



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 20, 2015 No. 51

Freedom Bound – Advent IV The Maurer’s Final Sunday

Preparing

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

Gathering

Welcome & Call to Worship *(back of bulletin)* Larry Evans

Prelude Bill Barrett

Psalm 80:1-7 & Opening Prayer

Gathering Hymns Byron Kauffman

Proclaiming

Lighting The Advent Candles

Scripture- Luke 1:39-56

Message “The Path of Love” Pastor Dave Maurer

Special Music “Where’s the Line to See Jesus?” Tesa Jordan

Praising

With our offerings & Offertory Pat Yoder

With Choruses Annie Steiner and Team

Sharing

Bible in a Minute Stephen Hostetler

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Dave

Farewells and Blessings

Words of Farewell Pastor Dave

Words of Blessing Elder Leadership Team

Litany of Recognition and Release *(see insert)*

Ritual of Pouring

Prayer of Blessing

Words of Thanks Pigeon River Letter

Sending

Benediction Pastor Dave

Sending hymn

- **Pray for Jeannette Hxstetler’s** recovery at home from successful shoulder surgery this past week.

LAST WEEK

Sunday School 61

Worship Attendance 74

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

OUR THANKS TO

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Chuck Swartz

NURSERY:

Today: Open

Next week: Open

GREETERS:

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

SOUND OPERATOR:

Today: Todd Hostetler

Next week: Larry Evans

MEDIA OPERATOR:

Today: Savannah Hostetler

Next week: Savannah Hostetler

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 1:30-3:30 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	

THIS WEEK

TODAY – 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

WEDNESDAY

4:15 p.m.—Our Daily Bread

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

NEXT SUNDAY – Christmas Sunday

9:00 a.m. — Christmas Breakfast – No Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service – Hymn Sing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

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

Longest Night Service at Green Hills TODAY 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. Please bring a breakfast casserole or breakfast sweet to share. 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!

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 safe travels for Mennonite Mission Network’s Christian Service participants going home for Christmas.** Remember in a special way those who are not able to travel home and who will celebrate far from their families. May they experience the love and support of the communities they serve.
- **Pray for Ronza Abu Sabbah.** A 9 year old who lives in Beit Jala, a town near Bethlehem. Ronza has two brothers and two sisters and goes to the Good Shepherd’s School. Ronza is in the fourth grade. Her mother, Hanan is a science teacher at the school, and father is an architect. We are a Greek Orthodox family and we pray at St. Mary the Virgin Church. Her friends are Hanan, Diana, and Irene, and she also has two good Muslim friends. There is more information about Ronza at Christians for Middle East website (CMEP) cmepe.org

COMING IN 2016

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



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](http://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***

**LITANY OF RECOGNITION AND RELEASE
for Pastor Dave Maurer**

Leader: We have heard reflections of Dave's ministry among us. We are grateful to God for providing the gifts we have needed through his leadership. Let us voice our gratitude in prayer.

People: Thank you, God, for the gift of Dave. We recognize in his ministry many aspects of your love, your truth and your grace. You have become more real to us because of Dave's example and thoughtful reflection. We recognize your presence in Dave's encouraging words, sensitive listening, and caring spirit.

We acknowledge that we may not have always supported or encouraged Dave as fully as we should or could have. If this is the case, we pray for forgiveness.

We also pray that Dave will continue to experience your blessing as he completes his work with us and begins to serve you at Pigeon River Mennonite Church. We pray that we will experience your blessings as we follow you in new directions, led by others whom you and we have called. We seek your Spirit's guidance and power. Amen.

Leader: Because Dave's leadership and ministry have been so significant to all of us, the end of this assignment requires us to make important adjustments in our relationships. Dave will be giving up the privileges and the responsibilities that go with serving as our pastor. This will bring a mix of emotions both for him and for us in this transition. It may take time for Dave and for us to get used to our new relationship with him no longer in the role of Pastor at Bethel. We want to commit ourselves to making this necessary transition comfortable and complete.

People: Dave, we release you from the responsibilities that we asked you to carry when you were called to this ministry. We pledge our continuing support and friendship. We commit ourselves to change our expectations of you and your availability to us. We invite you to help us relate to you in new ways.

Dave: As I accepted the call to serve you 7 and a half years ago, so now I accept your release from that call. {Ritual of Pouring} Though I am no longer your Pastor, I intend to serve the church in other ways as the Pastor of Pigeon River Mennonite Church. And though I will no longer be directly involved in ministry to you at Bethel, I pledge my support to those who continue the work at Bethel.

Leader: May God continue to guide each of us on the journey.