



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2023

FROM THE HEART

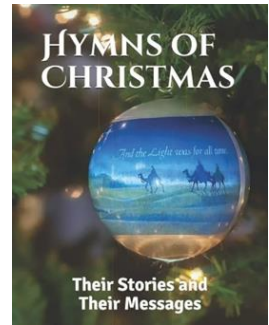
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



This month's "From the Heart" reflects a "Change of Heart!" For this Advent season, I had decided to lead us in a worship series regarding our souls waiting for God's promised salvation. But instead of that, I'd like for us to explore some hymns... Christmas Hymns.

In his book, Hymns of Christmas, John Zehring writes,

"Christmas music about Jesus Christ goes places that no other message about Jesus can reach. The hymns play in the stores, the home, the office, the car. Music reaches people who have hardly darkened the door of a church and even if the listeners do not own the words, those hymns seep into their minds and who knows what effect they might have? A person could not stand up in a store or an airport and talk about Jesus,



but music carries the message Joy to the World! The Lord is come!" (Zehring, John. Hymns of Christmas. Arlington, John Zehring Publishing, 2021.)

It is my hope that as we focus on a different Christmas hymn each week, its story, inspiration and scriptural anchor will draw us closer into the heart of God when we sing it.

Here's the difficult part! We'll only have four to five Sundays, and it would likely require a list of a dozen or more songs to capture everyone's favorites. But, for the most part, I will incorporate the ones that are the most universally loved.

I'm looking forward to singing our way through Advent with you all!

That's from the Heart,
Pastor David

Worship Schedule



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3

9:30AM Worship

10:30AM Sunday School

10:30AM Coffee Hour



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10

9:30AM Worship

10:30AM Sunday School

10:30AM Coffee Hour



Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17

9:30AM Worship and Choir Cantata

10:30AM Coffee Hour

11:00AM Christmas Pageant

4:00PM Keystone Chorus



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

9:30AM Worship

10:30AM Coffee Hour

Christmas Eve Candlelight

4:00PM Traditional Candlelight Service

Family Friendly (flameless candles for the little ones)

Children's Message and a Staffed Nursery

7:00PM Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Message, Scripture Readings and
Special Music



Sunday, December 31, 2023
Bell Sunday (a FB tradition)
9:30AM Worship Service
Bring a bell to ring in the New Year!



Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:30AM "Watch Night" Worship Service with Communion
10:30AM "Where Are We Now" meeting to discuss funding our ministries

THE
KEYSTONE CHORUS
PRESENTS
**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
HARMONIES**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
4 PM
FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5901 LIBRARY ROAD
BETHEL PARK, PA 15102

Join us for light refreshments after the concert.
Freewill donations accepted.

pghkeystonechorus.com



Dec 2 Alexandra Cecala

Dec 17 Bill Black

Dec 3 Cheryl Passios

Dec 19 Donna Dunbar

Dec 4 Lynne McCullough

Dec 21 Rex Martin

Dec 7 Jane Black

Dec 27 Alex Lauver

Dec 8 Thomas Black

Dec 28 Mark McDermot

Dec 9 Adam Carney

Dec 30 Lem Irick

Dec 13 Corey Pauline

Dec 30 Zoey Long

Dec 15 Darryl DiGorio

Dec 31 Carole Cuddy

Dec 16 Shane Danahey

Dec 31 Robin Gray

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

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH!



It's pageant time and we need you! Please let me know if you'll be able to be a part of this year's production at 11:00AM Sunday December 17th. (There will be one rehearsal at 9:30AM on Saturday, 12/16) We have speaking parts for the Youth and other parts for the younger kids. Please contact Charlene Phillips at KSK at 412-835-6141, ksk10@verizon.net or charphill1@gmail.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

OUTREACH

Parkford Apartments – Continuing Outreach

by Lisa Rulong

This past summer, through our participation in the Children's Food Network lunch program, First Bethel began to form a connection with the community of Parkford Apartments in South Park. In an effort to continue to grow this connection and further engage with the children and youth of Parkford, the Outreach Committee hopes to provide monthly gatherings for the community's children and youth consisting of a hot meal, crafts, stories, games, and if desired, help with homework.



Our first gathering was a Halloween party held on October 28th. Utilizing the green space outside of the community's office center, we had numerous games including basketball, soccer, corn hole, egg races and hula hoop contests. Lilly and Amy Zeminski contributed their considerable craft skills and helped the children paint pumpkins and create several Halloween themed decorations. Pizza, fresh fruit, cookies and (of course!) candy was served, and even with some rain toward the end, all enjoyed the day. We were delighted to reconnect with some of the children and caregivers we had met during the summer meal program, and were very happy to see several new faces and make some new friends. We also met Pastor Kelly Gilliam of South Park's Shiloh Church, which has a long history of outreach to the Parkford community, and are excited at the possibility of cooperating together on future programs.

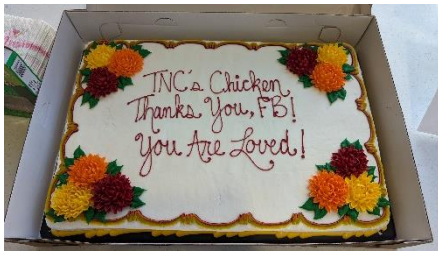
Our next gathering for the children of Parkford will be a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17th in the afternoon (time still to be determined.) If you would like more information on this Outreach Program and/or feel moved to support us in any way, please contact Lisa Rulong at 412-398-5391.

THE BBQ CHICKEN'S NUMBERS!

Dear FBUMC-ites,

Here they are: The Nyadire Connection (TNC) sold 745 tickets altogether. Of those, 450 tickets were donated to SHIM this year!. Of those 450 tickets, a HUGE CHUNK of that amazing number were donated by my church family: FBUMC. In addition to those SHIM DONATED Tickets, you also bought many, many tickets for your own table – top enjoyment of a good meal (and the cookies were much better this year. ☺ ☺ ☺)

THANK YOU, BIG TIME, FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE BP/USC ROTARY CHICKEN BBQ! Rumor has it that TNC will



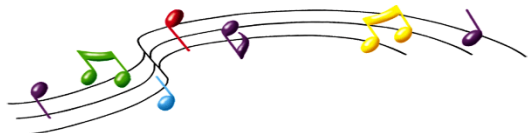
definitely receive a handsome Spring Rotary Grant which shall go to TNC's SISTER RUTT SCHOLARSHIP FUND. This fund is used to help Nyadire students who attend or aspire to attend higher education. The displays in the

Narthex and in the coffee hour space shall be coming down soon, but the need shall remain.

“WE ARE PROVIDED FOR SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE FOR!”

Thank you again for accenting that statement by buying a ticket or tickets. You have made my heart dance with joy – so much joy. May this Advent Season enrich your lives as you have enriched others via your generosity!

From Phil Himmler



Shalom to you now; Shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living, and through your loving,
Christ be your Shalom
Christ be your Shalom

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Rev. Kathy Clark led our Women's Retreat at Olmsted Manor in Kane, PA the weekend of November 10-12. There were 29 ladies (and one baby!) in attendance and our weekend was centered on "Spiritual Autobiographies".



THE 2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT WILL BE NOVEMBER 15-17

Please note: Olmsted Manor's new policy requires a single night deposit of \$45/person to hold our spot. Refundable deposits for our 2024 retreat can be submitted to First Bethel marked "Women's Retreat". Requests for refunds will be accepted until 10/31/2024. Thank you for your understanding.



The Trustees are in the process of replacing the existing door access keypads with a new system called VizPin.

The new system will use a smart phone app for access, and we'll

be asking you to return any key fobs that you have, as they will not work with the new system.

LIBRARY NEWS

Christmas Love and Miracles

Eighty-three Christmas books will be on our Library shelves through December. A partial list follows. It includes some of the most famous books ever written – and illustrated -
- for this special time of the year.



-- **A TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS MIRACLES**

-- **ADVENT STORYBOOK: 24 stories**

-- **THE POLAR EXPRESS**

-- **CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING**

-- **A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA**

-- **THE LITTLEST REINDEER**

-- **A SHEPHERD'S SONG**

-- **THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE**

-- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

-- **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS**

-- **SARAH'S SONG**

-- **CHRISTMAS JARS**

-- **HOW TO CATCH SANTA**

-- **GOD GAVE US CHRISTMAS**

-- **SNOWMEN AT CHRISTMAS**

-- **THE LAST CHRISTMAS RIDE**

-- **THE JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM**

-- **SEVEN STORIES OF CHRISTMAS LOVE**

... And so many more ...

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR LIBRARY STAFF!

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 7PM on Friday, December 15th at the home of Mike & Gloria Stephan. We're taking off the month of January, and our next meeting will be February 16th at 7PM at Panera Bread in South Park Shops.



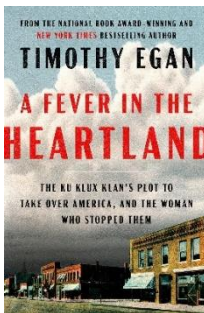
Book Club Selections



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.

January - No meeting.



Friday, February 16 – A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan

A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them

"With narrative elan, Egan gives us a riveting saga of how a predatory con man became one of the most powerful people in 1920s America, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, with a plan to rule the country—and how a grisly murder of a woman brought him down. Compelling and chillingly resonant with our own time." —Erik Larson



Still searching for: FBUMC Memories



I am still collecting items for a documentary on First Bethel. 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.

And - First Bethel documentary interviews!

Whether you have been a member of the church for decades, or recently started attending, your input is valuable. I would love to have viewpoints from as many church members as possible! I will have equipment to conduct interviews after church some Sundays, but you can also interview yourself (cell phone is fine).

Email me for directions & shooting tips!

Rcecala@gmail.com

Possible talking points:

- Favorite First Bethel Memories
- What has First Bethel meant to you
 - Best part of First Bethel
- Favorite First Bethel traditions

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

Thank you!

Robin Cecala (607) 760-8069

FROM THE FBUMC MEN'S GROUP



**MEN'S
GROUP**

The men would like to thank everyone for their donations of food for the Thanksgiving dinner kits. They were able to assemble and deliver 25 complete dinners, providing a delicious Thanksgiving meal to families that may not otherwise be able to enjoy a complete holiday meal.

The next meeting for the Men's Group will be Saturday, December 2 at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church. They'll be setting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary around 9AM.



MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 13 at 1PM in the Susanna Wesley room of the church. All ladies are welcome.



**Focus
Ministry**

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MINISTRIES

DECEMBER FOCUS MINISTRY

YOUTH GROUP

Our junior and senior high school youth are planning several activities under the supervision of our Youth Coordinator Meredith Steinhagen. Your gifts will offset the cost of their annual youth retreat to Jumonville in February, and some of their other activities and initiatives.



SUMMER 2024 WHAT?

by Gloria Stephan

I know it's December, but we're already planning our trip for next summer! Our next trip is scheduled for

SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH 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 if you have questions, need more information, or if you're interested in joining us! See www.ASPHome.org Summer Trips for more details.

Save the Date!



We're planning another ASP Trivia Night fundraiser for **Saturday, February 24th 2024** at 5PM with a Leap Year Theme.

Stay tuned for more information on how to join a team and help us raise funds for our next ASP trip!



We're also planning to have three ASP Bistro fundraiser dinners during Lent. We're discussing Sundays March 3, 10 and 17th.



The youth held their traditional Thanksgiving dinner where they invited special guests to join them for an evening of great food, fellowship and giving thanks!



The Youth Progressive Dinner will be Sunday, December 23rd and the Youth Retreat to Jumonville will be February 16-18, 2024. Contact Meredith Steinhagen, Youth Coordinator, for more details.

KSK and
Church
Office



Will Be
Closed:

Kings School Kids and the Church Office will be closed from December 25th through January 1st.

We will be periodically checking emails, regular mail and phone messages. Please call Pastor David at 412-818-0889 with any urgent needs.

Merry Christmas!



ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering ends at 11:59pm on DECEMBER 15TH

HOW TO ORDER

Access the Sarris fundraising website
on your computer or mobile phone



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

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!

It's Advent!



Our annual family Advent Celebration will be Sunday evening, December 3rd at 6PM

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.



First Bethel

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ways to Give

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.

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.

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!



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.



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

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.

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



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



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/>

KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The 20th of each month is the deadline for submissions for the next issue of the King's 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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