

Bethel United Methodist Church
8405 Lima Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Volume 51, Issue 4
April 2018

THE BETHEL FLAME ON THE WEB

Have you looked for THE BETHEL FLAME on the Web? Have you listened to Pastor Mona’s sermons? Also, check Pastor Mona’s weekly devotions on Facebook. Check us out online at... www.bethelchurchfw.com

THE BETHEL FLAME
is a monthly publication of
Bethel United Methodist Church.

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Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday	8am - 3pm
Friday	8am - Noon

Service Schedule:

Worship Service	10:00am
Adult Sunday School	8:45am

Bethel Church Staff

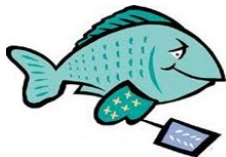
- Mona Safley, Senior Pastor
- Brandi Williams, Office Manager
- Shelby Naibauer, Awana Director
- Kelli Moody, Daycare Director
- Sarah Davidson, Preschool Director
- Dawn Roberts, Treasurer
- Bob Menefee, Maintenance Director
- Travis Pauley, Custodian



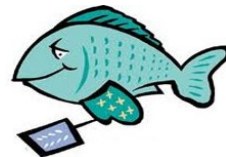
...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...2 Timothy 1:6b

Bethel United Methodist Church ~ 8405 Lima Road ~ Fort Wayne IN ~ 46818 ~ 260-489-3651

IT’S FISH FRY TIME!!!



Join us for the



Bethel United Methodist
Church Annual Fish Fry

Friday, April 20th 4:30 -7pm

8405 Lima Road Fort Wayne IN 46818

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

~ Dan’s Fish & Chicken ~

Menu: Fish or Chicken, Green Beans, Cole
Slaw or Applesauce, Desserts & Drink
Dine In, Carry Out and Drive Thru Available

Tickets available in the church office
Adults \$10.25, Children 6-12 \$5, 5 & under free.

FREE Bounce House Available For the Kids
Craft & Bake Sale Table Also Available

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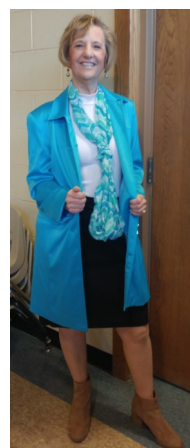
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MESSAGE FROM MONA



Easter & other miracles “too good to be true!”

Recently, I spied Jeff DeLeon (stroke survivor) walking without his cane.

When another member saw his amazing progress, she exclaimed, “It’s too good to be true!”

Every time I hear a “too good to be true” story, I’m reminded of the Easter Resurrection.

On Easter morning, scripture says Mary Magdalene, along with several other women, find Jesus’ tomb empty and are told by an angel “he is risen just as he said.”

In fear and joy, the women run to inform the disciples, but they were not believed because their words “seemed like nonsense.” It was simply too good to be true.

Such unbelievable events are often called miracles. From the Latin word *miracula* to wonder,” miracles mark wonders of a peculiar kind, often explicitly ascribed to God.

While I don’t always use the term “miracle,” I have several “too good to be true” stories that defy belief.

Several years ago, I was considering enrolling in seminary, but classes were only offered during the day. As a stockbroker, I well knew my firm prohibited part-time employment—any kind for any reason—and total resignation was not a financial option. Expecting the worst, I bravely approached senior management about temporarily cutting my work schedule to give me Fridays off to attend

classes. I proposed a 20 percent reduction in hours and pay, full benefits remaining intact, with the understanding that I would return to full time if necessary.

Their immediate affirmative reply stunned me and many others. I became the first part-timer and paved the way for many other women to contract similar arrangements.

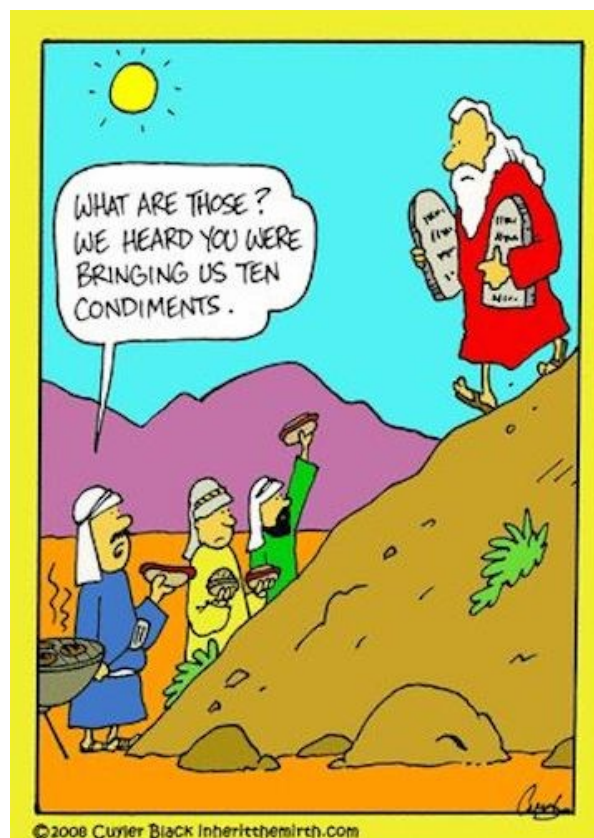
In shock, I met with an academic counselor that very next Friday. With job and benefits securely in place, it seemed too good to be true.

The lesson in these stories is the ultimate power of God to do anything. Thank God for the joyful surprise of Easter. Thank God even more for the faith to believe the unbelievable.

Your pastor and friend,

Pastor Mona

Church Chuckle



Mother-Daughter-Friend Brunch

Saturday, May 5th at 9 a.m.

*It's the spring of the year
And there's a brunch in the works
For all women and girls
At Bethel's great church.*

*We will laugh with our girlfriends
Our sisters and mothers,
As we celebrate friendship
With them and others.*

*So join us Saturday, May 5th
For a delicious feast,
And a time of laughter and fun
That can't be beat!*

R.S.V.P. on sign-up sheet on UMW Board

Special recognition for 3+ generations

Other ways to give at Bethel UMC

1. Special Needs – A new steel door for rear of Sanctuary to cost \$1,500.
Memo line: New Door - This is to comply with fire safety.
2. Reduce The Deficit – Special “Catch Up Budget (CUB)” account established.
Memo line: CUB Every bit helps!
3. Consider a tithe – Step up to God’s greatest out-pouring of blessing by giving 10%

Remember those of our church who are in healthcare, shut-in or in assisted living:

Juanita Arnold
Maria Cheshier
Jeff DeLeon
Edna Doty
Betty Failor

Opal Herrberg
Irene Johnstonbaugh
Ronald Jones
Delores Ohnesorge
Elizabeth Richards

Mrs. Agnes "Rooney" Stewart
Joy Stuckey
Russ Sunday



PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE SUCH AS ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER.



Left: Joy Stuckey Serving as Concierge at her assisted living home.
Right: Pastor Mona visits Russ Sunday.



BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family & Friends

Joy! Easter Party at Charis House
Joy! Charlotte Klerner in church
Joy! Detamore's 62nd anniversary
Joy! Visitors here!
Joy! Purdue's victory
Maria Cheshier - returned to Cleveland Clinic 3/26
Don Sell - Set back this week
Bonnie Jean Merriman-returning home soon
John Kemerly-Mandy Odom's uncle-aneurysm surgery
Gail & Roy Fisher-friends of Cheryl Nicolet-lung cancer

Ed & Teresa Foss-friends of Dave Muncie-Parkinson
Families in crisis-financial, health, marriage & grief
New church officers
Bethel Bus fundraising
Financial Improvement
Easter Visitors
Upcoming Fish Fry
Summer Bible School
Bethel Historical Video Project



The church women are springing into the season! But first, a recap of March...

Thanks to **Sarah Menefee** for hosting Eve Circle and presenting an interesting program on "creative play."

April's Eve Circle meeting will be hosted by **Jo-Anne Knapp**. We hope to eat out (Dutch treat) at a local restaurant at 6pm on April 19th and honor a "Rising Star" from our Bethel Church. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks to **Mary Ann Long** for selecting March's book, *Overload* by Joyce Meyer. In April, we take up "You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir" by *Melissa Ohden* with **Jeanne Burt** moderating.

What a fun evening at the General UMW meeting March 26th with Jeb Brenneman sharing the history of tea.



Save the Date!!
Mother-Daughter-Friend Ladies Brunch
Saturday, May 5th at 9am
At Bethel UMC

Program: Planting Seeds of Friendship

Join us for a delicious brunch and fun program.
Women and girls of all ages welcome.
Special recognition of 3+ generations.



A big thank-you to **Carol Barton** for planning the "Paint With Kim" fundraiser. Lots of fun for the ladies as we painted and snacked, with over \$200 raised for missions.

Special thanks to **Sharon Krouse** for heading up the first-ever Last Supper event (on Maundy Thursday) benefiting the Associated Churches Food Pantry.

Special thanks to **Carol Brown and Kathy Smith** for representing Bethel at Church Women United's World Prayer Celebration in March.

Special thanks to **Carol Barton and Nicole Burt** for chairing the April Fish Fry. Your UMW sisters are here to help, and are very, very proud!

Pastor Mona meets past UMW President Joy Stuckey celebrating her 90th birthday!



1st Annual Women's Sunday Service
Sunday, May 6th beginning at 10am
Sponsored by UMW

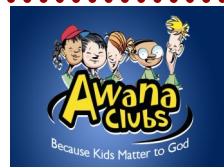
Women needed to serve as ushers, greeters, and communion servers. Watch for sign up sheet to be posted on UMW board.

- ♥ **Eve Circle**-Meets 3rd Thursday in homes with variety of programs. Carol Brown, Chair (482-9985)
- ♥ **Reading Circle**-Meets 1st Tuesday in homes or church-Book Club. Jeanne Burt, Chair (486-4156)
- ♥ **Stitch n Chatter**-Wednesdays @ 1pm in room S6 at Church. Carol Barton, Chair (341-8294)



Bethel Awana Clubs

January 10th, 2018—May 23, 2018
Wednesdays—5:00—7:00 PM



We Need You!!!



We are in need of a Cubbies Leader for the remainder of the Awana year. This commitment would be every Wednesday from 5pm—7pm until May 23. There would also be some minimal preparation, setup and cleanup time before and after club. Please contact Shelby Naibauer for details. Call or Text 260-750-5206

Wednesday, April 4

No Club Meeting—
Spring Break

Wednesday, April 11

March Coin Collection
Winners

Wednesday, April 18

April Birthday
Celebrations

Wednesday, April 25

Theme Night : Hat or
Crazy Hair Night

Shelby Naibauer
416-0752

bethelkidsmin@frontier.com
<http://www.bethelchurchfw.com/>

BETHEL NEWS & NOTICES...



INVITATION! You are invited to join us in celebration of Bob Menefee's 70th Birthday, Saturday, April 7th, 2pm-4pm in the Bethel Fellowship Hall. In lieu of gifts, a donation the Associated Churches Food Bank can be made.

Handbell players are needed!

Basic knowledge of reading music is helpful, but not essential. It is helpful to be able to count to 4 and know your left hand from the right hand. At times, this is also a challenge for the current group, so perhaps anyone wanting to have fun is the requirement.



Church Meetings

Wednesday, April 4th

6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 10th

12:30pm Church Staff Meeting

Monday, April 16th

7:00pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, April 17th

6:00pm Staff Parish meeting

Thursday, April 19th

7:30pm Trustee Meeting

Tuesday, April 24th

7:00pm Ad Council Meeting

Limited Office Hours

The Bethel Church Office will have limited office hours the during the week of April 2nd through April 6th due to Brandi being on vacation. We have arranged for volunteers to be in the office to only answer phone calls and take messages on the listed days and times below. Should you reach the office during these closed times please leave a message and we will get back with you as soon as we are able.

Monday, April 2nd: 9am – 11am

Wednesday, April 4th: 9am – 11am

Friday, April 6th: 9am – 11am

Get ready for the April Fish Fry!

Friday, April 20th 4:30 -7pm

Tickets available beginning March 18th in the Bethel church office & Sunday Mornings. Adults \$10.25, Children 6-12 \$5, 5 & under free

FREE Bounce House Available For the Kids
Craft & Bake Sale table also available

Come for food and fellowship!



The next Game night will be held on Saturday, April 21st in the Bethel Fellowship Hall from 4pm to 6pm. All are welcome to join us and bring a guest too. We have a table for euchre and a table that we play different game each month (e.g., Swap, Uno Spin, Manipulation, Phase10, etc.)

April	Greeters	Kids Kingdom
Apr 1	Bob & Jean Shugert	NO KIDS KINGDOM
Apr 8		Josh & Kathryn Burt
Apr 15	Cheryl Nicolet	Amber H & Mandy O
Apr 22		Brandi W & Sarah D
Apr 29		Jeff & Danielle Cusick

Congregational Communication

1/01/18-2/28/18	
INCOME	\$40,349.20
EXPENSES	\$49,621.82
YTD BEHIND	-9,272.62

IN THE MAILBAG

Dear Bethel United Methodist Church,
We want to thank you for the gift of \$122.00 in January. Your gift has helped us to continue to be able to minister in the jail. Just as other ministries have struggled financially, we as well are struggling. Please continue your prayers in regards to the finances of this ministry.
~Serving Christ together, Dick Seivers CMC, Chaplain

Thank you to all who helped out to rake and clean up the seeds pods all over the church grounds on Friday, March 16th. It was VERY much appreciated.
~Bob Shugert, Bethel Trustee Chair

Dear Bethel Family,
We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the prayers you have given to us over the last year. Through the time of my cochlear implant, which is doing great, and into my brother's illness. He is doing better but recovery is going to be very slow. We are hoping for a return to Indiana by the end of April. It's looking kind of doubtful that he will make it. He can always use an extra prayer or two.
~Roger and Margaret

March Card Sharks



Left: Leprechaun Jerry DeLeon and his lucky green popcorn on St Patty's Day!



Middle school thespian Zera Utnage with Grandma and Grandpa Belcher. Zera will be Student Director of next drama production.



BETHEL CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



You know warm weather is around the corner when Bethel begins to plan for Vacation Bible School.
Still to be decided are:

Format—considering a 1-day event
Date—has previously been in June, but is this still best for most?
Theme—Suggestions include:

- Weird Animals (God loves us unconditionally),
- Science (Experimenting with God)
- God's Garden (Growing with God).

We are praying about a Director to lead a TEAM OF OTHERS to help us plan a great event!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 22nd at 11:15pm** for a Bible School Organizational Meeting. Coming to this meeting indicates INTEREST, not COMMITMENT.

Please don't miss this opportunity to share ideas and enthusiasm for reaching Kids for Jesus!

EASTER FEST REPORT

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Easter Fest the BIGGEST and BEST ever... There were folks who made signs, posted signs, bought candy, boiled eggs, donated and filled eggs, and of course, all those great Bethel folks who helped run the fun games and crafts booths.



We hosted many families at the event—some for the first time to Bethel.

We Need You!

Children's Teachers needed to rotate leading Kids Kingdom 1 time every 2 months. We work in teams of 2. Teaching notes and craft supplies are provided in advance. This is such A GIFT to parents in our church!



Children's Church
Join Us!!

Kids Kingdom:
~during 10am
worship service
~combined age class



Kids Kingdom
Volunteer Schedule

April 1
EASTER SUNDAY
NO KIDS KINGDOM

April 8
Josh & Kathryn Burt

April 15
Amber H & Mandy O

April 22
Brandi W & Sarah D

April 29
Jeff & Danielle Cusick

Apr. Birthdays

4/02 Kirsten Sherry
4/06 Elizabeth Gerig
4/13 Kavey Bilderback
4/14 Clark Davidson

BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Annual Silent Auction & Carnival

The Silent Auction & Carnival is right around the corner on May 12th! This will be a smaller event this spring due to the fact that we will be moving this event to the fall and will have ANOTHER Silent Auction on September 29th. We hope that you will come to BOTH events, which will be raising money for a new school bus. A donation bulletin board will be put up in April with items needed for the May auction.

Daycare Enrollment for 2018-2019 begins!

A completed Enrollment form and a Registration Fee are required for every child that is attending Bethel Daycare. Early Enrollment and fee of \$30.00 will now be collected through April 20, 2018. Thereafter a \$40.00 Registration Fee will be collected. Classes fill fast, so please be sure to turn in your child's Registration Fee and Enrollment Form as soon as possible.

Also, If your child is in need of summer care (K-5th) please let us know. We ask that you turn in a \$45.00 activity/field trip fee by Friday March 30, 2018.

Now Hiring!

Bethel Preschool & Daycare are looking to add to their Bethel Staff. If you love teaching and are looking for a part time position, please contact Sarah Davidson at 489-3651 or bethelpreschool@frontier.com for the Preschool Position. Daycare is hiring both part and full time positions. If you are interested contact Kelli Moody at 489-3650 or betheldaycarekids@gmail.com for the Daycare Position.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser night. Because of your help, we were able to raise \$135.00 towards a new BUS!

Upcoming Events:

Good Friday (No School) March 30th
Spring Break April 2nd – 6th
All Classes will be going on a field trip to Petsmart in the month of April.



Daycare kids enjoy the shredded Pitt treasure hunt with Pastor Mona



School Age Summer Care 2018 Sign up

If you are in need of summer daycare for your school age child please sign-up in the daycare soon. Spots fill up quickly.

A \$45 payment will be due upon the start date of the Summer Session. The fee will be used for field trips and supplies.

For more information contact the Bethel Daycare office at 260-489-3650

Feb. Scrip Report:

Total Sold	\$2,445.00
Parent %	\$9.82
School %	\$54.81

Join us for a TASTY Fundraiser in May!



Enjoy yourself and support our cause at a special fundraising event for:

Bethel United Methodist Church

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018

Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Location: 401 East Coliseum Blvd. Fort Wayne IN 46805

Guest MUST present this flyer to the cashier before paying. Blaze Pizza will donate 20% of proceeds from your meal back to our organization.

Flyers available at the Bethel Church Welcome Center



FAST-FIRE'D.

Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax and gift card purchases. Valid for dine-in, take-out only. Not valid for online orders. Alcoholic beverages excluded. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant. Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check.

MISSION POSSIBLE

UMW & A Baby's Closet

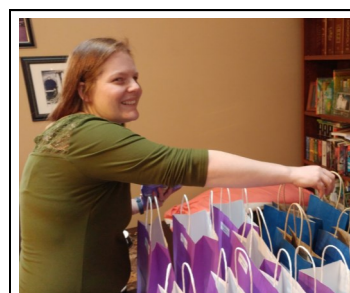
One of the Social Action projects of Bethel United Methodist Women is **A Baby's Closet**. This project is sponsored by the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County. This is a ministry that helps improve the lives of disadvantaged infants and toddlers by offering their mothers and fathers incentives for responsible parenting. To help this ministry we collect new and very gently used clothing from newborn to size 4T, as well as new or in good condition baby furniture, diapers, and any items necessary for the care of an infant or toddler. **They do not accept car seats.** The collection dates are **Sunday, May 6th to Sunday, May 13th.** (Mother's Day) There will be a Pack n Play in the Fellowship Hall for you to put your donations in. If you are attending the Spring Tea on May 6th, please feel free to bring your items then. Thank you so much for donating to this ministry. ~The Bethel United Methodist Women

Charis House Easter Mission

God's spirit was alive and well at Charis House on Saturday, March 24th as we hosted the first annual Easter Fest for the women and children's shelter.

Our fun event leader was Amber Harris, assisted by Katie Robinson, Emily Robinson, Jo-Anne Knapp, Andi DeLeon, and Pastor Mona.

Over 25 women and over 20 kids enjoyed a hot dog lunch, fun crafts and games, and a big Easter egg hunt. The women especially enjoyed browsing the book table for their next great read.



Event Chair Amber Harris fills goodie bags for Charis House Easter party.

Lots of smiles were everywhere as our day wrapped up with goodie bags for everyone. We all enjoyed the day and the new friends made!

Thanks to Home Builders class for donating the lunch, Seekers of the Covenant class for donating eggs and candy, and to the mothers and others class for hosting the event. Also, a special thanks to everyone who donated books and bibles. Our book table was a huge hit!!



TRUSTEE CORNER



As the winter fades away, our busy Trustees have had to Spring into action cleaning up our property.

In March, our building Trustees:

- Raked up gum tree balls for 8 hours
- Ordered new steel sanctuary door
- Passed final fire marshal inspection



In April, Trustees have scheduled the following work dates and activities—some indoors and some outside. Please come as you are able remembering that MANY hands make LIGHT work...even giving an hour or 2 is helpful!

Church Work Days Scheduled:

We invite ALL church folks, not just Trustees, to help us on the following days to clean up the church and surrounding grounds.

- **Sunday, March 25 at 12:30pm:** Sweep Fellowship Hall and reset tables after Easter Fest carnival children's event.
- **Saturday, April 7 at 9am:** Mulch Fellowship Hall entrance area outdoors.
- **Saturday, April 14 at 9am:** Rake outside, clean windows inside.



Recap of Our New Building Use Fees

- Sanctuary use \$100
- Fellowship Hall use \$50
- Classroom use \$25

For Bethel church members, the fees will be half of the above stated rates.

For events lasting more than 2 hours, fees are higher. Weddings have separate policy.

Thank you for understanding our situation, and for helping us to adhere to our financial goal of a balanced budget.

Bethel Trustees Board

BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

April Sunday School Happenings



Christian Home Builders-(Room S6)- Leader-Shared leadership between members

Christian Homebuilders Class will be studying "The Andrew Paradigm" by Michael J. Coyner. This is a twelve week study. The teacher for April is Jean Shugurt.

Part 2: The Andrew Paradigm of A Lead Follower

1. April 1st- Lead Followers Leave Behind Their Old Lives
2. April 8th- Lead Followers Share The Good News
3. April 15th- Lead Followers Look For Possibilities
4. April 22nd- Lead Followers Break Down Barriers
5. April 29th- Part III: The Qualities of A Lead Follower
Lead Followers Are Loyal To Their Leader

Seekers of the Covenant (Room S5)- Leader- Jeff Cusick

The Seekers have recently started a new series called The God We Can Know. This series explores six of Jesus Christ's "I Am..." sayings from The Gospel of John. This study will help us explore six of those sayings including "I Am the Bread of Life", and "I Am the Light of the World". The Gospel of John is famous for these sayings and even though they are short, once studied within the context of the times, they provide us with so much to think about as we explore our Christian faith. As we study these sayings, we hope to answer the basic question "Who am I?" This series features a short DVD session with Rob Fuquay, senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana followed by discussion. If you are currently looking for a Sunday School class, and if you enjoy interesting discussions, I think this will be something for you. I hope you can make time to join us for this study. The Seekers of the Covenant look forward to seeing you.

Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Koinonia Class will be finishing our study of First and Second Maccabees in April. The study of Maccabees is of value to Christians because the Jewish culture of Jesus's time was strongly influenced by these historical events covering the period from 175 to 134 B.C. As Daniel Harrington, the author of our study guide, states that "without the Macabees 'the fate of Judaism (and with it Christianity and Islam) was uncertain'" as the world's powers were trying to extinguish the Jewish religion and culture. They also set an example for the early Christian martyrs and for persecuted Christians today. Our teacher for the month of April is Craig Balliet.

Mothers & Others (Music Room) - Leader: Katie Robinson

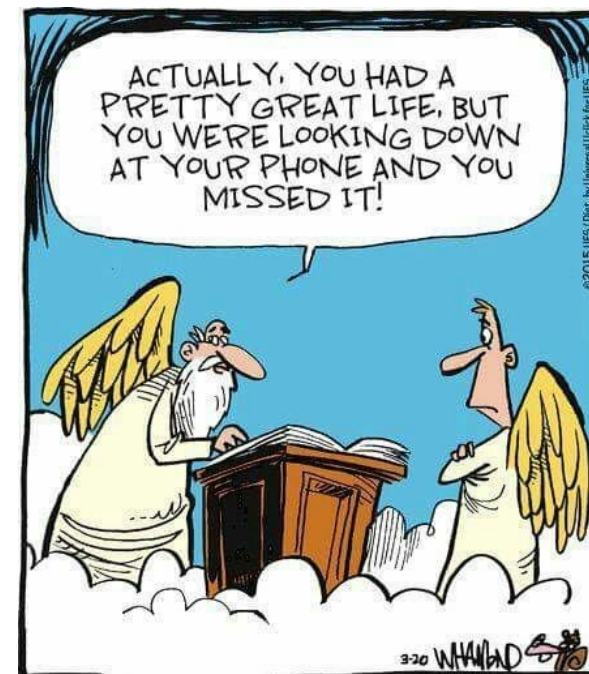
Our study of the Friends of Jesus continues as we examine the characters of Jarius and Mary Magdalene. We offer small group supportive friendship and welcome new faces!



All youth invited to join Pastor Mona for a Movie Night!! We'll meet at Church, choose a movie and head to the AMC movie theater on Dupont.



YOUTH CHUCKLE



Bethel UMC Anniversary Video is in the works!

This year marks the 175th anniversary of Bethel United Methodist Church, and a video to mark this special occasion is in the making!

Recently, Pastor Mona hired a local professional videographer to make a brief historical documentary about Bethel UMC.

Manning Video Productions will be interviewing Bethel members and filming our current and previous building sites to show the history of our congregation.

The film will also contain still photo shots of founding families including the Oplingers and others.

Additionally, the documentary will also feature current programs and even the dreams yet to be!

The video will be shown for the first time at Bethel's 175th Anniversary party scheduled for late summer or fall.

Color DVD copies of the video will be available for \$10.

"Although DVDs are usually sold for twice this amount, I negotiated the \$10 price so all Bethel families could own this piece of history," said Pastor Mona.

Stay tuned for the projected movie release date in late summer!