

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Pray for those who are experiencing health struggles, including: Ruth Yodxr, Bill Barrxtt, Eleanor, Jeanie's brother Don, Suzanne Hostetlrx, Joyce Woodrxff, Tobias (Mary Newcomxr's relative) and Kyle Yodxr (Alvin & Ruth Ann's grandson), and others. May our healing God provide strength and restoration to each of them.
- Pray for members of Bethel's Gift Discernment committee as they meet this week.
- Pray for all those suffering from Covid-19, including Kyle's friend Sherre. Pray that God would grant strength to all the medical staff who are working hard to care for patients, especially in hard-hit areas. May the Holy Spirit inspire our patience, compassion, and acts of love for one another.
- Pray for Dick Barrxtt and Ohio Mennonite Conference leaders who are beginning a visioning process. Also, pray for congregations who are seeking pastoral leadership.
- Pray for local, state, national, and global leaders, that they would make wise decisions, speak the truth, and reject selfish ambition.
- The Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso requests prayer as they experience two threats – food insecurity due to tight quarantine regulations, and violence from armed groups. Pray that the church might find creative ways to cultivate peace and justice.

Bethel Mennonite Church 465-4587
P.O. Box 549, 416 Washington Street www.bethelchurchwl.org
West Liberty, OH 43357

Pastor: Rebecca Kauffmxn (Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office hours: T & F 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Administrative Assistant: Miriam Lxpp (secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office Hours: W and F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Elders: Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr, Carol Bxck, Byron Kauffmxn,
Doug Steinxr

Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 62

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No. 31

Reconciliation is the Center of our Work

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp – Colossians 1:20

And through [Christ] God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Prelude

Welcome and Call to Worship (see insert)

Congregational song: Create in me

Epistle reading: II Corinthians 5:18-20

Prayer of Confession: (see insert)

Offering prayer

Story Time

Scripture: Luke 15:11-24

Message: From estrangement to embrace

Words of intention and promise (see insert)

Response song: There's a wideness in God's mercy - H #145

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, thanksgivings

Intercessory prayer

Sending song: God loves all his many people - H #397

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gift Discernment forms are due today, August 2. Place them in the box in the hallway or email them to the church office. A church body uses disciples with gifts of all sorts! Please prayerfully consider how your gifts and those of others can be used to enhance the ministries of Bethel.

Bethel's Covid-19 Response: Thank you for continuing to wear masks, wash hands, keep distance, and self-quarantine as needed - these are essential actions for the health of our congregation and community!

We anticipate that renovation work will begin this week! Please note: during the renovation process, if you have any questions or concerns about it, please direct them to Dean or Dave L. since they are serving as Bethel's contacts with the contractors.

Cindy Kauffmxn has a new email address:

Wed., August 5, 6:00-7:00 pm, at Oak Grove church. **A book study and discussion group** using Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism by Drew Hxrt. If you are participating, we'll be discussing chapter 5. If you're interested in joining via Zoom, contact Alex Dyx or Rebecca.

Jean-Paul Tiendrebeogx of Kingdom Investment International invites our participation in a current project. For over a year now, his organization has been working to fully equip a mobile eyecare and dental clinic to ship it to Burkina Faso. Plans are to ship the vehicle the *first week of September*. In order to maximize the overall cost of shipping, they would like to fill the interior with other very useful items. They would like to fill the space with 3,500 each of relief kits, hygiene kits and school kits. They are requesting funding to purchase the items for the kits so that they can be purchased in wholesale from a single supplier. The items for the 3 kits range from \$10-25 per kit. Send your donation to Kingdom Investment International, 565 Metro Place South, Suite 300, Dublin OH 43017 or online at www.kingdominvestment.org.

Financial Planning webinar: "Faithful finances and you", hosted by Chandler Ingix, Everence® Financial Consultant, on Wednesday, August 12 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Learn about what financial planning is, what your journey could look like and how Everence can help you integrate your faith values as you develop your financial goals. For more information, or to register, please visit www.everence.com/plain-city#webinars-and-events.

If you missed the livestream event of **Mennonite Central Committee Centennial Celebration**, the recording of the event is available to view on YouTube at: mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream.

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:00 a.m. – Worship. Rebecca Kauffmxn, speaker.

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – Gifts Discernment Committee

WEDNESDAY

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – *Trouble I've Seen* book study.
At Oak Grove or by Zoom

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. – Ministry of Worship

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. – Worship. Rebecca Kauffmxn, speaker

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Barb Kauffmxn

LAST WEEK

Worship attendance 30

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for
God's kingdom purposes. Thanks.*

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – August 2

Worship leader: Doug Steinxr

Music leader: Ellen Steinxr

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Byron & Barb Kauffmxn

Sound/media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: Ellen Steinxr

Next Week – August 9

Worship leader: Kathy Lehmxn

Music leader: Byron Kauffmxn

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Byron & Barb Kauffmxn

Sound/media: Mark Kauffmxn

Prelude: Ellen Steinxr

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear, O people. Our powerful, holy, merciful, and sovereign God is one.

People: And we will love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Do this and you will live.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we get in the way of your reconciling work in our world. Our words are often spoken with disrespect and violence.

We want others to yield to our viewpoints. We hang on to our grudges. Our actions often hurt the people and creatures that you love.

We fail to see your image in the people with whom we disagree. Our patience falters when the work of restoring relationships gets hard.

God, we pray for the Spirit of Jesus to work among us these next weeks. Open our minds, hearts, and spirits, that we may grow in maturity and humility. Prepare us to take up the work of reconciliation for the sake of this world that you so love.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF INTENTION AND PROMISE

As Christians united with Christ,

We are called to participate in God's reconciling work in the world.

We offer ourselves as servants of God's peace, who will listen with the ears and heart of God, speak God's forgiveness, mercy, justice, and grace, lead with God's strong yet tender compassion, and reflect God's steadfast love and kindness.