

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- In the calendar of the Church, we have entered the season of Lent, a period of 40 days designed to help us prepare for Easter. It's a time to focus on the life & teachings of Jesus, practice humility, confess our human limitations & need for God, and to make room in our lives to hear and respond to the call of Jesus even as he walks all the way to the cross.
- Pray for those with health concerns, including Linda's sister Beverly (had back surgery); Carole Barrett; Jeanie S. (for healing in her ankle); Karl Smith's friend Bob's grandson (undergoing chemotherapy); Montgomery's neighbor Bruce (kidney stones).
- Mary Psolla's son and daughter-in-law, Dan & Cindy, are serving with Mennonite Disaster Service in Mississippi for several weeks. Pray for safety, wisdom, and joy as they work with other volunteers and homeowners.
- Praise God for the appointment of a new Conference Minister for the Ohio Mennonite Conference. Paula Snyder Belousek will begin in this role on June 16. (Dan Miller will continue to serve as interim through May 15.) Paula has served as pastor of Salem Mennonite in Elida, OH for the past 14 years.
- This Thursday, the Colombia Mennonite Church begins its four-day annual assembly and continuing education sessions for pastors. Pray that the worship and fellowship bring renewal, as well as the Holy Spirit's inspiration, as participants evaluate the past and plan for the future.

Bethel Mennonite Church 937- 465-4587  
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W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Office Assistant:** Twyla Wxlkins  
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Jexnie Swxrtz

# Bethel Mennonite Church

*"Serving Jesus, Loving Others"*

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No. 11

*Lent: Christ Collides*

### Announcements

#### Lighting the Peace Lamp:

Then justice will reside in wild lands,  
and righteousness will abide in farmlands.

The fruit of righteousness will be peace, and the outcome of  
righteousness, calm & security forever. Isaiah 32:16-17 (CEB)

#### Call to worship

Hymns: To God Be the Glory – VT #84

My Hope is Built – VT #621

#### Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance:

***Righteous and merciful God, our lives are weighed down  
with the burden of sin, and so we confess to You.***

We doubt the depth of Your love for us.

We do not love our neighbors as ourselves.

***We fail to honor You with our thoughts, words, and actions.***

***We are quick to pass judgment yet slow in our own repentance.***

Help us grasp both the urgency & the benefit of daily turning to You.

***Come, transforming Spirit, reshape and renew our hearts  
so that we share Your grace & peace with the world.***

*(silent prayer)*

In your goodness, O God, you have mercy;

***with gentleness you wipe away my faults. Thanks be to God!***

#### Offering & prayer

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

Message: Christ Collides with Our Stubbornness

Hymn of response: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling – VT #544

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, testimony  
Intercessory prayer

Sending song: Go, My Children – VT #830

Benediction

**“Collision Reflection”:** Use these prompts during Lent to help us be aware of, and pray for, Jesus’ presence in the world.

- Where did you see the Jesus way colliding with the world’s way this week?
- When did Jesus interrupt your stubbornness this week?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Out of office:** Twila will be on vacation March 14-25.

This Thursday, Rebecca plans to take a **silent retreat day**, from 9 am - 4:30 pm. Leave a message and she will respond as soon as possible.

**Phone change:** Lxnda Hxstetler no longer has a landline. She can be reached on her cell phone: xxx-xxx-1231. Her email address has not changed.

**Help improve water quality in Bangladesh:** If you were not able to attend the fundraiser at Sharon Mennonite Church yesterday, you are welcome to direct a gift through the Bethel offering. Write “Arsenic Mitigation Project” in the memo line. This project helps provide safe drinking water to people in southern Bangladesh. (See poster on bulletin board.)

**“Pages of Persistence: An exhibit of early Anabaptist Bibles”** is an exhibition taking place at Bluffton University from March 9-23 in the Musselman Library Reading Room. Guests are welcome to visit the exhibit during library hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 am – 7 pm; Friday 9 am – 3 pm; closed Sat-Sun, except for March 23, 3:30-5:30 pm.

**Small Group Brunch Sunday:** plan to join in fellowship and informal worship in homes on Sunday, March 30, 10:00 am. This will take the place of our usual gathering at the Bethel building. New groups are being formed for 2025. Stay tuned for details and group assignments.

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship; speaker, Pastor Rebecca

### TUESDAY

**10 a.m. and 6 p.m.** – Women’s Bible Study at South Union

### WEDNESDAY

**10 a.m.** – Bible Reading in Bethel library

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday school

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship; speaker: Pastor Rebecca

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Carl Newcomer – 937-465-3366

## LAST WEEK

Worship: 29

Sunday school: 15

General Fund: \$11,030.13

West Liberty Cares: \$100.00

WSIL, Infant Kits: \$150.00

***Your generosity empowers our collective work for God’s kingdom purposes. Thank you!***

### OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

**This Week – March 16**

**Worship leader:** Kxm Lxhman

**Music leader:** Cxrl Nxwcomer

**Speaker:** Rebxcxa Kxuffman

**Greeters:** Ed Hxlliday & Mxry N.

**Sound:** Kxn Shxnk

**Next Sunday – March 23**

**Worship leader:** Txmi Wxnger

**Music leader:** Janet W. & Anne Y.

**Speaker:** Rxbecca Kaxffman

**Greeter:** Dxck & Nxllie Lxndemer

**Sound:** Lxri Lxhman

**Prelude:** Annx Y. & Nxte Y.