



First Bethel Church
King's Light Newsletter



2026



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM
PASTOR DAVID

Administrative Council. Church Board. Leadership team. All these are names of church governing bodies in the United Methodist Church. Every church needs some form of it. Any organization that comes together has a purpose for doing so. Setting the mission and goals needed to achieve that purpose is most effectively carried out by a group of those passionate about advancing the mission/purpose of the group.

First Bethel has a collection of several committees as its governing structure. The **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)** oversees the church pastor and staff (paid staff & volunteers) in its work to fulfill the church's mission. The church has a **Board of Trustees**, charged with the task of managing all the church's assets: property & real estate. The **Finance Committee** manages the church's financial assets, creates and manages the annual budget, and works to assure the financial sustainability of the church. We have a committee whose task is to identify capable leaders to these committees. It is called **Nominations & Leadership Development**. There are several subcommittee groups that manage the church's ministry efforts such as Martha Circle, Nurture/Outreach/Witness, Men's Group, Youth, etc. Representatives from each of these groups come together with several individual leaders (Lay Leader, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Youth Representatives., etc.) to form our **Church Council**. This structure of committees requires approximately forty individuals to make the function work properly. Having multiple committees can create inefficiencies as a proposal needs to pass in one group before being considered by another group within the structure.

At our May 18th Church Council meeting, a motion to explore a change in governance structure was approved. The **Simplified Accountable Structure** model of church governance will be explored. It is also called the “One Board” model. Below are some of features that will be explored:

- A consolidation of several committees into one...hence the “One Board” name. This would reduce the number of individuals needed to staff the committees from approximately forty to no more than fifteen. Most One Board’s are made of nine to twelve individuals. This frees up many people from administrative work to direct ministry work.
- The simplified structure would allow for increased conversation and plan-making regarding how effectively we are reaching the mission, goals and objectives of the church.
- The simplified One Board structure increases flexibility and momentum by removing multiple layers of committee approvals. As a result, the church’s decision-making and planning could become more nimble and efficient.
- It has the potential of removing the dividing line between administration and ministry conversations. Potentially there will be increased synergy between the two sides of church governance.

Our current Church Council will be working through a book/workbook called “Mission Possible: A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness.” We will have conversations regarding the feasibility of implementing this model here at First Bethel. It will be a several month process.

Remember, all church members are permitted and encouraged to attend Church Council meetings. There is nothing secretive about the council’s work. If privacy is needed for sensitive employment matters the SPRC would need to meet in a closed-

door format. But outside of that situation, the council doors are open wide.

All of this is being done to assure First Bethel has the best decision-making processes in place to increase the effectiveness of the church in carrying out our Jesus-given mandate to make disciples of all peoples. I would ask for your prayers as the church begins this season of discernment and consideration. We all desire a healthy church!

Journeying & Serving With You,

Pastor David

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUNDAYS

9:30AM WORSHIP

10:30AM COFFEE HOUR AND FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY CLASSES WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

COMMUNION IS HELD THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



BARBARA L. WHITE

November 1, 1933 - April 20, 2026

Barbara L. White (Reiser), passed away peacefully at her home in Centennial, Colorado, on April 20, 2026, at the age of 92, with her children by her side.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Barbara spent most of her life in South Park, where she built a life rooted in family, service, and community. When her children were young, she shared her warmth and guidance as a Sunday School teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church on Pittsburgh's North Side and as a devoted Brownie Troop Leader in Library, Pennsylvania. Her commitment to community continued throughout her life. She was an active member of the South Park Women's Club, a dedicated volunteer at the South Park Township Library, where she contributed to many annual book sales, and gave her time generously to a Senior Day Program in Bethel Park. She also took pride in supporting national causes, including efforts to fund the renovation of the Statue of Liberty.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, William and Barbara Reiser; her brother, William Reiser Jr.; her husband, Dale W. White; and her stepson, Craig White.

She is survived by her children, Lori Furman (Ray) and Scott Weaver (Mary); her stepchildren, Scott White (Karen), Lisa Scabilloni, and Dean White; and a large and loving family of grandchildren: Shailene Springer (Liam), Matt Engdahl (Angelia), Austin Schult (Ashley), Jerry Furman, Brittany Jamieson, Kolby White, Emily Scabilloni, and Max Scabilloni. Her real joy in later years was found in her great-grandchildren: Maci, Avianna, Madalynn, McKinley, Addilyn, and Lucas.

A private family gathering to celebrate Barbara's life will be held at a later date in Colorado. Please contact the church office to obtain an address if you'd like to send a card to Barbara's family.

<https://obituaries.post-gazette.com/obituary/barbara-l-white-1093754327>

JOAN R. (REESE) DUTCHER

August 18, 1933 - May 9, 2026



Our beloved Joan Dutcher entered eternal life with God on May 9, 2026, at the age of 92.

A faithful member of First Bethel for 60 years, Joan was lovingly known as the "Card Lady" because so many people were touched by the thoughtful cards she sent over the years, often filled with

inspirational quotes and bits of humor. She will be greatly missed.

Joan was the loving wife of Conrad ("Dutch") for 68 years, loving mother of Keith (Carol), Timothy (the late Kathy), Susan Asbury and the late Sandra. sister of Beverly Silfer (the late Ronald), Fred Reese (Cecilia) and David Reese (Gail); grandmother of Jennifer Stoy (Jennifer), Hannah, Amanda and Faith; and great-grandmother of Amelia

Visitation was held on Wednesday, May 13th at the David Henney Funeral Home in Library PA, followed by a Celebration of Life on Thursday, May 14th at First Bethel United Methodist Church. www.davidhenneyfuneralhome.com

Contributions may be made in Joan's memory to First Bethel United Methodist Church, 5901 Library Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

<https://www.firstbethelumc.org/give>

Let us continue to keep Conrad, the Dutcher family, and their friends in our thoughts and prayers.





Jun 1 Dick Davis

Jun 12 Rhett Martin

Jun 2 Max Peterson

Jun 17 Katie Sullivan

Jun 5 Dave Cummings

Jun 17 Kenneth Warywoda

Jun 5 Joanne LaRosa

Jun 18 Diana Slater

Jun 6 Janice Evans

Jun 21 Lincoln Lawer

Jun 7 Chris Bright

Jun 26 Marilyn Kebe

Jun 7 Kathy Rickenbach

Jun 27 James Pauline

Jun 10 Ayden Bowser

Jun 30 Bill Kennedy

Jun 11 Donna Hennen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**Join us for another exciting
Vacation Bible School!**

Monday, July 27th to Thursday, July 30th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

There will be fun activities, worship, crafts, Bible lessons, and fellowship for children three years old (potty trained) through rising 5th graders. Watch for more information!

Contact Catherine Taylor or Melissa Smith for more details or ways you can volunteer. We can't wait to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR GRADUATES!



Ayden Bowser – Ayden graduates from South Park High School on June 4, 2026. Ayden will be attending Slippery Rock University in the fall to pursue a career in Music Therapy. His parents are Mike and Shauna Bowser.



Michael Doman – Michael graduated from Michigan State University on May 1, 2026 with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising Management with a Minor in Business. His parents are Greg and Erin Doman.



Regan Gray – Regan graduated on November 21, 2025 from the University of Edinburgh School of Law in Scotland with a Master of Science in Global Crime Justice and Security. She is working for Fragomen Law Offices in Pittsburgh as a Business Immigration Analyst. Her parents are Jamie and Robin Gray.



Julia Pauline – Julia graduated in May from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising with a Public Relations minor. Her parents are Corey and Charlene Pauline, and her grandparents are Jim and Ruth Finlay.



LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNED GIVING AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Saturday, May 30th at 9AM

The United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania provides responsible funds management for churches and agencies, enables planned giving through which individuals can support Christian ministries, and offers education and support in financial stewardship and leadership.

Attend this worthwhile event to learn more about how the Foundation can support you in reaching your charitable goals and guide you in tailoring your gift plan to impact mission and ministry in Pennsylvania.

The Presenter will be Barry Robison, Director of Relationships and Stewardship Development for the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania

RSVP here <https://calendar.app.google/jruuenXF4cbVJfpc6> or call the church office by Wednesday, May 27th.

OUTREACH

Have you noticed that our Outreach ministries are Local, Regional and Global?

See the following pages for a sampling of how our General Ministries Fund provides the foundation for all of these ministries to happen beyond our walls! Some are a few miles away, some are a few states away, and some are across the ocean.





FISH TALES

(Fun In the South Hills)

It is almost June!! How is this possible?? In the first place, as I write this it is a brisk 65 degrees outside. And in the second place, it seems to me that with each day, month and year, the passage of time continues to gain speed. Just a short time ago (was it only September??) a small group of friends from inside and outside of First Bethel met to toss around ideas on how to create an after-school program for the children of Parkford Community. Our numbers were small and our funding limited to our own pockets, but with the strength of our combined faith that God was truly calling us to this mission, we have succeeded in ways we never thought possible.

These past nine months have been a journey, indeed, both spiritually and emotionally. As with any journey, it was not a straight line! We have experienced (often in the same two hour period!) joy and heartbreak, hope and despair, excitement and anxiety, and even sometimes fear. But by far what has been the most consistent emotion of all, is the conviction that we have been intentionally joined together ***in this place and at this time*** for the purpose of sharing the gospel and teachings of Christ – not necessarily through our words, but through our actions. By showing up, week after week, and welcoming all who wish to join us with open arms and hearts, we are forging relationships and gaining the trust of our neighbors at Parkford. These neighbors of ours struggle daily with trauma brought by systemic racism, generational poverty, mental illness, domestic violence, substance use disorders, and the marginalization and isolation from main-stream society that each of these bring. We are never there to judge – but to love and to serve, as Christ commands us.

So, as we close out this first season of FISH, and prepare to move forward to our planned three day-a-week summer lunch program, I feel incredibly blessed to have been placed on this path – and most especially, to share it with our amazing team.

One of my favorite songs from youth (now many years ago!) eloquently describes our motivation and mission. You may recognize these words:

***We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together, we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love.***

Many thanks to you all – for your prayers and presence, your gifts and service. And if you ever want to join with us in this journey, remember, all are welcome!

Shalom,
Lisa Rulong



FISH SWIM



The new **FISH SWIM** summer program (which stands for ***Fun In the South Hills – Summer With Inclusive Meals***) will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1PM to 3PM at Parkford beginning Monday June 3rd.

This new endeavor replaces the Kids Meal Network program formerly sponsored and organized by Church Union through Federal grants. South Park did not qualify for this funding in 2026. .

The recent receipt of a \$25,000 Ministry Multiplier Grant from the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church has made this new ministry possible.

The new opportunity allows the flexibility and option to prepare and serve meals to children and adults at a later time than was possible before, and without age restrictions.

Two to four people are required to prepare and serve the meals, and you can sign up online using our online volunteer scheduling program Ministry Scheduler Pro.

Contact Brynn Rinehart, Mary Courtney or the Church Office for more information.



Outreach is organizing a day trip to the **UMCOR Mission Barn on Thursday, July 9th**. Sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office. Meet at the church at 8:15AM and we'll carpool, returning around 3:30PM.

Bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle.



OUR 26TH

SUMMER TRIP

by Gloria Stephan



Do you have any idea how many lists we use to prepare for this trip?! There's a volunteer packing list, a list of what's needed for the rental vans, first aid kits, common supply boxes, lunch supplies, a list of when payments and forms are due to ASP, clearance statuses, a list of other tasks that must be completed before, during and after the trip, and more....whew!

BUT – we're almost ready to go and our volunteers are SO EXCITED to be a part of First Bethel's 26th year of participation in the ASP ministry where we'll serve to make homes warmer, safer and drier in Central Appalachia.

None of this would be possible without the support of our church, our families and friends, and the generous donations of time, talents, gifts and service from so many. It takes us an entire year of fundraising to make these mission trips possible, and we **Thank You for your support of our 26th year of ASP!**

Nineteen ASP volunteers will be traveling to **Buchanan County, Virginia** on June 14th and will be staying at the Mountain Mission High School in Grundy, Virginia. Here are our summer trip volunteers:

Ayden Bowser, Grayson Bowser, Alexandra Cecala, Sarah Combs, Samantha Combs, Melissa Combs, Ken Courtney, Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Lisa McDermot, James Morrow, Robert Pugh, Justin Reilly, Samuel Reilly, Thaddeaus Smith, Zofia Smith, Gloria Stephan, Michael Taylor and Kevin Weigold.

Pick up a bandana strip to keep as a visual reminder to pray for all the ASP volunteers, the ASP staff, and the families they serve. Tie it on your wrist, your purse, your car shifter....anywhere you'll see it to be reminded to keep the ASP ministry in your prayers year round.

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS

\$5,000

for

TNC's Sister Rut Scholarship Program

Hot Diggity Dog for **The Nyadire Connection!**

This Chicken is thrilled to say that my friend, Mary Beth Zollars, received a check made out to The Nyadire Connection on April 23rd at the Upper St. Clair / Bethel Park Rotary's "Night of Giving" event. Once again, TNC was handsomely recognized for selling the most BBQ tickets last fall. The check was for \$5,000!. As always, I am especially grateful for First Bethel's generosity that helps make this \$5,000 grant happen.

FYI: On June 17th, one of my fellow Rotarians, Scott Churchill, will be traveling to Nyadire with TNC's Volunteers in Mission Team. The team will be there for 2½ weeks. After experiencing his time there, I am certain that Scott will become an even greater advocate for TNC. He is a member of Christ United Methodist Church and recently attended TNC's 20th Anniversary. While in Zimbabwe, Scott will meet with the Rotary of Harare (the capitol of Zimbabwe), to discuss plans with our local Rotary for an International Global Grant for Nyadire. This will be huge! If you can remember, please pray that "things" will fall into place for this large International Global Grant to become a reality.

Tatenda with my Cluck, Cluck, Cluck signature,
Phil Himmler

Shalom to you, now. Shalom, my friends



THE NYADIRE CONNECTION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

First Bethel was well represented at The Nyadire Connection 20th Anniversary Celebration at Christ United Methodist Church on May 3rd. The original team from 2006 was recognized, including our own Phil Himmler (in the blue shirt below)!



According to the African Proverb,

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".



First Bethel is honored to be one of the six churches that have partnered to support this ministry in Zimbabwe Africa.

There is still more work to be done, but count us in!

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

"AN ENDEARING STORY"

These novels, including a large-print edition, are among the most recent additions to the First Bethel Library:



THEO OF GOLDEN - A kind old man from New York moves into the small Georgia town of Golden. Known only as Theo, he is very generous, helping new friends and neighbors. When he discovers 92 pencil portraits on a coffee shop wall, he sets out on a mission to buy them for their "rightful owners." Christianbook describes this as "an endearing story". The author is Allen Levi.

LOST BIRDS (LARGE PRINT EDITION) - Joe Leaphorn is long-retired from the Navaho Tribal Police but he remains much in demand as a private investigator. While he's trying to find the history of a woman who was adopted and raised by a family of another race, another case begins with a mysterious explosion at a school and a missing wife. This is bestselling author Anne Hillerman's ninth novel in the Leaphorn series.

THE CORRESPONDENT - This story is told solely through letters and emails, about Sybil Van Antwerp, a witty, 73-year-old retired lawyer. Sybil is portrayed as a sharp-tongued, stubborn, and deeply human character navigating the complexities of growing older, including dealing with the impending loss of her sight. She has always been a letter writer and corresponds with a young son of a friend, her grown children, her best friend of 60 years, romantic elderly suitors, and a mysterious threatening stranger from her past. As Sybil's life is unfolded through her correspondence, we come to know an unforgettable character who carries an immense burden of grief, and who is striving for forgiveness and to forgive. The author is Virginia Evans.

Your Library Staff

BOOK CLUB

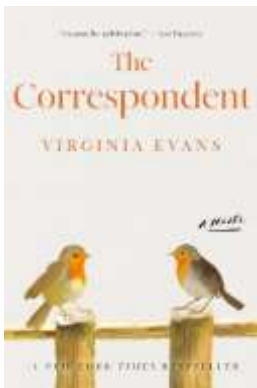
Our Book Club delves into a wide range of books to broaden our insights and viewpoints, and sometimes just for the pleasure of enjoying a good story.



The group gathers for discussion at Panera Bread in South Park Shops on the third Friday of each month.

The next meeting is June 19th at 7PM.

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans



Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Hospitality says to the receiver, “you are worth the effort we make for you to be comfortable”. To increase this hospitality, our church leadership has discerned the need to upgrade the current air conditioning in the education wing of the church. The current system of individual window units is very inefficient, noisy, and in certain aspects, unsafe.

This upgrade will be especially beneficial to Kings School Kids children and their families, as well as prospective families.

The project also includes upgrading the Susanna Wesley room, the Oxford room and the Parlor which are used for church meetings, dinners, weddings, Sunday school classes and evening Christian education classes.

The upgraded system will cost \$47,294. The Trustees have allocated available funds to the project, and one church family has given \$5,000, leaving a remaining amount of \$20,000 to fully fund the upgrade.

Please consider a second-mile donation to the

AIR CONDITIONING FUND

Donations can be added to your offering envelope, or donate securely online here: <https://www.firstbethelumc.org/give>

Please contact David Miller or Pastor David if you have any questions.



MISSION READY!

CLEARANCES WORKSHOP

Our Safe Sanctuary policy and organizations we partner with require all adults engaging with youth or children to maintain up-to-date clearances. There will be a workshop in the Oxford Room to assist you in acquiring these necessary documents.

Saturday, May 30th at 10:30AM

(After the United Methodist Foundation seminar)

Contact the Church Office if you need to check the status of your clearances, or if you need information about which clearances you may need to be Mission Ready, and how to obtain them.

MARTHA CIRCLE



Martha Circle is a time for the ladies to be together for fellowship, service and connecting with other women of our faith community.

Their next gathering will be a picnic at the home of

Joann Bischoff at 1PM on June 10th at 1PM.

Contact Donna Hennen or Lea Cook for more information.

PRAYER REQUEST OR UPDATE?



You can now submit prayer requests and updates for our Prayer List by email. Please send them to Prayers@firstbethelumc.org. You may also fill out a Prayer Card or reach out to Marjorie Mills or Pastor David directly.

FIRST BETHEL MEN'S GROUP



The next Men's Group meeting is Saturday, June 6th at 8:30AM. The men also gather informally for breakfast on Wednesdays around 9AM at the Eat 'N Park in South Park Shops.

JOSHUA – LIVE ON STAGE



Please contact Dave Miller or add your name to the signup sheet in the lobby if you're interested in a trip to see "**Joshua Live on Stage**" at the Sight and Sounds Theater in Lancaster, PA.

Date to be determined.



MEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 9-11

at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant PA, led by Rev. Joel Garrett.

The weekend begins with dinner at Nino's restaurant on Route 31 around 5PM. All meals are provided on Saturday and Sunday. Lodging is in the Fernheim cabin, and you'll need to bring your bedding, towels, and toiletries.

Sign up in the lobby if you're interested, and see Ken Williams if you have any questions. Cost is \$120

A purple pennant with the word "College" in white and "Care packages" in yellow script below it.

College Care packages



The Youth Group sponsored sending a dozen Care Packages to our college students as they were preparing for Finals.

Thanks to everyone that helped to fill the boxes of love from our First Bethel Church family just to remind them that they're still in our hearts and minds.



It's always such an absolute delight receiving a college care package from my church family. 🍋 This one is a little bittersweet since I graduate from Kent State in a little less than a month. Throughout my four years in college, receiving these care packages has kept me motivated and ready to tackle finals.

I want to thank everyone involved in putting these together and FBUMC for supporting me and my family since before I was born. You all are the best! ❤️ Julia Pauline



Senior High Sunday School with Pastor David will be held on **Sunday, June 21st at 5PM at the parsonage**

GO WILD!



The ASP Ministry Team and the Youth Group are sponsoring a trip to attend a **Washington Wild Things baseball game** on Sunday, July 26th at 4:05PM at EQT Park in Washington, PA.

Order tickets online here:

[Washington Wild Things tickets for July 26 2026](#)

Total cost is \$11.50/seat, and we'll get \$5 back for each ticket sold which will go into our ASP mission trip fund.



First Bethel Mission Statement

*“Nourish Every Body,
Stimulate Every Spirit,
Satisfy Every Soul,
for the Glory of God”*



First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 Library Road

Bethel Park, PA 15102

<http://www.firstbethelumc.org>

Church Office

412-835-0700

FBUMC@Verizon.net



Kings School Kids

412-835-6141

KSK10@Verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. David Ewing

Mobile: 412-818-0889

PastorDavid@FirstBethelumc.org

Office Manager: Lisa Stefanowicz

OfficeManager@FirstBethelumc.org

Choir Director and Organist: Phil Himmler

Director of Maintenance: Jim Howells

KINGS SCHOOL KIDS

Director of KSK: Mary Beth Deckard

Assistant Director of KSK: Nicole Crisson

KSK Office Administrator: Charlene Phillips



<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBethelUMC/>

KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The 20th of each month is the due date for submissions for the next issue of the King's Light. Please have your information submitted on time to avoid the disappointment of not having it appear in the next edition. Send via email to Gloria Stephan, editor or send to FBUMC@Verizon.net

FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5901 LIBRARY ROAD

BETHEL PARK, PA 15102-3398

www.firstbethelumc.org

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