

The Ladder

A Publication of
New Bethel UMC



December 2016

Glen Carbon's United Methodist Congregation

THIS WEEKEND AT NEW BETHEL UMC:

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: FOLLOW THE STAR
continues with the Week 2 Message:

The Magi

For background, read Matthew, Chapter 2



HANDEL'S MESSIAH—WITH GUEST SOLOISTS AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Come see our very own David Bryant perform with the Great Rivers Choral Society on three different occasions.

Friday, December 2nd @ 7:30 pm at the First UMC in Jerseyville, 1200 S Liberty St

Or Saturday, December 10th @ 7:30 pm and Sunday December 11th @ 3 pm at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Godfrey, 1212 W Homer Adams Parkway

This concert is free to the public—A free will offering will be taken during the concert.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP. On Saturday, December 10, from 11am-2pm, New Bethel is hosting a Santa's Workshop. Parents are encouraged to bring their children ages 4-11 and let them shop with Santa's elves and buy reasonably-priced gifts for friends and family. Wish list items range from \$.50-\$5.00 and were prepared by special elves. Kids can wander through the workshop to find hundreds of treasures to purchase. They can visit various stations: gift creation station; personalized photo booth; Santa's story session – or they can sit and enjoy cookies and punch while they watch a video. Parents can enjoy coffee, tea and cookies while waiting for their children to get free gift wrapping.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP
DEC. 10TH
11:00-2:00

ELVES WILL HELP YOUR KIDS SHOP

NEW BETHEL UMC
131 N. MAIN ST.
GLEN CARBON

Funds raised will be donated to charity

COOKIES, PUNCH, STORIES & VIDEO WHILE WAITING FOR FREE GIFT WRAP

Kids buy presents for friends & family \$.50-\$5.00

Secret Santa Giveaways

SPONSOR A CHILD. Santa's Workshop will provide the opportunity for kids from Mary Brown/Lessie Bates to shop for their family. We are asking if you would consider providing a \$10.00 donation so one of the kids from our neighboring community of less fortunate would have the opportunity to shop and learn the value of spending on a budget. Mark your giving envelope "sponsor a child" before putting it in the plate.

From the Pastor's Pen:

How are you preparing for Christmas this year? It seems our Thanksgiving holiday (a time for thanking God for all of our blessings) is barely over before we rush right out to buy more stuff. And sometimes we quickly discard our attitude of gratitude and shove others aside in a frantic effort to acquire that new toy, game or gadget. Dear Lord, have mercy on us!

I'm reading a very good book right now by Pamela C. Hawkins called *Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent*. Since I'm not usually still unless I'm sleeping, this book is offering me a good challenge! Instead of rushing through December at a frenzied pace, Hawkins invites us to cultivate a little stillness, to craft moments where we pause and reflect and listen to the Lord and think about the true meaning of the Christmas event.

Hawkins writes:

As we entered the sanctuary, it was almost time for the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols to begin. After friends made room for us on their crowded pew, we sat down just as the choir moved into place for the processional hymn. When I looked up, I noticed a man sitting alone in the choir loft. He was middle-aged, dressed in a choir robe, and was leaning forward in an odd posture. At first, I thought he had arrived too late to join the rest of the choir at the back of the church. He must have decided just to hurry to his seat.

Yet as I watched him more closely, there was nothing rushed about him, but rather the contrary – he seemed calm and unhurried. This man sat very still, almost strangely so – eyes straight ahead, jaw thrust up, neck taut – holding still as though he anticipated something was about to happen.

Then suddenly he stood up, as if he had heard some cue inaudible to the rest of us. And he broke into a smile that lit up his whole person...yet he stood there alone, no one near him, leaning over the choir screen and into the open space beyond him.

That was when I realized the man was blind. He had not arrived late but had been waiting right where he needed to be... listening for the sound of readiness...He was anticipating with his whole being that first sound of movement and music from a distance. He was leaning into the Advent space of God's gathered people, poised and ready, and when he heard what he had been waiting for, he was moved to joy.

May we all be so poised, this Advent season! May we learn to wait well. May we look around with great anticipation for signs of God with us, and may we listen attentively for the sounds of readiness and the holy invitations to worship and action. The season of Advent, Christmas, and the Christ child are all gifts from a loving God who seeks to bless and save. As we follow the star, the light of Christ, may we seek and find our place in the unfolding story of Christ.

I do hope you will come and cultivate a little stillness with us in worship, this Sunday. We won't make it so boring you fall asleep, but there may be a few moments of calm and stillness where you hear God speak...

Following the Star,

Pastor Penny

217-932-3115 (cell) Call or text me anytime!

MIDWEEK AT NEW BETHEL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MidWeek						
@NewBethel						
With a meal and opportunities for all ages.						
Meal served from 5:30-6:30						
Children, Youth & Adult groups 6:30-7:30						
Won't you join us?						

This is an all-church night of food, fellowship, and learning with electives for all ages. Dinner is from 5:30-6:30 with the Disciple Bible Study starting at 6 pm and the remaining small groups starting at 6:30 PM. Kids Connection and the Youth will start at 6 pm this fall/winter in order to get the children and youth home a little earlier. As usual, dinner is provided for a nominal cost. **We will meet for dinner and classes on December 7th and then break for Christmas and New Years. We will return to our regular schedule on January 11th.**

UNITED METHODIST MEN Join the men of New Bethel on **December 10th at 8 AM** for their monthly meeting and breakfast at the home of Rex Humerickhouse at 21 Covered Bridge Lane in Glen Carbon. Please RSVP to Rex @ rexh@charter.net or 288-1917 if you will be joining them this month.

SPRC NEWS The SPRC would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of all of our New Bethel paid staff. The SPRC would like to give an end-of-year bonus to all of our paid staff in appreciation of their hard work. This holiday season, please consider giving a cash donation to our dedicated church staff. **A clip-board will be passed during both worship services on December 11th and 18th to accept your gift.** If you are unable to give this year, please try to say thank you to these individuals who do such a fine job for us. Blessings to you and your family, Brian Hohlt, SPRC Chair.



New Bethel UMC will be *Marching to the Manger* this year on **Sunday, December 18**, at our 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. This is a wonderful opportunity to support additional missions as we express our thankfulness to God and share our resources with those in need. This year, our March to the Manger offerings will support 5 missions: A **United Methodist missionary named Priscilla Jaiah** who works in Liberia; the local **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House**; and three special offerings: **United Methodist Students, Peace with Justice**, and **One Great Hour of Sharing**. If you are not able to be with New Bethel on that Sunday you may give your *March to the Manger* offering at any time through December or the New Year. Simply designate your offering as "March to the Manger."

ADULT CHOIR.

Our music is under the direction of **Mike Rogier**. Join us on **December 18th** for a Sunday morning of music and scripture as we anticipate the coming of Christmas. The New Bethel Choir will sing anthems and lead us in the singing of carols and hymns. Scripture reading will be surrounded by music from soloists, the choir, and the congregation as we worship together and celebrate the coming of the King. Help us join the angels to proclaim the birth of our Savior. Merry Christmas!

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The New Bethel UMC Children's Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 18th at 6:30 P.M. Get in the Christmas spirit as we tell the Christmas story in a "super" way with our production of "A Super Christmas!" The play will be followed by a visit from special visitors from the North Pole! Bring cookies to share and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

This event doubles as our New Bethel Family Christmas Party. Everyone is invited for an evening of fun, fellowship, music and more! If you would like to participate in the entertainment, please contact Jenny Mulvihill at 420-2119. Singers, readers, dancers, musicians, comedians - all are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Those interested in spreading some cheer to some of our members should meet at New Bethel on December 22nd at 6:30 pm and we will head out to a few houses to sing carols. The group will then warm up back at church with some hot cocoa and goodies.



*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2.14*

*Don't forget to join us for one or more of our Christmas Eve
Services*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion services

Saturday, December 24, 2016

4:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

11 p.m.

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had
heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2.20*

BELL CHOIR Bells will practice Thursday, December 8th at 6 p.m. for 30 minutes. All are welcome.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2017 offering envelopes can be picked up on a table in the Narthex this Sunday, December 4th. If you would like a box of envelopes and you have not had one in the past please sign the clipboard and take the corresponding numbered box.

Welcome New Members:

We welcome **Jim and Kathy Jeffries**, who transferred their membership from the Union United Methodist Church in South Carolina, to our congregation on Sunday, November 20th! Jim is a retired high school educator and principal and Kathy is a retired social worker from the Salvation Army and she also worked in the Roxana School District. We are so blessed to have them join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry!

Congratulations to Jade Rongey and Andrew Armstrong on the recent baptism of their infant daughter, **Emersyn**, who was baptized at New Bethel UMC on Sunday, November 13, 2016!

THANK YOU'S

- To **Jim and Kathy Jeffries** for helping to pass out our Thanksgiving baskets on Monday, November 21, to grateful families in our community

- A huge thank you to the congregation for all the prayers and wonderful donations to help with the scholarship fund for the trip to Juarez. The building team is grateful and with your help, we will be able to build a small block house and bring some hope and joy into a family's life; and to spread hope to all the other kids and families we meet while there. Our Juarez team this year will be **Pastor Penny Barber, Mike, Pam and Briana Chamberlain, Jordan Freese, Christina Keller, Jon Sanfilippo, Breann Towner and Jim & Margorie Wheeler from Godfrey UMC.**

- **Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,** I would like to personally thank you for the prayer shawls you recently sent to our department. I have offered them to every member of our staff. It means a great deal to me when members of our community reach out in fellowship, as you have. Your kindness exemplifies what I enjoy the most about Glen Carbon and makes me and my officers proud to serve the community.

Sincerely, Chief Todd A. Link, Village of Glen Carbon Police Department

- We would like to thank everyone for all your donations for Operation Christmas Child! With all your donations New Bethel was able to pack 102 boxes and we were able to donate \$769.00 to Samaritan's Purse to help with the shipping cost of the boxes. It is exciting that 102 more children around the world will receive the special gifts and learn about Jesus this Christmas. The boxes are at the distribution center and getting ready to make their journey to the children; so please, during these weeks keep these boxes and the children they will reach in your prayers. Again, New Bethel thank you so much for all your generous gifts!

Joanna Nuoffer and the Operation Christmas Child Team

SANCTUARY UPGRADE IN 2017

The New Bethel UMC trustees are working on plans for a few upgrades to our church sanctuary. Among the proposed changes are new screens on either side of the cross (so our beautiful cross will be a fully visible focal point during every service), the addition of rock accents to the front wall, new carpeting, and possibly extending the pulpit/altar/band area out a few feet. If you would like to make an extra donation to this project, just mark your check or offering envelope "sanctuary upgrade" and drop it in the offering plate or the church office anytime. We will be doing the work in stages, as we raise the capital.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

Have you ever been to the Holy Land and travelled to the town where Jesus was born? When modern day visitors descend upon the little town of Bethlehem, one of the popular sites to visit is the *Church of the Nativity*, first build in 327 A.D. by Saint Helena (the mother of Emperor Constantine I). The church was built over the cave where the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus. What visitors mostly see today is the basilica church built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, who ruled from 527 – 565 A.D. Ownership of the church is shared by three Christian denominations: The Roman Catholic Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, and the Greek Orthodox Church.

December 2016 Children's Ministry

Sunday School--We're learning about the parts of the Christmas tree and adding to the Christmas trees in our classrooms! We learned that like the lights, we can shine and show Jesus' love to others! Come join us the rest of the month as we add the ornaments, tinsel, and topper! 9:40-10:00 lesson, 10:00-10:20 Christmas program practice. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day.



Wednesday nights--Jesus is the best gift of all (even better than all of those things in the Toys R Us ad!)! This month we're meeting Jesus through the eyes of Simeon. 6:00-6:30 gathering time with indoor and/or outdoor games, 6:30-7:00 lesson, 7:00-7:30 practicing for Christmas program

2017 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE!

Along with a new Children's Ministry Coordinator - Brittaney LaBarge - the New Bethel UMC Children's ministry will be getting a new makeover!



Beginning in January 2017:

Sunday School Our children's Sunday School, Pre-K through 5th grade will be using a new resource called, *Dig In: To the Life of Jesus!* We will be learning all kinds of new things about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his teachings and his life.



Super Church — This Sunday morning experience, offered during the 10:30 a.m. worship time, will continue to dive deeper into God's Word with the "Deep Blue" curriculum. Super Church is available for kids up through 3rd grade. Of course, children of any age are always welcome to stay in worship!

Wednesday Nights — Our new Wednesday night program is called "Kids WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) and the children will be engaged in hands on worship including music, Bible study, and lots of activities!

2017 will be an exciting new year for the NBUMC Children's ministries! It will take a lot of volunteers to help grow our children in their faith and love for Jesus, and we would love for you to be a part of it! So please contact our coordinator, Brittaney LaBarge to see how you can help! Bnw1015@gmail.com or 815-944-2123

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Our Middle School and Senior High Youth Group is under the direction of Judy Lee. The youth have the following dates scheduled for December:

Sunday, Dec. 4 Christmas Shopping for our "adopted" family. We will have pizza at church at noonish.

Wednesday, Dec. 7 EHS Holiday Concert 7:00 pm Dinner will be served at church at 5:30. We will meet at 6:00. \$5 donation for admission.

Saturday, Dec. 10 10:00 am - 2 and 2-4 pm Santa's Workshop

Sunday, Dec. 11 No events today, but make sure you get your Finals Survival Kit from me!

Wednesday, Dec. 14 No meal will be served, but we will still meet at 6:00. I can have some snacks out for you!

Sunday, Dec. 18 Christmas Program 6:30 pm

Wed., Dec. 21 Youth Christmas Party. Details to come, but I'm sure it will include food and games and silly gifts!

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services - 4:30, 7 and 11 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25 One service at 9:30 am. No Sunday School.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS ...

3 Mike Chamberlain Sr.
6 Vickie Harris
10 Karl Larson
15 Pat Voigt
17 Larry Evans
21 Al Voigt
23 Kim Hellenga & Dolores Baird
26 Michael Beyer
27 Wayne Horton
28 Bill Wann, Tucker Hayden & Phillip Griffin
29 Jamie Foster & Lainey Gatton
31 Scott Gilliland

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES ...

12 Tim & Donna Schroeder
27 Rich & Dorothy Norfleet

RECURRING EVENTS AT NEW BETHEL...

SUNDAYS:

Worship. 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Nursery. 8:15-12 PM

Super Church. 10:30 AM

Sunday School. 9:30 AM

WEEKLY:

Quilters. Tuesdays 9:15 AM. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Mid-Week @ New Bethel. (No meals December 14th-January 4th)

Meals. Have a great meal and fellowship with your friends on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 PM.

Kids Connection. An evening of stories, games, and crafts. 6-7 PM, Room 102

Middle & Senior High School. Lively learning and fun with Ms. Judy Lee. 6-7:30 PM, Room 103/104.

Prayer Shawls. Creating prayer shawls, praying over them, and giving them to those with needs. Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Room 101

Disciple Bible Study. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in room 203

Men's Bible Study. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Women's bible Study. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in room 202

Thursdays - Choir. Practice is held every Thursday at 6:45 PM all are welcome to join New Bethel Choir

Bell Choir. Bell Choir Practice will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6 PM. Newcomers are always welcome.

Praise Team Rehearsal. Practice is held every Thursday at 7:45 PM. All are welcome to join.

Sunday evening—Disciple Bible Study. 4-6 pm

MONTHLY:

United Methodist Men. 2nd Saturdays, 8 AM breakfast and meeting

United Methodist Women. 2nd Saturdays, 9:30 AM

December 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Choir Practice 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	2	3 Women's Christmas Party 11:30 am Pastor Penny's home
4 Choir Practice 9:30 am Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	5	6 Quilters 9:15 am	7 Midweek Meal and Bible Studies 5:30-8 pm Disciple Bible Study 6-8 pm	8 Bell Choir 6 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	9	10 Santa's Work- shop 11-2 pm
11 Choir Practice 9:30 am Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	12	13 Quilters 9:15 am	14 Disciple Bible Study 6-8 pm	15 Choir Practice 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	16	17
18 Disciple Bible Study 4 pm Children's Christmas Program 6:30 pm	19	20 Quilters 9:15 am	21 Disciple Bible Study 6-8 pm	22 Christmas Caroling 6:30 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30 pm 7 pm 11 pm
25 One service 9:30 am	26	27 Quilters 9:15 am	28	29	30	31
The office will be closed through January 2nd Merry Christmas!!						