

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Praise God, “the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, ... full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14).
- Pray for Linda’s grandson Hayden who suffered an injury while playing basketball.
- Continue to pray for those with health concerns, including Ella Mae K., Jeanette H., Kim’s sister-in-law Patti, Kyle’s friend Lisa, and others you know. May they feel God’s presence and be granted courage, strength and healing according to his will.
- Tesa Jordan’s great-niece, Zelda (age 5), has been undergoing radiation for a brain tumor. Pray for her and her parents as they await results of an MRI. Give thanks that a GoFundMe has provided needed resources.
- Pray for our sister congregations in Ohio Conference who are in a pastoral search process, including Huber Mennonite in New Carlisle and Sharon Mennonite in Plain City. May the Holy Spirit guide the churches and candidates.
- Mennonites in various countries (ex: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nigeria, USA) have established Bible colleges & seminaries to provide Christian education and train lay leaders, pastors and evangelists for ministry. Praise God for directing the vision of those schools. Pray for teachers and students, that they may all be led into a deeper commitment to following Jesus.

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W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Office Assistant:** Twila Wilkins  
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Jeanie Swartz

# Bethel Mennonite Church

“*Serving Jesus, Loving Others*”

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No. 1

*Together on the Journey: Epiphany*

## Announcements

### Lighting the Peace Lamp:

So the Messiah came and gave the good news. Peace has come!  
Peace, that is, to you who were far away from God,  
and peace to those who were near. We both have access  
to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. Ephesians 2:17-18

### Welcome & Call to worship:

Mary & Joseph brought their family to the temple to worship.

**We, too, come to worship the One true God.**

At the temple, Jesus listened to the teachers  
and asked them questions.

**We also come to listen and bring our questions before the Lord.**

As we worship, listen, and ask questions of God and each other,  
**may we, like Jesus, grow in wisdom and faith.**

**We look to you, Emmanuel, to enlighten our journey of learning.**

Hymns: In the Beginning – VT #270

Arise, Your Light is Come! – VT #273

### Offering & prayer

Scripture: Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Message: The Journey of Learning Continues

Hymn of response: As with Gladness – VT #277

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

Sending song: O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem – VT #275

Benediction

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Epiphany reflection for this week:** Do you consider yourself a student, a person who is open to learning? To whom do you go to learn and be challenged? Who are the mentors and teachers God has placed in your path these days to help you grow in wisdom and faith?

**Bethel’s mid-week Bible reading** resumes this Wednesday from 10 to 11 am in the library. We read the passage for the upcoming Sunday then use simple guiding questions to explore its meaning in its original context and how it speaks to us today. Consider joining us!

**Next Sunday** is Bethel’s turn to lead worship at Green Hills Foundation Hall, from 2:30 – 3 pm. All are welcome to attend and interact with residents.

**Greeters needed in 2025!** Please consider sharing hospitality with the congregation and visitors. Sign up on the form by the mailboxes.

**Pastoral and Congregational review:** Save the date of Sunday, January 19, and plan to participate in our process. 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. Please use the form in your mailbox to prepare for this meeting. After worship that day we’ll share lunch together, with the meeting to follow, facilitated by the Leadership Team.

**Thank you!** ...to Rebecca and all of you for the lovely note and the Marie’s chocolate for Christmas! I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you all and wish you the very best in this New Year.  
~Twila Wilkins, office assistant

**The January issue of *Anabaptist World*** is a special edition with numerous articles highlighting 500 years of Anabaptism. You are welcome to borrow a copy from the church and return it when you are finished. You can find an extra issue on the shelf under the wall calendar outside the secretary’s office.

**THIS WEEK**

**TODAY** – *Epiphany Sunday*

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship: Speaker – Pastor Rebecca

**TUESDAY**

**10 a.m. & 6 p.m.** – Women’s Bible Study at South Union

**WEDNESDAY**

**10 a.m.** – Bible Reading

**11 a.m.** – Worship Ministry meeting

**THURSDAY**

**3 p.m.** – Leadership Team meeting

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship; speaker – Pastor Rebecca

Scripture: I Corinthians 3:11

**2:30 p.m.** – Bethel leads worship at Green Hills

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Mark Thomas, 937-441-0172

**LAST WEEK**

Worship: 31

General Fund:

\$2,429.00

Sunday school: 7

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

**OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE**

This Week – January 5

Next Sunday – January 12

**Worship leader:** Tami Wenger

**Worship leader:** Cheryl Shank

**Music leader:** Carl Newcomer

**Music leader:** Andrew Blount

**Speaker:** Rebecca Kauffman

**Speaker:** Rebecca Kauffman

**Greeters:** Dick & Nellie Lindemer

**Greeter:** Mary Newcomer

**Sound:** Andrew Blount

**Sound:** Mark Kauffman

**Musicians:**