



# Bethany

United Methodist

NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER 2018**

## **PASTOR'S REFLECTION**

It is perhaps hard to believe, but sometimes I have no idea what to say. How can a person who stands up on a Sunday morning to talk run out of words to say? However, this is one of those moments. As I type this, I really am not sure where this reflection is going.

What would inspire you? What would interest you? What would make this page of the newsletter worth your time? And really, who reads this?

However, as I write this I realize it is never really been about what I have to say. It is never really about my thoughts or insights. I try to convince myself sometimes that it is. I try to tell myself that what I have to say matters.

Really though, the question perhaps should be what does God have to say? What has God been saying? Most of the time I realize that I need to get out of the way. Stop trying so hard. Stop trying to sound smart or figure out the right words. God will speak and is speaking.

What is God saying? I find myself asking that question a lot. Wondering what God is telling me, what is God asking of this church? I think I ask it so often because I always must remind myself to stop talking (or writing).

So, what has this reflection been about? Hopefully, it has reminded us that God is speaking. In some ways, that message is the same that has been passed down through the centuries, contained in the Scripture. In addition, that message is new and fresh to us, here and now. Therefore, are we listening? What is God saying?

## **NOVEMBER WORSHIP**

During the month of November, I will be preaching from the lectionary. There is no one theme that ties the weeks together.

Sunday November 4, 2018- "Ordinary People" Ruth 1:1-18

Sunday November 11, 2018- "Money, Money, Money" Mark 12:38-44 (Veteran's Day Remembrance)

Sunday November 18, 2018- "Our Future with God" 1 Samuel 1:4-20

Sunday November 25, 2011- "Overwhelmed" Revelation 1:4-8

### **UPDATE ON THE COMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD**

In the September Newsletter, I shared a short update on what was happening in the process. Here are just a few more things that have happened since that update.

On September 27, Bishop Johnson (our Bishop) shared some updates on the process at her yearly Bishops' Day on the District. She gave an overview of all the plans and opened it up for questions and comments. Her slides from the event were posted on Eastern PA Annual Conference website for those interested.

During the last full week of October, the UMC's Judicial Council met in Zurich Switzerland. It had been asked by the council of Bishops to decide whether any of the three plans (Traditional, One Church, or Connectional) were unconstitutional. The Council released its decision on October 26<sup>th</sup> and said that the majority of the One Church Plan was constitutional (the plan supported by the majority of Bishops). The Traditional Plan had unconstitutional sections relating to the enhanced enforcement provisions. Finally, the Connectional Church Plan could not be ruled on by the council for technical reasons.

So where do we go from here. General Conference will still meet in Feb 2019. It will consider to some extent all three plans and perhaps more. Some of the plans may be amended and changed to reflect the outcome of the Judicial Council ruling, but they all will be presented in some form or another. Everything now rests in the hands of the delegates. Continue to pray for Eastern PA's delegates and for all that will come together. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Jared.

### **FALL BIBLE STUDY**

Our "Making Sense of The Bible" Fall Study will wrap up in November. Join us on November 1<sup>st</sup> as we talk about violence and suffering, and on November 8<sup>th</sup> as we talk about human sexual. It does not matter if you been to one or none, join us for the last two sessions beginning @ 7pm.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Caring Cupboard Sunday is November 11th. All donations of toiletries and non-perishable food is greatly appreciated.

Ad Council meeting is November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due November 21 with pick up on November 29 between 10:30-11:30 AM. All proceeds from the sub sale go towards the front door fund.

The monies collected up to October 21, for our Front Door Fund are:  
\$109.02-Redners Receipts, \$98.00-Sub sale and individual donations-\$100.00 totaling \$307.02  
for October with a grand total of \$2173.02.

### **LOYAL WORKERS**

Thank you to everyone who contributed candy and water for our Trick or Treat Night.

### **UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS**

The Upper Room daily devotionals for November-December are available at the back of the sanctuary and on the information table. Please take one for yourself and one for a friend.

### **FLOWER CHART**

November 4 – Paul & Karen Leicht

November 11 – open

November 18 – open

November 25 – open

Anyone interested in sponsoring Alter Flowers, sign the flower chart that is on the Railroad St. side of the church or call the church office Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9-11AM - 717 838-9041

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Diane & Richard Miller and Lisa & John Harman

#### **Scripture Readers:**

NOVEMBER 4: Pastor Stoltzfus

NOVEMBER 11: Ed Kaylor

NOVEMBER 18: Pastor Stoltzfus

NOVEMBER 25: Sue Ellen Keith

#### **Sound System Operators:**

NOVEMBER 4: Dick Lasher

NOVEMBER 11: Don Brubaker

NOVEMBER 18: Seth Schell

NOVEMBER 25: Barry Smith

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 4 – Lisa Dowhower	10 – Lois Grumbein
5 – Lloyd Grumbein	19 – Diane Miller
5 – Shirley Speraw	20 – Angela Bloch
6 – Jeffrey Patrick	22 – Heidi Reigle
7 – Evelyn Powell	24 – James Floyd
7 – Paul Leicht	

