



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 8, 2015 No. 10

Lent III - Upside Down and Inside Out

Preparing

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

First Look

Welcome & I Corinthians 1:18-25 Bill Barrett
Candle Lighting
Prelude Pat Yoder
Call to Authenticity & Opening Prayer
Gathering Choruses Janet Wilkins and Team

Upside Down and Inside Out

Children’s Story Dena Hostetler
Call to Grace
Message “God’s Foolishness” **Pastor Dave Maurer**
Special Music “Inside Out” James Lochridge

Second Look

Reader’s Theater The Hostetlers
I Corinthians 1:18-25
With our offerings & Offertory Kathy Graber
With Hymns Byron Kauffman
Call to Commitment

Sharing

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

Sending

Benediction Pastor Dave
Sending hymn

2-22-2015 (No Church March 1)

Sunday School 55 General Fund
Worship Attendance 79

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

OUR THANKS TO

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Barb Kauffman

NURSERY:

Today: Barb Landes **Next week:** Nellie Lindemer

GREETERS:

Today: Savannah Hostetler & Alex Steiner **Next week:** Becky Wilkins & Daniel Lehman

SOUND OPERATOR:

Today: Brody Robinaugh **Next week:** Mark Kauffman

MEDIA OPERATOR:

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

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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

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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service Lent III

Noon – Bethel Brunch Battle Youth Fundraiser

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m.—Mennonite Women

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

7:00 p.m. – Ohio Conference Delegate Listening Session

THURSDAY

3:00 p.m.—Bethel Homework Help

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m.—King’s Daughters

NEXT SUNDAY –

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service— Pastor Dave speaks on John 3:14-21

6:00 p.m. – Youth and Mentors

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Bethel Brunch Battle Fundraiser- The youth will be holding a fundraiser for our trip to youth convention today after the service. Each youth will make a brunch dish and decorate a booth. Everyone will sample the dishes before voting for the best one! There will be additional food plus the opportunity to vote for most creative booth! So please plan on coming to this fun and creative event! There is also a silent auction with several items up for bid. The auction will remain open until Sunday, March 15th.

Mennonite Women will meet Tuesday, March 10th. Hostesses are Elaine, Doris & Pat. The meal is sack lunches with a green dessert. Christy will have devotions on Practicing Presence in the Wilderness. The project is Newborn Kits.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 9-15:**

- In Numbers 30, we read of the rules surrounding vows and encounter a very clear double standard. Men must adhere to their vows regardless. Women on the other hand must only adhere to their vows if their father or husband approved of the vows. What are we to do with this understanding in our modern setting with our current understandings of male and female equality/rights?
- In Numbers 22, we read of Balaam and his faithfulness to blessing rather than cursing the people of Israel. Yet in Numbers 31:8, we learn that the people of Israel killed Balaam. In Numbers 31:16, Moses blamed Balaam for advice that led to Israel’s unfaithfulness in the Peor incident (Num 25:1-18). What else do we learn of Balaam throughout scripture and what are we to make of him?
- In Numbers 32:5, we read of the request made by the Gadites and Reubenites to remain on the other side of the Jordan rather than cross over. Moses reminded them of what took place 40 years ago that led to their wandering in the wilderness. But the Gadites and Reubenites pledged to fight with their brothers until each tribe had its inheritance. Moses affirmed this. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed this type of commitment to one another?
- In Numbers 35, we read of the cities of refuge. These were places that were set aside for people who had accidentally killed someone to flee to for safety from an avenger. The person had to remain in the city of refuge until the high priest died. In the midst of all the judgment in the Old Testament, we have this example of mercy/grace. Do we have modern parallels to this dynamic?
- We learn that women who inherited property were allowed to marry anyone as long as the man was from the same tribe so that the property remained in their tribe’s inheritance. In this we see the working out of the rules that had been given. The daughters of Zelophehad had expressed concern about how strict adherence to the law would have left their father’s name without an inheritance (Num. 27:1-11). And the leaders of their clan expressed concern about how that property might then be lost to another tribe by strict adherence to the law (Num 36:1-13). How do we navigate current interpretations of scripture as we encounter the realities of life together? Is there still space for us to go to the LORD to seek clarity? How do we determine how best to work through these circumstances when there may be disagreements about what to do?

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 Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 p.m.

Call for Worship and Contemporary Art. Art of many kinds will be on display at PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference that will be held July 21-26 in Harrisburg, PA. Artists are invited to submit contemporary art for a juried exhibit. Churches are invited to display worship art (banners, tapestries, or other visual pieces) that represent their congregation. There will also be displays of children's art and historical art. For further information visit: https://www.mwc-cmm.org/sites/default/files/website_files/art_call_en.pdf
https://www.mwc-cmm.org/sites/default/files/website_files/banners_call_en1.pdf

Delegate Listening Session: Ohio Conference Delegates met for a cluster meeting on Feb. 26th in preparation for Annual Conference Assembly March 13-14. Information from the cluster meeting has been e-mailed and placed in boxes of those without e-mail. The delegates (Dennis Showalter, Carl Newcomer, Ed Lehman, and Pastor Dave) invite you to come to the fellowship room on Tuesday, March 10th at 7PM, to hear more about this information, ask questions, and share your thoughts as they prepare for the conference meeting. If you are unable to attend, feel free to talk personally with one of the delegates.

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- **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.
- **Pray for Adriel** for their ministry, staff and the children they serve.
- **Pray for the Ohio Conferences Annual Conference Assembly** March 13-14 as delegates meet together and discern.
- **Pray for Freddy and Margrit Kipfer Bxrrón of Mennonite Mission Network** who are using Alpha courses in Bolivia to strengthen existing Mennonite congregations and laying the groundwork for new ones. Pray that God will water the seeds they are planting and that people will receive Jesus' healing and hope in their lives.
- **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!