



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2024

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt,
the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be
broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will
extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the
earth. (Zechariah 9:9-10, NIV)*

The scripture above was the centerpiece for our Palm Sunday Worship Service this year. In the hours that followed the service, the title of “Bow Breaker” kept entering my thoughts. Zechariah prophesied the chariots, warhorses and bows of the enemy armies would be “taken out of service,” saying the “battle bow will be broken.” Our God is a Bow Breaker!

The many enemies of the Hebrew people employed very powerful weapons. How could their successful use be thwarted? How could God’s people be saved? For these were the most formidable and deadly weapons! God would answer that question with fulfilled prophecy in the year AD 33...the prophecy of the beginning verses above. A King would come that would bring weapons that had the ability to take away the chariot’s great power. These weapons would render the warhorse lame. And these weapons would make our coming king a Bow Breaker! The king is Jesus. The weapons – grace, compassion, and love.

The full salvation Jesus brings accompanies him upon his second coming when “every tear will be wiped away” (Revelation 21:4). Until then, arrows fly in this broken world. But Jesus’ resurrection and ascension that took place upon his first visit broke the power of the bow to bring death. We may experience mortal, physical death here. But our king comes to us, righteous

and victorious! And in his lowly posture, on the back of a donkey, brings to us eternal life!

Let us worship this worthy bow-breaking king this glorious Easter morning! And may we employ the weapons we have been given for the bringing down of spiritual strongholds: grace, compassion, and love. That way we become bow-breakers and arrow-benders as well!

That's from the Heart,
Pastor David

Easter Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM



GOOD FRIDAY 7PM



EASTER SUNDAY

7:30AM SUNRISE SERVICE

9:30AM RESURRECTION SERVICE



SUNDAY 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**

LAVERNE VANDALE

May 23, 1937 - March 14, 2024



Age 86, of Bethel Park, passed peacefully in the Health Center at Friendship Village of South Hills on March 14, 2024.

LaVerne was born on May 23, 1937, in Cecil Township to August and Edith (Ayres) Vandale. She is survived by her nephew, Brian (Carmel) Vandale and their son, Alex Vandale; her sister-in-law, Miriam Vandale Bestwick; her cousin, Janice Profio and several other cousins in California. Preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Herbert Vandale; and her nephew, Ronald Vandale.

LaVerne graduated from Cecil High School in 1955. She then retired from Kirkpatrick Lockhart Law Firm in Pittsburgh as a proofreader. She was a member of the First Bethel United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, where she sang in the choir; formerly a member of Peters Creek Presbyterian Church in Venetia. LaVerne loved nature, especially bird watching, and loved to travel.

Arrangements by BEINHAUER, 2828 Washington Road, McMurray, PA 15317, 724-941-3211. Family and friends were welcomed on Friday, March 22, 2024 followed by a blessing service led by Pastor David Ewing and interment at Brush Run Cemetery in Venetia.

<https://obituaries.post-gazette.com/obituary/laverne-vandale-1089485895>



COUNCIL UPDATE

Church Council will provide an update on our financial situation after March 31st, which is the end of the first quarter.

Contributors will also be receiving a “Beyond the Plate” publication with their first quarter financial statements. Beyond the Plate has been written by Lorna Schlutz as a method of highlighting the many ways in which First Bethel reaches out in love and service....beyond the plate.



DO YOU HAVE A KEY FOB?



Building Access

The new VizPin system has been installed and the old key fobs will no longer work. The new system uses a smart phone app to allow access to authorized users. Full Instructions for the new system are available in the Narthex, or by contacting the Church Office.

LOST
&
FOUND



LOST & FOUND

Are you missing a coat, a travel mug, glasses, or something else? Check the Lost & Found bin on the shelf in the coat closet in the back of the church behind the Church Library.

MESSAGE CENTER



Please check the **Message Center** located at the back of the church beside the coat closet for any mail, or items that may be for you from the office, or other members. Your name will be written on the white board if “**You Got Mail**”



Apr 1 Gary Graney

Apr 2 Daniel Tomkins

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 21 Killian Jubach

Apr 24 Jessica Evans

Apr 24 Christina Ewing

Apr 27 Lexi Schlutz

Apr 28 Karol Snead

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

General Conference is scheduled for April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is the postponed General Conference originally scheduled for 2020.

United Methodists from all over the world will come together to do the work of the denomination. The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference is entitled to six clergy delegates and six lay delegates, which were elected by our annual conference. During the time these delegates are in Charlotte, they will hear reports, engage in the legislative process, and spend time in worship.

For more information, see <http://facebook.com/wpaumc> or

<http://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>



YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

The First Bethel Youth Group has been very busy! Here are some of their recent and planned activities:

- March 3rd, 10th and 17th – Helped with ASP Bistro fundraiser dinners.
- March 10th – Pancakes with the Pastor, hosted by Erin Doman.
- March 16th – That Pottery Place chaperoned by Jim Walter and Linda Graney. Our youth were joined by two young ladies from Ligonier that are going on our ASP trip!
- March 24th – Youth Fellowship mixer at Baldwin UMC.
- April 14th – Pancakes with the Pastor, hosted by Amy Scott.
- April 20th – Passover Seder Dinner at the church. Youth can invite their families to participate too!
- April 27th – Youth Fellowship Mixer at First Bethel (tentative date and activity).
- May 5th – Youth helping with Daily Bread outreach ministry on Pittsburgh's North Side.
- May 18th – tentative trip to Statler's Fun Center in Greensburg.

Our youth have been joining with the South Hills Partnership effort which includes youth from Baldwin Community UMC, Spencer Charge (Fairhaven, Spencer and Hilltop UMC), and possibly Windover Hills UMC.

Meredith Steinhagen has been coordinating the youth events, and she's always looking for adult chaperones. Contact her if you're interested in helping.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Middle East Turmoil



THE LEMON TREE: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East. The conflict is examined from the perspectives of two families – one on each side. The author, *Sandy Tolan*, said their story goes “beneath the headlines and the endless cycles of repeated history,” and helps explain “how we got to this hard, difficult place.”

BLOOD BROTHERS by Archbishop Emeritus *Elias Chacour*, a Palestinian Christian. As he tells his life story, he discusses the turmoil in the Middle East and addresses questions such as “What does Bible prophecy really have to say?” and “Can bitter enemies ever be reconciled?”

JERUSALEM: The Biography - A chronicle of 3,000 years of faith, fanaticism, bloodshed and co-existence. This gripping narrative by historian *Simon Sebag Montefiore* tells the story of the “universal city” -- from its beginning to modern times – and helps provide a better understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Note: We’ve listed these three books (published years ago) as a reminder that they are still available in our Library.

YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

BOOK CLUB

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

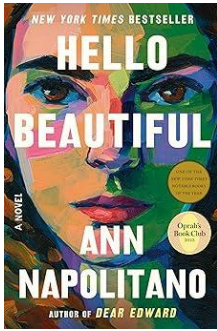


Book Club Selections

New folks are always welcome, even if you haven't read our monthly suggestions.

We're always looking for recommendations and we'd love to chat about whatever it is you've been reading!

April 19 "Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napolitano



William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him—so when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it's as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, as she and her three sisters are inseparable: Sylvie, the family's dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book; Cecelia is a free-spirited artist; and Emeline patiently takes care of them all. With the Padavanos, William experiences a newfound contentment; every moment in their house is filled with loving chaos

But then darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable devotion to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together when it matters most? An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, *Little Women*, *Hello Beautiful* is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.

May 17 "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver

GARAGE SALE

8AM - 2PM

Saturday, May 11th 2024



Huge annual garage sale sponsored by
the Men's Group of First Bethel UMC

Housewares, hand tools, gas/ electric/battery-operated garden tools, electronics, furniture, outdoor furniture, sports equipment, vegetable plants and flowers, fabrics (yard goods and quilt cuts), toys, games, puzzles, books, and much, much more....

All proceeds benefit our many ministries.

Contact Jim Walter, Ken Williams or Dave Miller to arrange for dropping off donations at the church, or for pickup of larger items.

The Commandments...according to FBUMC

by Catherine Taylor

Early in March, during service Pastor David asked the congregation to write our own Ten Commandments according to First Bethel. Many gladly obliged and provided the Commandments below:

1. Thou shall put in your hearing aids
2. Thou shall get to church on time
3. Thou shall sing, even if you don't know the hymn
4. Thou shall not say no to any service opportunity and shall step up with a willing and happy heart
5. Thou shall not gossip...unless it is true!
6. Thou shall care for one another
7. Thou shall not be usher on Easter Sunday without having on a Peter Cottontail
8. Thou shall wear a chicken costume when announcing the annual chicken dinner
9. Thou shall love thy neighbor
10. Thou shall greet Mr. Finlay
11. Thou shall greet everyone who walks into our house of worship
12. Thou shall not disrespect the chicken
13. Thou shall share a meal always
14. Thou shall make going to church a priority
15. Thou shall have coffee after services
16. Thou shall not take the Lord God's name in vain
17. Thou shall support the "chicken lady" always (or else!)
18. Thou shall always sing
19. Thou shall refrain from frowning
20. Thou shall remember that it's ok to share both joys and concerns

Our Commandments may not look exactly like those that Moses gave us, however there are similarities. Getting to church on time and making it a priority is keeping the Sabbath day holy. Do not gossip, unless it's true. Moses asks us to not bear false witness. Instead, we should share the good news of God. Then there are quite a few commandments that are very unique to our church: greeting Mr. Finlay, supporting the Chicken Lady, ushering with a Peter Cottontail on Easter. The extension of Christian love is given to new faces that walk through our doors by welcoming them and inviting all to share a meal. I encourage us to abide by both the Bible's Commandments and First Bethel as we actually managed to double the amount Moses gave us!



**BUILDING
KINDNESS**
by Gloria Stephan



- **Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”**

We should receive our location assignment very soon, and our 15 volunteers are anxiously awaiting the news! Meanwhile:

- The three ASP Bistro dinners in March were great opportunities to enjoy fellowship, breaking bread together, and meeting and supporting the ASP volunteers with gifts of time, talents, and resources. Thanks to everyone that participated! We collected \$3,072 in donations, raising \$2,734 after expenses. **A special shout out to the Men’s Group for covering costs for the roast beef and all other food for the “Got Beef?” dinner. It was our most popular and profitable meal.**
- Please see the ASP Construction Tree in the coffee area which is filled with tags requesting items we can use for our mission trip on June 16th. Take a tag and return it with the requested item by May 12th.
- We’ll be selecting a fall weekend for our third ASP adult trip to Jonesville, VA soon. Please contact Gloria Stephan if you're interested in joining us! We leave on a Thursday, work Friday and Saturday, and return on Sunday. Cost is \$150/volunteer, and we have room for YOU.

Our ASP Summer Trip is scheduled for
SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH THROUGH SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Contact me at gstephan57@gmail.com if you have questions, or want more information about ASP. See www.ASPHome.org for more details on Summer Trips or Year Round Trips.



FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting for the Men's Group will be Saturday, April 6th at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church.

MARTHA CIRCLE



Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10th in the Susanna Wesley room of the church. All ladies are welcome. Contact Donna Hennen for more information.



SECOND-MILE GIVING

OUR APRIL FOCUS MINISTRY IS
APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Due to generous direct gifts, a successful Trivia Night fundraiser in February, and three well-supported Bistro dinners in March, our summer trip is fully funded! Thank You.

Additional donations will be set aside towards future ASP trips. The ASP volunteers will be helping with the Men's Garage Sale to benefit the church's General Ministries Fund.

*Although we focus on a specific ministry each month for second mile giving, **the best way to support all the ministries of First Bethel is directing your donations to the General Ministries Fund.** Most importantly, give as God directs you.*



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

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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

April 2024

King's Light Newsletter

HAVE A
Blessed
EASTER