



First Bethel Church  
King's Light newsletter

 July 

2024

# FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



As I read, hear, and see more regarding the first presidential debate (which by the time you read this will have already taken place), the more dismayed and frustrated I become. Every opinion and perspective is so very polarized and parochial. This cultural trend forces all to grab for one pole or the other, diametric opposites, with the area in between becoming a no-man's-land. This highly charged rhetoric spawns thunderstorms of debate leading us to forget the foundations of our political paradigm, where each school of thought contains pieces of value and wisdom.

The right pole of US politics is conservatism. Political conservatives wish to “conserve government,” limiting the amount of government in society. Conservatism says society's ills are not for government to remedy...leaving these remedies to individuals and families and some of societal institutions. A conservative would say the primary role of government is the provision of national defense. A “survival of the fittest” dynamic marks conservative thought. I believe there are valuable elements of Conservatism.

The left pole of US politics is Liberalism. Political liberals believe there is a broader role for government in society. Liberals are less confident that society's ills can be adequately solved by individuals, believing the resources of government need to be brought to bear to cure some of society's ills. An important piece of liberalism is equality of opportunity and government assistance when that has not been realized. I believe there are valuable elements of Liberalism.

Okay. Time for a big jump. United Methodism. United Methodism is not a political ideology by any means. But United Methodism could possibly hold a needed lesson, one that serves as a polarization-breaker. United Methodism rests on a “both/and” theology, eschewing an “either/or” premise. A synthetic approach is a characteristic of Methodist theology as it seeks to create a third alternative to opposing points of view, recognizing there is value in pieces of each pole.

Today’s political environment nearly forces a person to exclusively choose one pole or the other in determining where you’ll stand. Perhaps it is a fine time to take a page from the Methodist Theology and search for the valuable and redeeming elements of each pole and position. Our nation’s rutted existence in a two-party paradigm will force you to vote for one of two candidates that are opposites in nearly every way. But in your conversations and efforts to insert unity in other places, help others recognize there very likely is room between the poles when all the tribalism and parochialism is stripped away.

Above all, please do not let political persuasion dictate the level of love we offer one to another. Jesus revealed this way to us. Unity in our political discourse requires us to love unconditionally and to remove the narrow focus on self. May it be so!

That’s from the Heart,

*Pastor David*



### **The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life**

Please join us on Sundays at 10:45AM for an alternative to Sunday School and Wired Word – a book reading discussion, led by Mary Courtney.

# Stewardship Reflection

FROM PASTOR DAVID

Many indicators tell the story of my physical health. My body-mass index, cholesterol level, blood pressure, flexibility, and resting heart rate form a data set that indicate whether I am healthy or not. Staying healthy, keeping these indicators at favorable levels, requires resources, time, and intentionality. If I take time to identify healthy foods and invest the resources to maintain an exercise regiment, I will be healthy, and the indicators will telegraph that. Determining whether an individual is healthy in this way is done by means of observation and testing. Maintaining good physical health will bring about higher levels of emotional health, happiness, and wellness.

The same holds true regarding our spiritual health. Those who possess a high level of spiritual health are those that enjoy life at a greater level. This is not to say great spiritual health will remove life's challenges or "ills." No... it's just that a spiritually healthy person will be better positioned to overcome challenge... just like our physical health.

God calls us to be good stewards of the life given to us. This compels us to attend to our spiritual health, as well as our physical health. Four critical indicators of spiritual health are provided in the image above and briefly outlined as follows:

- ✚ **Grow** – our life in God is a dynamic one; requiring movement and not stagnancy. We grow by means of study (Bible and otherwise), and the engagement of the various means of prayer.
- ✚ **Attend** – attending corporate worship together and other places of Christian fellowship and community is critical. We are not designed for isolation but for community.

- ✚ **Serve** – Our spiritual health cannot move forward to grow without serving others. Jesus provided the example for this.
- ✚ **Give** – the level of our giving is a key indicator of our spiritual health. Giving can take multiple forms. One of primary importance, for several reasons, is the monetary offerings we give to the church.

Years ago, I was asked by a congregation member if giving to the church was more important for the health of the church or for the spiritual health of the individual giving. I had to provide one of those frustrating “Yes” answers. Both are invaluable! It is important to know this: when you give monetarily to the church you give to your good spiritual health. God then multiplies what is given and through the church the Kingdom of God is revealed here on Earth!

I look forward to sharing regularly about stewardship and our spiritual health because I love and care for all of you and want the best for you!

Journeying Together,  
Pastor David



# ***SUMMER SUNDAYS WORSHIP SCHEDULE***



**9:30AM**

Worship in the Sanctuary

**10:30AM**

Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time

Book Discussion:

“The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life”

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

## **SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

These services 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, July 24<sup>th</sup> 7PM**

**Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 7PM**



Jul 3 Benjamin Avon	Jul 19 Todd Zahniser
Jul 3 Brian Fusco	Jul 20 Keith Swan
Jul 4 Jack Warywoda	Jul 22 Kirk Steinhagen
Jul 8 Lisa DiGorio	Jul 22 Lilly Zeminski
Jul 13 Benjamin Melber	Jul 27 Wendy Figel
Jul 15 Joshua Zakrzewski	Jul 28 Gloria Ninness
Jul 16 Aaron Lauver	Jul 28 Ted Phillips
Jul 16 Mary Ann Ritchey	Jul 30 Sean Barrett
Jul 18 Lily Mellott	Jul 31 Madison Newman



## It's time to update Church Directory Photos!

Everyone photographed will receive a family or individual portrait and a copy of the new picture directory FREE! Sittings will be held at First Bethel on **Tuesday and Wednesday, September 3rd and 4th from 2:30PM to 8:30PM**. Professional photos will be taken by Universal Church Directories. Please plan to be a part of this important event in the life of our church.

**Contact Gloria Stephan or the Church Office by July 1st if you'd like to help. There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.**

# NURTURE PROJECT



Thanks to everyone who donated to the Nurture Project in honor and memory of those that have nurtured us.

Gifts will be used towards beautification and maintenance of the church's outdoor spaces.

<i>Donated by:</i>	<i>In Honor Of:</i>	<i>In Memory Of:</i>
Gloria Stephan		Danica Vukovich
Shirley Roth	Our Church Friends	
A grateful friend for keeping our church grounds beautiful!	Linda Graney	
Sandra Dutcher	Conrad & Joan Dutcher	
Donna & Rich Hennen	Linda Bales, Our Daughter	Kathy Hennen, Our Daughter
Reid & Donna Stewart		Ed & Marie Fircak Sr. Ed Fircak, Jr. Reid & Elsie Stewart, Sr.
Donna & Lacey Stewart and Matt Bruhn	Reid Stewart	
Lisa McDermot		Ralph McDermot
Jeff & Donna Leonhardt		Margaret Leonhardt
Ted and Charlene Phillips		Our Parents
Joe & Linda Hess	Ruth, Phil, Jeff and all choir members past and present.	
Lem & Sally Irick		Esther Buschek (Sally's Mom) Deb Dennick-Ream
Phil Himmler	Lisa Grant & Ruth Finlay - Because their tree from years ago had to be cut down.	
Amy Zeminski		Linda Pore and Deb Dennick-Ream
Joann Bischoff		Paul Bischoff
Sandy Mason		Peter & Audrey Hotchkiss and Michael Mason
John and Carol Brevard		Clare & Grace Brevard (John's Parents) and Howard & Ann Cossaboon (Carol's Parents)
Lea Cook		Orval Shelton



# OUTREACH

## UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

We are finishing up our project of putting together ten UMCOR Cleaning Buckets. Outreach will purchase any remaining items needed to complete the buckets, and any extra items will be donated 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 is up and running. We serve midday meals to children living in the Parkford Apartments in South Park. We accept deliveries of food prepared by a vendor that has been vetted by Church Union. There are still open slots available for you to help, either 10AM-Noon, or Noon to 1:30PM. **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>

## 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.



## A FEW WORDS FROM A FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEER

By Heather Campbell



My first trip to Appalachian Service Project just ended today and I greatly appreciated the experience. From the time spent with the homeowner we were serving, to the time spent with the members and youth of the First Bethel congregation and our guests from Ligonier, this experience was truly fulfilling! Building Kindness was the theme of the trip this year. The smiles, tears of gratitude and hugs from our homeowner were extremely valuable to me. The encouraging words from my team exemplified Kindness! I appreciated the bonding with all of the youth on our trip! Amanda and Jillian truly became members of the First Bethel team, and we can't wait to include them in other activities at our church! I do not count myself as "handy", although I am a willing learner. I found ways to be useful utilizing my other skills in working with youth and engaging with families. I also engaged in drilling, hammering and digging 16 holes!

My Alma Mater is West Virginia Wesleyan. This experience allowed me to go back to my home among the hills. which we passed on the way to Greenbrier County. Being able to assist the people in this area of Appalachia meant a great deal to me and felt very personal. I appreciate all of the volunteers and staff at ASP and their dedication to the people of Appalachia.

---

**Our ASP fall adult trip is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, October 3-6<sup>th</sup>.** We'll serve in Lee County, VA at the ASP center located in Jonesville, VA. Please contact Gloria Stephan [by August 1<sup>st</sup>](#) 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.



## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT MISSION TRIP!

Our ASP ministry team volunteered in Greenbrier County, in Charmco, West Virginia the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers included: Heather Campbell, Alexandra Cecala, Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Amanda Kasisky Lisa McDermot, Robert Pugh, Jillian Ritenour, Jason Smith, Melissa Smith, Thaddeaus Smith, Zofia Smith, Gloria Stephan, and Carolyn Taylor.

The “Gussied Up” work crew completed a porch and three sections of a handicap ramp for Rhonda, and the “Bang a Uey” crew completed framing for new underpinning on Chris’ mobile home. The prayer quilts were cherished gifts that represented prayers sent to the homeowners that were served.



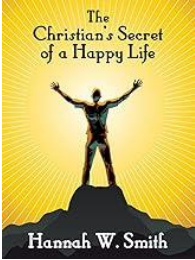
# LIBRARY NEWS



## A Christian Classic

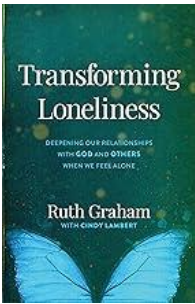
We are so grateful to readers who give books to our Library. We have received many from First Bethel members this year.

These two were given to us recently:



### **THE CHRISTIAN'S SECRET OF A HAPPY LIFE: A Christian Classic**

This book was first published nearly a century and a half ago and has been a worldwide bestseller. It's called "a rock of a book" in the foreword of our 207-page paperback edition. "It is practical. It deals with daily duties, deeds and decisions. It is personal. The author (was) no daydreaming speculator with her head in the clouds ..." *Amazon* says it's a "masterpiece" of insight and Biblical truths – "not a feel-good pop psychology self-help book". *Christianbook* says this work has "inspired and encouraged generations of believers." Author: *Hannah Whitall Smith*.



### **TRANSFORMING LONELINESS: Deepening our relationships with God and others when we feel alone.**

"Loneliness knows no season. It can strike at times of busyness and a full social calendar just as easily as it can when plans are canceled, and friends are far off. And we may be surprised just how common loneliness is among our friends, family and colleagues. But it isn't inevitable, and it isn't forever." That's the publisher's description of this book by *Ruth Graham* (with *Cindy Lambert*).

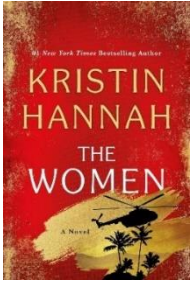
## YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

# 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



## 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*

There's no selection for August yet – let us know your ideas!

---

# 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 annual church picnic will be held **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>** at Elm Grove Park, 250 Thompsonville Road McMurray (in Peters Township)



Youth summer activities and opportunities include:

- Volunteering with Kids Meal Network
- Trip to the Mission Barn on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>
- A visit to the Bethel Park Police Station on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

---



**MEN'S  
GROUP**

## FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

The men would like to thank everyone that helped with Church Cleanup Day!

---



Outreach is sponsoring a trip to the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA on **Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.



# 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 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](mailto:FBUMC@Verizon.net)



FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 LIBRARY ROAD

BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

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

**July 2024**

***King's Light Newsletter***

