

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Thank you, God, for reaching down to us. Renew us with your love and redeeming power.
- Pray that God would comfort those who are grieving the recent death of a loved one. Carl N's friend, Gerry Steiner, died two weeks ago. Dixie King (mother to Ron and sister-in-law to Linda H) died last Sunday. Chuck G's boss, Ron, passed away. Ed & Kathy's friend, Heidi's daughter experienced a miscarriage. And Twila's friend, Maria (husband Steve Hostetter), died following a car accident.
- Pray for Ella Mae Kauffman as she moved to Green Hills Care Center. May God grant her patience, comfort, and friendships in this time of transition. Pray for Lowell, Mark, Janet, and Susie as they walk with and support her through this time.
- Pray for the many people affected by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area. Pray especially for those people who have less capacity for rebuilding. May God grant wisdom to public officials and people of faith as they continue to respond to the crisis.
- This week, Mennonites are gathering in Cusco, Peru, for the South American celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism. During this time of worship, learning, and fellowship pray that attendees will experience renewed inspiration to carry this rich spiritual legacy into their current contexts.
- Pray that the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas will be implemented in good faith from all sides.

Bethel Mennonite Church 937- 465-4587  
P.O. Box 549, 416 Washington Street [www.bethelchurchwl.org](http://www.bethelchurchwl.org)  
West Liberty, OH 43357  
**Pastor: Rebecca Kauffman** ([Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org))  
Home Phone (937) 887-8151  
**Office hours:** T & F 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Office Assistant:** Twila Wilkins  
**Leadership Team:** Elaine Newcomer, Carol Buck, Ed Holliday,  
Jeanie Swartz

# Bethel Mennonite Church

*“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”*

Vol. 67

January 19, 2025

No. 3

*Renewal through Trust & Yielding to God*

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

May grace and peace be yours in ever increasing measure  
through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. II Peter 1:2

Welcome & opening prayer

Hymns: I Sing with Exultation – HWB #438

Have Thine Own Way, Lord – HWB #504

Old Testament reading: Proverbs 3:5-8 (unison)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord and shun evil.  
This will bring health to your body  
and nourishment to your bones.

Offering & prayer

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-5

Message: Renewal Through Letting Go

Hymn of response: When we walk with the Lord – HWB #544

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, testimony  
Intercessory prayer

Sending song: Doxology – HWB #119

Benediction

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Noon Today:** join in sharing a **potluck lunch together**. Then participate in our **Pastoral and Congregational review** process facilitated by the Leadership Team. Every 3 years, members and regular attenders are invited to reflect together on how we are doing as a congregation and on the ministry of our pastor, focusing on the past 3 years.

If you did not **receive a Star Word** last Sunday, you are welcome to pick one up today (from the communion table). Thank you to Brenda for creating them for us, and for praying over each one.

**Thank you from MCC** - We are so grateful for the many ways you support the work of MCC and our partners around the world. Whether it's through gathering kits, volunteering at events and thrift shops, collecting My Coins Count, or offering prayers for this work, we appreciate your partnership in this important ministry. In particular, thank you to our friends and supporters at Bethel for your generous donation of \$1,695 during 2024.

**Join MCC for a free webinar** at 9-11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 31. *Conflict is a normal part of life*. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. This webinar will explore MCC's curriculum *Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict* which invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other. The webinar will introduce this curriculum and give examples of how it might benefit congregations. **Learn more and register at [mcc.org/peaceful-practices-webinar](https://mcc.org/peaceful-practices-webinar)**

**Mennonite Arts Weekend** will take place February 7-9, 2025, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist / Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org>.

**Save the Date:** Ohio Conference's Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) will take place March 7-8, 2025, at Berlin Mennonite Church. The theme is *Foundation to Future*. All are invited! More information coming soon.

**THIS WEEK**

**TODAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school  
**10:30 a.m.** – Worship: Speaker, Pastor Rebecca  
**Noon** – Potluck Lunch - Pastor/Congregation Review Meeting

**TUESDAY**

**10 a.m. and 6 p.m.** – Women's Bible Study at South Union

**WEDNESDAY**

**10 a.m.** – Bible Reading  
**4:15 p.m.** – Our Daily Bread

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school  
**10:30 a.m.** – Worship; speaker –Rebecca K.

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Carl Newcomer, 937-465-3366

**LAST WEEK**

Worship: 29	General Fund: \$2,647.00
Sunday school: 8	MDS: \$100.00

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for God's kingdom purposes. Thank you!*

**OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE**

<b>This Week –January 19</b>	<b>Next Sunday – January 26</b>
<b>Worship leader:</b> Kyle VanOsdol	<b>Worship leader:</b> Elaine Newcomer
<b>Music leader:</b> Janet Wilkins	<b>Music leader:</b> Janet Wilkins
<b>Speaker:</b> Rebecca Kauffman	<b>Speaker:</b> Rebecca Kauffman
<b>Greeter:</b> Mary Newcomer	<b>Greeter:</b>
<b>Sound:</b> Ken Shank	<b>Sound:</b> Lori Lehman