



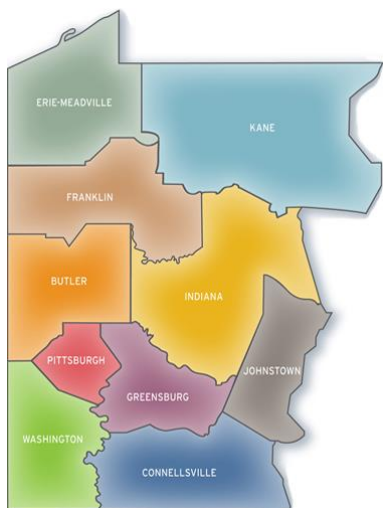
First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2025

METHODIST BUILDING BLOCKS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER THOUGHTS
FROM PASTOR DAVID



Legos! It is fun using a wildly re-popularized childhood toy for illustration purposes. Discussing the organizational structure of the United Methodist Church needs a fun, colorful illustration.

In the last King's Light Newsletter, I shared about Charge Conference and compared it to the individual Lego. This month let's look at the Annual Conference. We are just a

few weeks past our 2025 Annual Conference.

Our use of the term "Annual Conference" can be confusing! We use the same term to identify our collective United Methodist Churches geographically and we use the term to identify the annual meeting we attend in June each year. One way to view the Annual Conference is it being the "Church Council" for a large collection of United Methodist Churches.

Each church in this area has a delegate that is elected at the Charge Conference (that I featured last month). For the past several years it has been Stephanie Alstadt (Thank you Stephanie!). Every church in our geographical conference (pictured above) sends that delegate to the conference meeting – along with their pastor. Ministry done in the past year is celebrated at the conference, as ministry reports are shared by various groups. The bishop shares a "State of the Church" address where she summarizes where we have been as a

conference the last year. She speaks about her vision regarding the direction our of our churches. Just like we approve certain proposals at our local church council, we approve proposals at Annual Conference that impact Western PA as well as the worldwide UMC denomination.

Another significant element of Annual Conference is the approval of candidates for ministry (deacons, pastors, elders, laity positions, etc.). Each year, in a special service, the bishop ordains elders and deacons. It is a time of celebrating the ministry of deacons and clergy who are retiring. And it is the place where the setting of pastoral appointments is finalized.

For many years, the location of Annual Conference was Grove City College. Several dynamics precipitated the move to the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA – where it has remained for nearly five years. Next year's conference will be closer to us, as it will be held on the campus of PennWest – California University, in the nearby town of California.



This is a very brief sharing of what Annual Conference is. I am always glad to talk about it in greater detail. I welcome your thoughts and questions! Please don't hesitate to share!

Journeying together,

Pastor David



The Men's Group is organizing a trip to see **"The Road to Damascus"** at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugar Creek, Ohio on Thursday, July 17th at 1PM. Sign up in the Narthex or see Dave Miller if you're interested. **All are welcome!**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUMMER SUNDAYS

9:30AM WORSHIP

10:45AM COFFEE HOUR AND FELLOWSHIP

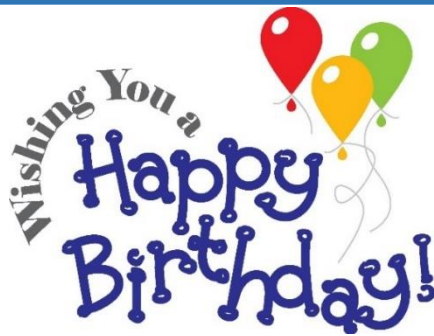
Communion is held the first Sunday of each month

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



We wish to provide a staffed nursery at our 9:30 AM worship service, starting with the first Sunday of each month and expanding to every Sunday. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old with current clearances.

Contact Catherine Taylor if you're interested!



Jul 4 Jack Warywoda

Jul 20 Keith Swan

Jul 8 Lisa DiGorio

Jul 22 Kirk Steinhagen

Jul 13 Benjamin Melber

Jul 22 Lilly Zeminski

Jul 16 Aaron Lauver

Jul 28 Gloria Ninness

Jul 16 Mary Ann Ritchey

Jul 28 Ted Phillips

Jul 19 Todd Zahniser

Jul 31 Madison Newman

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



Can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its comfort?

You can if it's a Prayer Quilt. Prayer Quilts are dedicated and prayed over during a worship service, and then knots are tied on the quilts as a symbol of sending a silent prayer of comfort and healing. What makes each quilt special is not the pattern, color, or workmanship, but the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one. These quilts are a statement of faith, and a testimony to our belief in God and the power of Prayer.

Contact Sally Irick or Lorna Schlutz to request a Prayer Quilt for someone, or if you'd like to help with this ministry.



To our friends at First Bethel,

We loved spending the week serving the Lord with you on ASP. We pray we continue to see y'all. Game night at our church real soon! Love you and God Bless.

Pastor Lori, Steve, Marci, Marissa, Lynn, Dolly, Marissa, Lincoln and Madi (First Washington UMC Church, Washington PA)

With a Thankful Heart,

Thank you all so much for the Finals care package, I love everything you guys got me. When I received my care package, it made my whole week! I really appreciate it.

Love,

Ella Harmon



Greetings my fellow servants of God!

We have been praying for ways that God can use us beyond our four walls. We know and believe that He has blessed us so that we can be good stewards of what He has given us. Part of this stewardship is to bless other ministries. We feel like God has placed your church on our hearts to simply bless you. We want to provide you with some resources for you to build the Kingdom in the place and space that God has given you!

Please know that in addition to the gift, we have been praying specifically for your ministry. May God's purpose and plan be established as He leads!

Blessings to you from Shiloh Church (South Park, PA)

Pastor Javan & Pastor Kelly Gilliam

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 7th – Thursday, July 10th

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM



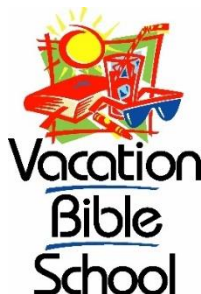
Melissa and Catherine are back, energized, and excited to bring Pastor Michael Airgood back to FBUMC to help lead our young ones in learning more about these 5 principles:

Time, Witness, Prayer, Talent, and Gifts

Together we will explore our principles through Bible Stories, Music, Recreation, Science, Crafts, and Snacks.

Each day, we'll dive into a new topic, discovering how to make the most of our time, share our faith, grow in prayer, and use our God-given talents and gifts to serve others.

There will be fun activities, worship, crafts, and fellowship for children 3 years (potty trained) through rising 5th graders. Contact Melissa Smith or Catherine Taylor for more information, or if you can help.



Vacation Bible School 2025
First Bethel United Methodist Church



VBS is for all potty trained children Preschool through rising 5th grade.

Date: Monday, July 7 to Thursday, July 10

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm



Child's Name:	
Address, City, State, Zip	
Child's Date of Birth:	
Child's Current Age:	
Grade last completed:	
Home Church:	
Parent/Guardian name:	
Parent/Guardian email:	
Parent/Guardian cell:	
Any known allergies:	

Parent/Guardian Signature:

AN UPDATE ON OUR FIRST BETHEL RINGERS

by Christina Ewing



First Bethel Ringers had a successful first season 2024-2025! Easter Sunday 2024 came with an announcement that the handbell choir was returning. The season started September 2024 with six members, and quickly grew to ten members by the close of the season. The ringers range in age including one high school student, one college student all the way up to retirement age members. Three of the ringers came with experience but most of the ringers were new to handbell ringing! Christina Ewing leads First Bethel Ringers.

As the season neared the end, the group concluded the season by inviting a guest conductor, Jeff Leonhardt, to conduct our challenging, as well as fun, Easter musical selection. Jeff brought his years of knowledge in the field of music education and continued to make each of the members a better musician than when they started. We concluded our season in April 2025.

Christina Ewing will be attending a two day long handbell conference this summer, where she will take part in several classes on continued education in the art of handbell ringing. Christina will be able to share her knowledge with the group this fall as the First Bethel Ringers will resume September 2025.

If you know how to read music, inquire with Christina Ewing as there are a few ringing positions open for season two starting in September.

OUTREACH



Outreach is organizing a trip for elementary age students, youth and adults to the **Mission Barn** in New Castle, PA on Wednesday, July 16th. The Mission Barn is one of the UMCOR Relief Supply



Network depots located across the USA. Sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office if you're interested in joining us. We'll carpool from the church at 8:15AM, and return by 3:30PM



Help us to collect non-perishable food and personal care items to be given to our neighbors through **SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement)** in Bethel Park. Place your donations in the bins in the narthex, and we'll get them to SHIM.



If you have older prescription glasses that are taking up drawer space, please drop them in the box in the Narthex and we will pass them along to Christ United Methodist Church so they may be re-distributed to those in need of those prescriptions.



The Kids Meal Network feeding ministry at Parkford Apartments is up and running on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through August 15th

If you can help, please contact Mary Courtney or Pastor David. Available volunteer slots are 10:15AM – 12:15PM to Receive and Setup and/or 11:45AM – 1:15PM to Serve and Cleanup. Detailed

instructions are available and there should always be a trained supervisor on site with you.

Food is now delivered directly to Parkford Apartments (not to First Bethel as in the past). One trained supervisor and two volunteers are needed each day to perform all the tasks required for this vital ministry. You can sign up in Ministry Scheduler Pro for either time slot, or you can do both time slots.

We can use a few more volunteers to make this ministry a success again this summer.

Outreach has completed 45 UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kits that will be blessed on Sunday, July 13th and delivered to the Mission Barn on July 16th. Extra items will be donated to be used for incomplete kits. Thanks to everyone that donated items and thanks to those that gave of their time to assemble the kits!





KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

by Gloria Stephan

Welcome home to our 2025 ASP mission team from Kanawha County, Charleston, West Virginia. Our 22 volunteers, divided into three crews, installed a handicap ramp, drywall, two windows, a door, and flooring, improving three homes to be Warmer, Safer, and Drier.

Melisa Winburn, President/CEO of Appalachia Service Project presented First Bethel with a **Certificate of Appreciation for 25 years of dedicated service to the families of Central Appalachia.** This would not have been possible without many hands and hearts supporting our ASP trips since we started with one team of just seven volunteers back in 2000.



Join us for our ASP 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday, August 31st at 9:30AM, followed by a luncheon in Founders Hall. Special guests include Pastor Tom Hoeke who got us started on ASP, and Chris (JC)

Schroeder, VP of New Build and Disaster Recovery for ASP.

Our fall weekend adult ASP trip is planned for Thursday, October 2nd through Sunday, October 5th to Jonesville Virginia and the cost is \$150/person. The ASP-owned Jonesville Center is a lodge-like facility with bunk beds, nice bathrooms and showers, and a porch with mountain views. We will travel 7 hours in rented mini vans to arrive in Jonesville for dinner on Thursday. We'll work on ASP projects in the area on Friday and Saturday, and return Sunday. Contact Gloria Stephan if you're interested in joining us. For more information, see www.asphome.org Volunteer Opportunities / Adult Trips.

Watch for more about our summer trip experiences next month!



2025 ASP SUMMER TRIP VOLUNTEERS KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Dolly Alderson, Lynn Bedillion, Ayden Bowser, Alexandra Cecala, Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Taylon Jeffries, Lisa McDermot, Steve Motzer, Robert Pugh, Brynn Rinehart, Thaddeaus Smith, Zofia Smith, Gloria Stephan, Carolyn Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lincoln Undzius, Marci Undzius, Katelyn Voytek, Marissa Voytek, Lori Walters, Madie Wigfield.

(See Gloria Stephan if you'd like to purchase a gray First Bethel ASP shirt with the rose window on the back (limited sizes))

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth Group is hosting an

**Ice Cream Social on Sunday,
September 7th from 3PM – 5PM.**



KSK Families and Church Families are all welcome!

There will be Ice Cream, Games, and Coloring Activities.

Contact Meredith Steinhagen for more details.



**THE MEN'S GARAGE SALE IS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
8AM – 2PM**

Please save your sellable items and watch for drop-off times.

No clothing or old electronics please



**BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS**

Please bring your backpacks, briefcases, laptop bags, etc. to the 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday, August 10. We will be offering a blessing for these items as well as for students, teachers, and school support staff in preparation for the upcoming school year.

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

DONATIONS



Several books by Bible teachers and others have been given to our Library.

As always, our sincere thanks to donors who help us serve First Bethel readers.

Bible teacher *Joyce Meyer* is the author of these three:

POWER THOUGHTS: 12 strategies to win the battle of the mind. 270 pages.

HOW TO AGE WITHOUT GETTING OLD: The steps you can take today to stay young for the rest of your life. 151 pages.

THE CONFIDENT WOMAN DEVOTIONAL: 365 daily inspirations. 365 pages.

Others:

THE BIBLE JESUS READ: Why the Old Testament matters. By *Philip Yancey*, whose biography says he explores the “most basic questions and deepest mysteries of the Christian faith.” 219 pages.

SIGNS YOU’LL SEE JUST BEFORE JESUS COMES. By Bible teacher *Rick Renner*. 178 pages.

EMOTIONS: Confront the lies, conquer with truth. By late Baptist Pastor *Charles Stanley*. 288 pages.

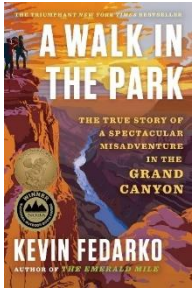
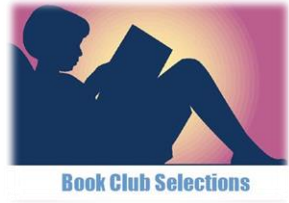
CARENOTES

Depression, anxiety, dementia, financial stress and many other subjects are covered in these eight-page pamphlets available worldwide – and in a display case on the back wall of our Library. They may help you or someone you know. The CareNotes slogan is “Take one - and take heart. Give one - and give hope.”

Your Library Staff

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club explores a variety of literature to expand our understanding and perspectives. Recommendations and your participation are welcome. Meetings are held once a month at 7PM at Panera Bread in South Park Shops.



Friday, July 18 "A Walk in the Park"

The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon – Kevin Fedarko

Two friends, zero preparation, one dream. A few years after quitting his job to follow an ill-advised dream of becoming a guide on the Colorado River, Kevin Fedarko was approached by his best friend, *National Geographic* photographer Pete McBride, with a vision as bold as it was harebrained. Together, they would embark on an end-to-end traverse of the Grand Canyon, a journey that, McBride promised, would be "a walk in the park." Against his better judgment, Fedarko agreed, unaware that the small cluster of experts who had completed the crossing billed it as "the toughest hike in the world."

The ensuing ordeal, which lasted more than a year, revealed a place that was deeper, richer, and far more complex than anything the two men had imagined—and came within a hair's breadth of killing them both. They struggled to make their way through a vertical labyrinth of thousand-foot cliffs and crumbling ledges where water is measured out by the teaspoon and every step is fraught with peril—and where, even today, there is still no trail along the length of the country's best-known and most iconic park.

NURTURE PROJECT



The Nurture Project is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate individuals who provide nurturing support to others.

Gifts were received in honor or memory of the following people.

<i>From</i>	<i>In Honor of:</i>	
<i>Phil Himmler</i>	<i>First Bethel Choir who volunteer their time for First Bethel!</i>	
<i>Lorna Scott Schlutz & Elaine Scott Moore</i>	<i>Ruth McTaggart, a shining light during our youth.</i>	
<i>From</i>		<i>In Memory of:</i>
<i>Lisa & Mark McDermot</i>		<i>Mary Pusateri & Ralph McDermot</i>
<i>Donna Hennen</i>		<i>Eleanor & Melvin Moore, My Parents, and Ruby Ziegler, My Aunt</i>
<i>Brynn & Todd Rinehart</i>		<i>Sandy Clark</i>
<i>Karen Eicker</i>		<i>Mary Lou Carr My Mom's Craft Circle Bestie!</i>
<i>Ted & Charlene Phillips</i>		<i>Our Fathers</i>

FBUMC MEN'S GROUP



The Men's Group usually meets at 8:30AM on the first Saturday of each month for fellowship and community activities, however, there is no meeting in July.

The next Men's Group meeting is August 2nd

MARTHA CIRCLE



Martha Circle is on summer break.

Their next meeting is at 1PM on **Wednesday, September 10th** in the Susanna Wesley room of the church. All ladies are welcome.

This is a time of fellowship, service and connecting with other women of our faith community. Contact Donna Hennen for more information.

First Bethel's Mission Statement

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



First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 Library Road

Bethel Park, PA 15102

<http://www.firstbethelumc.org>

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Kings School Kids

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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 submitted on time to avoid the disappointment of not having it appear in the next edition. Send via email to Gloria Stephan, editor or send to FBUMC@Verizon.net

FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

www.firstbethelumc.org

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