

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE NEWSLETTER
February 2018

PASTORS' REFLECTION

Have you been listening?

What have you heard?

During the month of January, we began our Rise UP! Worship series. God is speaking to us, and I believe that happens each day. A lot of the time we miss it. We are often too distracted by the many other voices that call us. We do not spend the time in relationship to really listen and really hear God. I hope over the first four weeks of this journey you have been challenged to listen. To really stop, slow down and hear what God might be saying to you, and what God might be saying to us as a church.

I hope you feel encouraged and challenged to continue to dig deeper. To spend more time listening. God does not care if we are young or old, where we are, or what gifts we think we have to offer. God calls us all and equips us for what he has called us to.

If you have been listening and you feel God putting something on your heart, for yourself, or maybe for Bethany as a whole, please share it. I might be the one who stands in front of you each Sunday, but I am not the only one who God speaks to. The first goal I shared for Bethany was to Grow deeper. The second one is to Grow out. I want to hear what God might be calling us to as a church and how he wants to use each of us.

As we wrap up this series we will enter into the season of Lent. We will be starting our journey together with an Ash Wednesday Service and continue to dig deeper throughout Lent with a Wednesday night Bible Study.

Listening, hearing God's call does not stop with a sermon series. I hope that if you can you will join me in these times to dig deeper, to grow, to listen, and to continue to hear God's call for us.

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday February 4, 2018- "Rise Up! Focus" -Isaiah 40:21-31

Sunday February 11, 2018- "Rise Up! God is Speaking" – Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday February 14, 2018- Ash Wednesday Service- 7pm

Sunday February 18, 2018- Lent I- Mark 1:9-15

Sunday February 25, 2018- Lent II- Mark 8:31-38

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

Same day choirs are back.

Men's Choir- Sunday February 14- Meet @ 9:45 for rehearsal

Mixed Choir- Sunday March 25- Meet @ 9:45 for rehearsal

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday Nights During Lent (Feb 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28)- Wednesday Night Bible Study

Light Meal (soup) @ 6pm

Bible Study begins @7pm

We will be meeting together during the season of Lent using *Restored* by Tom Berlin

"Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this six-week study, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption."

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY (Flyer Attached)

Breakfast with the Easter bunny for free! Come and enjoy breakfast at Bethany and have your children's picture taken with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 9 – 11 AM. Donations benefit the Children's Lunch Program at the Caring Cupboard. If you would like to help or donate food, please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room.

SUB SALES

Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due by Feb. 14. Pickup is February 22, between 10:30 - 11:30.

CARING CUPBOARD

February 11th is Caring Cupboard Sunday. Bring your donations of non-perishable items and place them in the wagon at the rear of the sanctuary. All donations are greatly appreciated.

LOYAL WORKERS – MITTEN TREE

Donations like this assure that our families have the best experience possible here at the Ronald McDonald house while they are dealing with the serious illness of their child. Thanks so much for taking the time to make a difference! We received 48 mittens(gloves), 34 hats, and 2 scarfs.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Acolyte: Casey & Shay Funck **Greeters/Ushers:** Dennis & Sue Ellen Keith/Richard & Sue Lasher

Scripture Readers:

FEBRUARY 4: Pastor Stoltzfus
FEBRUARY 11: Mary Carl
FEBRUARY 18: Pastor Stoltzfus
FEBRUARY 25: Larry Strait

Sound System Operators:

FEBRUARY 4: Don Brubaker
FEBRUARY 11: Seth Schell
FEBRUARY 18: Barry Smith
FEBRUARY 25: Dick Lasher

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



2 - David Minnich
4 - Larry Strait
14 - Rachel Beam
14 - Summer Schell
16 - Jacob Beam
20 - John Harmon

19 - Carolyn Blantz
20 - Cindy Patrick
21 - Pamela Patrick
24 - Nathan Bloch
29 - Donald Brubaker