

# BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

**“Bethel United Church of Christ is called to be a welcoming Christian community of faith as we worship, learn, grow and serve.”**

[www.betheluccspringgrove.com](http://www.betheluccspringgrove.com)

**March / April 2017**



From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

My favorite season of the church year is the Lenten – Easter season. Perhaps it's because it is a herald of spring. More likely, it has to do with donuts.

My paternal grandmother was a direct descendent of a German baker...and she loved to bake! Shrove Tuesday, or “Fat Tuesday,” was a day when we always made homemade, deep-fried fastnachts - by the dozens. Everyone looked forward to assisting with the rolling, cutting, and frying of these beauties. And, of course, none of us could walk by a stack of hot-out-of-the-fryer fastnachts without snatching one up. I hate to think about the number of fastnachts I ate in my lifetime!

Shrove Tuesday falls on February 28<sup>th</sup> this year, one day prior to the start of Lent and Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday signifies the start of Lent, which is a time to prepare and reflect upon the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, and to fast. My mother once told me that it is “the springtime of our souls” because we are readying ourselves for personal growth and change. To do that, we must cleanse our minds and bodies of unhealthy things that weigh us down.

Men and women of the early Christian church understood this concept. Often, they would use the Lenten season to prepare their hearts for baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. After several seasons of study and self-examination, they would approach the Elders of the church during Lent and ask to be examined for their readiness for Baptism. If approved, they would be baptized and received into the church on Easter Sunday.

Time has softened our traditions. Baptism no longer requires years of study. We stop by our local donut shop and purchase processed fastnachts, which taste nothing like the homemade variety. Some folks still use Lent to reflect on their relationship with Christ while others spend time in prayer or abstain from select foods. Few people fast, but some do “give up” a favorite food for the Lenten Season.

This year, I encourage you to take a step back in time to resurrect old traditions. Spend time in intentional prayer. Take one day a week and eat less than normal. Faithfully attend our Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services – as well as all our Sunday community services which we will be sharing with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Use this time to strengthen your relationship with Christ and to give thanks. Consider how you might share your love with others in our community during this season of Lent.

And, of course, don't forget to eat a fastnacht on Shrove Tuesday, as a reminder of the season of fasting and preparation for Christ's death and resurrection that is about to begin.

This is a season of new birth – make it count!

*Pastor Sue*

# LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

<b>Janet Barnhart</b> Brethren Home 2990 Carlisle Pike New Oxford, Pa. 17350	<b>RUTH STERNER</b> P.O. Box 330 Hanover, Pa. 17331	Miriam Walls 2705 Pentland Rd. Spring Grove, Pa. 17362

*From the congregation's Life:*

**Please Keep these people in your prayers as they face difficult times**

**CHARLOTTE MILLER  
RANDY MILLER  
SHIRLEY MASENHEIMER  
HEIDI WARNER  
PHYLLIS WARNER  
CARL LAUCHMAN  
EDITH LAUCHMAN**

*We also uplift many of our congregation and friends who have been going through some rough times. We certainly apologize if we fail to mention anyone going through any illnesses or other experiences we mention during our prayer concerns at church! We do keep you in our prayers*

## **COMING EVENTS:**

**Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. Our youth will be hosting a Sundae Social following the service. See the flyer .**

### **Combined Lenten Services for 2017**

Theme: Symbols of the Passion

- March 5**                    **Host Church: St. David's UCC**  
Worship Leader: Rev. Scott Sager  
Preaching: Rev. Steven Thomas  
Symbol: Coin
- March 12**                   **Host Church: St. Jacob's (Stone) UCC**  
Worship Leader: Rev. Melissa Eicholtz  
Preaching: Rev. Larry Estep  
Symbol: Whip
- March 19**                   **Host Church: St. Paul (Dubs) Union Church**  
Worship Leader: Rev. Larry Estep  
Preaching: Rev. Susan Fritz  
Symbol: Sponge

**March 26**                    **Host Church: Bethel UCC**  
Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Fritz  
Preaching: Rev. Scott Sager  
Symbol: Dice

**April 2**                    **Host Church: Bartholomew United Church (ELCA)**  
Worship Leader: Rev. Steven Thomas  
Preaching: Rev. Melissa Eicholtz  
Symbol: Linen Cloth

- All services begin at 7 P.M.

### **Holy Week Services at Bethel**

- April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion
- April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM Good Friday Service
- April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM Easter service with Holy Communion

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Bethel hosts the Spring Meeting of the Gettysburg Association at 3 PM with refreshments starting at 2 PM.

### **REMEMBER OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES:**

**God's Meal Barrel** –Donations for March are pastas and sauces. Donations for April baby items (foods and cereals).

### **HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: (March Needs)**

**PAL:** Coffee, Sauerkraut, Lima Beans, Tomato sauce

**CLOTHING BANK:** Sheets (No twins)

**CHANGING LIVES SHELTER:** Gallon and sandwich bags, Lysol (spray can), Liquid Dish Soap

**RUTH'S HARVEST:** *Single serve vegetables*

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION.** Many products we buy at the grocery store have these coupons on them. Collect the coupons and bring them to church. There will be a box to receive them. We can donate these coupons to Hoffman Homes or even divide them between the school districts our children attend. This will be an ongoing project just like another one we have in process.....

**POP TOP CAN TABS:** MARG LEPPO has been collecting Pop Top tabs for HOMEWOOD HOMES. She has contributed a couple of thousand of these so far and we are helping her with this project. So, ANY pop top tabs you may have collect them and bring them to church. There is a bin in the Narthex to collect the tabs for Marg. THANK YOU!!!!

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS:** We are aware that sometime in the future we will have major expense with either the Heat Pumps or maybe a new roof. In order to prevent a major blow to our reserve funds, we are asking people to use the special **Building Improvement Fund** Envelopes to help build up funds we would have available to replace anything we may need for the church building! There are envelopes available in the pews as well as one for each month in the envelope boxes and can be given anytime.

Consistory Minutes  
January 9, 2017

Meeting called to order by F. Brillhart at 6:35 PM with a spiritual reading and prayer lead by Sue Tharp.

**Attendance:** T. Allison, D. Bankert, F. Brillhart, Pastor Fritz, E. Miller, S. Tharp, and J. Ernst.

**Time Keeper:** J. Ernst

**Process Observer:** J. Ernst

**The following reports were distributed and reviewed;**

Minutes from last meeting, Treasurers report, Pastor's report, Outreach, Offering and Attendance. T. Allison made a motion to accept the reports as presented with a second motion from E. Miller and everyone approved.

**Synopsis of Reports:**

- **Financial Report** (F. Brillhart) YTD Receipts = \$70,359.53 YTD expenses = \$85,496 Deficit = \$14,298.48. Total funds available = \$95,980.41
- **Attendance and Offering Report for 2016:**
  - **Avg. Weekly Attendance =52**
  - **Avg. Weekly Offering = \$981.86**
  - **Avg. Contribution per Attendee = \$18.83**
- **Outreach:** Birthdays = 8, Get well = 2, Thank you = 1, Thinking of you = 5

**Bethel United Church of Christ**  
**Pastoral Report**  
**December, 2016**

**Association**

- Gettysburg Ministerial Group– December 20

**Meetings:**

- Covenant Group – December 1
- Consistory Meeting – December 5
- Mutual Accountability – December 14

**Worship** - Dec. 4; Dec. 11; Dec. 18; Dec. 24; Dec. 25

**Visitations and Contact**

- 5 - member visits
- 2 – member Hospital visits
- 1 – Non-Member hospital visit (12/30/2016) emergency call from hospital
- 46 - contacts with members (phone/email/mail)
- 7 -contacts with the greater church & church community

**Other**

- Teen Christian Ed – Dec. 4; Dec. 11; Dec 18 – Christmas pageant; teen luncheon; parents and I took the teens to a play at the Majestic Theatre in Gettysburg
- Bible study – Dec. 6; Dec. 13; off until beginning of Jan.
- Asked to serve on the Gettysburg Association Committee on Ministry, beginning January 2017

**Hours worked during Dec.** – 123.50

## Recognition of Leaders: (Thanks to)

- T. Allison for being greeter in December
- T. Allison who got the hats for our grounds crew. Either Fred or Tom will present the hats.
- Nancy Vickers was selected as our unsung hero for January.
- Danielle Spar and Danetta Lochbaum were selected as our unsung heroes for February
- A motion was made by D. Bankert and seconded by J. Ernst to take funds out of the general fund to pay for our token of appreciation. All approved the motion.

## Church Care

- T. Allison installed a gas valve inside the church next to the stove. Thank you Tom.

## Old Business:

- **Fundraisers:** We will try to do fundraisers on a quarterly basis. A popcorn sale is slated for February. More to follow.
- **Appalachia Mission:** (Pastor Sue)
  - Bethel will join St. Mary's of Westminster and Redeemers of Littlestown on this mission project in Pipestem, West Virginia. An organizational first meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2017 at 12:30 PM at Redeemers UCC in Littlestown.
  - A \$25.00 deposit will be required. Pastor Sue will distribute a packet of information to those interested in the mission.
  - S. Tharp made a motion that the church covers the youth \$25.00 deposit for the trip and T. Allison 2<sup>nd</sup> with all approving.
- **Policies and Procedures:**
  - **Prayer Chain:** S. Tharp is working on this procedure.
  - **Financial Policy and Internal Controls:** Pastor Sue, F. Brillhart and K. Weaver will meet on 01/18/17 @ 6:30 PM to begin discussions on the policy.
- **Job Description and Mutual Accountability:** Copies were distributed to consistory members to review and have discussion at the next meeting.
- **Mosaic Class:**
  - L. Vickers gave a nice presentation to the congregation at the Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> service. There is a form to complete and hand in.
  - The class starts on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Long Range Vision Planning:** Meeting is scheduled for 1/21/17 from 9 – 11 AM.

## New Business:

- Kevin Byrnes became a member of Bethel UCC on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We welcome Kevin to our church family.
- Consolidation of the mission boxes was tabled until our next meeting.
- Safe Serve kitchen was tabled until next meeting. J. Ernst will check the internet for information.
- Bulletins can be sponsored for \$10.00 which offsets the cost of purchasing the covers. We should strive to have each week's bulletin sponsored.
- The Family after Christmas dinner is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM. If you are able to help please contact Dave and Deb Bankert or Sue Tharp.
- Family Bowling Night is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>
- Update on Hanover Area Council of Churches: (HACC)
  - Provide a Lunch (PAL) program needs assistance. The operation is Monday through Friday starting at 8:30 AM.
  - 8 to 10 people are needed 1 day per month. Pastor Sue will approach Redeemer's UCC to see if they are interested in joining efforts to cover one day per month.
  - S. Tharp made a motion to provide assistance to HACC with F. Brillhart seconded and all approved.

- 6 youth and 4 adults are volunteering at HACC to sort clothes and other duties.
- Cost for membership in HACC is \$2.00 per member.
- F. Brillhart made a motion to have a Love Offering on February 12<sup>th</sup> to donate to HACC. T. Allison 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved.
- Scout Sunday is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- T. Allison is going to install dry wall and carpeting in the nursery

### **New Business**

- See attached sheet for consistory officers and information.
- J. Ernst will be coordinating the Altar Guild. The altar guild consists of Tammy, Sarah and Justin Diehl; Bob and Rose Becker; the adult Sunday school class.
- Audit Committee consists of F. Brillhart, K. Weaver, S. Tharp and D. Bankert. The audit committee will audit all accounts of the church.
- Year End congregational meeting will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>. F. Brillhart will call a special consistory meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> to approve December's financial report.
- S. Tharp made a motion to host the April 30<sup>th</sup> association meeting. J. Ernst seconded the motion and all approved.
- A letter was sent one year ago to people who once attended Bethel to spur their interest in returning. Consistory would like to modify the letter. Each consistory member is asked to submit their ideas for the letter.
- The Advent figures that were displayed need to be repaired and painted.
- Our youth would like to build blue bird boxes to be placed around the church property. Pastor Sue is looking for patterns and T. Allison will cut out the pattern.
- Attendance Awards: Instead of pins, it was decided to present certificates.
- The Christmas decorations will be removed by January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The printer in the office is not responding. D. Bankert will correct the problem.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 6th at 6:30 PM

J. Ernst will lead the devotions and prayer.

T. Allison made a motion to close the meeting and J. Ernst seconded with all approving. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM with the Lord's Prayer/

### **Consistory Meeting (January 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Attendance: K. Weaver, S. Tharp, C. Worley, E. Miller, F. Brillhart and D. Bankert

Consistory discussed the popcorn fundraiser. S. Tharp made a motion to hold the fundraiser with K. Weaver seconded the motion and all approved.

- Flavors are Cholate / Peanut butter, Cheddar, Butter and Carmel.
- Take orders until Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Delivery February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Bankert

## 2017 Consistory Information

Class of 2017	Position	Term
Sue Tharp Fred Brillhart Tom Allison	Trustee Elder Deacon	Filling in for R. Ernst First First
Class of 2018		
Dave Bankert Ed Miller Cheryl Worley	Elder Trustee Deacon	Second First Second
Class of 2019		
Jolene Ernst Lyn McJunkin Kim Weaver	Elder Deacon Trustee	First First First

Greeters	Consistory Officers
<b>January: Fred Brillhart</b> <b>February: Jolene Ernst</b> <b>March: Lynn McJunkin</b> <b>April: Kim Weaver</b> <b>May: Ed Miller</b> <b>June: Cheryl Worley</b> <b>July: Sue Tharp</b> <b>August: Cheryl Worley</b> <b>September: Fred Brillhart</b> <b>October: Sue Tharp</b> <b>November: Dave Bankert</b> <b>December: Tom Allison</b>	<b>President: Fred Brillhart</b> <b>Vice President: Jolene Ernst</b> <b>Secretary: Dave Bankert</b> <b>Assistant Secretary: Cheryl Worley</b>  <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Committee Representatives</b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church Care: Tom Allison</b></li> <li>• <b>Ministry &amp; Advisory: Fred Brillhart, Jolene Ernst, Dave Bankert</b></li> <li>• <b>Outreach: Nancy Vickers &amp; Marg Leppo</b></li> <li>• <b>Worship; Pastor Sue</b></li> <li>• <b>Education: Consistory</b></li> <li>• <b>Social: Sue Tharp</b></li> <li>• <b>Fundraisers: Consistory</b></li> <li>• <b>Website: Dave Bankert</b></li> </ul>



### **March Birthdays**

- 1 - Jill Kuhn
- 3 - Bob Becker
- 4 - Tim Miller
- 9 - Rachel Nelson
- 11 - Brett Noel
- 11 - Mike Walter
- 15 - Makenzie Dehoff
- 21 - Taylor Spahr
- 22 - Jessie Nace
- 27 - Diane McCollum
- 30 - Robert B. Thoman
- 31 - Vicky (Jarvis) Miller

### **April Birthdays**

- 1 – Molly Weaver
- 2 – Brian Bankert
- 4 – Julie Diehl
- 6 – Marjorie Trump
- 7 – Connie Martz
- 14 – Matthew Ernst
- 18 – Janet Barnhart
- 19 – Jimmy Worley
- 19 – Joe Delozier
- 20 – Chris McKee
- 21 – Joan Stevenson
- 21 – Zachary Jacoby
- 28 – Brandon Martz

### **March Anniversaries**

- 28 - Larry & Nancy Vickers

### **April Anniversaries**

- 14 - Burnell & Nadine Trone
- 28 - Ed & Jean Masenheimer, III
- 28 - Jess & Tammy Diehl





## SUNDAE SOCIAL

**When:** Wednesday, March 1

**Where:** Bethel UCC

Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM

Social follows the service

The Sundae Social is sponsored by our youth and will be held in the Social Hall.

Enjoy a sweet treat!

*Bethel United Church of Christ*  
**March 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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<i>9</i> <b>9:00 AM Palm Sunday Service</b> <b>10:30 AM Sunday School</b>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <b>9:00 AM Bible Study @ Bethel</b>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <b>7:00 PM Maundy Service</b>	<i>14</i> <b>7:00 PM Good Friday Service</b>	<i>15</i>																																																																																																		
<i>16</i> <b>9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service with Communion</b>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <b>9:00 AM Bible Study @ Bethel</b>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>																																																																																																		
<i>23</i> <b>9:00 AM Worship Service</b> <b>10:30 AM Sunday School</b> <b>3:00 PM Spring Meeting of Gettysburg Association (Refreshments served at 2 PM)</b>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <b>9:00 AM Bible Study @ Bethel</b>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>																																																																																																		
<i>30</i> <b>9:00 AM Worship Service</b> <b>10:30 AM Sunday School</b>																																																																																																								