

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

Return Service Requested

Volume 49, Issue 2  
February 2016

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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**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

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



Join us for our Ash  
Wednesday service  
Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00pm

Annual Soup Supper  
to be held prior to Ash  
Wednesday service  
Bethel Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm



- Volume 49, Issue 2  
February 2016
- What If God Wasn’t Love?
  - GriefShare
  - Bethel Choir
  - EasterFest Coming!
  - In House Preschool Registration
  - Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser Night!
  - It’s Cookie Dough Time!
  - The greatest love of all!

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What If God Wasn’t Love?

The month of February usually fills our minds and hearts with thoughts of love because of Valentine’s Day. As Christians, regardless of the month, we take a great deal of comfort in the words of Scripture reassuring us that *God Is Love. 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:15-16* tells us, “*If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*”

God has shown time and time again that He has His creation’s well being at heart and that He has done everything possible, including giving His own body and blood, all for the sake of His children. Christians, therefore, feel enveloped by God’s Divine love and are deeply reassured by the fact that their divine Father wants their best at all times and for all eternity. Even though I know this and believe it with all my heart, a question still worked its way through my mind and I pondered this thought, “*What if God wasn’t Love?*” What if God was some sort of self-centered, self-absorbed, Creator whose love was distant, conditional, and reserved only for the very best, most “religious” of us all?

Michael Caputo, in his “[\*WHAT IF GOD...? Thought-Provoking Reflections About God\*](#)” explains, “*If this were the case, can we even possibly conceive how horrific human existence would be? Such a sadistic god would create only for his own pleasure; existence would be a stage conceived to only satisfy His every whim; he would have no reason to create humans for any higher purpose, and he would have no desire to share eternity with anyone. If such a god had created humans, it would have been to simply get sadistic satisfaction from controlling them and abusing them.*”

If this were the case, I’m not sure if this planet would even be in existence at this point! I’m not sure I would want it to be! However, this is NOT the case (Thanks be to God!) and Caputo goes on to give us the Good News that we know to be the truth, “*We humans are blessed to be a part of an existence conceived and orchestrated by a Being who is totally motivated by love. The Bible assures us that God is love (1 John 4:8,16); that He is a God who delights in and ‘exercises loving kindness’ (Jeremiah 9:24); and who is ‘plenteous in mercy’ (Psalm 86:5). Everything about His essence is goodness and other-centeredness, and no selfishness is to be found in Him.*

*From the beginning, He made everything in the universe with love, with the ultimate aim that it would all be ‘very good’ (Genesis 1;31). That ‘very good’ creation was to be a special world for His last physical creation; a special gift of love for His children, made in His very image: man and woman. The earth is ‘full of the goodness of the Lord’ (Psalm 33:5), yet it is only a token of the future world God is planning to give to spiritually transformed humans that will, by far, surpass anything imaginable in beauty and glory.*

*Lastly, humans were not simply created to exist for a period of time, experience life, suffer and then die. He created humans as His supreme masterpiece with whom He wants to share all things (Romans 8:16-17). To accomplish this great aim, He sent His Son to die a most excruciating death, as supreme evidence that He wants humans with Him in His Kingdom forever. As the Apostle John reminds us, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

*Let there be no doubt, therefore, that our **God IS Love** and only love, and that His aims are good and only good, at all times. Let all of creation be fully reassured and exult in this awesome truth.”*

Great news, huh?! Well, if you’re anything like me and every so often troublesome questions go rambling about your mind, trust in God alone and put those questions to rest. As we enter into this Lenten season and are once again reminded of the reason and purpose Jesus came, let us allow this amazing truth to guide our journey from the cross, to the tomb, and finally to that WONDERFUL RESURRECTION MORNING and know that **GOD IS LOVE!**

BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family

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

Friends of Bethel

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

Marcia Moore: 14409 Sunrise Court, Leo, IN 46765

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

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.**



*Join us for our 13 week GriefShare course  
beginning Monday, February 8th at 6pm*

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. Our GriefShare group will meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin.

Each GriefShare session has **Three Distinct Elements:**

**Video seminar with experts:** Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments, and on-location video.

**Support group discussion with focus:** After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

**Personal study and reflection:** During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

Please notify Pastor Brian, or Office Manager, Brandi Williams, at 260-489-3651 if you would like to be a part of our GriefShare small group. There will be a \$15 fee to register, which covers the workbook and other materials used in the class.

***BETHEL CHOIR***

The words of Mother Teresa, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love" describe Bethel's Choir as they glorify God through their voices. We are all kinds of people, brought together in God's love, making music from our hearts. It is not a performance, but our offering of thankfulness and praise.

Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30pm in Bethel's Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! Singing and sharing the STORY with love, Barb Cross and Jan Roberts





# CHILDREN'S

## Thank you

- Traci King for leading the Knights Sunday School class in January.
- Kristi Miller & Mandy Odum, Katie Robinson & Ian Cusick and Mike & Shelby Naibauer for leading the Squires Sunday School class in January.
- All Awana volunteers for all they do to make the program a success!

## 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](http://bethelchurchfw.com/volunteer-opportunities.html)

## Kid News

**We Need You and Your Talents!** - Are you a choreographer or do you enjoy making up dances? Are you an actor/actress or enjoy directing plays or skits? Do you have some other talent that can be applied to Children's Ministry? We'd like to help the kids explore their talents from art to singing to dancing to acting. If you are interested in working with the kids in any of these capacities, please contact Shelby Naibauer.

**We Are No Longer Collecting Cans**—Children's Ministry is no longer collecting cans. Can collection bins will be removed from the fenced in area outside the kitchen door. Please do not deposit cans there beginning February 1st. Thank you for your understanding.

**Family Fun Day**—Awana families, don't forget our Family Fun Day on Wednesday, March 30 during Awana Clubs. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join us for dinner, singing and an evening of fun activities.

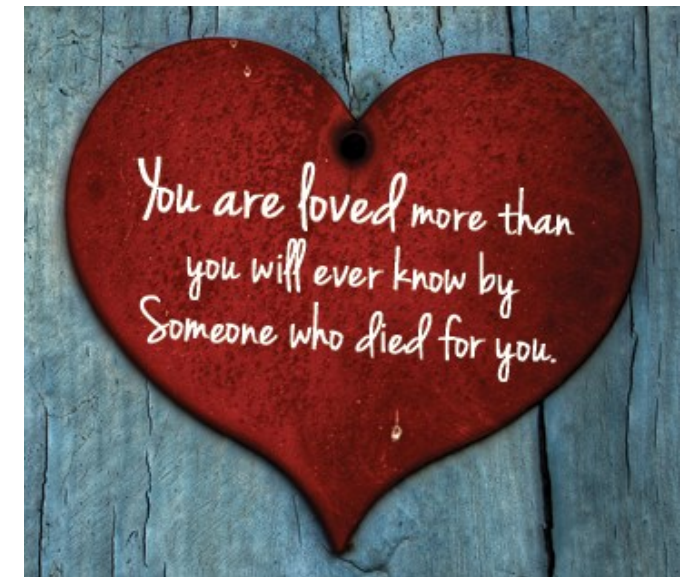
Shelby Naibauer  
416-0752

[bethelkidsmin@frontier.com](mailto:bethelkidsmin@frontier.com)  
<http://www.bethelchurchfw.com/>

## The greatest love of all

For God so loVed the world  
thAt he gave his  
onLy  
begottEn  
SoN,  
thaT whoever  
belIeves  
iN him should not perish  
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

## BETHEL HAPPENINGS...



February Meeting

Thursday, February 11th

9:30am Church Staff Meeting

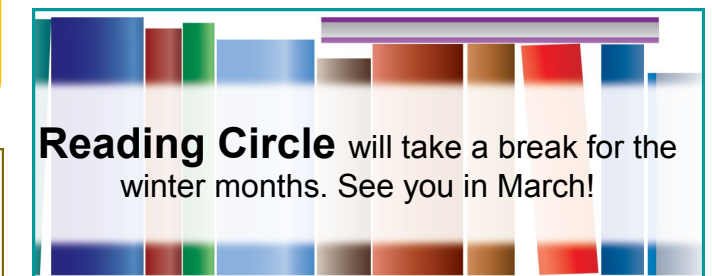
Thursday, February 25th

7:00pm Trustee Meeting

**Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, February 13h at 9am.**



**Eve Circle** will take a break for the winter months. See you in March!



## General Operating Report - Dec.

12/01/15 Beginning Balance	-12,857.02
INCOME	26,861.46
EXPENSES	23,407.67
12/31/15 Ending Balance	- 9,403.23

February Greeters	
Feb 7	Phyllis Strahm & Ted Swihart Traci King & kids
Feb 14	Don & Carol Borches Dave & Pat Muncie
Feb 21	Kathy Smith Cheryl Nicolet
Feb 28	Craig & Peggy Balliet Terry & Jeanne Burt

## THANK YOU

**Thank you** so much to everyone who donated to the mitten tree. Five pairs of mittens, thirty-eight pairs of gloves, thirty-six hats, and one scarf were donated to Crossroad Children's Home. These items are greatly appreciated by the children. Thank you for helping to keep them warm. The United Methodist Women

**Thanks to all** the Bethel volunteers who generously gave their time to work at the Associated Churches Food Bank in December. They are: Carol Barton, Carol Brown, Minerva Belote, Nina Wedge, Phyllis Shappell, Donna Belcher, Deb & Dave Young, Sharon & Steve Krouse, Jim & Dee McCrea, Sarah & Bob Menefee, Derek Wohlfeil, Kavey Bilderback, and Kelly & Maria Cheshier. Any and all food is always appreciated at the food bank and you all really came through last month. We thought we might try to *emphasize* several items each month to donate. For February it's going to be PASTA and RICE. That would include: Mac n Cheese, spaghetti, noodles, regular bagged rice, instant rice, various dry pastas, and canned spaghetti sauce (no glass). Please look for this special section in each month's issue of The Bethel Flame.

## JUST FOR FUN!

### Bethel True-isms:

Peace is not needing to know what will happen next.



### *Bible Trivia Question:*

At a time of deep struggle in Elijah's life, God made his presence known to him. How?



- A. In a strong and destructive wind
- B. In an earthquake
- C. Through fire
- D. Through silence

Check your answers at the bottom of page 12

### *Christian Symbol ~ Anchor*



Because in ancient times an anchor represented safety, early Christians adopted it as a symbol of their hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). Word play may have been involved: ankura, Greek for "anchor," sounds similar to en kurio, or "in the Lord." As Latin became Christians' primary language, however, the "anchor-Lord" connection would have faded.

## MINISTRIES



### EasterFest

It's hard to believe Easter is just over a month away. EasterFest will be held on Palm Sunday, March 20 at noon at Bethel UMC.

**Donations**—We are requesting donations of candy and toys that are small enough to fit inside plastic eggs. Candy **MUST BE** individually wrapped. Donations need to be received by Sunday, March 6 and can be dropped off in the church office.

**Volunteers**—We are also requesting volunteers to help fill eggs and volunteers to help clean up Fellowship Hall after the egg hunt. Contact Shelby Naibauer if you can help.

Thank you for your help in making this year's EasterFest fun for the kids.

### **Sunday School**

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

Ages 2—Grade 2  
Location: Crib Room

Crews:

Kathryn Burt  
Joshua Burt  
Jenni Swanson  
Pat Muncie

#### **Knights in Christ**

Grades 3—6  
Location: Music Room

Crew: Robb Bilderback

### **Children's Church**

#### **Kids Kingdom**

Ages 2—Grade 6  
Location: The Castle

Crews:

Kathryn Burt  
Joshua Burt  
Jenni Swanson  
Pat Muncie

### **Wednesdays**

#### **Awana Clubs**

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

### 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



# BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

## A Look Into What's Coming In February For Sunday School



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

*“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39, NIV)*

In the month of February, the class will focus on the Holy Days or festivals of the Israelites. We will thank God for our freedom and our salvation. We will ask God to teach us how to nurture one another. We will seek His help in experiencing forgiveness and offering forgiveness to those that we have hurt. And finally, we will pray to know the mission to which He calls us. Learning, sharing, communicating, fellowship, laughter, and spiritual growth are the gifts we receive in this class. Everyone is welcomed in the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

Unit 3	Holy Days		Purpose
February 7	Passover	Exodus 12:1-14	To claim the freedom God offers by remembering God's mighty acts in Scripture and in our lives.
February 14	Feast of Weeks	Leviticus 23:15-22	To recognize our interdependence on others and our responsibility to them.
February 21	Day of Atonement	Leviticus 16:11-19	To accept and respond to God's offer of forgiveness and atonement as individuals and as a community.
February 28	The Feast of Booths	Leviticus 23:33-43	To commit to nurturing spiritual growth in ourselves and our children.

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

No information submitted.

### Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Koinonia Class will wrap up their study of 40 Days to Lasting Change: An AHA Challenge by Kyle Idleman in February. This wonderful book is not for the spiritually comfortable as it challenges and convicts us and helps the prodigal in all of us to reconnect with the God who loves us. For lasting change in our lives as modeled by the Prodigal Son, these three AHA steps occur: Awaken (to our spiritual condition), Honestly (assess our situation and our need for a Savior) and Action (to transform our life). Feel free to stop in and join the discussion!

### Knights Class (3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade)

This month the Knights class will continue their study on storing up treasure in heaven. This study is based on Luke 12:34 which says “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Weekly themes include lessons centered around having an Appreciating Heart, a Serving Heart, an Understanding Heart, and a Responding Heart. Highlights from each lesson will be used for their spiritual Journals as well as starting a focus on learning the books of the New Testament. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

# BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

## In-House Preschool Registration

It's the beginning of a new year, and Preschool has begun its in-house pre-registration for 2016-2017 school year. Please keep in mind that tuition is going up this year by \$5. The registration fee is reduced to \$40 per child if you sign up before March 31st. We will open registration to the public starting in February. If you are interested in signing your child up for preschool, registration forms are located by Sarah's office door or online. We would love to have you!!!



## Now Hiring!

Bethel Preschool is looking to add to our Bethel Preschool Staff. If you love teaching and are looking for a part time position, please contact Sarah at 260-489-3651 or bethelpreschool@frontier.com.

## Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser Night!!!



Come and Join us for Chuck E Cheese night on February 18th from 3pm – 9pm. Just mention Bethel Preschool at the counter and 15% of the total made that night will go to the Preschool/Daycare. All students will receive a sticker for 15 free tickets. Look for it to come home in their folders that week. See you there.

## It's Cookie Dough Time!

Cookie Dough Fundraiser starts February 29th and runs until March 11th. If you haven't tried these cookies, they are fantastic. Everything in the catalog will be \$13 each. A catalog will be available on the round table starting that first Sunday, February 28th. Help us raise money to update our facilities!!

## Closing Reminders

It's that time of year so please remember to check for any Preschool delays or closings before leaving the house. We post this information on Facebook, channels 21Alive, NBC 33, Wane15, and to your email. You can receive text alerts by visiting [www.21alive.com/enews/textcaster](http://www.21alive.com/enews/textcaster) and setting your text preferences.

## Snow Play for Kids

Please remember appropriate clothes for outdoor play. When it snows and the temperature is 25 degrees or above, we will head outside to play. Also, mittens and gloves come in handy when we bring in tubs of snow for the kids to play in.

## Upcoming Events

### Dentist Visit

Feb 2 & 10

### Chuck E Cheese Night

Feb 18th

### Buy one, Get one Free

Book Fair

Feb 29 – Mar 4

### Parent/Teacher Conference (No School)

Mar 3 & 4

### Cookie dough

Fundraiser

Feb 29 – Mar 11

## Dec. Scrip Report:

Total Sold      **\$14,040.00**

Parent %              **\$160.71**

School %              **\$615.23**