

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE NEWSLETTER
April 2018

PASTORS' REFLECTION

What's next? This question has been guiding us as we have journeyed through the season of Easter. We follow a resurrected Savior and this fact that we proclaimed loudly and boldly on Easter morning still rings true every other day of the year. This truth should change everything for us and should be the defining element in our lives.

This question though is not just about us and individuals it also applies to us as a church. What is next for Bethany UMC?

At our March Administrative Council meeting, I posed three questions for members to spend the next month reflecting on. We then talked about them during our April meeting. (I have included the questions and some of the answers)

- 1) What does Bethany do well? (Support of one another, serve pre-K thru 5th grade and adults, decorate and maintain building well, support of caring cupboard, support of Rachel)
- 2) Where could we improve? (Youth and Young Adults Missing, Welcoming New People, Engaging more worshippers in work/mission of the church, outreach)
- 3) Where do we want to be in five years? (Or where is God calling us as a church?)

At the heart of this discussion is the question what's next? What does God have in store for us? What does God want us to do? How do we reach out and attract new people? How do we share this good news of a resurrected Savior to a world in need of hope?

As we talked about the last question (Where do we want to be in five years?), the comment was made, "Be open." This is a good goal, but it also made me wonder if we were selling ourselves a little short. Or perhaps, we are selling God short. God can do immeasurably more than we can imagine. Often, we think small, but God invites us to dream big. The trick is figuring that out, figuring out how God wants to use us. It might not be in the same ways that God has in the past. It might require change and adaptation.

I want to invite all of us to pray. I want to invite us through the month of May to think about these questions and invite God to speak to us. I would also like to invite everyone to a time of prayer on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 7 pm in the Chapel, around these questions and what is next at Bethany UMC.

Worship for May 2018

Sunday May 6, 2018 – 1 John 5: 1-6

Sunday May 13, 2018 - Mother's Day – Guest Speaker: Rev. Jeannine Brenner

Same Day Men's Choir

Sunday, May 20, 2018 – Pentecost- Acts 2: 1-21 "Vision"

Sunday, May 27, 2017- Matthew 10:5-15 "As You Go"

UNITY QUARTET

The Unity Quartet will again be joining us on Sunday June 10 during our worship time. Come and enjoy as they lead us in worship.

ALL CRAFTERS

Our next craft night will be on May 16th @ 6:00 PM at the church. If you have any ideas you would like to see done, please feel free to bring them.

Any questions call Vicki Smith @ 838-5665

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Vacation Bible School update:

We are looking for a few items to decorate for Bible School. If you happen to have any of these items and would be willing to donate them for the week of Bible School, please call Vicki Smith @ 717 838-5665



1. Oars that would go with a raft

2. Life vests



3. Helmets

4. Camp chairs (the ones that fold up)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May sub and pretzel sandwich orders need to be ordered by May 16th with pick-up on May 24th, between 10:30-11:30 AM. This will be the last time to order subs and pretzel sandwiches until September.

Bethany Spring Cleaning will take place on Saturday, May 12th @ 8:00 AM.
Come out to help clean our church.

Sunday, May 13th, bring non-perishable food and toiletries to donate to the Caring Cupboard.
Your donations are greatly appreciated.

May 14th is Ad Council meeting beginning at 6:30 pm.

Pick-up your copy of the May-June issue of the Upper Room on the information table and in the back of the sanctuary.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters/Ushers: Lloyd & Lois Grumbein/Richard & Sue Lasher

Acolyte: Casey / Shay Funck

Scripture Readers:

MAY 6: Pastor Stoltzfus
MAY 13: Rev. Jeannine Brenner
MAY 20: Pastor Stoltzfus
MAY 27: Ed Kaylor

Sound System Operators:

MAY 6: Seth Schell
MAY 13: Barry Smith
MAY 20: Dick Lasher
MAY 27: Don Brubaker



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1- Steven Schaeffer
4- Kathryn Laraia
10 - Steven Scipioni
13 - Gloria Kettering
13 - David Schaeffer
14 - Josephine Hetrick

17 - William Scipioni
21 - Greta Barnhouse
26 - Brian Smith
27 - Deborah Light
29 - Beverly Bosh
31 - Gabrielle Schell



