



Love Christ,  
Grow Faith  
Share Hope

Bethel United Methodist Church

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**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
**Friday, March 10th**  
**at 12 noon**

**Phone: 815-864-2581**

**office@**  
**BethelUmcShannon.org**

**EVERY WEEK AT BETHEL**

**Sundays**

- 8:45 am Worship (Traditional)
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am 4 Him (Contemporary)  
Worship

**Monday**

- 8:00 pm AA (Wesley Chapel)

**Tuesday**

- 6:00 am Fresh Encounters
- 6:30 pm Fresh Encounters

**Thursday**

- 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Wesley Ch)

# THE BETHEL BROADCAST

February, 28, 2017 . Volume 17 . Number 4

## Lent

**begins on March 1st with  
an Ash Wednesday Service  
at 7pm in the Sanctuary.**



Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter. (See inside this newsletter to learn more about Ash Wednesday)

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. Focusing on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Eastertide is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Mark your calendar now to join us during Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

- 8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. 4-Him Contemporary Worship

Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00 p.m. Funeral Dinner for Jesus

Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

- 10 a.m. One Worship Service  
(No Sunday School)

## We Remember in our Prayers . . .

Keith Dorty

Jim Slick (father of Dawn Barr)

Jim Wirtjes

Elsie Haring

Natalie Byington

Carolyn Ruter

### IN CARE CENTERS:

Atrium

Lucille Robinson

Lena Living Center

Orval & Dorothy  
Schoonhoven

Ron & Mary Heckman

Liberty Village

Florence Thede

Doris Horner

Mardell Henze

Oakley Courts

Belva Brandt

Lois Barnes

Stephenson Nursing Cntr

Grace Harrenstein

Roger Artman





**Food Pantry Needs**

If you have **CLOTH BAGS** that you are no longer using, the Food Pantry could use them. The distribution of groceries is much easier using the cloth bags instead of the plastic ones.

We can still use plastic bags as well since we use **MANY** each time we open the pantry.

Questions? Contact Deb Foust at 815-266-1221

## LISTEN TO THESE STATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK!



106.9 WHRD  
Have you Heard the Word?  
Freeport, IL

91.1 Rockford  
or  
98.9 Quad Cities



### EMAIL PRAYER LINE

We currently have a phone prayer chain through our UMW Circles and would like to reach more people with important prayer requests by email.

If you would like to be a part of Bethel's Email Prayer Line please send an email to the church office at [office@BethelUmcShannon.org](mailto:office@BethelUmcShannon.org) With your name and "prayer chain" in the body and we'll add you in.



### Stewardship Corner

<u>Feb 19</u>	<u>8:45/11</u> 38/71	<u>Budget</u> \$3,945.00
<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>8:45/11</u> 92/58	<u>Budget</u> \$3,201.00

**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
**Friday, March 10th at Noon**

### Going to the Hospital, Rehab Center, or Nursing Home?

If you are being admitted to the hospital, rehabilitation center or nursing home, please have someone contact us to let us know so that we can visit you. Many facilities will not notify us any more when you are admitted because of HIPAA laws.

We want to be sure to visit you during these important times.

You can contact:  
Church office at 815-864-2581,  
Pastor Mike at 815-499-1943,  
or Jeanne at 815-291-9736



# ASH Wednesday

## Wednesday, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday

- a day we use to mark the first day of the Lenten season.

So why do we have Ash Wednesday and what does it mean? In "A Service for Worship for Ash Wednesday" in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, two suggestions of what worship leaders may say as they make the sign of the cross on another's forehead are offered: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and "Repent, and believe the gospel." Each points to an aspect of what the ashes represent.

### Remember that you are dust...

Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated *dust*, is occasionally translated *ashes* elsewhere.

When Abraham felt the need to acknowledge the difference between him, a human being, and the infinite God, he referred to himself as dust and ashes. "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord," he said, "I who am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27).

### ...and to dust you shall return

Our humanity also calls to mind our mortality.

After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). We know the day is coming for each of us when we will return to dust.

We wear black as a sign of mourning. Ancient people wore ashes. In the early days of the church, it was more dramatic than now. Pastors did not dip their thumbs into the ashes to draw the shape of a cross on your forehead. Instead, they poured or sprinkled ashes over your head.

For example, Mordecai puts on sackcloth and ashes to grieve the many deaths he sees coming from an order King Ahasuerus gives to kill all Jewish people (Esther 4:1-3). The prophet Jeremiah later calls the people of God to "roll in ashes" as a way of mourning the coming devastation from an opposing army (Jeremiah 6:26).

Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront our humanity and mortality. They remind us that we are not God, but God's good creation. In them we recognize that our bodies will not last forever, and come face-to-face with the reality of our eventual death.

### Repent...

Ashes also signify our sorrow for the mistakes we have made. People in ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a way of expressing their repentance of their sins.

When Jonah reluctantly preached to the people of Nineveh after the giant fish spit him up on the beach, the King and his people put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. God saw this act of repentance and spared the people (Jonah 3:1-10).

In the New Testament Jesus mentions this practice. Warning the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida Jesus said, "if the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives and put on funeral clothes and ashes a long time ago." (Matthew 11:21 CEB).

When we participate in the service of ashes, we confront our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, and our need to be forgiven. No matter how often we go to church, how far we have come in our spiritual journeys, how accomplished we may feel, each of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The palms waved the previous Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus as our King, have been burned to form the ashes. In some sense, they serve as a reminder of how far we fall short of living up to the glory of Christ.

On the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity and repenting of our sin.

### ...and believe the gospel

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

One Wednesday every year we go to church remembering who we are, and hopeful of who we can be.

*\*Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Excerpted from <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-ashes-connecting-to-who-we-are-and-who-we-can-be>*





## March Circles

Naomi Circle meets Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 9.m. at the Café  
Everyone Share.

Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 1:30 p.m. at Oakley Courts  
Hostess: Carol Larson  
Lesson: Lois Barnes

Rachel Circle meets Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
At 1:30 p.m. at the church  
Hostess: Nancy Wagand  
Lesson: Cindy Ditzler



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

	3/13	Gigi Schneider	
		Steve Frey	
		Stephanie Steen	
	3/14	Larry Dikkers	
		Troy Miller	
3/1		Kylan Helmeid	3/15
3/2		Cole Becker	3/16
		Mari Vesey	3/17
		Dr. Suess!	3/17
		Trevor Kaus	
3/3		Roger Coulthard	3/21
3/4		Devin DeClercq	3/22
3/5		Anne Oberlander	
3/5		Barb Ruter	3/24
3/6		Kennedy Burkholder	
3/7		Lloyd Martin	3/25
		Patty Robinson	3/26
3/8		Helen Sykora	3/27
		Jared Ruter	
3/10		Mark Horner	3/29
3/11		Jacey Strohecker	
3/12		Lucille Dickman	3/30
		Rita Koch	
			Siegner
			Grace Norton



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

	3/4	Jim & Deb Endress
	3/14	Brad & Valerie Woessner
3/1		Jeff & Amy Wilhelm
3/1		Dennis & Candace Schubert
	3/20	Harry & Sandy Schryver
	3/20	Don & Rita Koch



*I want to offer a sincere thank you to my church family. Having Pastor Mike at the hospital was very comforting, and the meals provided by the New Beginnings Sunday School class were delicious and very helpful. The prayers, cards, and well wishes after my surgery were also very much appreciated. The love and generosity of this congregation is truly inspiring.*

Sarah Kaus

### UMW Thank You

On Saturday, February 25, 2017, Bethel Church hosted the Rockford District's UMW Information and Leadership Development Day. We had 45 guests.

I would like to thank everyone who made this possible - the people who had the new furnaces and water heater operational, the cleaning ladies who worked extra hard to get the dust all cleaned up, our Janitor, Mike Campbell for moving tables and chairs and Bill Woessner, who ran the sound system. A big thank you to all who donated food and our 10 local members who worked together to make it run smoothly. May God bless you all.

Ruth Thede, UMW President, Bethel Church



### Arlene Bocker

will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
on March 11<sup>th</sup>

Her family would like her to be showered with  
cards to commemorate this day!

You may send a card to Arlene at

Arlene Bocker  
Good Samaritan Society  
1006 N Lowden Rd, PO Box 8  
Mt Carroll, IL 61053

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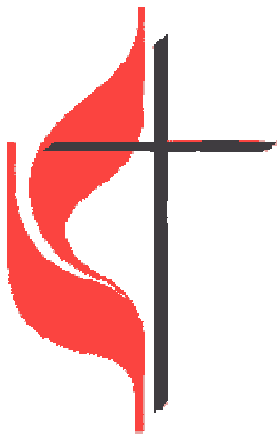
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**February 28, 2017**

*The mission of Bethel Church is to  
Love Christ, Grow Faith, and Share Hope*

**Bethel United Methodist Church**

217 S Hickory St, Shannon IL 61078



**Worship Schedule**  
8:45 am Traditional Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am 4Him Contemporary Worship  
Tuesday 6:00am & 6:30pm Fresh Encounters

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Pastor: Rev. Mike Jones  
Jeanne Groezinger, Parish Visitor      Mari Vesey, Administrative Assistant  
Blondena Best, Parish Nurse  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 12pm & 1pm– 4pm