First Bethel Church

King's Light Newsletter



November

2026

From the Heart

Monthly Newsletter
thoughts from Pastor David



First Bethel friends, it is time to be "two-faced" as we prepare to cast our votes in the upcoming mid-term elections on November 3rd. Typically, "two-faced" is not a descriptor we covet or one for which we aspire, as it speaks of being hypocritical. But stay with me here!

"Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?" the Pharisees asked Jesus, looking for him to say something incriminating. Jesus took the fuse out of that bomb by replying in customary Jesus-esque fashion…answering a question with a question. "Whose [face] is on this coin?" Jesus asked. "Caesar" was their reply. Jesus told them, "Then give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." (Matt.22:21, NLT)



Jesus would not desire for us to be "two-faced" in the sense modern society defines it. But Jesus does say to be "two-minded," providing for both worldly government and for God's Kingdom. There is occasion for both. But our allegiance is to the Kingdom of God.

The immediate context of Jesus' use of the Caesar-imaged coin was the paying of the imperial tax. Our Kingdom of God allegiance calls us to go deeper and to use our voice & vote to illuminate the God's Reign. Revealing God's Kingdom was Jesus' incarnational work. It is

ours too. Our participation in US democracy is a critical platform for doing this.

As we do, may our “one-faced” allegiance to God’s Kingdom serve as our “voter’s guide.” May we vote to promote those values before we seek to elevate any earthly political systems such as Democrat or Republican. May we give to God what is God’s. As we do, let the “chips fall where they may” as it concerns who or what that action rubs against or who it supports. And may we work to ensure this opportunity is there for all to vote without difficulty and encumberment.

To study the Kingdom of God values mentioned above, find a Bible that prints the words of Jesus in red. We have several at First Bethel so just let me know if you want one.

That’s from the Heart,

Pastor David

ALL SAINTS’ DAY



On Sunday, November 1st during the 9:30AM Worship Service, we will remember those of our church family who have passed away and entered God’s embrace since All Saints’ Day 2025.

First Bethel members that have passed will be remembered individually by the lighting of an individual candle at the altar.

Immediate family members of church members who have passed will be remembered collectively with one group candle.

Fall Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:30AM Worship
Children's Message and Worship Enrichment

10:30AM Coffee Hour and Fellowship
10:45AM Sunday School
10:45AM Wired Word Adult Discussion Group

Communion is held the first Sunday of each month



Fellowship Brunch at Parkford

Devotional services are held on select Sundays at Parkford Apartments at 12:30PM, led by retired Pastor Glen Irvin from First Bethel. A brunch will follow at 1PM.

If you are interested in attending, offering a dish or treat to share, or would like to help, please contact Mary Courtney.

Check your bulletin or the church calendar for the dates.



Nov 1 Michelle Fawcett
Nov 2 Gabriel Finale
Nov 4 Maureen Williams
Nov 5 Marilyn Clark
Nov 5 Joey Scabilloni
Nov 7 Shawn Evans
Nov 9 Shannon Sughrue
Nov 10 Joann Bischoff
Nov 11 Daniel Sarver
Nov 14 Miles Fawcett
Nov 15 Zane Dennick-Ream
Nov 18 Hannah Armstrong
Nov 21 Kim O'Donnell
Nov 21 Lisa Rulong

Have we missed your birthday? Please share your birth date with the church office so we can include you on our monthly list.

A birthday greeting or card from someone in your church family can brighten the day—consider sending one to help celebrate!

Have you noticed someone missing from church, or is something keeping you, a family member, or a friend from attending? Do you have a prayer concern or joy to share? **Please let us know!** The Nurture Team is finding more intentional ways to notice needs and connect with our church family. Contact Pastor David or the Church Office, and we will reach out. Submit Prayer List requests and updates by emailing Prayers@firstbethelumc.org, completing a Prayer Card, or contacting Marjorie Mills or Pastor David directly.

OUTREACH

The Christmas Angel Tree returns soon and will be available beginning Sunday, November 8th

This year, we are again partnering with Family Links and Kings School Kids Childcare. Each angel tag will list a recipient's name and three wishes.

Choose one, two, or all three wishes to fulfill, then return the angel tag with the unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 13.



Thank you for your participating in this Outreach ministry. You will have brought some love into someone's life this holiday season.

Help us to collect non-perishable food and personal care items to be given to our neighbors through **SHIM** (**South Hills Interfaith Movement**) in Bethel Park. Place your donations in the bins in the narthex, and we'll get them to SHIM.

If you have older prescription glasses that are taking up drawer space, please drop them in the box in the Narthex and we will pass them along to Christ United Methodist Church so they may be re-distributed to those in need of those prescriptions.

SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

You stepped up, and I thank you from the bottom of my of my Zimbabwean heart.

As I began typing, the children's book "The Tortoise and the Hare" popped into mind. The beginning of this year's Rotary Chicken BBQ Sale started out very, very slowly. To be honest, my heart sank for the first two Sundays.

However, I dove into my favorite all time word: HOPE! Like the Tortoise, our congregation stepped up little by little. In the end, **First Bethel bought more than 200** tickets which enabled this TNC chicken to sell 753 tickets. The Rotary had given me 769 to sell for this year's BBQ. The South Hill's Interfaith Movement (SHIM) was blessed with receiving **453 donated tickets!**

You need to know that First Bethel delivered 55 meals to our neighbors at Parkford Apartments. Thank you to Sally Irick, Mary Courtney, and Lisa Rulong for giving your time to do that on Saturday, October 17th.

First Bethel might have started out slowly, but yes - - like the tortoise, First Bethel proved victorious in the 2026 Rotary Chicken BBQ.



Once again, I am living in the hope that the Rotary will award The Nyadire Connection its $5.000 grant. If it does, please rest assured that it was our wonderful, generous church family, in stepping up BIG TIME, that will have made that happen. We won't know if we will receive the $5,000 grant until Spring of 2027.

Cluck, cluck, cluck = I love you.
Cluck, cluck = Thank you!

Shalom, Phil Himmler

HERE AM I, SEND ME!

by Gloria Stephan

Eleven adult volunteers spent a weekend serving with Appalachia Service Project at the Jonesville, Virginia, center—home of the famous Porch. Our crew installed new subflooring and insulation in the kitchen of Holly, John, and Gabe's home, and repainted their laundry room following recent drywall repair.



2026 Jonesville volunteers: Tami Pugh, Catherine Taylor, Sarah Combs, Lisa McDermot, Jim Grattan, Gloria Stephan, Robert Pugh, Esthela Slater, Todd Slater, Robin Gray, Jaime Gray.

Planning is underway for our 2027 ASP youth mission trip, tentatively scheduled for June 20–26. The trip is open to high school students and adults with current clearances. To participate or ask questions, contact Gloria Stephan.

Learn more at https://asphome.org/summer/.

Thank you to everyone who supports these mission trips through their time, talents, and financial gifts. Donations are welcome year-round!

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

MYSTERIES AND MIRACLES



Miracles of Marble Cove

This is a popular Christian mystery book series published by Guidepost and written by a collaborative group of authors including *Melody Carlson, Anne Marie Rodgers, Leslie Gould, Patti Berg,* and others. The setting is a fictional seaside town of Marble Cove, Maine. The main characters are four different women--Diane, Shelley, Margaret and Beverly--who are all starting over and looking for a second chance in life. Across the 24-book series, the friends tackle unexplained events, personal and community challenges, such as damaged art galleries, family struggles, and suspicious historical figures.

This mystery series has been donated to our church library by Mary Burcin. You will remember Mary and George as longtime faithful members of First Bethel who now live in Carnegie. Mary is an avid reader and remains a fan and supporter of our library.

Between Sisters ~*by Kristin Hannah*

This is the story of two siblings, Meghann Dontress and Claire Cavanaugh, who didn't have much going for them in their lives. Raised for the most part by an alcoholic, self-involved mother, Claire relied on Meghann to be the parental figure in their young lives. When their mother abandoned them for a Hollywood acting career, Meghann made a decision that fractured their relationship. The sisters lived as strangers for over two decades, keeping contact to brief, cold holiday phone calls. As Claire prepares for her upcoming wedding, the two reunite during a hot Pacific Northwest summer. The relationship between Meghann and Claire hinges on whether they can move past decades of anger and misunderstanding. They learn that true reconciliation isn't just about forgetting the past, but about acknowledging the pain it caused and choosing to heal together. *Kristin Hannah* is back!

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.

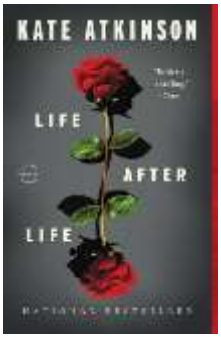
The group gathers for discussion at Panera Bread in South Park Shops once a month on a Friday evening. Here's what we're reading:

Friday, October 30 (date change) – Secrets of a Charmed Life by Susan Meissner



The author of *A Bridge Across the Ocean* and *The Last Year of the War* journeys from the present day to World War II England, as two sisters are separated by the chaos of wartime...

Friday, November 20 – Life After Life by Kate Atkinson



(This is book 1 of a 2 book series but it can be read as a standalone novel.)

On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born to an English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the young century marches on towards its second cataclysmic world war.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle is a time for the ladies to gather for fellowship, service and connecting with other women of our faith community.
In November, the ladies will be touring the new Sarris Candies factory in Canonsburg in lieu of their regular meeting.

Contact Donna Hennen for more information.

FBUMC MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets at 8:30AM on the first Saturday of each month for fellowship and community activities. They also meet informally for breakfast on Wednesdays around 9AM at the Eat 'N Park in South Park Shops.

The next Men's Group meeting is Saturday, November 7th at 8:30AM

LET'S SUPPORT THE KINGS SCHOOL KIDS CHESTNUT HILL CANDLES FUNDRAISER!



All candles are $13 and there are twenty great scents to choose from.

Items will arrive in time for holiday gift giving. The last day to order is

Sunday, November 1st

Pick up an order form in the Narthex.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and, as has become our annual First Bethel tradition, the Men's Group is coordinating the distribution of Thanksgiving dinners to those who might need some help with their food budget for this holiday.

There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex on October 25th for all of the items that will be needed to provide a full Thanksgiving dinner that the family can prepare. (The Men will supply the turkey breasts, disposable roasting pans, and the milk.)

Please help with all you can; all items matter.

We will be collecting the goods until the 22nd of November. Just bring your donations in and leave them by the sign-up sheets or put them in the kitchen refrigerator downstairs.

The meals will be distributed the afternoon of the 22nd.

Pastor David is coordinating a confidential list of families that will be receiving the meals. If you know of someone who could use a turkey and some First Bethel Love, please contact David with the information.

Any extra donations of food or cash will be given to SHIM to help spread the love of our God even farther.

Thank you, and may you have a blessed Thanksgiving!!



YOUTH MINISTRY

- The Youth are planning a trip to a Trampoline Park on **Saturday, November 1st from 3PM-5PM**.

- The Youth Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on **Sunday, November 22nd** at the church.

- If anyone is interested in hosting a portion of the Youth Progressive Dinner, please reach out to Meredith Steinhagen.
  Three hosts are needed to provide one course, either Appetizers, Dinner or Dessert.
  Tentative dates are Saturday, December 12th or Sunday, December 13th.



College Care packages

The Youth Group is once again sponsoring sending Care Packages to our nine college students as they prepare for the end of their semesters.

Ideas include pens, paper, candy or stress relief and fidget items. Collection ends November 22nd. See Meredith Steinhagen with any questions.



Calling all Children and Youth!



Please contact Meredith Steinhagen if you're interested in participating in the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13th at 11AM.

First Bethel Mission Statement

"Nourish Every Body,
Stimulate Every Spirit,
Satisfy Every Soul,
for the Glory of God"

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026



There are still a few rooms available for the annual Women's Retreat at Olmsted Manor Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA.

Friday, November 13 to Sunday, November 15

Pastor Kathy Clark will lead us in this year's theme "Roots and Wings". Cost is: $200/Double or Loft and $220/Single. Contact Catherine Taylor for more information or to register.

SAVE THE DATE!



Our annual family Advent Festival will be held **Sunday evening, December 6th**..
Enjoy pizza, snacks, crafts, Christmas carols, and, of course, gingerbread house decorating!
We welcome ideas for making this a broader community event and need volunteers to lead crafts and provide snacks and drinks. To help, contact Charlene Phillips or Gloria Stephan.



THE KEYSTONE CHORUS

The Keystone Chorus (featuring our own Ken Williams) will present their Barbershop Chorus Christmas Show at First Bethel on **Saturday, December 19th at 1:30PM.**

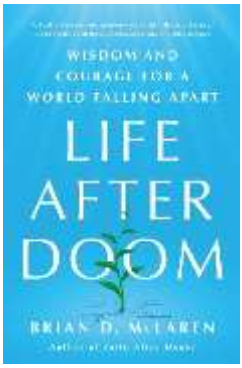
LIFE AFTER DOOM:

A COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY



How do we respond when concern for the future of our planet becomes difficult to carry alone? First Bethel invites you to join a discussion group exploring ***Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*****, by Brian D. McLaren**. The book offers a compassionate, practical guide for moving through climate anxiety, grief, and uncertainty without giving in to either denial or despair.

Over six 90-minute sessions, we'll create space for honest conversation, thoughtful reflection, and supportive community. Whether you're deeply concerned about environmental issues, simply curious, or looking for a constructive way to engage difficult emotions about the future, you are welcome.



Sessions will start in the new year, but stay tuned for exact dates and times. For more information or to express interest, contact Todd Slater or sign up in the Narthex.

WeightWatchers

Since spring 2025, WeightWatchers has held several weekly meetings in Founders Hall at First Bethel, creating a valuable partnership for both organizations.

Our Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW) team plans to encourage stronger connections between the congregation and WeightWatchers participants.

Thinking about joining WeightWatchers? Workshops at First Bethel are available:

- Wednesdays at 6PM
- Thursdays at 10:30AM
- Fridays at 9:30AM
- Saturdays at 7:30AM, 9AM, and 10:30AM

Founders Hall information racks include the monthly King's Light and details about worship, ministries, community events, and outreach opportunities. Two Outreach representatives will be meeting with WeightWatchers to strengthen relationships and share ideas.

Our church website provides additional information about ministries, events, and staff contacts.

See our website for events and the full church calendar.

https://www.firstbethelumc.org/events





Sarris CANDIES



ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering ends at 11:59pm on DECEMBER 14TH
(But why wait? Don't be disappointed and order early)

Access the Sarris fundraising website on your mobile phone with the QR Code, or on your computer at:
www.SarrisCandiesFundraising.com

Click "*Supporting an Online Fundraiser?*" then "*Order Now*"

Enter our **Group ID # 10-1027** and select "*Shop Now"*

TIP: Use the drop down categories under the Online Ordering tab or the Search bar to look for specific products.
ONLINE ORDERS SHIP RIGHT TO YOUR HOME

PAPER ORDERS

Forms can be found in the Narthex
Paper Orders due by Sunday, November 15th
Delivery to the church around December 13th
Orders over $100 ship free!

This sale supports projects, improvements and ministries here at First Bethel.
Contact Charlene Phillips with any questions.

First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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

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KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The **20th** of each month is the deadline 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

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