

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

Return Service Requested

Volume 51, Issue 1
January 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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Pastor Mona (260)234-8960

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8am - 3pm
Friday 8am - Noon

Service Schedule:
Worship Service 10:00am
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



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

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Winter Bible Study

Bible Study resumes in January with a fascinating study of the Book of James. We'll learn who James was, how he was related to Jesus, and what he went on to accomplish for the Church after the resurrection.

The message of James is bare-boned. He loves to "tell it like it is!" Talk is cheap, he argues. Service is invaluable.

In James' book of logic, it only makes sense that we who have been given much should give much. Not just with our words. But with our lives.

Join us as Pastor Mona leads:
Mondays: Beginning January 22 ~ 4 week study 11am-12noon



Have the post-holiday blues got you down? It’s a normal feeling many of us get this time of year. The presents are all opened, some even returned and exchanged. The toys have all had their initial use; some already seem to have outlived the child’s interest. And no matter what we try, un-decorating the tree is never going to be anyone’s favorite chore!

‘Twas the week after Christmas and all through the house
Not a garment would fit me, not even a blouse.
When I got on the scales, there arose such a number
I laughed at myself, and then began to wonder.
The post-holiday blues had come despite the white snow
That just a few weeks earlier had made my spirit glow.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a mailbox of bills instead of holiday cheer.
The gifts I had purchased had erased all my wealth
And I cried as I put away my credit cards on the shelf.
The company’s all left and the cards have stopped coming
The tree needles are falling and my vacuum should be humming.
But alas, I’m so blue because January’s here
Why such a long wait for December joy to reappear?

I sometimes wonder if Mary and Joseph didn’t experience the same let-down that’s haunting us.

Even for the holy family, life would have returned to some sort of routine after the magnificent event.
The shepherds left, the angels flew off and the wise men were on their way back home. Surely they experienced a let-down after such a wonderful celebration!
In Luke we read “Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.”
In other words, she held these tender memories close, perhaps reliving them from time to time as future days unfolded.
January, the month of new beginnings, is upon us. This is the month to gratefully recall what has been, dream of what will be, and to look bravely forward to the year ahead.

Your pastor and friend,
Pastor Mona

All Seniors are invited to a lunch and program on Thursday, January 11th, 2018. Pastor Mona will be the featured speaker. Lunch is Free Will offering. Location: First Assembly of God, Fort Wayne. Time: 11:30am-1pm. Let’s support our Pastor and enjoy a nice lunch too!

Church Chuckle



BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family & Family

JOY! Advent Services in 2017 season
JOY! New 2017 visitors
Maria Cheshier
Margie Culbertson
Jeff DeLeon-improving at home
Margaret Detamore-cochlear activation
Kid’s Kingdom & teachers
Awana Kid’s Program

Families in crisis-financial, health, marriage & grief
New church officers
Bethel Bus fundraising



December was the “helping season” for our Youth who volunteered in several ways.
On a cold winter’s day, our youth served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive.

It was a “first time” experience for many and we are already looking forward to ringing next year.



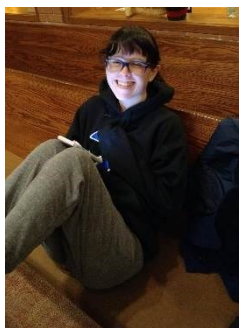
Later in the month, our youth helped put on the Walk-Up Nativity Play in several ways.



Youth Derek and Emily sang solos, Hailey narrated, Andrea played the role of the Main Angel, and Katherine, Julieanne, Katie and others helped dress all the youngsters as shepherds, angels, kings, animals and of course, Mary and Joseph.



Special prayers continue for youth Maria Cheshier as she battles POTS. Our youth group is very proud of you!

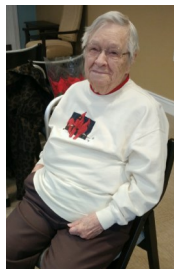


Next activity: Super Bowl Party! Watch for more details in church bulletin.

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



~ A rare outing for Maria,
enjoying a Mexican Buffet!



~ Juanita exercises in
the New Year!

Juanita Arnold: Heritage of Fort Wayne
5250 Heritage Parkway, Room 328 Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Maria Cheshier:
10536 Verbena Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Jeff DeLeon:
2103 West Wallen Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

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

Betty Failor:
2001 Hobson Rd, Room 601-B, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; (260)446-3899

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

Irene Johnstonbaugh:
10925 Pine Mills Rd. Fort Wayne IN 46845

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

Delores Ohnesorge:
9111 Wallen Lane, Fort Wayne IN 46825

Elizabeth Richards: C/O, Tom Richards (her son)
16203 Thunderbird Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

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

Russ Sunday: St. Anne Home
1900 Randalia Dr, Room 223-B Fort Wayne, IN 46805

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



December Missions Wrap-up

The giving season kicked off in November with the annual shoebox collection for Operation Christmas Child. 60 boxes were sent to impoverished children globally.



Our local food pantry was supported by the AWANA fall canned goods collection and the UMW volunteer workers. December (and July) are OUR ASSIGNED MONTHS to provide staff to greet and serve clients.



Our Youth Group and many others served as Salvation Army at our local Walmart store. It was a frrrrrrosty day, but cash in the kettles warmed our hearts!



Thanks to Sarah Menefee for heading up the coffee collection for The Shepherd's House, a local ministry for homeless veterans.

The Christian Home Builders Sunday School class donated money to Clean Slate ministry—a local program for recovering addicts. Funds were used to purchase 26 hygiene bags containing toiletry items, snacks and candy. Local dentist (and Charlotte Klerner's son) Dr. Michael Tom donated toothbrushes/paste to help.



Thank you again so much. You have impacted so many patients that truly needed this.
Melyssa Manchester, Operational Center Manager

Photo shows director (and program graduate) Melyssa Manchester gratefully receiving the bags.



December found our women as busy as elves with three gatherings plus a host of mission activities.

Thanks to **Jeanne Burt** for hosting our **Reading Circle** Christmas party. We put down our books and enjoyed delicious dumplings and fun games.



Thanks to **Margaret Detamore** for hosting **Eve Circle**. We enjoyed a delicious lunch amid her vast Christmas décor collection. Truly magical!



And Oh, what fun we all did have at the UMW Christmas party and Secret Sister reveal. Nearly 20 gathered and were blessed with crossed stitch ornaments made by **Marty Hord**, a much-loved former member. Thanks **Dave Hord** and **Pastor Mona** for arranging this great surprise!



NEW 2018 President, **Suzie Richards** was congratulated by outgoing president **Phyllis Strahm**. Suzie promises to continue the fun and mission emphasis in the new year!!



Special thanks to all the UMW elves for goody bag donations for Bethel Children's Nativity Play. The event was wildly popular—26 kids and 5 youth participated. And one precocious child quipped, "My goody bag is AWESOME!"

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



Annual **Bingo Party** and Fellowship for **Byron Health Center** is coming up in February. Except weekly Stitch n Chatter, all UMW groups are on break in January. See you later!

IN THE MAILBAG

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for being our church family after the death of Mike's mother. From my phone call to Pastor Mona through the service and beyond you were there with hugs, visits, cards and prayers. We appreciated each showing of love and will hold them in our hearts as we go into the new year. May God Bless You Always, Mike and Cheryl Nicolet



Thank you to all those who let us wrap your Christmas gifts for our recent fundraiser. We thoroughly enjoyed wrapping all of your precious packages and hope that you will think of us next year as well. **We raised a total of \$75 to be donated towards the Bethel Bus.** Once again, thank you and Happy New Year from the Bethel Church Staff.

Thank you to the Bethel Staff Parish Committee for providing the delicious Christmas Dinner for our Staff Christmas party. We very much enjoyed the evening! Also, a very special THANKS from the all the staff for our bonuses. Your thoughtful generosity made our Christmas very MERRY! ~Thank you, Bethel Staff



BETHEL NEWS & NOTICES...

Church Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 3rd

6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting

Monday, Jan. 8th

9:30am Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16th

6:00pm Staff Parish meeting

7:00pm Ad Council Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 23rd

7:00pm Finance Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 25th

7:30pm Trustee Meeting

Office Holiday Closings

The Church offices will be CLOSED in observance of the New Year holiday on Monday, January 1st as well as Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The Daycare office will be CLOSED on Monday, January 1st. and the Preschool will be CLOSED from December 22nd through January 3rd.



GAME NIGHT

The next Game night will be held on Saturday, January 20th in the Bethel Fellowship Hall from 4pm to 6pm. Euchre, anyone?!

Congregational Communication

11/01/17

Beginning Balance

-38,241.05

INCOME

14,474.49

EXPENSES

20,897.73

January

Jan. 7th

Jan. 14th

Jan. 21st

Jan. 28th

Greeters

Vic & Elaine Wheeler

Jack & Shirley Birch

Cheryl Nicolet

Don Borches

Kids Kingdom

Jeff & Danielle C

Jeanne & Terry B

Michael & Nicole B.

Katie Robinson

BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Bethel Preschool and Daycare

Family Movie Night

Now Showing: *Despicable Me 3* (PG)

Show Date: Friday, January 19th

Show Time: 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Cost of Show: \$3.00 each includes a slice of pizza, popcorn and a bottle of water.



(Additional servings will be available for purchase that evening.)

Reserve your tickets by: Wednesday, January 17th

Bring your favorite chair, pillow and blanket!

*All students must be accompanied by an adult all evening.

Thank you!*



Upcoming Events:

Christmas Break (no school) Dec 22 – Jan 3

We are back to school on Jan 4th!

MLK Day (No School) Jan 15th

Movie Night @ 6pm Jan 19th



~ Preschool Teachers say "Ho Ho Ho!"



Gift cards are one of the best gifts to give. Check out our scrip program for all your gift giving needs. We have grocery, department store, restaurant, and gas cards. For parents, every card you purchase can earn you a discounted percent towards your tuition. 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. Attached is a scrip form. **SCRIP NEWS:** The scrip program was able to purchase a new portable sound system to replace our outdated one! Thank you to everyone who participates in this program!

Nov. Scrip Report:

Total Sold	\$2650.00
Parent %	\$22.20
School %	\$83.85



Bethel Awana Clubs

January 10th, 2018—May 23, 2018

Wednesdays—5:00—7:00 PM



~Awana kids act out nativity



~Awana Reindeer Cooks

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night has become an annual tradition that generally occurs in a month when there is a 5th Wednesday. It is a time when families are invited and encouraged to stay at Awana Clubs for the evening with their children to enjoy an evening of food, games, music and any other fun we can think up.

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy this fun-filled evening. This year's events will include games such as a bean bag toss, a scavenger hunt and some bible trivia—just to name a few.

Wednesday, January 3

No Club Meeting—Happy New Year

Wednesday, January 10

December Coin Collection Winners

Wednesday, January 17

January & July Birthday Celebrations

Wednesday, January 24

Theme Night : Wacky Wednesday

Wednesday, January 31

Family Fun Night

Spotlight on Cubbies

Did you know the Cubbies group is the main group in Awana that determines our attendance numbers year after year? The Cubbies class is where it all begins at Bethel. When children of preschool age join Awana they start in this class. Most of these children continue on in Awana all the way through 6th grade which is when classes at Bethel end. So, the more Cubbies we can get to join each year, the more kids we have year after year all the way until they reach 6th grade. That's 8-9 years depending at which age they start!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
PreK1, PreK2, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th

Currently classes are limited to 10 kids per 2 leaders. Wouldn't it be great to have 2 Cubbies classes? That would ensure at least a few new kids could join every year. Remember that kids starting at the PreK1 level will be in Cubbies for 2 years (PreK1 & PreK2). Please consider being a Cubbies leader next year. Contact Shelby with ANY questions you have that might help you in making this decision.

Shelby Naibauer
416-0752

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

BETHEL CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Bethel's kids had a BLAST on "Christmas through the eyes of a Child" Sunday, December 10th. We enjoyed singing Jingle Bells and wearing antlers and red noses while we sang Rudolph. We even giggled at the funny scene of Ralphie wearing the pink bunny suit!



But the best part was acting in the great Nativity Play. Over 25 kids (plus our youth) dressed up as angels, shepherds, animals, kings, Mary and Joseph on December 10th to great accolades. In the end, goody bags were given to all and to all a goodnight!

Enjoy the photos!



Kids Kingdom Volunteer Schedule

Jan. 7	Jeff & Danielle Cusick
Jan. 14	Jeanne & Terry Burt
Jan. 21	Michael & Nicole Burt
Jan. 28	Katie Robinson

Children's Church Join Us!!

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

Jan. Birthdays

1/7 Keller Odum
1/12 Grayson Harris
1/13 Hannah Burt
1/18 Zera Utnage

BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

January Sunday School Happenings

New Sunday School Class Begins January 7th



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

On Dec. 9th the Christian Homebuilders class had their annual Christmas auction, along with a wonderful carry-in dinner. The auctioneer was Bob Menefee along with his assistant Pastor Mona. Bob wore a hat with colorful Christmas lights and a bright red tie. Bidding was brisk and moved along quickly. They raised \$700+ for their mission projects for the following year. Everyone had a good time.

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

On December 10th, the Seekers began a new study titled Way of Life. This study is based on Brian McLaren's book *The Great Spiritual Migration*. In this study, we are reading that in order to survive, Christianity must shift from a system of outdated beliefs to system based on love and Jesus' teachings. This study looks at how Christianity has evolved over the years and what changes have occurred in the way people worship Jesus Christ. The book also looks at past issues Christianity has overcome and how it should continue to evolve with our ever changing society. While sometimes shocking, the study is an interesting look at what Christianity looked like in years past and how it may look in the future. While you may not agree with everything Mr. McLaren says, so far, the book has been an interesting study of Christianity then and now. 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 studying the women of the Bible in January. Specifically, we will be learning about:

~**Rebecca** was willing to leave her family and travel to a distant land to become Isaac's wife and the mother of Jacob and Esau. A loving wife, Rebecca was also ruthlessly pragmatic,

~**Rachel** was the wife of Jacob and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, who become two of the twelve tribes of Israel. Rachel tragically died young,

~**Anna** an aged prophetess was one of the very few to recognize the infant Jesus for who He was.

~**Mary Magdalene** who traveled with Jesus as one of his followers. She was present at the two most important moments in the story of Jesus: the crucifixion and the resurrection.

New Sunday School Class Begins January 7th

I would love to have you join us in our adventure through the book, *The Friends of Jesus*, by Karen Kingsbury. We will work together getting to know these 6 friends. We will see what motivated them and how each of them grew with God. Let's walk through these lessons together. Meet us in the music room (the room to the right of the stage) beginning January 7th.