

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

Return Service Requested

Volume 48, Issue 12  
December 2015

THE BETHEL FLAME ON THE WEB

Have you looked for THE BETHEL FLAME on the Web? Have you listened to Pastor Brian’s sermons? Check us out online at...  
[www.bethelchurchfw.com](http://www.bethelchurchfw.com)

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

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Bethel Daycare (260)489-3650  
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**Church Office Hours:**  
Monday through Thursday 8am - 3pm  
Friday 8am-12pm

**Worship Service:**  
Traditional Service 8:30am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Contemporary Service 10:30am

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #768  
Fort Wayne IN

Bethel Church Staff

- Brian Campbell, Pastor
- Brandi Williams, Office Manager
- Shelby Naibauer, Children’s Ministry Director
- Michael & Nicole Burt, Youth Leaders
- Kelli Moody, Daycare Director
- Sarah Davidson, Preschool Director
- Dawn Roberts, Treasurer
- Bob Menefee, Maintenance Director



...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

Bethel United Methodist Church  
Schedule of 2015 Christmas Services

- \*November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27: “All I Want for Christmas is...”  
Advent/ Christmas Sermon Series (Both 8:30 and 10:30 services)
- \*Sunday, November 29:  
Sermon – “All I Want for Christmas is Hope”
- \*Sunday, December 6:  
Sermon – “All I Want for Christmas Is Peace”
- Thursday, December 10:  
Bethel Preschool Christmas Program 6:30-8:30pm
- \*Sunday, December 13:  
Sermon – “All I Want for Christmas is Joy”
- Friday, December 18:  
Bethel Daycare “Happy Birthday Jesus Party” 9:30am
- \*Sunday, December 20:  
Sermon – “All I Want for Christmas is Love: A Savior is Born”
- Sunday, December 20:  
Longest Night Blue Christmas Service 6:00-7:15 pm
- Thursday, December 24:  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service 6:30-8:00 pm
- \*Sunday, December 27: Sermon – “What Did YOU Get for Christmas?”

May the Blessings of Our Lord be Yours this Christmas Season  
and in the coming New Year ~ Pastor Brian, Rachel and Your  
Bethel UMC Staff

Bob Menefee, Brandi Williams, Pastor Brian, Rachel, Shelby Naibauer, Sarah Davidson, Dawn Roberts

Merry Christmas

- Volume 48, Issue 12  
December 2015  
Special points of interest:
- A letter from Jesus about Christmsa
  - Poinsettia Orders
  - Bell Ringers
  - UMW Christmas Party
  - 2015 Mitten Tree
  - Christmas card Fundraiser
  - Bethel True-isms

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Letter from Jesus about Christmas

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don’t care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn’t allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn’t be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who make all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grapevine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to five Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is My wish list.  
Choose something from it:

- 1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
- 2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don’t have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
- 3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the working on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don’t you write and tell him that you’ll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.
- 4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can’t afford and they don’t need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
- 5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
- 6. Did you know that someone in your town feels alone and hopeless? Since you may not know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make such a difference.
- 7. Instead of net picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren’t allowed to wish you a “Merry Christmas” that doesn’t keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping the on Sunday. If the store didn’t make so much money on that day they’d close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
- 8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary—especially one who take My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.
- 9. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no “Christmas” tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don’t know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
- 10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don’t do thing in secret that you wouldn’t do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don’t forget, I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I’ll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I’ll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember.

I LOVE YOU, JESUS

BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family

Carol Borches	Ray Owen	Bishop Coyner
Peg Cussen	Russ Sunday	District Superintendent,
Bob Dorsey	Donna Wakeland	David Neckers
Maggie Eiffert	Gayle Westfall	Pastor Brian & Rachel
Diana Halter	Linda Wheaton	Campbell and family
Opal Herrberg	Those of our congregation	Kid’s Kingdom
Ann Kramer	who are job-hunting	Awana Clubs
Marge Leininger	Families in crisis – financial,	
Pastor Jerry & Liz Machgan	health, marriage	
Bonnie Jean Merriman	Bethel Staff & Volunteers	
Mike & Arline Miller	Bethel Church	
Marcia Moore	Bethel Preschool & Bethel	
	Daycare	

Friends of Bethel

Dennis Arnold, Juanita	Ryan & Chole McIntyre,	Wayne Smith
Arnold’s son	relatives of Betty	Shappell’s son-in-law
Ava Bower, child with	Failor	Caz Strzynski
Leukemia	Judy Miller, friend of Ron &	Marscell Sloffer,
Destiny, Robb & Diana	Phyllis Shappell	Charlotte Klerner’s
Bilderback’s niece	Jim Overholt, friend of Bob	mother
Steve Getty, friend of	Moore	Niccole Snowden Willoughby
Pat Muncie	Beth Richardson, friend of	friend of Pastor Brian
Helen Goonen, Betty Failor’s	Dave & Pat Muncie	& Rachel Campbell
sister	The Saneta Family	The President and Cabinet
Richard Johnson, Jenny	Dona Sell, Margaret	(the government)
Lemmon’s father	Detamore’s sister-in-law	Pray for the schools,
Mercedees, Shugert’s	Wayne Sauers, Linda	children, teachers etc.
granddaughter	Wheaton’s father	

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE TO THESE LISTS. WE THANK YOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO PRAY FOR THEM.

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

Juanita Arnold: Heritage of Fort Wayne  
5250 Heritage Parkway, Room 327 Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Arlene Domer: Golden Years Homestead  
8300 Maysville Road, Apt 2019, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Edna Doty: 2033 S. Lone Pine Rd, Columbia City, IN 46725

Betty Failor: 4012 Captiva Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46815; 260-485-0205

Opal Herrberg: 1821 Gilmore Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Ronald Jones: 413 Columbia Drive, Apt #19, Columbia City, IN 46725

Marge Leininger: 3385 US Highway 33; Churubusco, IN 46723; 260-489-4822

Marcia Moore: 14409 Sunrise Court, Leo, IN 46765

Elizabeth Richards: Care of their son, Tom Richards  
16203 Thunderbird Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Rose Sadler: Hickory Creek Healthcare  
1433 S. Main Street, Kendallville, IN 46755; 260-347-3612

Rooney Stewart: P.O. Box 5194, Fort Wayne, IN 46895-5194

Russ Sunday: Arbor Glen Retirement Community  
5202 Saint Joe Road, Apt# 203, Fort Wayne, IN 46835; 260-489-7620

Erna Troth: 7833 W. Jefferson Blvd., Apt 107, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

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

## **Poinsettia Orders**

This year we will be placing orders for 6” poinsettia plants to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services. You can place an order by calling Brandi in the church office or by singing up on the order sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. They will be \$10 per plant and can be paid in the office, or by placing your check or money in an envelope labeled “Poinsettia Orders” and dropping it in the church offering. Be sure to write your name on the envelope. Orders must be placed by Sunday, December 13th. Your plant can be taken home after our Christmas Eve service.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers**

Every year Bethel volunteers to help ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Lima Road Walmart. If you would like to join us there is a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We will be ringing the bell on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 4pm in 1 hour increments.

## **Bethel Choir**

For the remainder of the year choir rehearsals will be held on **Monday evenings, December 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

Everyone is invited for a wonderful time of singing and sharing the STORY with love.

~ Barb Cross and Jan Roberts



## **UMW Christmas Party**

Thursday, December 3 at 7pm the UMW Christmas celebration will be held at Bethel in Fellowship Hall. This will also be the reveal of our secret sisters. Entertainment will be performed by The Banjo Band. So mark your calendar and plan to start your Christmas season at the UMW celebration!



## **2015 UMW Mitten Tree**

Every year we collect new mittens, hats, and scarves to donate to needy children at Crossroad Children’s Home. Please put your donations on the white “Mitten Tree” in the Fellowship Hall that is put up during the Hanging of the Greens. Thank you for your support and generosity.

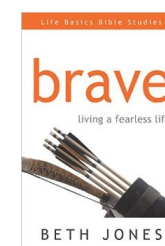
~Bethel United Methodist Women



## **Thursday Women’s Bible Group**

In today's world where terror, phobias and high anxiety want to keep us paralyzed, God has a better plan. With Brave, we take an in-depth look at God's promises to enable us to be over-comers and live a fearless life.

Join us on Thursdays at 7:30! Due to the upcoming holidays, we will not meet on the following Thursdays. Nov. 26th, Dec. 24th & Dec. 31st.







# CHILDREN'S

## We Collect Cans!

Children's Ministry collects pop cans for cash! Collection bins are located near the pop machine by the kitchen and inside the fence just outside the kitchen door.

## Donations

Did you know we have a wishlist for supplies? Check out the Children's Ministry website to see if there's anything we need that you want to get rid of. Click on the Children & Youth menu and choose Children's Ministry (scroll to the bottom of the page).

## Volunteers

Interested in working with Bethel's Children's Ministry? Check out our website to see more details.  
bethelchurchfw.com/volunteer-opportunities.html

Shelby Naibauer  
416-0752

## Thank you

- Jenni Swanson, Andi DeLeon, Katie Robinson, Pat Muncie, Christie Serre and Hollie Pease for leading the Squires & Kids Kingdom classes in November.
- Traci King for leading the Knights class in November.
- Sharon Krause for delivering food pantry items that were collected by the Awana kids to the Associated Churches Food Bank. And a thanks for speaking at our club meeting.
- All Awana volunteers for all they do to make the program a success!

## Children's Christmas Program

Don't miss hearing the kids sing during the Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24 and during the 2nd church service on Sunday, December 27!



## Kid News

**Awana Cubbies Leaders**— We are looking for 2 more leaders to teach a second Cubbies class. Cubbies are preschoolers ages 3-5. Lesson plans are easy to follow and include a Bible lesson, games and crafts/activities. Contact Shelby for more information.

**Knights Sunday School**— We are looking for 1-2 volunteers to help teach the Knights Sunday School class. If you are interested please contact Shelby.

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

## BETHEL HAPPENINGS...

Join Bethel United Methodist Church for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service from 6:30-8pm.

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th for our sermon series titled  
*All I Want for Christmas is...*

## **Preschool Christmas Concert**

Join us in the Bethel sanctuary on December 10th at 6:30pm.

**Longest Night  
Blue Christmas Service**  
December 20th 6-7:15pm

The church office will be  
**CLOSED** on Thursday,  
December 24th & Friday,  
December 25th in observance  
of Christmas.

*Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on  
Saturday, December 5th at 9am.*



**Thursday, December 3rd**

7:00pm Trustee Meeting

**Tuesday, December 8th**

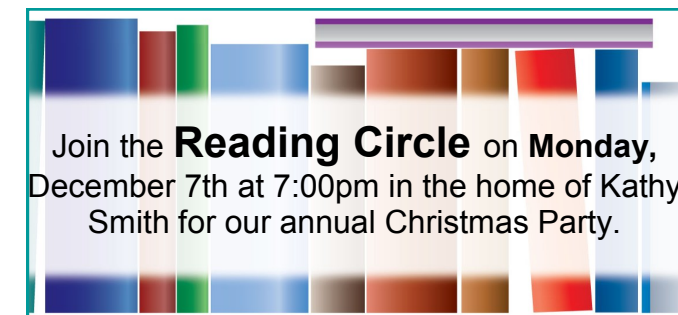
6:30pm Daycare/Preschool Board

**Thursday, December 10th**

9:30am Church Staff Meeting



**Eve Circle** will meet on Thurs.,  
December 17th at 12:30pm in the  
home of Margaret Detamore.  
Hope to see you there!



Join the **Reading Circle** on **Monday**,  
December 7th at 7:00pm in the home of Kathy  
Smith for our annual Christmas Party.

## **General Operating Report - Oct.**

10/01/15 Beginning Balance	-14,604.55
INCOME	48,085.30
EXPENSES	49,119.92
10/31/15 Ending Balance	-15,639.17

## **December Greeters**

Dec. 6	Jim & Dee McCrea Traci King
Dec. 13	Jack & Shirley Birch Carol Barton
Dec. 20	Bob & Jean Shugert Mandy Odum
Dec. 27	Ron & Phyllis Shappell Cheryl Nicolet

## THANK YOU

**Thank You** to all who remembered me in prayer, came & visited, brought food and sent cards and well wishes during my new hip procedure. I appreciate all of you and miss you and I will be back soon. Thank you and God bless you.  
~Peg Cussen

**Thank you** to everyone who sent me well wishes and cards on my birthday last month. It was greatly appreciated and I am truly blessed to be able to work for such an amazing and caring church family. Thank you again.  
~Brandi Williams

### *The Bird Family would love to hear from you!*

The Bird family is settled in their new home and would love to hear from their Bethel family. Please them send Christmas cards and any letters to the address below. You can also reach them by email at melindaneon@yahoo.com. I know they would love any communication.

Andrew & Melinda Bird  
C/O Roxanne Chance  
PO Box 2711  
Kingstown VC0100  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## JUST FOR FUN!

### **Bethel True-isms:**

Pie is good but God is better.



### **Bible Trivia Question:**

When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?



- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus
- D. King Herod

Check your answers at the bottom of page 12

### **Christian Symbol ~ Pax**



Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). After announcing the Savior's birth to the shepherds, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on each peace ..." (Luke 2:14, NKJV).

This Latin word for peace us frequently seen in Christmas art and decorations, reminding us that Jesus came as the

## MINISTRIES



### **KidsMin Fundraisers**

### **Christmas Cards For Sale!!!**

Last year the kids in Children's Ministry designed their own Christmas cards. This year we are selling them as a fundraiser. Card samples are posted on the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board along with order forms. Please turn completed order forms in at the office. Card pricing is as follows:

Individual cards = \$1 each  
6-pack of cards = \$5 par pack  
12-pack of cards = \$10 per pack



### **Popcorn Sales**

Popcorn will be available for sale in the office during business hours or on Wednesday nights during Awana Clubs. Popcorn can also be ordered by phone or email and delivery can be scheduled.

#### **\$2.00 Flavors**

Butter  
Sea Salt Slim  
Cheddar  
White Cheddar  
Cornfusion  
Kettle Corn

#### **\$4.00 Flavors**

Caramel  
S'mores Corn  
Butter Toffee Almond  
Chocolate Drizzle Caramel

### **Sunday School**

#### **Squires of the Son**

Ages 2—Grade 2  
Location: Crib Room

Crews:

Kathryn Burt  
Jenni Swanson  
Shelby Naibauer

#### **Knights in Christ**

Grades 3—6  
Location: Music Room

Crew: Traci King

### **Children's Church**

#### **Kids Kingdom**

Ages 2—Grade 6  
Location: The Castle

Crews:

Kathryn Burt  
Jenni Swanson  
Shelby Naibauer

### **Wednesdays**

#### **Awana Clubs**

Ages 3 yrs—Grade 6  
Sep 2, 2015—May 25, 2016  
4:45—6:45 PM



BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Look Into What's Coming In  
December For Sunday School



Christian Home Builders-(Room S6)- Leader-Barb Cross

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Even though it may be cold outside, the warmth of Christian fellowship and fun will be experienced as we explore the concepts of Sabbath, giving offerings, celebrations and giving from the heart by examining Biblical passages from Exodus, Leviticus, Luke, Matthew, and Mark. These are disciplines that help form our understanding of God’s role in our lives. They help us honor God and develop our own spiritual growth. We will be challenged to practice deliberately the acts of worship, giving, and service that set us apart as God’s people. All are welcome as our love for God and all others grows through living out these sacred gifts.

SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

Unit 1 What We Bring to God

Dec. 6 The Lord’s Day - Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-16

Dec. 13 Acceptable Offerings - Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33

Dec. 20 Dedication of Firstborn - Exodus 13:13-15;  
Luke 2:22-32

Dec. 27 A Generous Gift - Matthew 23:2-12; Mark 12:38-44

Purpose:

To affirm Sabbath as our opportunity to remember and strengthen our relationship with and worship of God.

To commit to giving our obedience to God as a reflection of our inner spiritual condition.

To celebrate the climax of God’s long plan of salvation in the birth of Jesus.

To develop the practice of giving from gratitude, faith, and compassion.

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

The Seekers class just started a new study of the life and ministry of The Apostle Paul. This is a DVD series hosted by Pastor Adam Hamilton and focuses on Paul’s calling to serve Jesus Christ. In each chapter, Pastor Hamilton discusses Paul’s ministry and how his ministry continues to affect our lives. The DVD also includes video of the regions where Paul traveled and historical discussion of the region. As with other series Pastor Hamilton hosts, this series promises to be interesting and exciting. Our class has just begun this series and will continue through the Christmas season. We always welcome new participants, and if this interests you, please don’t hesitate to join us. Our Sunday school class is as much about fellowship as it is learning. We hope to see you soon.

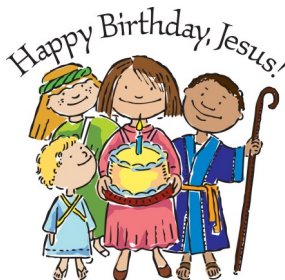
Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

In the month of December, the Koinonia Class will be taking a break from studying biblical biographies for a special Advent study in preparation for Christ’s second coming and reflecting upon his first coming. Please feel free to join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Bethel Daycare Ministry

First, we kindly thank you for helping us with our recent fundraiser! Secondly, the daycare will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving 11/26 & 11/28. Associated Churches Food bank donations are being collected in the Daycare Office now through December 11. Also, we are having a Birthday Party for Jesus Friday December 18th at 9:30 am. Last, don’t forget to buy your Christmas Gift cards for that someone special! They are available in the Daycare or Preschool Office. Thank you, Kelli Moody



Don’t the Scrip  
Cards!!!

The holidays are coming soon... too soon. Gift cards are one of the best gifts to give. Check out our scrip program for holiday buying. We have grocery, department store, restaurant, and gas cards. If it is not on the list, check with Sarah. A lot of times it is available for special order. For Bethel Parents, every card you purchase you earn half the discount percent towards your tuition. The other half will go towards Bethel. We have over 60 different cards in stock. Just call in, email, or stop by to pick up what you need. Special Orders need to be in by Monday morning and orders come in on Wednesday. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Preschool News

The 2016 Calendar order form is now on the church bulletin board. Calendars are \$6 and must be prepaid. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah at 260-489-3651 or bethelpreschool@frontier.com

Come and join the Preschool for their Christmas Concert December 10 @ 6:30pm. The children will be singing, and we will be having punch and cookies afterwards. We are also having a BAKE SALE during the reception. Donations are welcome!!

The Preschool would like to send a special Thanks to Charlotte Klerner for donating her time in the preschool. Not only do the teachers appreciate it, but the preschoolers are enjoying her company as well. If you are interested in volunteering in the preschool, please give Sarah a call or just come in!

Dates of Interest:

December

T/TH All Day Class Field Trip to Gingerbread Fest	Dec 3
MWF All Day Class Field Trip to Gingerbread Fest	Dec 4
Preschool Christmas Concert (Bake Sale)	Dec 10
T/TH Am Class Field Trip to Botanical Gardens	Dec 15
MWF AM Class Field Trip to Botanical Gardens	Dec 16
Christmas Break (No School)	Dec 21 – Jan 1

Sept Scrip Report:

Total Sold	\$5825.00
Parent %	\$45.97
School %	\$183.85