

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Continue to pray that God's presence & strength would surround Carole Barrett. She was discharged to Green Hills Care Center last week. Pray also for Bill, Jim, and the whole family.
- Pray for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. May the Holy Spirit speak to and comfort friends and family of Cxndy Kauffman, including her partner John, and friend Anna.
- Ramadan, a Muslim month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community, began last Friday. Pray that God would guide Christian-Muslim relationships around the world in ways that lead to peace and greater understanding of one another.
- Mennonite World Conference invites our prayers for the people and churches in the DR Congo (former Zaire). The situation continues to worsen as Rwandan-backed rebels have taken more territory in the eastern part of the country, raising concerns of escalation into a regional war. The United Nations estimates more than 50,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries due to the humanitarian crisis. May God fill Mennonite & other believers in this area with courage. May we do what we can to promote justice and peace.

New "Encouragement cards" in the pew racks: Consider writing a note of appreciation or encouragement to someone in the congregation (or beyond) as a way of "building each other up ..." (I Thess 5:11).

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# Bethel Mennonite Church

*"Serving Jesus, Loving Others"*

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No. 9

*Renewal*

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ...  
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

Prelude

Call to worship

Hymns: Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing – VT #7  
The Lord is My Light – VT #437

Confession & Assurance: (W4W2, #72 adapted)

Holy Spirit, source of power and light,  
hear your children's confession and grant us mercy.

**For fearing change when you call us to new patterns of living,  
forgive us.**

For failing to see your vision of transforming love, forgive us.

**For working out of our own power;**

**For pursuing our own agenda rather than yours, forgive us.**

We confess that our source of energy, identity and unity is Jesus Christ,  
**not our wealth or status; not political affiliation; not our family ties.**

*(silent prayer)*

God, who sees our vulnerability, will gather up what is broken,  
torn, jagged, and bring mendings, beauty, and new paths.

Offering & prayer

Scripture: II Corinthians 4:1, 5-18

Message: Renewed as Faithful Vessels

Hymn of response: Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart – VT #554

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

Sending song: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory – VT #504

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Plan to attend a special worship service on **Wednesday, March 5, at 6:30 pm, at Bethel**. Join in prayer, song, and reflection as a way to enter this season of confession and renewal.

### **Out of office:**

- **Rebecca** will be out of the office Friday through Saturday, attending Ohio Conference Annual Meeting. Please submit any announcements or prayers requests for the bulletin by noon on Thursday.
- **Twila** will be on vacation March 14-25.

**Women Serving in Love**, Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Donna L. and Christy H. will host and provide soup. Those whose last names begin with M-Z bring a salad or dessert. Project: infant kits. There will be a guest speaker from Morgan's Place, an organization that ministers to families grieving the loss of a baby.

**Help improve water quality in Bangladesh:** Sharon Mennonite Church (7675 Amity Pike, Plain City) is hosting a benefit event for people coping with the largest mass poisoning in human history, arsenic contamination in the drinking water in southern Bangladesh. Come enjoy **a soup and chili cookoff**, music (by *Salt & Light* group from Rosedale Bible College), silent auction, and fair-trade crafts from Bangladesh. Saturday, March 15, 2025, 5-8 pm. Meal is by donation. If you'd like to submit a soup or chili entry, or donate bread or dessert, please contact Cxrole Schxmacher by March 12 at 614-638-3021 or [beschumacher@msn.com](mailto:beschumacher@msn.com).

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

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

### TUESDAY

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

**11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** - Leadership Team Retreat

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

### WEDNESDAY

**10 a.m.** – Bible Reading in Bethel library

**11 a.m.** – Worship Ministry

**6:30 p.m.** – Community Ash Wednesday Service at Bethel

### FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Ohio Conference Annual Assembly, Berlin, Ohio

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship; speaker: Lxnn Miller

Scripture: Luke 10:25-42

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

## LAST WEEK

Worship: 28

Sunday school: 13

General Fund:

Our Daily Bread:

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

### OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – March 2

Worship leader: Elxine Nxwcomer

Music leader: Jxnet Wxlkins

Speaker: Rebxcxa Kauffman

Greeters: Kxm Lehman & Ed Hxlliday

Sound: Andrxw Blxunt

Prelude: Anne Y. & Nate Y.

Next Sunday – March 9

Worship leader: Rxbecca Kxuffman

Music leader: Andrxw Bloxnt

Speaker: Lxnn Miller

Greeters: Cxrl & Elaxne Newcomer

Sound: Mxrk Kxuffman