



Bethel Mennonite Church

“Jesus compels us to experience and extend the gracious rule of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Vol. 57 December 13, 2015 No. 50

Freedom Bound – Advent III

Preparing

By praying together Infant Nursery @ 8:45a.m.

Gathering

Welcome & Call to Worship *(back of bulletin)* Barb Landes
Prelude Pat Yoder
Philippians 4:4-7 & Opening Prayer
Gathering Choruses Janet Wilkins and Team

Proclaiming

Lighting The Advent Candles
Scripture- Luke 3:7-18
Message “The Path of Trust” Pastor Dave Maurer

Praising

With our offerings & Offertory Kathy Graber
With Hymns Byron Kauffman

Celebration of Holy Communion

Opening Words Pastor Dave
Prayer of Preparation & The Lord’s Prayer *(sins/sin)*
Words of Institution
Unison Prayer HWB #786 Pastor Cheryl
Sharing of the Elements

Sharing

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses
Pastoral Prayer Pastor Dave

Optional Footwashing/Handwashing

(4 rooms: Men/Women/Family/Handwashing)

Sending

Benediction Pastor Dave
Sending hymn

LAST WEEK

Sunday School 51
Worship Attendance 84

Your generosity empowers our collective work for God’s kingdom purposes. Thanks!

OUR THANKS TO

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Barb Kauffman

NURSERY:

Today: Open **Next week:** Open

GREETERS:

Today: Paul & Linda Hostetler **Next Week:** Paul & Sally Harshbarger

SOUND OPERATOR:

Today: Brody Robinaugh **Next week:** Todd Hostetler

MEDIA OPERATOR:

Today: Annie Steiner **Next week:** Savannah Hostetler

Bethel Mennonite Church 465-4587
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West Liberty, OH 43357 www.wbtl.tv

Pastor: Dave Maurer (pastor@bethelchurchwl.org)
Office hours: T & Th 9-11:30a; Wed & Fri 9:30-Noon & 1:30-4:30p
Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank (youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org)
Office hours: Tues & Fri 1:30-3:30 PM
Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan (secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)
Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9am-5pm
Elders: Steve Lapp, Barb Landes, Kathy Lehman, KJ Schrock, and Larry Evans
Pastoral Care Team: Barb Landes, Barb Kauffman, Sharon Showalter, Carl Newcomer, Mark Thomas, Chuck Swartz
Tech Coordinator: Lee Jordan

Farewell Appreciation - As Pastor Dave's last day in the office will be December 24th, an appreciation time for his and the Maurer family's service and involvement is planned for Sunday, December 20th, after the morning service. Pastor Dave will lead the Christmas Eve service at Bethel for his last "official" provision of service to our congregation. Please plan to attend both occasions so that we may thank him and all the Maurers for their time at Bethel and so we may offer thanks to the Lord for their service, as well.

Christmas Caroling will be Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 pm.

Longest Night Service at Green Hills at 6 pm, December 20th.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 pm Dec 24th. Special Music, Candlelight Service and Celebration of the Birth of Jesus!

Community Christmas Dinner will be served from noon – 2 pm on Dec. 25th. A signup sheet is posted for food donations.

Christmas Breakfast on Dec. 27th. There will be no Sunday School, and the service will be a Hymn sing.

Community Movie Night:

The next community movie night is Wednesday, Dec. 30th. We will be showing the holiday classic film "White Christmas." A signup sheet is posted for snack and drink donations. We will be showing the film in the Fellowship Hall. Children are encouraged to come in pj's and bring pillows/blankets.

Coming In January 2016!



A Movie about the Power of Prayer

From the Award-Winning Kendrick Brothers

This is a Youth Fundraiser. More Details coming SOON!

COMING IN 2016

THREE R's: You're invited to contribute to the January Newsletter!

Have you **Read** a good book that you would review and recommend? Would you like to make yourself publicly accountable for a **Resolution** in 2016? Do you have a new **Recipe** to share? Submit your book reviews, resolutions and recipes by the 18th in Tesa's mailbox or by email!

I am looking ahead to mid-winter and the sending of care packages to our college youth. Here is the list I have of those currently in undergraduate studies.



- Patrick Graber = senior at EMU
 - Liesl Graber = sophomore at EMU
 - Michael Lehman = freshman at Bluffton
 - Alex Steiner = freshman at Goshen
 - Lindsay Hostetler (granddaughter of James & Jeannette Hostetler) = junior at OSU
 - Jonathan King (Mary Kay's grandson) = sophomore at Wilmington
- Is there anyone I have forgotten to list?
 - Should I also consider sending packages to those in graduate studies?
- I would like feedback from the congregation, as you have been a huge supporter of the youth, and interested in what they are doing, in the past years.
 - Please let me know what you think. I have set the date of February 03rd as the evening when the youth will get together to pack up the goodies to send.

Besides your feedback, the youth and I also appreciate any donations you might like to offer as goodies for these care packages. Small items that are wrapped....(gum, hard candy, gummies, microwave popcorn, instant drinks, crackers, chocolate....)

If you make homemade goodies, please just make sure they are in individual baggies so it makes for easier packing. (Also, remember that Patrick needs gluten-free items)

Merci,
Cheryl Shank

THIS WEEK

TODAY – Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service – Pastor Dave on Luke 3:7-18
Communion & Footwashing

6:00 p.m.—Youth & Mentors

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study

Noon—Peace & Justice Lunch

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

THURSDAY

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

7:00 p.m.—Elder Leadership Team

FRIDAY

Deadline for Calendar & Newsletter Submissions

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast

NEXT SUNDAY – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service – Pastor Dave on Luke 1:39-56

12:00 p.m.—Farewell Potluck for the Maurer Family

4:00 p.m.—Christmas Caroling

6:00 p.m. – Longest Night Service at Green Hills

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we will be celebrating communion and footwashing during the morning worship service. Footwashing will be optional and practiced toward the end of the service. Handwashing will be available for those who have physical difficulty with footwashing. All are invited to participate in this congregational ritual of service, humility and brother/sisterhood; at the same time those who are uncomfortable with this ritual may choose to remain in prayer for the congregation or to depart with God's blessing at that time.

Adriel offers supervised visitation services for families whose children are placed in an out-of-home care and who are working toward reuniting. Adriel supervises the visits and prepares a written report of the interactions among all participants. Adriel is in search of contract staff to supervise these

visitations. The visits are held at the Adriel West Liberty location. Please contact Kim Rex if interested: 419-260-2376 or krex@adriel.org

Adriel House Parents Christmas Serving as a house parent at Adriel can be a thankless kind of job at times. This Christmas, area churches are providing a \$25 gas card, plate of cookies and card to each of the house parents. If you would be interested in providing for one or more of these, please contact Pastor Dave and **bring them on Dec. 20th**.

Have you ever thought about studying Greek or Hebrew? Rosedale Bible College is offering Introduction to Biblical Languages during Winter Term (Jan. 4-Feb. 12). Reuben Sairs will be teaching it Monday through Friday from 2:30-3:50. He says: “This is a class for students who want to study the scriptures deeply. Even learning a little bit about Greek and Hebrew will be so valuable in Bible study, preaching and personal devotions.” Audit options are available. Find out more at rosedale.edu.

Pastoral Care and Prayer Chain Beginning December 25th, Chuck Swartz will be available for pastoral crisis care. If you have a concern for the prayer chain, please contact Tesa, Cheryl or Barb Landes.

Brotherhood Fund December is a good month to make a contribution to the Bethel Brotherhood Fund. Please mark your contributions accordingly.

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- **Pray for Pastor Dave Mxxrer** and his family as they work on plans for their move to Michigan at the end of December.
- **Pray for Silas Mxxrer** as he recovers from stitches and having his tonsils out.
- **Baylee Knxx Update:** Baylee is doing fairly well at this time. She will be checked in January and also have tubes put in her ears. Pulmonary stenosis remains a problem. Thank you for your interest and continued prayers.
- **Pray for our nation** and all those affected by gun violence.
- **Early next year, Moriah Hurst** will conclude seven years of Mennonite Mission Network ministry in Australia. Pray for her as she lives with difficult good-byes, and confides her work into the hands of colleagues.
- **Pray for 7 yr. old John Hanna** who lives with his family, the only Palestinian Christian family living in Ein Karem. Today my family attends church in Jerusalem. My sister and I go to school in Jerusalem at the Frères College and my father drives us there every day. For John’s full story go to Middle East Peace info@cmep.org



DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HOPE. FOOD. WATER. PEACE. EDUCATION.

GIVE A GIFT...CHANGE A LIFE

BE BLESSED~~~BE A BLESSING~~~BE THE GOSPEL

Alternative and/or additional Gift Giving Opportunities

MCC (Mennonite Central Committee)

www.mcc.org/Christmas

Gift cards available

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates)

www.giftsolutions.org

MMN (Mennonite Mission Network)

www.MennoniteMission.net/Gift Catalog

Gift cards available

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

www.heifer.org/catalog

Gift cards available with gift of

\$10.00 or more

Catalogs for each of these organizations are available in the foyer.

If you have questions, see Barbara Kauffman



***The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary
have been given by the following:***

***Carl & Elaine Newcomer in Memory of
Richard & Verna Bachman and Elban & Hilda Newcomer***

***Byron & Barbara Kauffman in Memory of
Marcene Traucht and Joe & Faye Fisher***

***Lee & Tesa Jordan in Memory of
Willard & Hallie Jordan and Si & Jean Brenneman***

***Chuck Graber & Family in Memory of
Roberta Graber***

***Jerry & Barbara Landes in Memory of
Dan & Edna Landes and Lester & Peg Haner***

***Kathy Lehman & Family In Memory of
Larry Kurtz***

***Paul & Linda Hostetler in Memory of
Loren & Dorothy King***

***Chuck & Jeanie Swartz in Memory of
our Aunts & Uncles***