



Bethel Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 57 March 15, 2015 No. 11

Lent IV - Upside Down and Inside Out

Preparing

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

First Look

Welcome & John 3:14-21 Barbra Evans

Candle Lighting
Prelude Bill Barrett

Call to Authenticity& Opening Prayer
Gathering Hymns Carl Newcomer

Upside Down and Inside Out

Children’s Story Jerry Landes

Call to Grace
Message “God Amidst the Shadows” Pastor Dave Maurer

Second Look

Reader’s Theater Youth Group
John 3:14-21
With our offerings & Offertory Pat Yoder
With Choruses Annie Steiner and Team
Call to Commitment

Sharing

Ohio Conference Sharing Delegates
Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses
Pastoral Prayer Pastor Dave Maurer

Sending

Benediction Pastor Dave
Sending hymn

Visual Display for Lent: The two fabrics tied in a knot represent turning the material “upside down and inside out”. God is not content to leave us just as we are, but instead turns our expectations and understandings “upside down and inside out”. The three candles on the table represent each member of the Trinity, God, Savior and Spirit.

LAST WEEK

Sunday School 44
Worship Attendance 76

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

OUR THANKS TO

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Chuck Swartz

NURSERY:

Today: Nellie Lindemer **Next week:** Tara Sanford

GREETERS:

Today: Becky Wilkins & Daniel Lehman **Next week:** Stephen Hostetler & Michael Lehman

SOUND OPERATOR:

Today: Mark Kauffman **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.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)
Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan (secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)
Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9am-5pm
Elders: Carl Newcomer, Dick Lindemer
Pastoral Care Team: Barb Landes, Barb Kauffman, Dick Lindemer
Sharon Showalter, Carl Newcomer, Mark Thomas, Chuck Swartz
Tech Coordinator: Todd Hostetler

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School
10:40 a.m. — Worship Service Lent IV
6:00 p.m. – Youth and Mentors

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m.—Women's Bible Study
Noon – Peace and Justice Lunch
3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m.—Youth Bible Study

THURSDAY

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

FRIDAY

Directory Portraits and Bible Quizzing

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast
Directory Portraits and Bible Quizzing

NEXT SUNDAY – Bible Quizzing

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School
10:40 a.m. — Worship Service— Pastor Dave speaks on Jeremiah 31:31-34
5:30 p.m. – Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendars for Directory Portraits March 20 & 21st. If you haven't signed up yet, see Tesa after the service today.

Youth & Mentors tonight at 6:00 p.m. Sam & Trace will provide snacks.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learn More About APEST: As we continue to work at restructuring, council is learning more about the fivefold ministry in Ephesians 4 (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher). One part of this will be to hear from Blaine Keene, a United Methodist pastor in Plain City, who has been working with his congregation for several years now to incorporate this model of ministry. Blaine will join us on March 26th @ 7:45PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Through the Bible in a Year Reflection Questions: as we journey through the Bible this year, here are a few questions to reflect upon in your reading. More may be found at Pastor Dave's blog (<http://thequest.blogspot.com/>). A complete list of daily readings is available from the office. **Mar 16-22:**

- In Deuteronomy 13, we read that the Israelites were not to listen to a prophet who tried to lead them away from the LORD. In fact, they were instructed that they were to kill a prophet who does this. Yet it also says, "The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul." What does it mean for God to test us? How do you respond to the idea of God testing the Israelites through false prophets who would then be killed for what they had done?
- In Deut. 14:28-29, we read, "At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." The tithe was to God, but it was used not only for the Levites but also the destitute. Amidst the judgment and punishment of the Old Testament, we see this grace to those in need. What significance does this have for us?
- In Deuteronomy 15:7-8 we read, "If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need." How does this challenge or affirm your current approach to poverty today? Does this invite us to do more or differently? If so, how?
- Deuteronomy 15:11 says, "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land." In John 12 after Jesus was anointed at Bethany, Judas rebuked Mary for being wasteful with the money for the nard rather than giving it to the poor. Jesus quoted Deut. 15:11 in response to Judas, saying, "You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." Does reading the verse from Deuteronomy 15 in context adjust your understanding of what Jesus was saying to Judas? If so, how?
- In Deuteronomy 17:14 Moses said, "When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us.'" I Samuel 8 records the people's desire to have a king like the other nations. Moses seemed to know that this day would come. Did the people heed Moses warning? How might things have been different? How well do we heed God's warnings to us today?

Freezing temperatures and snow are adding another layer of deprivation to Syrians and Iraqis who have been forced from their homes to escape violence from the Islamic State group and battling armies in Syria. Mennonite Central Committee is calling for financial donations as it provides heating fuel and blankets this winter and continues to address basic needs of food, shelter and education throughout the year. In addition, MCC welcomes contributions of blankets and comforters to replenish the more than 18,500 that were sent to Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria for the winter months. You can donate to the Syria and Iraq crisis response. Make checks to Bethel Mennonite Church & write "MCC Syria/Iraq" on the memo line.

MCC Peace Gathering in Chicago: You are invited to join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes for an informative day of workshops, worship and dialogue on Sat., March 28. In the morning, pastors are invited to a conversation with MCC staff and board. Beginning at 1:00 p.m., MCC U.S. staff will lead public workshops on immigration, military enlistment, gun violence and anti-oppression. Following the seminars, there will be a short worship service before the opportunity to engage in additional conversation over a light supper. The Peace Gathering will take place at Living Water Community Church (6808 N. Ashland Blvd.) in Chicago. More details, including a full schedule and workshop descriptions, can be found at mcc.org/gl-peace. Please RSVP to Jorge Vielman, Peace & Justice Coordinator, at JorgeVielman@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

Contributions to Ohio Conference: As Ohio Conference wraps up their fiscal year, they are in need of additional funds. Ohio Conference supports us in a number of ways including resources, grants, and counsel from our regional pastor, Wanda Stopher. If you would like to make a contribution to Ohio Conference, please do so by March 15th. Checks may be made out to Bethel Mennonite with "Ohio Conference" on the memo line and placed in the offering.

Don't miss this once-in-a-generation event! Make plans now to attend PA 2015, the Global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference. Prepare to be transformed as you worship and fellowship with Anabaptist brothers and sisters from around the world. Experience the global Church through five days of great music, inspirational speakers from different countries, small sharing groups, tours, workshops, and much more. PA 2015 will be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, PA. Register online now at <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015>

Bellefontaine High School's Les Fons to perform at Jubilee Mennonite Church. Les Fons presents *It's Just Natural* at Jubilee Mennonite Church on TODAY at 3:00 p.m.

Elevator Attendants Sought: Our elevator is an important resource for many to get in and out of our building; but can be a bit persnickety at times. We would like to have 2-3 people who would be willing to serve on a rotation as an elevator attendant Sunday mornings before Sunday school and church and following the worship service. This person could operate the elevator and trouble shoot problems. If you have questions or would be interested in assisting with this, please contact Pastor Dave or Tesa.

WLC Food Pantry will be closed the 4th Wed. of each month starting Mar. 25 because of a partnership with Second Harvest Mobile Pantry truck. The truck will disperse fresh and frozen food at West Liberty Methodist Church, 202 W. Newell, on the 4th Wed. of each month at noon to Logan County residents. WLC volunteers can help the Mobile Pantry during months when their church serves. If someone needs food but cannot meet the truck, a relative or friend can pick up food and deliver it. Only a name from Logan County is needed for registering. No calling in advance. Bring your own bags and boxes.

Newsletter Deadline for the April edition is Friday, March 20th. If you have items to be included, please submit them to Tesa by then.

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- **Pray for Nancy Lxffer**, neighbor of Carl & Elaine, who is battling reoccurring cancer and pneumonia.
- **Pray for Sherry Mxxdows**, former Superintendent of WLS. She has been diagnosed with liver cancer, and lives in AZ. She is hoping to return to OSU for treatment.
- **Pray for Tom Kxng's** recovery. He continues to recover well at Heartland but is in need of an operation on his leg.
- **Pray for Bob McPhxrson.** He had surgery on Monday following an accident with taking down a tree. He has multiple broken bones.
- **Pray for Adriel** for their ministry, staff and the children they serve.
- **Praise God for the language-learning** progress that Mennonite Mission Network's Radical Journey team in Southeast Asia has made. Pray that they will use their increased fluency to share God's love in words as well as deeds.
- **Please pray with us.** In the next two months, hundreds of people in Zimbabwe, India, Colombia, Indonesia and many other countries will apply and interview for their US visas so they can participate in PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference, Pray that the visa process will go smoothly for them, so that PA 2015 can be a truly global Anabaptist gathering!