



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 6, 2015 No. 49

Freedom Bound – Advent II

Preparing

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

Gathering

Pre-worship Music James Lochridge and Team
Gathering Choruses
Welcome & Call to Worship *(back of bulletin)* KJ Schrock
Opening Prayer

Proclaiming

Lighting The Advent Candles
Scripture- Luke 3:1-6
Message “The Path of Mercy” **Pastor Dave Maurer**

Praising

With our offerings & Offertory James Lochridge
With Hymns Bill Barrett

Elder Leadership Team Commissioning

Elder Leadership Team Sharing
Litany of Commissioning *(see insert)*
Prayer of Commissioning

Sharing

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

Sending

Benediction Pastor Dave
Sending hymn

LAST WEEK

Sunday School 47
Worship Attendance 71

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

OUR THANKS TO

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Barb Landes

NURSERY:

Today: Open **Next week:** Open

GREETERS:

Today: Bob & Kyle VanOsdol **Next Week:** Paul & Linda Hostetler

SOUND OPERATOR:

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

MEDIA OPERATOR:

Today: Brody Robinaugh **Next week:** Annie Steiner

Bethel Mennonite Church		465-4587
P.O. Box 549, 416 Washington Street		www.bethelchurchwl.org
West Liberty, OH 43357		www.wbtv.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 1-3PM		
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		

THIS WEEK

TODAY – Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service – Pastor Dave on Luke 3:1-6

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.—Mennonite Women

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

THURSDAY—

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

7:00 p.m.—Elder Leadership Team

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.—King’s Daughters Breakfast

NEXT SUNDAY – 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Women will have their Christmas Potluck Tuesday, Dec. 8th. Kathy G., Susie & Janice are hostesses and Sara Ellen will have devotions on “Scripture, A God-Breathed work.”

On December 13th, 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. Please be in prayerful reflection this week as we prepare for this service.

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.

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center is looking for a full-time Maintenance Director. The Maintenance Director will extend Christ-like hospitality through providing oversight of the maintenance department personnel to accomplish the maintenance and development of all Laurelville buildings, grounds, & vehicles. This position is open for applications until the position is filled. To apply, please contact michael@laurelville.org.

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.

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.
- **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.
- **Join Mennonite Mission Network in thanking God** for the safety of five international workers based in Paris, France, during the November bombings. Pray for wisdom as French Mennonites and others discern how to respond to these tragedies and to the violence that occurs in other countries on a daily basis.
- **Pray for Churches for Middle East Peace.** Formed in 1984, it is a coalition of 22 national church denominations and organizations, including Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant traditions. It works to encourage U.S. government policies that actively promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all people of the region. For more information: www.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***

LITANY OF COMMISSIONING
for The Elder Leadership Team

- Leader: Throughout the Bible, we read of transitions that the people of God underwent. Many of these were connected with a particular leader or a change in leaders. Along with their entrance into the Promised Land, came the new leadership of Joshua. In the midst of uncertainty, various judges rose to leadership for a time and then faded away after the crisis was resolved.
- People: Their history is our history. Their experience is our experience. We like those of days gone by experience transitions and changes in leadership. We like those before us seek God's leading and call out servants to guide us along the way.
- Leader: We have come to a time in our journey together in which our leadership is in transition. One leg of our journey together is ending and another is beginning. During this time of discerning and waiting upon the Lord for new long term pastoral leadership, we call out gifted leaders among us to provide direction and organization for our ministry. With the acceptance of this call to lead for this interim time and beyond, we commission you for that work.
- Team: With humility and a desire to follow God's leading, we accept this calling and commissioning to serve during this interim time and beyond. May God bless and guide us in this holy work. May God grant us wisdom and knowledge, love and patience, hope and grace, unity and perseverance.
- People: We offer our thanks to God for calling you to this role and our support of you as you serve in this way. We celebrate with you the gifts that God has given you and us. We join with you in the blessings of working for God's kingdom purposes within our community and beyond.
- Leader: May the Lord bless you all as you journey together. May God's spirit of wisdom and unity envelop this body. May God's love and grace flow through each one of you to one another, to your community and to the world.

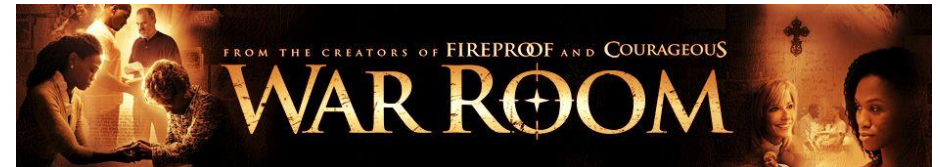
Farewell Appreciation - As Pastor Dave's last day in the office will be December 24th, an appreciation time for his and the Maurer family's service and involvement is planned for Sunday, December 20th, after the morning service. Pastor Dave will lead the Christmas Eve service at Bethel for his last "official" 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 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 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! A Movie About The Power of Prayer From the Award-Winning Kendrick Brothers

This is a Youth Fundraiser. More Details coming SOON!