

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
THE NEWSLETTER  
**JANUARY 2018**

PASTORS' REFLECTION

Promise and Possibility. These two words often come to mind this time of year as the calendar changes from one year to another. There is much unknown in the coming year, but there is a hope that things will be better. There is newness, a freshness, as we move from one year to another.

Many people look at the New Year coming and start setting goals. I would like to do this or that. There are energy and excitement. A real desire to do something different, to learn and grow as a person. However, after about a month, or maybe two, the old patterns set in, and those goals that once were so motivating are on the back burner.

In the November Newsletter, I laid out three goals that I had developed for Bethany.

- 1) Growing Deeper-** nurture and grow our faith as Disciples of Christ
- 2) Growing Wider-** discern the ways that God is calling us to engage the community
- 3) Growing Engagement-** as we grow deep and grow out new people will find us, are they becoming engaged in worship and the life of the church, growing deeper and wider with us.

Over the past two months, I have discussed these in Administrative Council meeting, and I hope that you have been praying for them.

As the New Year begins I am again putting these in front of you. Hopefully to be wrestled and worked with, and not forgotten in a month or so. My first focus out of the gate this year is **Growing Deeper**. Our theme for our worship times in January and the beginning of February is "Rise UP." God is speaking, calling us, directing us, but so often we are not listening. How do we pay attention to the ways God is moving, calling us into a deeper relationship?

- Sunday, January 7, 2018 - "Rise Up! God is speaking" Mark 1:4-11(Communion)
- Sunday, January 14, 2018 - "Rise Up! Listen" 1 Samuel 3:1-20
- Sunday, January 21, 2018 - "Rise Up! Move" Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Sunday, January 28, 2018 - "Rise Up! Answer" Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Sunday, February 4, 2018 - "Rise Up! Focus" Isaiah 40:21-31
- Sunday, February 11, 2018 - "Rise Up! God is Speaking" Mark 9:2-9

My hope with this series is that we begin to hear God speak. God is at work all around us, but often we miss it. We are looking for God to do one thing, one way, but God is working over there in a completely different way. What does God have in store for us as individuals? As a congregation? May we listen to find out.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Wednesday, February 14, 2017, @ 7 pm- Ash Wednesday Service

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

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."

## **SUB SALES**

Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due by January 17. Pickup is January 25, between 10:30 - 11:30.

## **CARING CUPBOARD**

January 14 is Caring Cupboard Sunday. Please bring your donations of non-perishable items and place them in the wagon at the rear of the sanctuary. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Acolyte:** Allison Deimler **Greeters/Ushers:** Lloyd & Lois Grumbein, Richard & Diane Miller

### **Scripture Readers;**

JANUARY 7: Pastor Stoltzfus  
JANUARY 14: Ed Kaylor  
JANUARY 21: Pastor Stoltzfus  
JANUARY 28: Barry Smith

### **Sound System Operators:**

JANUARY 7: Don Brubaker  
JANUARY 14: Seth Schell  
JANUARY 21: Barry Smith  
JANUARY 28: Dick Lasher

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 - Cindy Anspach	13 - Katelyn Dove
2 - Kevin Strupp	16 - Kim Mader
8 - Kalin Scipioni	24 - Lisa Harmon
11 - Lisa Scipioni	26 - Alyce Laraia
11 - Ed Bosha(94)	27 - Dennis Walborn



