ends soon.

Turn your clocks back one hour by 2AM on **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> we will remember our saints that have gone on before us, having passed since All Saints' Day 2022, and entered God's embrace. During worship,



- First Bethel Church members will be remembered individually by the lighting of an individual candle at the altar.
- Immediate family members of church members (spouse, child, sibling, parent) will be remembered collectively with one group candle. Please let us know if you have someone to add by contacting the church office by noon on Wednesday November 1st.



# Searching For: FBUMC Memories



I am beginning to collect background information for a documentary on First Bethel.

**I am looking for content that is old and new!**



**If you have pictures/video of First Bethel events, celebrations, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, retreats etc., I would love to include them!**

**If your pictures/videos are digital, you can share them with me at [rcecala@gmail.com](mailto:rcecala@gmail.com) or you can also copy them to a flash drive.**



**I can also use photos, VHS, Super 8 & 8mm**



*I may be able to use other items too, just ask!*

**There is a box in the narthex for your items. Be SURE to put your name on everything so I can get things back to you!**

If you have any questions, talk to me in church, email, call or text me.

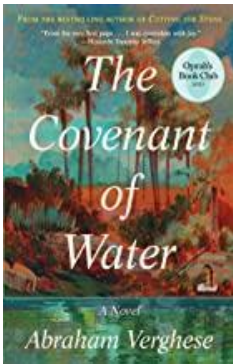
Thank you! Robin Cecala (607) 760-8069

# BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 7PM (note the earlier start time) on Friday, October 27 and Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> at Panera Bread in South Park Shops. The December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the home of Mike & Gloria Stephan.



Book Club Selections



## Friday, October 27 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.

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.

## 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.

## FROM THE FBUMC MEN'S GROUP



### **MEN'S GROUP**

The Men's annual event to deliver complete Thanksgiving dinners to the less fortunate is on the horizon! So, please plan on donating food items to help provide a happy Thanksgiving again this year for 15 to-20 families in need. Look for signup sheets in the narthex.

The next meeting for the Men's Group will be Saturday, November 4 at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church.

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### **MARTHA CIRCLE**

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 1:00PM in the Susanna Wesley room of the church. All ladies are welcome.

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**Focus  
Ministry**

### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MINISTRIES**

#### **NOVEMBER FOCUS MINISTRY**

#### **TRUSTEES**

Our Trustees have responsibility for supervision, oversight and care of all real property owned by the local church. That includes all church buildings and grounds and the parsonage where our pastor lives. If you're a homeowner, you know this is a huge responsibility with many associated costs. Your dollars will go towards the list of projects that never ends!



## ASP FALL TRIP RECAP AND SUMMER 2024

by Gloria Stephan

Seven adult volunteers completed a weekend ASP trip to Jonesville VA where we finished a porch deck, stairs and railings for Nina and her family in Lee County.

It was a beautiful weekend filled with fellowship, fun and service, and yes, there were three Lisas on our team!



L-R Catherine Taylor, Claire Garfold, Robert Pugh, Gloria Stephan, Lisa Pipilo, Lisa McDermot and Lisa DiGorio

Meanwhile, it's time to start planning our trip for next summer! Our next trip is scheduled for

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

ASP is open to high-school age students and adult group leaders. The cost of the trip is \$375/volunteer plus the cost of transportation and supplies like safety gear and first aid items. All meals, lodging and construction materials are provided by ASP. Volunteers should submit a non-refundable deposit of \$50/youth or \$100/adult to First Bethel by February 4. You may submit part or all of the \$375 volunteer fee (and many do), but this is not a requirement. Construction skills are also welcome but not required.

Contact me at [gstephan57@gmail.com](mailto:gstephan57@gmail.com) if you have questions, need more information, or if you're interested in joining us! See [www.ASPHome.org](http://www.ASPHome.org) Summer Trips for more details.



## FOMO

by Catherine Taylor

### Have you heard of FOMO?

FOMO is the "Fear of Missing Out." For years, I've been hearing about First Bethel's Appalachia Service Project, or ASP, as it's fondly called.

I've seen church members march into the sanctuary with hammers and screwdrivers dressed in jeans, work boots, and ASP t-shirts. I have helped with the Bistro Dinners, given to the ASP construction tree, packed my kids, and put (in one case pushed) them into the van. Upon their return, I heard the laughter of the adults and youth about funny stories, nicknames given, and songs crafted about forgetting your boots and pillow. I have also heard testimonials shared of the lives they have changed and how *their* life has changed. I had a case of FOMO.

I had decided to attend the Adult ASP trip long before I delivered the children's message a few weeks ago about John. John was a big, strong man who was also humble and kind. He was a servant. I referenced Luke 3:16. I shared with the children how to serve God and others by tying shoelaces. It's simple to help a friend so they do not trip while running out to play.

I am not strong like John. I cannot pick up a 6 in x 6 in 12-foot long post like Robert Pugh (thank you!). I may not have the determination like Lisa Pipilo in digging the post holes (she never stopped). I did not possess the ASP knowledge like Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Lisa McDermot, or Gloria Stephan (I did learn a lot!). But what I did have in common with my team – being a servant. We all served whenever and wherever we needed.





We lent a helping hand to our homeowner, Nina, by finishing up a 6' by 10' porch. This enabled her to have a safe second exit from her house. By building stairs, digging post holes, and adding spindles, she now has a new porch where she can sit out and see the glory of her neighborhood and the mountains in Jonesville, VA.

Nina is a servant herself. Nina joined us for lunch on our first day, sharing stories about her life and children as we ate our sandwiches outside. On the second day, she stood on the new porch while we dug our holes. The joy she expressed when the steps were done is clearly seen in the pictures. Together - we served each other.



I learned not to be afraid of missing out, but to look at all the ways I can serve God. I realized that I served God by volunteering my time and gifts to teams that have gone before me. I learned I serve God by drilling, digging, and sharing in conversations in Jonesville with Nina. I needed to be reminded that serving God is not just one thing - but everything we do. I encourage all of us to keep looking for ways to serve. No act is too small.

Cheers,

Catherine





The Youth Group had a great time at the Escape Room in Homestead PA on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>



**"THANKS!"**

**Thank You to the anonymous sponsor of two Nyadire Connection sponsorships!**

The youth got together before the Escape Room event to write notes, Christmas cards and birthday cards for the two Nyadire Connection kids to open. The youth would like to say **TATENDA!** which is Thank You in Shana.

Our two kids are: Linancia Gurure (female), at Rudawiro Primary school, a 7th grader, and Clinton Mushamba (male) at Nyamhara Secondary a Form 2.

Stay tuned for details about the Youth Thanksgiving Dinner, the Christmas Progressive Dinner and other events planned for next year.

Meredith Steinhagen (Youth Coordinator)





## ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering ends at  
**11:59pm on DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

(But why wait? Don't be disappointed and order early)



### **HOW TO ORDER**

Access the Sarris fundraising website on  
your computer or mobile phone

[www.SarrisCandiesFundraising.com](http://www.SarrisCandiesFundraising.com)

- From this home page, click  
I AM SUPPORTING A FUNDRAISER then  
I AM A CUSTOMER
  - Enter our **Group ID # 10-1027** and select *Continue*
- TIP:** Use the drop-down categories under the Online Ordering tab to look for specific products.

**TIP:** Use the search bar to look for specific products.

**\$5 FLAT RATE GROUND SHIPPING**  
**ORDERS SHIP RIGHT TO YOUR HOME**

## PAPER ORDERS

**Forms can be found in the Narthex**

Paper Orders due by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Delivery to the church around December 6th

This sale supports projects, improvements and ministries  
here at First Bethel.

Contact Charlene Phillips with any questions.



We can always use more volunteers! Yes ALWAYS. The more folks we have serving, the less each person will be asked to serve.

On Sunday mornings, we need Greeters, Liturgists, Acolytes (elementary school age and youth)

and Coffee Hosts. During the week we need a Sanctuary Cleaning Team and an Altar Guild person to straighten pews by arranging hymnals, Bibles, and offering envelopes, and keeping those pencils sharpened. We also need Counters (training required) to verify the weekly collection and make the bank deposit.

Can you give an hour of your time every month or so? 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!

## **Save the Date!**



**Our annual family Advent Celebration will be Sunday evening, December 3rd.**

**There will be snacks, crafts, Christmas carols, and YES,**

**you can make a Gingerbread House!**

**Contact Gloria Stephan or Charlene Phillips if you can help with this fun event. More details to follow.**



**First Bethel**

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ways  
to  
Give

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### IN PERSON



Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your gifts. Place your donation in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

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### ONLINE VIA CHURCH WEBSITE



Visit our website at <https://www.firstbethelumc.org> and click **DONATE** to set up a one-time or recurring donation/payment.

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### ONLINE GIVING PAGE

Scan the QR code to visit our secure Vanco online giving page.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z375/home>



### MOBILE APP

Scan the QR code to use the **VANCO MOBILE APP**



If you wish to give to a designated ministry area that's not visible online or on your offering envelope, select "Designated Other" and indicate the fund in the Notes.

Call the church office at 412-835-0700  
with any questions!



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**You Shop. Your Charity Gets Money. For Free.™**

iGive is a free service where online shopping at over 1,800 stores like Walmart, Travelocity, CVS, Overstock, and many more, means a donation to your favorite cause.



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**Help First Bethel United Methodist Church  
with free donations  
whenever you shop online with [iGive.com](https://www.iGive.com)**

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The stores make this possible because they want you to like them and shop at them over and over again. You'll find socially responsible stores helping to make donations happen.

It works very much like the discontinued AmazonSmile.

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We hope you'll give it a try.

To learn more or sign up now, use this link:


<https://www.iGive.com/Pb1rX>

or our custom QR Code



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Thank You for supporting  
First Bethel UMC  
5901 Library Road Bethel Park, PA





# 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](mailto:FBUMC@Verizon.net)



**Kings School Kids**

**412-835-6141**

[KSK10@Verizon.net](mailto:KSK10@Verizon.net)

**Pastor:** Rev. David Ewing

Mobile: 412-818-0889

[PastorDavid@FirstBethelumc.org](mailto:PastorDavid@FirstBethelumc.org)

**Office Manager:** Lisa Stefanowicz

[OfficeManager@FirstBethelumc.org](mailto: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/>

**KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE:** The 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:FBUMC@Verizon.net)

**FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

5901 LIBRARY ROAD

BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

[www.firstbethelumc.org](http://www.firstbethelumc.org)

**November 2023**

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