



First Bethel Church
King's Light newsletter



2025

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



If you haven't been watching the new Mike Gunton-produced, Tom Hanks-narrated television show on NBC, you're missing a great weekly (Sundays) documentary that reveals the magnificent splendor that exists in the world. The show is called "The Americas" as it focuses on wildlife that has made its habitat in North and South America. The very winsome element of the show is it presents each animal through storytelling. The videography is stunning and captivating. With Tom Hanks narrating, of course, it is very inviting and endearing. I have been enjoying the show immensely.

Though it is wonderful television, I find myself reflecting on the show as a showcase of art. In its simplest form, art is the expression of creativity, often used to convey emotions. From their kindergarten or first grade art class, children bring home simple drawings to place on their loved one's refrigerator – often times an expression what she or he is feeling inside, albeit very simply. A songwriter creates musical expression of emotions stored in their heart and soul. A spoken word artist uses a palette of words to construct a piece of rhythmic art to express stored emotion. After I watch an episode of "The Americas," I am struck by what a magnificent artist God is. After viewing such splendor, it becomes apparent there is an emotional element behind the magnificent plumage of a peacock, the instinctual up-river navigation of pink salmon, and the intricate coloration of the Monarch Butterfly. It is simply impossible for such beauty to be random. It has to be the product of our extraordinary God-Artist!

The Sharp-Tailed Grouse of Alaska possesses beautifully colored feathers and mesmerizing dance moves! Both of these are used by the male grouse to express its desire to partner with a female Sharp-Tail. It wins her over with a courtship of color and feathery dance. This expression secures the union of the two grouse and contributes to the sustaining reproduction of the species.

I believe God has created this wildlife-art to communicate his love for us, and his desire that we may be his. It's almost as if God shares the beautiful creation with us in a graceful dance that beckons us to come to him. God pulls out all of the stops in the artistry of the animal kingdom in order to express the compelling, steadfast love he has for all humankind! Maybe we all should put a drawing or picture of our favorite piece of Gods art on our refrigerator! Enjoy this new Spring season we have entered and be on the lookout for God's artistry!

From the Heart,

Pastor David



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUNDAYS

9:30AM WORSHIP

*WITH CHILDREN'S MESSAGE &
WORSHIP ENRICHMENT*

COMMUNION IS HELD THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

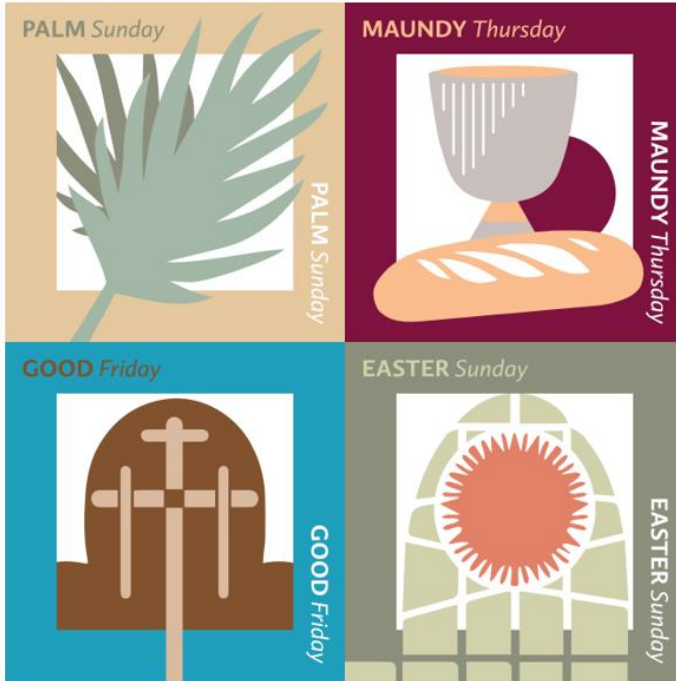
10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45AM WIRED WORD ADULT DISCUSSION

Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary with their families. We have "**Busy Bags**" filled with engaging items available at the back of the church. Children aged three through third grade can join Miss Charlene for **Worship Enrichment** after the Children's Message. For those who prefer, there is a furnished **Nursery** area upstairs.

If you need more information, feel free to ask an Usher, a Greeter, or someone wearing an "**Ask Me**" nametag before, during or after the service.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES



APRIL 13TH PALM SUNDAY 9:30AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH GOOD FRIDAY 7PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 7AM

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30AM*

***WITH A STAFFED NURSERY**



DAVID R. SWIFT

Tuesday, February 25 2025, age 82

David Swift, age 82, of Bethel Park, formerly of New Hampshire, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Beloved husband of 59 years to Andrea Swift; loving father of David O. (Beth) Swift, Amy B. (Kirk) Ferkett and the late Penny M. (survived by Kline) Swift Kelly; proud Grampa of Alex Swift, Hannah Ferkett and Naomi Ferkett; son of the late Halbert K. and Margaret E. Swift; brother of Marilyn, William, Diana, Joanne and the late Norine. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

David worked as a PhD Chemist for several companies in several states until his retirement. He was very active with his church and served on many of its committees.

Friends were received at the John F. Slater Funeral Home on Brownsville Road in Brentwood on Friday, March 7, 2025. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at the funeral home chapel. Interment will be held in New Hampshire at a later date. <https://johnfslater.com/obituaries/david-r-swift/>

In lieu of flowers, family suggests contributions to SHIM or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.





Apr 1 Gary Graney

Apr 2 Daniel Tomkins

Apr 7 Todd Swan

Apr 12 Laura Ashworth

Apr 12 Linda Graney

Apr 13 Robin Cecala

Apr 13 Amy Zeminski

Apr 15 Rich Alstadt

Apr 21 Killian Jubach

Apr 24 Jessica Evans

Apr 24 Christina Ewing

Apr 27 Lexi Schlutz

Apr 28 Karol Snead

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We plan to provide a staffed nursery for 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!



GOOD FUTURES

Condensed from Mary Courtney's report to Church Council

The Good Futures team met in the fall before Christmas to continue refining the possible candidates for a new social enterprise and to consider ways to start engaging the church membership and getting them involved in the discernment process.

Over the winter we reviewed the status of our existing church ministries, met with and procured some community partners, and vetted some ideas through the KSK Staff and Advisory Board to ensure that we had identified all concerns and potential obstacles.

A meeting was planned with Bryant Johnson from Ministry Incubators for Monday March 24th where Bryant would be advising us on how to help refine our message and roll it out to the church membership for their active involvement.

An overview of the process so far includes 1) Key community needs identified during initial stages, 2) Possible social enterprise options derived from these needs, 3) Ideas to generate revenue in the short term for the church and its ministries, 4) Obstacles and potential solutions.



CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

All photographed families receive one free directory. Find yours in the church narthex. Additional directories are available for \$10/each. Mark your payment "Directory"

Everyone will have access to a new app that will contain family photos and contact information. Watch your email and the bulletin announcements for more details.

OUTREACH

Outreach will be collecting donations for Feminine Hygiene Kits for UMCOR during the month of May. There will be signup sheets for the specific products needed. Kits will be taken to the Mission Barn in July when we plan to spend a day in service. Here's a link to the current list of items required.

https://umcmmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Hygiene-Kit-Assembly-Instructions_09.2024.pdf



We prepared and served 135 hot meals on Sunday, March 9th at the Daily Bread feeding ministry in the North Side of Pittsburgh.

We're always collecting non-perishable food and personal care items to be given to SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) in Bethel Park. Place your donations in the bins in the narthex, and we'll get them to SHIM.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for an exciting Vacation Bible School where we'll explore how God calls us to use our Time, Witness, Prayer, Talent, and Gifts for His glory!

Monday, July 7th to Thursday, July 10th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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. Registration will launch soon.

Contact Catherine Taylor or Melissa Smith for more details or ways you can volunteer. We can't wait to see you there!



ASP NEWS & FUNDRAISERS

by Gloria Stephan

Our summer trip is from Sunday, June 15th to Saturday, June 21st.

We'll be selecting our weekend dates for the fall adult trip soon! For more information about ASP, or if you want to join a trip or assist with fundraising, contact Gloria Stephan or check out ASP's website at www.ASPHome.org

ASP BISTRO FUNDRAISER DINNERS

ASP Bistro fundraiser dinners have been happening on Sundays during Lent. We hope you'll stop by for dinner!



- **March 30 – Lasagna**
- **April 6th – Roast Beef**

THE PIE PLACE fundraiser (delicious pies, cinnamon rolls and pepperoni rolls) is set for the weekend of **May 9th - 10th** to coincide with the Men's Garage Sale. Pre-order by April 25th and pick up at First Bethel. A few extras will be available for sale on May 10th.

THE ASP CONSTRUCTION TREE contains tags for items we need for our trips. Select a tag, return it with the requested item, and help us on our way! Every donation helps.



2025 will be First Bethel's 25th year of participating in the Appalachia Service Project ministry, with a mission of making homes in Central Appalachia Warmer, Safer and Drier.

Join us for a special celebration on **Sunday, August 31st** during our 9:30AM worship service, followed by a reception. First Bethel's own Chris (JC) Schroeder (Vice President of New Build and Disaster Recovery for ASP) will be our guest.



PIE AND BAKED GOODS SALE
THE PIE PLACE IN BETHEL PARK
ORDER DEADLINE APRIL 25TH



Pickup at First Bethel UMC

5901 Library Road Bethel Park, PA 15102 412-835-0700

Friday, May 9th 4PM-7PM

or Saturday May 10th 9AM-1PM during our Garage Sale

YOUR NAME and PHONE:

#	Item	Cost	Total
	APPLE PIE 9” Deep Dish Fresh Fruit – Pre-Baked	\$22	
	DUTCH APPLE PIE 9” Deep Dish Fresh Fruit – Pre-Baked	\$22	
	WILD CHERRY PIE 9” Deep Dish Fresh Fruit – Pre-Baked	\$22	
	CINNAMON ROLLS 4 Homemade 4-inch rolls iced	\$12	
	PEPPERONI ROLLS 6 Homemade rolls in signature sweet dough with provolone cheese	\$12	
	\$20 GIFT CARD to The Pie Place 1775 N. Highland Road, Bethel Park	\$20	
	TOTAL		

Cash or Check to First Bethel UMC

Envelope Marked “ASP - Pie Sale”

Or pay online here =>

Choose ASP then put Pie Sale in text box



*All proceeds benefit our **Appalachia Service Project** fund*



SARRIS CANDIES EASTER SALE

Did you know? Some of the proceeds from previous Sarris Candy sales have been used to purchase new (and much needed) church kitchen equipment, including pots & pans, cooking utensils, cutting boards, knives, and silverware. Our Bistro chefs and patrons are grateful!

Information for the Easter candy sale is in the Narthex.

Pick up a form or
Order online using
Group ID #10-1027

www.SarrisCandiesFundraising.com

Online orders ship direct to you for \$7
Free shipping on all orders over \$100



To my friends at First Bethel,

I want to say a big "Thank You" to all of you who brought me food from the "Meal Train", sent "Thinking of You" cards, and also for all of the healing thoughts and prayers to cheer me every day.

We are blessed to have such kind and wonderful people who care for each other in so many ways.

I really miss being in church each Sunday and I am sending many thanks and blessings to all of you!

Shirley Roth



YOUTH MINISTRY

Help the Youth Group to send Care Packages to 10 First Bethel college students. You can cover shipping costs for \$20 (mark your donation

“Youth-care packages”) or donate small snacks, study materials and stress relief items for the packages. Please have items to the church by April 13th (*Let Meredith know if we missed your student last fall*)



Laser tag was fun for all!

Thanks to Amy Scott and Jeff & Donna Leonhardt for chaperoning.

Meredith Steinhagen and Mary Courtney continue to produce Faith Effect Podcasts for the youth, with the latest one titled “**Why Do We Give up Things For Lent?**” Contact them if you’d like to be added to their distribution list when a new episode is released.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Saturday, April 12th at 2PM – Mini Golf

Saturday, May 17th Car Wash



LIBRARY NEWS



Moms, Jodi and Angel

Our recently added books include:

SHORT STORIES FOR MOMS

This 147-page paperback has 30 stories described as “10-minute reads for the soul.” It says, “whether you're a brand-new mom or a seasoned grandmother, these short stories are your daily escape.” The author is *Verena Schuster*.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Two women, centuries apart, use different names so their creative work will be accepted in a male-dominated theater world. Could one of them have been the real author of some Shakespeare plays? This novel of ambition and courage is our 4th book by *Jodi Picoult*. The others are **Small Great Things**, **Plain Truth** and **A Spark of Light**.

ANGEL OF GREENWOOD

Teenager *Angel Hill* lives in Greenwood, a thriving Black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

She is kind and helpful, loved by everyone, including a boy named Isaiah with whom she has conflicting views on racial equality. He's a former troublemaker trying to change his ways. Greenwood is peaceful and safe – and then a murderous White mob sets it ablaze at night. The teens see the early flames and run through the streets, trying to save lives. This historical fiction by *Randi Pink* has been recommended for young adult readers. Its backdrop is the 1921 attack that became known as the *Tulsa Race Massacre*.

Your Library Staff

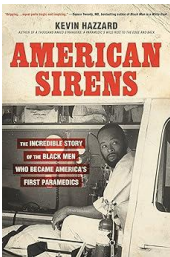
BOOK CLUB



Book Club Selections

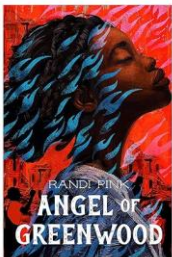
Book Club meets once a month at 7PM at the Panera Bread in South Park Shops. We read a variety of books, and your suggestions are always welcome. We're always looking for new folks to join our discussions. In April, we'll meet on the fourth Friday due to Holy Week.

Note the local Pittsburgh connection in our April selection.



April 25th American Sirens – Kevin Hazzard

Until the 1970s, if you suffered a medical crisis, your chances of survival were minimal. A 9-1-1 call might bring police or even the local funeral home. But that all changed with **Freedom House EMS in Pittsburgh**, a group of Black men who became America's first paramedics and set the gold standard for emergency medicine around the world, only to have their story and their legacy erased—until now.



May 16th Angel of Greenwood – Randi Pink

A piercing, unforgettable love story set in Greenwood, Oklahoma, also known as the “Black Wall Street,” and against the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. See the details in the Church Library section of this newsletter.



United Methodist Communications has announced that their web hosting services will end in 2025. As a result, the First Bethel UMC and Kings School Kids websites will transition to a new provider, with the addresses staying the same. This change is seen as an opportunity to update and improve our websites to better represent the ministries of our church. For any questions or suggestions, please contact Gloria Stephan or Robin Cecala.



MEN'S GROUP

FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets at 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month in Founders Hall for fellowship and community activities.

**The April meeting will feature a special program
open to anyone interested.**

Saturday, April 5th at 9AM FREE Arthritis and Joint Pain Workshop presented by Hess Physical Therapy.

MARTHA CIRCLE



Martha Circle will meet at 1PM on Wednesday, April 9th 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.

THE JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CHOIR



The Johnstown Christian School Choir will present a concert for our Sunday worship at First Bethel on **Sunday, May 4th at 9:30AM.**

Pastor David is still looking for volunteers to house students and staff overnight on Saturday, May 3rd.

We're also looking for folks to help with preparing a light lunch for the choir after church before they depart for Johnstown.

Please let him know if you can help!

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH 2025



Save your re-sellable items for the Men's Garage Sale!

We'll accept almost anything except large furniture, old electronics and clothes.

Drop off your items beginning April 27th

Contact Ken Williams or Jim Walter to make arrangements for large donations.

- Housewares
- Decorative Items
- Hand Tools, Small Appliances
- Gas, Electric, and Battery-Operated Garden Tools
- Small Electronics
- Furniture (indoor and outdoor)
- Toys, Collectibles, Holiday Décor
- Books, Puzzles, Sports Equipment
- **Vegetable Plants and Flowers**

This is a huge annual garage sale sponsored by the Men's Group of **First Bethel United Methodist Church**.

Proceeds will benefit our many ministries.

First Bethel United Methodist Church Mission Statement

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

Special April Dates

- Palm Sunday — April 13, 2025
- Maundy Thursday — April 17, 2025
- Good Friday — April 18, 2025
- Easter — April 20, 2025
- Earth Day — April 22, 2025
- Administrative Professionals Day — April 23, 2025

**Church
Cleanup**



The Trustees urge you to help with

CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

on Saturday, May 31st from 9AM -11AM

Help with indoor and outdoor spring
cleaning. All ages 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

April 2025

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