

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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APRIL 2015

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Church Family,

As spring continues to settle in around us I cannot help but have my heart warmed. Everywhere that I look I see new life. The cold is fading away, the snow has melted, and the sun is shining. The world itself is praising God in all of his majesty.

And this is the perfect time for Bethel to start some new things. So I would like to announce a couple of things that Session and I have cooked up that I think that you all will really enjoy.

Starting very soon, we will be having a weekly informal gathering after worship for fun and fellowship. This will include very light refreshments, but more importantly it will be a time for us to gather together and simply be with one another.

In a similar way we will be gathering once a month for a Potluck style dinner. This will not be a fundraiser, instead it will simply be a time for us to share in a meal together. In the Bible, this type of fellowship is shown to be essential. Some of the most important events in Jesus' ministry happened over a meal.

Finally, and perhaps most exciting of all, I would like to announce that we are going to be incorporating our young people in worship even more. The Acolyte Program has been a huge success and you may have noticed that our young people have already been taking more of a leadership role in worship through playing instruments and reading scripture. Well, get ready for more of that. God rejoices when all of his people worship him and that includes our young folks. So prepare yourselves for more young voices singing and speaking his praises and more young hands playing instruments for his glory.

God bless,
Pastor David



As I See It

By the time this arrives in your mailbox there will probably only be a few days before we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the most exciting time of the entire year. Yes Christmas is magical, but Easter is truly where our salvation is realized.

On this day we celebrate the fact that Jesus, who sacrificed himself for those that did not deserve him, could not be held by Death. It is on this day that Jesus bursts from the grave and declares that death has lost its sting. It simply is not stronger than the love of God.

It is this day that makes us what we are: Children of God, followers of Christ. For a dead messiah is not someone to follow. A dead God is not someone to worship. But we do not follow a dead man. We do not worship a dead God. We worship the risen Christ, the One who is and was and ever shall be. Amen!



Don't open box until Easter

April Worship Services

April 5, 2015

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

11:00 am

Read: Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 I Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

April 12, 2015

2nd Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

Read: Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 I John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31
Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 19, 2015

3rd Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

Read: Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 I John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

April 26, 2015

4th Sunday of Easter

11:00 am

Read: Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 I John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18



A community Good Friday service will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on the evening of April 3rd. The service will begin at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited!

Have you seen our chapel in the woods? This year we plan to hold our Easter Sunrise Service at the chapel followed by a covered dish breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you drop off your food at the church kitchen and gather at the chapel at 6:30 am. The chapel is located behind the scout hut. As you turn on Bethel Green Road, take the first lane to the right. There is limited parking near the chapel and plenty of seating. In case of rain, the service will be held in the sanctuary. Join us for this special service and time of fellowship. Tell your neighbors and friends. Better yet, bring them with you! All are welcome!

There will be a cross outside the front entrance of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please bring fresh flowers to church on Easter to place on the cross.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Sunday, April 5th, 2015

Bethel will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2015.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have been giving from the heart in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to help those in great need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

The Church Office will be closed the Monday after Easter, April 6th, 2015.

Bible Study Resumes . . .

Thursday Nights Starting April 9th, 7:00 pm in the Bethel Fellowship Hall

Bible Study theme to be announced

Questions: Contact Pastor David at 540/490-2258 or jdavidshearer@gmail.com



Presbyterian Women - April 2015

Emphasis - Christian Higher Education

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on April 14th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at Bethel.

*The Evening Circle will meet on April 14th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at Bethel.

The 2015 Birthday Offering will be collected at the May circle meetings. The offering will benefit the Blue Corn Mother's Alliance. They provide a range of services for Albuquerque's Native American women who experience domestic violence.



ATTENTION ALL

The Christian Education Committee will host a Pot Luck Dinner on April 16th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish and join us for a meal and an evening of activities for all ages. At 7:00 pm the adults will attend David's Bible study group. The young adults, youth, and children will then go to three assigned areas for appropriate age level activities.

Bring a friend and join us for this special event and time of fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on April 16th!

The May Tower Deadline will be Thursday, April 16th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the May Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. If you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Please remember that all announcements and information are subject to editing. Thank you!

Trash Pick-Up Day

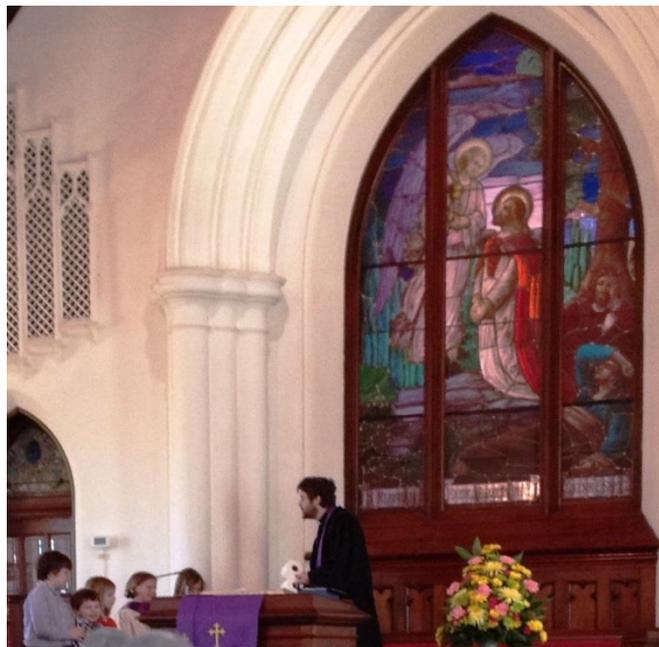
The Deacons will be picking up trash along Howardsville Road on Friday, April 17th at 5:30 pm and Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 am. Trash bags will be provided but remember to bring gloves! A great deal of help is needed with this project so please make plans to attend and help if you can! Small children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Witness Committee Food Booth at The Meating Place

The Witness Committee will be working the Food Booth at The Meating Place (Middlebrook Road, Staunton) on Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd. The Food Booth opens at 8 am and is open until 4 pm. Ways that you can help include volunteering to work in the Food Booth on Friday and/or Saturday for shifts from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Also, you can help by providing homemade baked goods: fruit pies, homemade bread and rolls, brownies, cookies, 1/2 a cake, candy, and peanut butter or chocolate fudge. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Food Booth or can provide baked goods, please contact Peggy Smith (540-292-0885; jug27peg@yahoo.com). If you are providing baked goods and would like to leave them at the church, please leave them in the Church Kitchen by 7 pm on Thursday night, April 30th. All proceeds go towards Bethel's mission projects. Come by and enjoy breakfast or lunch or both with us!

Mother's Day Corsages

This year in honor or memory of mothers on Mother's Day, the Worship Committee is offering red (honor) or white (memory) rose corsages for \$9.00. These are simple corsages that consist of a single rose, greenery, bow and a pin. In order to give Rask Florist a count, we need to have the orders in by no later than Sunday, May 3rd. An insert will be placed in the bulletin for your convenience or you may call the Church Office (540) 886-6041 or Jill Webb (540) 337-4311 to place your order.



Please note that **The Bells of Bethel** practice time has changed to 5:15 pm on Wednesdays.



SESSION NEWS

The Session met Monday, March 9th, with ten elders and the moderator present.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Bethel's Scout Pavilion with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. More details are available on page 3 of The Tower.

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held at Bethel at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 2nd.

Name tags will not be used for 3 months to determine their necessity.

The Prime Rib Dinner together with the Dessert Auction will be held on Saturday, March 28th.

Approval was given to purchase a television for the Youth Room.

Vacation Bible School will be June 21st – 25th, 2015.

Rhonda Johnson and Pastor David reported on their attendance at the last Presbyterian meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro.

The Session accepted Rhonda Johnson as the new Clerk of the Session to replace Bill Brubeck at his request.



Dear Church Family,

It is with sincerest gratitude that I am announcing that our long time Clerk of Session Bill Brubeck is stepping down from his position. Bill has served Bethel in many capacities over the years, but I for one would like to thank him for his service as Clerk, particularly in this last year. His guidance, leadership, and friendship have been integral to me as I have been learning the ropes as a first time minister. I would not have survived without his help. I hope that you all will join me and the Session in thanking him for his dedication, his passion, and his service. I also hope that you will join us in welcoming our new Clerk: Rhonda Johnson. She was unanimously elected by the Session to serve and I am looking forward to working with her.

God's blessings upon Bill,
Reverend Shearer



Schedules: April 2015

Nursery

April 5th - Joe and Sally Williams
April 12th - Brian and Penny Lee
April 19th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy
April 26th - Chris and Therese Schooley



Flowers

April 5th - Easter Lilies
April 12th - Doris True - Memorial - Communion
April 19th - JoAnn Pendley - Memorial
April 26th - Libby Smith



Deacons' Offering

Charlie Johnson
Bob Olson
Chris Schooley
Marty Simmers



Steve and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the prayers, cards, food and phone calls after my recent heart attack. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful, caring Bethel family. - Mo Kyle

Thanks so much to everyone who gave Christmas cards for the 2015 Advent Workshop.
- Peggy Smith, Advent Workshop Coordinator

Our sympathies and condolences to Pam Prickett and her family on the passing of her brother, Keith Williams on February 16th, 2015.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Helen Potter who passed away on February 26th, 2015.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Alice Clemmer who passed away on March 18th, 2015.

February 2015 Monthly Report:

Estimated Budget through February 26th, 2015: \$28,712

Receipts: \$19,073 Expenses: \$23,065

Note: We had no Worship Services on February 15th or February 22nd



Bethel Prayer List:

Bentley Almarode (4 year old recovering from brain surgery), Friends and Family of Louella Barbour (Tammy Barbour's mother-in-law), Alan and Malinda (Sproul) Brown, Ben and Faye Brown, Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Barbara Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Hunter Butler (son of Laura Showalter and Jamie Butler and grandson of Steve Hord), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Debbie Callison & her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles & great-niece Reese Burdette, Judy Clark & Tony Teague & their Families (friends of Drury Whitaker), Friends & Family of Alice Clemmer, Friends & Family of Kay Cooper (Bonnie Shearer's grandmother), Jim & Betty Crosby, Ginger Damico (Larry Damico's mother), Jarod Davis (please send cards to home address), Danielle Hanger, Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Travis Hutchinson (friend of Rhonda and Charlie Johnson), Tom Jeffrey (friend of Laura Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Matt Koogler (Riverheads High School student), Mo Kyle, Sara Ann Lamb, David Law, Jane Law (back surgery), Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Judy Olson, Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), Carly Pond (12 year old great niece of John Pilson), Friends & Family of Helen Potter, Pam Prickett and her family, Carol Richardson (Yvonne Goodson's sister), Irene Sarnelle (lung cancer), Lucy Sproul (recovering from knee surgery), Charlotte Swortzel, Friends & Family of Herbert S. Turner (uncle of David and Tim Turner), Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Cynthia Williams (recovering from knee surgery), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Don't Forget!

April 5th - Easter
April 22nd - Earth Day

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook! 

