

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2016**

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 7 is Souper Sunday! The Teen Challenge Choir sings and speaks of God's overcoming power and mercy. Please bring containers of soup to stock the pantry of the Caring Cupboard. You are invited to wear your favorite team jersey or colors, and to enjoy a super lunch following worship in the social hall.

February 14 celebrates two special events, Valentine's Day and the first Sunday of Lent. Pastor Lynch will preach and there will be special music.

February 21 has us welcoming Jenean Speck and her granddaughter Jessica Theurer to share a drama sermon. Lay Leader Steve Scipioni will lead our worship as Pastor Lynch has a day off. Sunbeam Choir will bless us with special music.

February 28 worship will focus on II Timothy 3:14-17, as Pastor Lynch will speak on "Dr. Seuss and the Measuring Stick."

SUNBEAM CHOIR

We thank Bethany Oleyniczak for all her years directing the Sunbeam Choir. Since she was in high school, Bethany has provided our children with outstanding leadership and love. Now Bethany is pregnant and has asked to be relieved from guiding the Sunbeams. With reluctance we accept her request and hope down the line she might return to music ministry at Bethany Church.

For the next four months another high school student, Samantha Patrick, is going to serve as volunteer director of the Sunbeam Choir. We appreciate Samantha's willingness to serve the Lord and our children. Choir practice will be held on Wednesdays at 4:30, starting Wednesday January 27.

Audrey Scipioni will continue as accompanist for the choir. Hopefully by early summer we will discern the Sunbeam Choir Director for September 2016 - May 2017. Please keep our children and their music ministry in your prayers. ~ Pastor John Lynch

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Bobby was a special-education boy. He was just bright enough to remain in a regular classroom but was still noticeably different. He was the constant butt of jokes by his classmates, but he never seemed to mind. Every day, as the neighborhood kids walked home from school, Bobby's mother would look out the window to see them all laughing and joking together--all except Bobby. He was always walking behind the others, all alone. It was obvious that the other children felt uncomfortable around Bobby and shunned him.

One day Bobby burst into the kitchen after school. "Mom, guess what?" he said. "Valentine's Day is two weeks away, and our teacher said we could make valentines and give them to the other kids in our class!"

His mother's heart sank as she pictured yet another occasion for Bobby to be excluded. "Mom," Bobby continued, "I'm going to make a valentine for every person in my class!"

That's very nice, Bobby," his mother answered, fighting back the tears.

Over the next two weeks, Bobby worked every afternoon on those valentines. They were truly labors of love. When the big day finally came, he was so excited about taking his valentines to school that he couldn't eat breakfast. But he was also a little worried.

"I hope I didn't forget anybody," he said as he dashed off to school.

Bobby's mother made a fresh batch of his favorite cookies and prepared herself to comfort her son when he returned home brokenhearted from the valentine exchange. She knew how disappointed he would be with the lack of response he got from the other children.

That afternoon she saw the same cluster of neighborhood kids walking home together. A half a block behind them, all alone, was Bobby. Bobby's mother turned away and placed a plate of cookies on the table.

Much to her surprise, Bobby came through the door with a huge smile on his face. "What is it, Bobby?" she asked. "How did it go?"

With a shout of pure joy, Bobby said, "Guess what, Mom! I didn't forget a single kid!"

*Bobby was so focused on giving that he didn't consider the response he would get. He was so concerned about others that he was blind to the fact that he was being slighted.*

*Sometimes when we give, our motive is to make people think we're wonderful or to prompt others to give us something in return. But that's not the way of Christ. God's love is unconditional, unselfish, and given with no strings attached. "For God so loved the world that he gave...(John 3:16), and he didn't forget a single one of us!"*

*May we all be more like Bobby this Valentine's Day and everyday. Now that's something to think about.*

~ Pastor John



FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

**Acolyte:**

Casey Funck

**Greeters/Ushers:**

Diane and Richard Miller, Susan and Richard Lasher

**Scripture Readers;**

FEBRUARY 7: Pastor Lynch

FEBRUARY 14: Pastor Lynch

FEBRUARY 21: Michelle Patrick

FEBRUARY 28: Ed Kaylor

**Sound System Operators:**

FEBRUARY 7: Barry Smith

FEBRUARY 14: Don Brubaker

FEBRUARY 21: Dick Lasher

FEBRUARY 28: Barry Smith

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Betty Gilb

2 - David Minnich

2 - Jennifer Porter

3 - Robert Cerisano

4 - Larry Strait

7 - Matt Dunkle

9 - Joe Cerisano

13 - Eric Kolakowski

14 - Rachel Beam

14 - Summer Schell

16 - Jacob Beam

16 - Roy Tice

19 - Carolyn Blantz

20 - Cindy Patrick

20 - Jodi VanWinkle

21 - Courtney Keefer

29 - Donald Brubaker



SUPER HUMOR

A guy finally got tickets to the Super Bowl, his seats were in the nosebleed section.

So he wants to find a seat closer to where he can see better. He finds this seat toward the front and he asks the guy next to it whether anyone is sitting there.

The guy replies, "No, because my wife just died."

"Well," says the first man, "why didn't you just bring a friend or relative?"

The guy replied, "Oh, they're all at the funeral."

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to Financial Secretary Joan Strait, Church Treasurer Diane Miller and Finance Chair Cindy Anspach for seeing that our church finances are well recorded and accounted for all through the year. Praise the Lord we finished 2015 in the black with all ministries, missions and bills paid on time. 2016 estimate of expenses and income can be picked up at the information table.

## VALENTINES FOR VETS

The Children's Department are making valentines for the veterans at the VA Hospital in Lebanon. They want to let the vets know they are loved and not forgotten. Also there will be valentines on the tables in the Gathering Room for the members and friends of Bethany to sing. Please sign all of the cards. ~ Thank you, Selma Patrick

## LOYAL WORKERS

The Loyal Workers are having a bakeless bake sale on Sunday, March 13. Instead of baking we would appreciate a contribution of the items you would be baking. Boxes will be in the back of the church and on the table in the overflow area. These funds will be used to help purchase new carpet for the Sunday School classrooms. Thank you, Sandy Pillsbury

## WHOOPI PIE SALE

Whoopie pies are for sale to help send our children to church camp this summer. Last year we had more children go to church camp and they had a wonderful experience. This year we would like to have even more children go to camp. Proceeds will help the children reduce the cost of camp. Whoopi pies will be available for pick up on February 14th after church. Sign up sheets are available on the information table in the gathering room. The price of the Whoopie Pies are \$1.25. ~ Cindy Anspach

## PRAYER FOR THE NATION

~ by Rev. Billy Graham

Our father and Our God, We praise You for Your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far and beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to You in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of Your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. You have said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge You alone as our Savior and Lord. This we pray in Your holy name, Amen.