



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2024

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



I love every Sunday at First Bethel! I really love the Sundays when the Sanctuary is fuller. I am sure we all can say that! When our house is fuller and the songs sung with more voices, it does something for us. It confirms our faith as we enjoy standing with others that are present to worship God. It gives us a taste of future glory when we will all worship our Creator God together in a world without any brokenness. Our hour of worship grounds us in our existence that runs very deep; we are connecting to God in prayer and connecting through the fellowship of other believers. We leave with a heightened awareness of our own hope and a fuller sense of purpose, knowing we are living in the manner for which we were created. Nothing can take its place.

The writer of Hebrews knew this, writing, “Do not neglect meeting together, as it is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” (Hebrews 25:10). He was writing in the specific context of gathering as a local church for corporate worship, knowing it is the primary place we experience God. It would be best if we never missed a Sunday worshipping together.

Enter the “idealistic/realistic” paradigm. My words above outline the idealistic. Never missing an occasion to worship together on Sunday is the ideal. We would do best to get as close to it as we can. The realistic part of life with work, family, illness, etc necessitates an occasional Sunday gathered elsewhere, outside the local church. Our walk and relationship with God will be most intimate when we allow those Sundays out of the church to be very few. We may attend a Bible study or small group, work on an outreach project, or enjoy a fellowship event. One experiences God in these places too. But none can take the

place where we remember the ever-present saving movements of God and God's continual provision of grace. We do this through reading together, singing together, hearing the Word of God together, and responding together.

Most of us would say there is truly little that is dearer to us than our life in the church together and we cannot ever imagine life without it. May we let our Sunday practice match the reality of that fervor with prioritizing gathering together as much as we possibly can.

As an ending note, I will say I encourage this for your spiritual formation and well-being, and not to bolster my personal ego as pastor. At times I have been critical of the universal church that has become overly "Sunday-centric." There are seven days a week to walk with God in various forms. But there is no substitute for Sunday worship together! That is why I look forward to this time together each week and will always continue to order our times of worship in a manner that is relevant to multiple generations and worship preferences.

Above all, God deserves our worship and adoration for engaging us with an amazing grace and love. When we give this to God, God gives it right back with increased joy, contentment and joy in our lives. I'll see you Sunday!

That's from the Heart,

Pastor David



October is Pastor Appreciation month!

You can send a note of thanks to Pastor David Ewing at 326 Turngate Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102

We appreciate you, Pastor David!

Heywood "Woody" Eicker

May 4, 1958 - September 9, 2024



Heywood "Woody" Eicker, age 66, of Bethel Park, passed away on Monday, September 9, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family.

Woody was the son of the late Michael and Dorothy (McLaughlin) Eicker. Woody is survived by his loving siblings, Dennis (Sheila) Eicker, Wayne (Cassi) Eicker, Karen Eicker; nieces and nephews, a cousin, three great nieces and three great nephews.

Woody was a longstanding member of Local 373 and enjoyed a long career in the construction industry. He was a faithful member of the First Bethel United Methodist Church and a member of the Jugo Slav Club of Bethel.

Whether it was fishing or camping, Woody was a true outdoorsman. He took great pride in his garden, growing the most beautiful dahlias. He was a ham operator in his free time and often could be found tinkering with tractors or mowers to get them fixed up so he could give them to others. Woody was known to always be willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. Many could count on him in the wintertime as he would ensure he plowed everyone's driveway.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, September 11 at Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home, where a service was held on Thursday, September 12. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Woody's honor may be made to First Bethel UMC.

<https://www.jeffersonmemorial.com/obituaries/Heywood-M-Eicker?obId=33029049>

SUNDAYS AT FIRST BETHEL



Fall Worship Schedule

9:30AM

Worship in the Sanctuary
Worship Enrichment is available right after
the Children's Message

10:30AM

Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time
Sunday School
Wired Word Adult Discussion

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





Oct 2 ReShelle Barrett

Oct 2 Mike Bowser

Oct 2 John Dunbar

Oct 7 Esthela Slater

Oct 7 Terry Sullivan

Oct 10 Marjorie Mills

Oct 12 Tom Jack

Oct 12 Jaycob Zeminski

Oct 13 Jeff Carr

Oct 19 Mike Finale

Oct 25 Claire Garfold

Oct 25 Catherine Taylor

Oct 29 Gerry Velmer

Oct 30 Ruth Finlay

Oct 31 Mary Lou Carr



Thank you for Woody's beautiful prayer quilt. Thanks to those who chose the gorgeous colors and placement of patches. And thanks for all of the loving prayers. We would not have gotten through this without you!

The Eiker Family

Since Woody wasn't a veteran, I had the prayer quilt draped over his casket for the funeral service. It was really special, thank you.

Karen Eiker (Woody's sister)



The Women's Retreat will be **Friday, November 15 to Sunday, November 17, 2024**, at Olmsted Manor Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. Rev. Kathy Clark will be our spiritual guide for the weekend. Registration fees are as follows:

- Double/Loft - \$175
 - 2 Lofts – each sleeps 4
 - 10 Double – each sleeps 2
- Single - \$200
 - 5 available rooms (maximum) first come, first served.

Single room requests will be honored as long as it does not prohibit someone from attending due to lack of housing. Scholarships are available - please speak with Pastor David.

Please plan to arrive and check in at Olmsted between 3-5PM on Friday. Plan to have dinner on your own, and return for an evening gathering (time to be determined). Departure will be after lunch on Sunday, around 1PM.

Your registration fee includes:

- Accommodations (bed with linens, towels, private bathroom per room)
- Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday
- Lunch on Saturday and Sunday
- Dinner Saturday



REGISTER HERE

For more information contact Catherine Taylor. Cell: 412-519-3035 or Email: CatherineWeilTaylor@Gmail.com

ROTARY CHICKEN BBQ and the word CAN

CAN means “to be able to; have the ability, power, or skill to”.

My clucking begins with these words, but add “for the kids in Nyadire after each phrase”.



“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

*-John Wesley
(1703-1791)*

On Sunday, 9/22/24, you heard about the **GO ONE MORE CHALLENGE**. Simply put, this Chicken has proposed the challenge of buying one more ticket this year than you did last year. If you bought one, dig deep – if you are able – and buy two this year. If you bought two, dig deep – and buy three this year if you CAN. Etc.

This church – OUR WONDERFUL, GENEROUS FB CHURCH – has been BEYOND AMAZING in supporting the Rotary BBQ ticket sale. The dollars you spend march TNC (The Nyadire Connection) towards earning **\$5,000 of FREE money** from the Rotary’s Grant if – IF – TNC sells our usual 800 or more tickets.

It takes spending money in order to make money in the business world. In our Mission-minded, God’s world, your spent dollars truly enable TNC to make money for the Sister Rut Scholarship Program for Nyadire Students who want to better their lives.

You CAN buy tickets for your own pleasure or to donate to SHIM. **The event is on Saturday, Oct. 26th at Bethel Park High School – Drive Thru Ony 11AM – 7PM**

The meal includes ½ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, and dessert. The ticket cost is \$15.

Thank you for “digging deep” – if you are able – to do all you CAN for the kids in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. In days to come, you shall be hearing directly from students who have benefitted from the \$5,000 Rotary Grant.

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

Shalom to you – down deep,
Phil Himmler



The Nyadire Connection (TNC) supports students in Zimbabwe by paying for school fees and school supplies because primary and secondary education is not free there.

A donation of \$100 covers the fees for one student for a year, including the purchase of a backpack and school supplies. Supplies are purchased in Zimbabwe to support local businesses and to reduce time and costs related to shipping. The program is called Home of Hope Outreach (HOHO) because the students are not necessarily orphans. Many live with family members who don't have the financial means to pay for schooling. You'll receive a picture and info about your child, and TNC tries to exchange mail when groups travel to Nyadire.

Please prayerfully consider supporting a student. For more information, contact Stephanie Alstadt at 412-831-1937. There are forms on the table in the Narthex.

The deadline is Oct 31st.

LIBRARY NEWS

Healing



Some Kind of Crazy

This is a story about healing.

Author *Terry Wardle* had an abusive childhood in a family of southwestern Pennsylvania coal miners. He grew up to become a pastor, but “Old wounds always found new ways to keep me in bondage.” Wardle became a professor at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio, a public speaker and author of many books. (He was a professor of our *Pastor David*.) A *Goodreads* review said Wardle’s journey “offers hope in the midst of brokenness.”

New CARENOTES

“Take one and take heart. Give one and give hope.”

That’s the slogan of *CareNotes*, which may help you – or someone you know. These free eight-page pamphlets are available worldwide -- in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, churches and countless other places. Our many new *CareNotes* include:

- ◆ **God help me – a simple but powerful prayer**
- ◆ **What everyone should know about dementia**
- ◆ **How to help someone suffering from depression or anxiety**
- ◆ **Dealing with financial stress**
- ◆ **Where is God in my suffering?**
- ◆ **Getting through the annual reminders of your loss**

They are in a display case on the back wall of our Library. Please take as many as you need.

YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets monthly at Panera Bread in South Park Shops.

The meetings are usually the third Friday of each month, although we've moved the September meeting to the 27th.

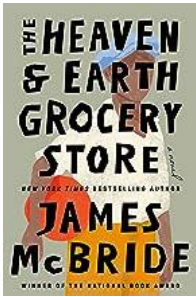


Book Club Selections

We welcome all book lovers, whether or not you've read our monthly selection.

September 27 (Note date change)

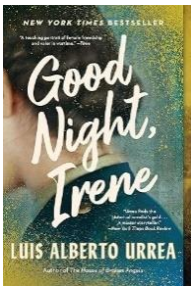
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store - James McBride



“As the characters’ stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town’s white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.” - *Amazon*

October 18

Goodnight Irene – Luis Alberto Urrea



This *New York Times* bestselling novel tells an exhilarating World War II epic that chronicles an extraordinary young woman’s heroic frontline service in the Red Cross. “Urrea’s touch is sure, his exuberance carries you through . . . He is a generous writer, not just in his approach to his craft but in the broader sense of what he feels necessary to capture about life itself.” - *Financial Times*



IT'S TIME!

by Gloria Stephan

The ASP weekend trip to Jonesville, Virginia is Thursday, Oct. 3rd to Sunday Oct. 6th. Please keep our volunteers, the ASP staff and the families we'll be serving in your prayers.

Here's your mission team: Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Jamie Gray, Robin Gray, Taylon Jeffries, Lisa McDermot, Lisa Piplio, Robert Pugh, Gloria Stephan and Lee VanSickle.

Meanwhile, it's time to select our week of service for our 2025 ASP weeklong summer trip!

All trips are Sunday to Saturday and are open to youth (age 13 and up with 8th grade completed by June 2025) and adults with current clearances. Non-refundable deposits will be due on November 3rd.

Available start dates are June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27th. If you're interested in attending next summer, please complete the survey with your date preferences by September 29th.

<https://forms.gle/jetL349HHDrseG688> Contact Gloria Stephan or the Church Office for more information.



Submit your preferences here



by Meredith Steinhagen

Our youth have been very busy with school starting. We unfortunately had to cancel the youth car wash, but we plan to reschedule it for spring.

The Youth are working in conjunction with the Men's Group and our ASP volunteers for a church workday on September 28th beginning at 9AM. They hope to complete a couple of outdoor repair projects – join us if you can!

The youth are excited to be sponsoring one child through The Nyadire Connection. An anonymous sponsor is also supporting two children that we are interacting with.

Help wanted!

There is a Youth Lock-In scheduled from Saturday, Oct 26th 7PM to Sunday, October 27th 7AM at the church. We need the congregation's help with activities and food. Everything is split into shifts. If you cannot stay up late, consider delivering a lasagna or a delicious breakfast.

4-7PM	Set up
7-10PM	Tie-dyeing, escape room and dinner
8PM	Dinner
10PM-1AM	Dodgeball, small pumpkin craft and ice cream sundaes at midnight
2AM-7AM	Movie and sleep time
7 AM	Breakfast delivered
8-9AM	Clean up

A big THANKS to Mary Ann Davis for volunteering to help with tie-dyeing. See the signup sheet at church or contact Meredith (703) 915-6122 if you have any questions or you can help.



FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

**MEN'S
GROUP**

The next meeting for the Men's Group will be Saturday, October 5th at 8:30AM in Founders Hall at the church.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Friday, November 15th to
Sunday, November 17th, 2024**

Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA.

<https://www.olmstedmanor.org/>

Contact Catherine Taylor for more information.



The date and location for our church's cluster conference will be:

10 AM Saturday, October 5, 2024

at

Mt. Lebanon UMC

3319 W Liberty Ave

Pittsburgh, 15216-2201

Our cluster will include Baldwin Community, Christ: Bethel Park, First Bethel, Jefferson Hills, Mt. Lebanon and Windover Hills.

Church leaders are encouraged to attend, and all are welcome.



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 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

5901 LIBRARY ROAD

BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

www.firstbethelumc.org

October 2024

King's Light Newsletter

