



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2024

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



“Light the beam! Light the beam! Light the beam!” is the cry that erupts from arena-gathered fans, cheering on the NBA professional basketball team Sacramento Kings. This chant begins when it is evident the Kings will prevail with a victory. Courtside, near the Kings’ bench, sits an oversized purple button (purple being a color of royalty!). When the “Light the beam!” shouts swell, a King’s player dramatically hits the button. At that moment, the “King’s Light” shoots into the sky from the roof of the arena. This light is a giant purple beam, created by four lasers, packing 1000 watts each. Throughout the two-plus hours of the game, Kings’ fans experience tension, wondering if their cause will prevail, a win...which has not been plentiful prior to the 2022-2023 season! But on good days, that tension ends with this great light sitting “on the head” of the Kings’ arena.



This brings Pentecost to mind! The believers had been gathered nervously in a secluded room, trying to make sense of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead and what that would mean for them. That tension would build until they heard what sounded like a rush of mighty wind (Acts, chapter 2). This drew them out of the house, and they experienced a supernatural event that ushered God’s presence meant to take abode in the hearts of

the God's people, the promised Holy Spirit. As the people gathered outside, the writer of Acts, Luke, the evangelist, tried to describe what was seen. It appeared that flame-like light had come to settle on the believers' heads. The light of the King of Heaven identified the church, and the people began proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven had come to Earth, in the form of the promised Holy Spirit.

Oh, member of God's church, may you awake each day, eager to reveal the "King's Light" that surrounds you as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. May this take the form of love, as people witness compassion, mercy, grace, and the pursuit of justice for all people emitting from you. And as we come together at the church, may our spiritual chant be, "Light the beam! Light the beam! Light the beam!"

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say: [God is on the move!] - Acts 2:14-36

That's from the Heart,

Pastor David



Our annual church picnic will be held
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
at Elm Grove Park, 250 Thompsonville
Road, McMurray (in Peters Township)

SUMMER SUNDAYS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9:30AM

Worship in the Sanctuary
Chancel Choir or Special Music

10:30AM

Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time

Communion is celebrated during Worship
on the first Sunday of each month

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

These services are intended to provide an opportunity to worship in an outdoor setting with acts of worship connected to creation.

Meet in the outdoor worship area near the cross.

Wednesday, June 19th 7PM

Wednesday, July 17th 7PM

Wednesday, August 21st at 7PM



Jun 2 Max Peterson

Jun 17 Katie Sullivan

Jun 2 Alyssa Scabilloni

Jun 18 Diana Slater

Jun 5 Dave Cummings

Jun 22 Lauren Avon

Jun 5 Joanne LaRosa

Jun 24 Trevor Barrett

Jun 6 Janice Evans

Jun 25 Rich Cooley

Jun 7 Chris Bright

Jun 26 Marilyn Kebe

Jun 7 Kathy Rickenbach

Jun 27 Laverne McConnell

Jun 10 Ayden Bowser

Jun 27 James Pauline

Jun 11 Donna Hennen

Jun 30 Bill Kennedy

Jun 12 Rhett Martin



Outreach is organizing a trip to the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA on **Tuesday, July 30th**.

This opportunity is open to elementary school age students, youth and adults

The Mission Barn is one of six UMCOR Relief Supply Network depots across the USA. We will meet at the church at 8:30AM, we'll return by 3:30PM. Volunteers may work on UMCOR kits, handicap ramps, or something else. Sign-up in the Narthex or contact the church office if you're interested.

THE GOOD FUTURES REPORT – MEETING 2

Dear First Bethel,

On Saturday, May 4th, your Good Futures Team met again. This session was focused on discovering our passions as a congregation, as well as what inspires us, makes us special and gives us hope for our future.

To prepare for the meeting we each approached members of the congregation and asked you to answer questions that would help us learn these things. During our meeting we discussed your input and worked to distill it down into broader topics and themes.

What We Learned

- You are most touched by the loving kindness of First Bethel people and the fact they are welcoming and inclusive rather than tribal.
- You are excited that our ministries range from local to international.
- You are encouraged by our strategic location on the Rt 88 corridor, our easy access to the trolley line, and the potential represented by a brand-new elementary school being built around the corner.
- You are impressed by our people's faithfulness and their willingness to take a leap of faith to start or get involved in new enterprises.
- The positive response to the financial shortfall and willingness of our people to innovate gives you hope for the future. So does the simple fact that our church community is so inviting and cares about each person.

Our Passions

Looking at these themes, we found our passions cross in two, complementary streams.

- Nurturing each member of the church community and the functions within the church itself.
- Reaching out of the church to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the local community and beyond.

What Makes Us Special

Our passions alone may well be the best description of what makes us special. Most churches tend to focus on one of these things to the exclusion of the other. The fact that First Bethel members are passionate about and support both of these so diligently is unique and may well play an important part in helping determine what we do next.

Next Steps

Now that we've explored our passions and strengths, our next step is to go out and learn more about the needs of our local community. Why? Because to be successful we need to focus on finding an enterprise that meets a recognized need and is something we are passionate about supporting.

Coming Up

Our homework for Meeting 3 has us conduct what is called ***I Spy Sessions***. In these, each of us will be asking a couple of you to walk with us through a section of our community to explore its potential and identify areas of possible need. In addition, each member of the Good Futures Team must set up meetings with selected community leaders to get their views on opportunities and needs in our community.

How Can You Help?

Please let us know the following:

1. If you are willing to go on one of the ***I Spy Sessions*** we will work to include you. Please note that we will be walking for about 60-90 minutes for this.
2. If you have any contacts in local or regional area businesses, or know any civic leaders, organizers, community groups, funders, resource holders or possible collaborators who you sense could help or provide meaningful input to our process we would like to talk to you about them.

We hope this report continues to give you some idea of what we are doing on the Good Futures Project. We look forward to taking some of you on the ***I Spy Sessions*** and will continue to bring everyone up to date after our next meeting.

By Mary Courtney

OUTREACH

Daily Bread – We were blessed that our Youth Group joined with us on May 5 to prepare and serve 146 meals to hungry people on Pittsburgh’s North Side.



UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

We are in the process of a project to put together 10 UMCOR Cleaning Buckets. There are signup sheets in the Narthex for the 15 specific items needed for each bucket. Please sign up for items and bring them to the church by June 19th. Outreach will purchase any remaining items needed to complete the buckets, and we'll take any extras to the Mission Barn in July. The estimated cost to fill a bucket is \$75-\$90 but the receivers would say the buckets are priceless.

Kids Meal Network



The Kids Meal Network has been set up in our online Ministry Scheduler Pro system. **Volunteers should login and select dates to participate. The schedule is wide open right now. We'll be serving meals every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from June 12th – August 9th.**

The roles to assist in this program are defined as: Manager, Supervisors, and Volunteers. Lilly Zeminski will serve as our Manager again this year. Site Supervisors must be trained annually, and there must always be a Supervisor present in First Bethel's kitchen and on site at Parkford. Anyone can serve as a Kitchen or Site Volunteer, so it's a great opportunity for Youth!

- First Bethel's Kitchen: Manager, Supervisor, Volunteer(s)
10 AM - Noon
- Parkford Apartments Site: Manager, Supervisor, Volunteer(s)
Noon - 1:30 PM

To view the KMN schedule, or to sign up, use this link, or call the Church Office:

<https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/30/web-terminal/master-calendar?liveWebPostId=776049>

Note that we do not purchase or prepare the food here at First Bethel, but always will need a supervisor and at least one volunteer to accept the food prepared by a food vendor vetted by Church Union. Church Union vendors must adhere to stringent requirements regarding food safety and delivery timing. The vendor will deliver the food to First Bethel each of the three days of the week we have agreed to. The food is free of charge to First Bethel. (Church Union is billed by the vendor and they pay using Federal monies associated with the program.) We then place the delivered food into our ovens to ensure proper serving temperature. We occasionally may need Volunteers to transport food from the Church to Parkford.

Prescription Eyeglasses



Outreach is continuing to coordinate with Christ Methodist Church in the collection of prescription eyeglasses. Christ Church has an instrument that

identifies specific prescriptions for each pair of glasses received so that they may be distributed to those with need of those prescriptions. If you have older glasses that are taking up drawer space, please drop them in the box in the Narthex and we will pass them along for donation.

South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)

Bring your non-perishable food items to church and we'll take them to South Hills Interfaith Movement for distribution.



CLASS OF 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Lilly Zeminski - Lilly graduated on May 11 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. Lilly was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh where she will get her master's degree in dietetics. Her parents are Amy and Jay Zeminski.



Alyssa Scabilloni - Alyssa graduated from Canon-McMillan High School on May 31. On May 16 she graduated from Western Area Career and Technology Center in Culinary Arts. Her parents are Shannon Sughrue and Bob Scabilloni, and her grandmother is Sandy Mason.



Ella Harmon - Ella is a 2024 graduate of Bethel Park High School. Her parents are Ed and Tonya Harmon.

We'll be recognizing our graduates during the 9:30AM Worship Service on Sunday, June 2nd.



Three youth from the First Bethel Youth Group participated in Daily Bread on Pittsburgh's North Side where they helped to prepare and serve 146 meals.

The Youth attended a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game on May 4th which was Faith Night. This evening included an exciting game (yes, the Pirates won!) and a rare chance to connect with the Pirates players and coaching staff on a personal level.

Their summer activities and opportunities include:

- Pool Party at the Smith's on June 8th
- Appalachia Service Project mission trip June 16th – 22nd
- Helping with Vacation Bible School July 15th – 19th
- Trip to the Mission Barn on Tuesday, July 30th
- A visit to the Bethel Park Police Station on Monday, August 26th.

Meredith Steinhagen coordinates the youth activities, and she's always looking for adult chaperones. Contact her if you're interested.



Vacation Bible School will be Monday-Friday July 15th-19th at 6PM for preschool children (potty trained) through rising 5th grade. We have opportunities for adults and co-leaders (grade 6 and up). Please contact Catherine Taylor or Melissa Smith if you're interested in helping. You can register online for VBS here;

<https://forms.gle/AD2wfCs4KPb8sgQu5>.



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're so excited to be called to serve in Greenbrier County, WV in less than three weeks! The ASP volunteers will be commissioned during the 9:30AM worship service on June 9th and two prayer quilts will be dedicated for the ASP teams to give to the families that they'll be serving in Appalachia.
- The ASP teams will be meeting in the church parking lot by 8:30AM on Sunday, June 16th for a time of devotion and communion. You're welcome to join us, and then watch us hit the road at 9AM. We'll be back in church on Sunday, June 23rd with photos to share and stories to tell about our experiences.
- Please take one or more strips from an orange bandana like the ones that the 2024 ASP mission team will have in Greenbrier County, Charmco, West Virginia the week of June 16th – 22nd. Tie your bandana strip somewhere where you'll see it often and use it as visual reminder to pray for the ASP volunteers, the ASP staff, and the families we'll be serving.
- Our ASP fall adult trip is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, October 3-6th. We'll serve in Lee County, VA at the ASP center located in Jonesville, VA. Please contact Gloria Stephan if you're interested in joining us! We leave on Thursday morning, work Friday and Saturday, and return on Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$150/volunteer, and we still have room for YOU.



THANKS FIRST BETHEL!

Hello everyone! I just wanted to say thank you for the Finals Week care package! I was excited to receive a package from all of you! I'm finally home after finishing my last final yesterday. First year at Behrend is completed!!!



From Grace Passios



Jake and Lilly asked me to say thank you so much for the Finals Week care packages they received. It's so nice to know that First Bethel is thinking of them. Here is a picture of Jake with his goodies.

From Amy, Lilly and Jake Zeminski

Thanks to everyone that participated in the **Pie and Baked Goods Sale** with delicious items from The Pie Place. We netted over \$500 for the General Ministries Fund!

From Gloria Stephan

MESSAGE CENTER



Please check the **Message Center** located at the back of the church beside the coat closet for any mail, meeting handouts, or items that may be for you from the church office, or other members.

Your name on the white board means.....**“You Got Mail!”**

OUR STORIES



Do you have a story about an uplifting event, a blessing, or a meaningful lesson you've experienced in your daily walk as a Christian? Please share it!

We hope this section will inspire you and be a joyful reminder of the patience, grace and love that our heavenly Father extends to each of us. Please consider contributing to "Our

Stories" for future editions of the King's Light. Send your submissions to gstephan57@gmail.com or the church office.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE RESTROOM TOO!

By Christina Ewing

It may be unexpected...but spiritual gifts can be found in the restroom too! Shocking statement right? Absolutely! But guess what? I found out that, yes, spiritual gifts are in fact found in the restroom and prove to be a blessing!

A few months ago, David & I went out to eat to catch up with some long-time friends. We did the usual chatting, dining & catching up. Nothing out of the ordinary. It was a pleasant evening! As our meal came to a close, I decided to use the restroom. This was not the usual quick run to the restroom. I know what you are thinking about right now, so you can put that thought aside, ha ha! Yes, my trip to the restroom did take some time but for quite different reasons.

As many of you know, during the month of March I was on crutches due to a broken tibia bone in my lower leg. We were seated in the very front of the restaurant and "crutching" my way to the restroom in the back took a long time. As I approached the back of the restaurant, I was not sure which way to go because

there were too many doors. I noticed someone behind me... a young woman (who apparently dined at this restaurant before) directed me to the right. I was thankful!

As we were drying our hands and leaving the restroom, the young woman asked, "would you mind if I prayed for you?" Wow, I thought!! Just a few days before this we held the first Spiritual Gifts Fair here at First Bethel. God was showing me, in that instance, that spiritually gifted people are all around us! even in the least suspected places. Exercising her spiritual gift(s), the young woman prayed for me, my broken leg & my healing. I thanked her and told her about the spiritual gifts fair we had just had earlier that week. I thanked her for being so bold (as I was a stranger) and sharing her faith and her spiritual gift of prayer. What a blessing others receive when we are being used by God! We talked a bit longer and exchanged names so that we could find each other on social media.

When I returned to the table, I had a big smile on my face and said, "I know that took a while". I shared with David and our friends why I was so happy. I had made a new friend and received a blessing. Yes, usually we go to the restroom to find relief, but we also use a bathroom to be refreshed...and that I was! May you be blessed by someone's spiritual gift...in a place and time you least expect it... maybe even in the restroom!

P.S. If you haven't already taken the spiritual gift inventory, please do so here: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

Last week we celebrated Pentecost at the church, remembering how God sent the Holy Spirit to help us here on earth in carrying out His work. Knowing your spiritual gift helps you understand how the Holy Spirit works through you. Sometimes in the church we serve out of duty. If we discern our spiritual gifts, we can serve out of our calling, and what we are made for. When the Holy Spirit works in and through us, blessings are received! Amen!

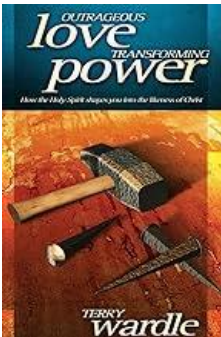
LIBRARY NEWS



NURSES AT WAR

THE WOMEN

This 2024 novel of heroic women in the Vietnam War is our 12th book by *Kristin Hannah*. It is the story of *Frances “Frankie” McGrath* and others in the *U.S. Army Nurse Corps*, the horrors and heartbreak they confronted -- and her painful recovery *after* the war. It is also a story of the overlooked heroism of women’s sacrifices for their country. Among numerous five-star reviews is one that says the stories of women like Frankie need to be “remembered, cherished and respected.” Other *Hannah* novels available in our Library include **The Four Winds**, **The Great Alone** and **The Nightingale**.



OUTRAGEOUS LOVE, TRANSFORMING POWER: How the Holy Spirit shapes you into the likeness of Christ

Pastor David donated this book to our Library. It was written by his former professor, *Terry Wardle*. In this 155-page paperback, *Wardle*, Professor of Spiritual Formation at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, says: “Christians are struggling with a crisis of spiritual immaturity, which is having a devastating effect on their lives and the ministry of the gospel to a broken world.” He writes about eight characteristics of Christ that are to be nourished and nurtured by the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. This book teaches that being transformed into the likeness of Christ is the true mark of spiritual maturity. An *Amazon* reviewer said the book “stirs up our faith in a whole new dimension.”

YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

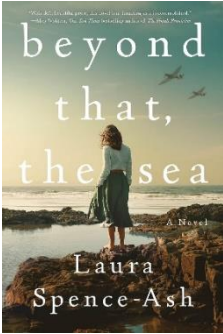
BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets on the third Friday of the month at 7PM at Panera Bread in South Park Shops. We welcome all book lovers, whether or not you've read our monthly selection.



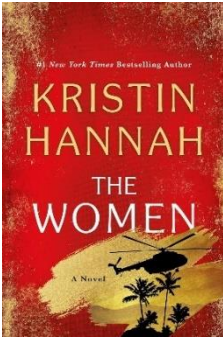
Book Club Selections

June 21 “Beyond That, the Sea” by Laura Spence-Ash



“A sweeping, tenderhearted love story, Laura Spence-Ash tells the story of two families living through World War II on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean, and the shy, irresistible young woman who will call them both her own.” [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APR004)

July 19 “The Women” by Kristin Hannah



“*The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.” [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APR004)



MEN'S GROUP

FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting for the Men's Group will be Saturday, June 1st at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church.

Thanks to everyone that made the May 11th Men's Garage Sale such a successful event.



MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet in South Park on Wednesday, June 12th for a picnic. All ladies are welcome. Contact Donna Hennen for more information.



SECOND-MILE GIVING

JUNE FOCUS MINISTRIES OUTREACH

Giving is part of our DNA here at First Bethel, especially outside the walls of the physical church. We participate in local, regional and global mission with our gifts of time, talents and money. See the Outreach article or your Sunday bulletin for the many opportunities for you to participate in Outreach.

*Although we focus on specific ministries 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

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Director of Maintenance: Jim Howells

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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. Mail it to us, drop it off, or send via email to FBUMC@Verizon.net

FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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