

The Ladder



A Publication of

New Bethel UMC

November 2018

Glen Carbon's United Methodist Congregation

Thanksgiving Baskets

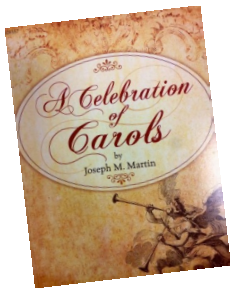
Do you know a family that could use a boost this Thanksgiving? Let us know in the office so we can get a meal box ready for them.

Nov. 11- Take a feather and purchase the items listed.

Nov. 18- Bring items to church with you.

Join in the preparation of boxes after the second service.

Nov. 19- Boxes will be handed out from 1pm to 3pm.



"A Celebration of Carols"

Christmas Cantata

Presented by the Chancel Choir on
Sunday, December 16, at the 8:15am service

You can sing too!

Join us for practices on Wednesdays at
7:30 pm. Or contact David Bryant at
davidbryant30@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE



CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICES
Monday, December 24
4:30 and 11 pm



Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

*These are the words we associate with the lighting of the candles
of the Advent wreath.*

Would you like to participate in this beautiful tradition of lighting the Advent candles at New Bethel UMC? Pastor Penny is looking for families, couples, or individuals to help read Scripture and light the candles as we prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Helpers are needed at both services, each Sunday during the month of December. Sign up today in the Church Office!

New Bethel United Methodist Church, 131 N. Main ST, Glen Carbon IL 62034

www.newbethelumc.org 618-288-5700

Sunday Services at 8:15am (Traditional) and 10:45am (Contemporary)

Office Hours: Monday 9am-4pm, Tuesday 1pm-4pm, Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9am-4pm

PASTOR'S PEN

I voted this morning. As I did so, I wondered how Jesus would relate to our modern day political debates and party affiliations? I imagine the Lord would have things to affirm and things to critique on both the political left and the political right. And that helps me keep things in perspective. I hope it will help all of us, especially those who are tired of the rancor and negative caricatures that so often accompany political discussions in our day. Whichever candidates win, God is still in control of our world...and I trust God.

I read a neat article by Scott Sauls on *Behaving Christianly in Our Politics*, and he noted that one thing we can say for sure about government is that God is in favor of it. And that's true! Throughout the Bible we see that God is concerned with order. So Presidents, members of congresses, kings and queens and parliaments, governors, mayors, and council members, even police officers, military personnel, park and school district employees and other public servants, are all a part of God's plan to bless human communities and keep things running in an orderly, safe, and respectful fashion. And when our human communities are healthy and run well, God is glorified!

As we note in the Bible, even Jesus paid taxes and encouraged his disciples to do the same. And to those living in Rome, whose government was not always friendly to Christians, the Apostle Paul wrote to submit to those in authority and be respectful, conducting yourself with honor (see Romans 13.1-7). The Bible highlights numerous God-fearing men and women who held office. Deborah served as a judge over Israel; Joseph served as prime minister under the Egyptian Pharaoh; Daniel served in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon; and Nehemiah served as a trusted official and cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes. Government has always been a part of God's plan...

But when it comes to politics, the Bible gives no indication that Jesus would side completely with one side or the other. Still, we wonder: is Jesus for us, or for our opponents? Consider the following encounter between Joshua and a servant of God (Joshua 5.13-15 [CEB]):

When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up. He caught sight of a man standing in front of him with his sword drawn. Joshua went up and said to him, "Are you on our side or that of our enemies?" He said, "Neither! I'm the commander of the LORD's heavenly force. Now I have arrived!" Then Joshua fell flat on his face and worshipped. Joshua said to him, "What is my master saying to his servant?" The commander of the LORD's heavenly force said to Joshua, "Take your sandals off your feet because the place where you are standing is holy." So Joshua did this.

So we wonder, "Lord, are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

And the Lord answers, "Neither."

When it comes to godly leadership, Jesus sides with himself! Perhaps the question we should be asking is not "is Jesus on our side?," but "are we on Jesus' side?" In politics and all other human agendas, our first loyalty should be to Christ. Maybe our key to experiencing unity and peace - regardless of our politics - is to share this highest allegiance to Christ? Just a thought...

See you in worship on Sunday!

In Grace,

Pastor Penny Barber



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, November 13, at 6:30 pm.

Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 pm.

UMM AND UMW MEETINGS

The **United Methodist Women** will meet Saturday, November 10, at 9:30 am.

The **United Methodist Men** will not meet this month.

WHAT IS THE FIVE DOLLAR CLUB?

The *Five Dollar Club* is New Bethel UMC's basic benevolent fund, used to help those who come by the church seeking some kind of assistance. In fact, we used it this past Sunday (11/4), as a man came to church as the second service was ending and was wondering if we could help him with gas and food. He is a new resident of Glen Carbon and is very low on funds since he had to pay rent. Pastor Penny welcomed him to our town, visited with him a few minutes, and had him fill out one of our assistance forms, as she explained our "Pay it Forward" program to him.

\$5 Club

We are happy to help people in the name of Jesus Christ. If this is the only time they will need assistance from us, we just bless them in Jesus' name and tell them not to worry about paying us back. But if a person might need more assistance in the future, we ask that they pay forward an hour of time, for every \$25 used to help them. They can "pay it forward" by helping with one of our community projects (i.e. Trunk or Treat, Soup and Bread, or Habitat for Humanity) or they can pay it forward by worshipping with us at any service. For example, if we help someone with \$50 towards rent, then they have to pay forward two hours, before they are eligible for any more assistance from us. This method seems to work well in holding people gently accountable, while guarding their dignity.

As for our guest on Sunday, we gave him some bread and a few canned goods, told him about the Glen Ed Food Pantry, and then Linda and Larry Lawhead drove to the local gas station, while the man followed in his car, and Linda filled up his tank with \$47 in gas. Hopefully, he will return to worship with us at New Bethel UMC, sometime in the future.

Other ways we use the Five Dollar Club funds include utility assistance, care bags (with food and personal hygiene items), medicines, bus passes, emergency lodging, and other miscellaneous ways, as the needs arise.

If you know of someone in need, please speak with Pastor Penny or another staff member, anytime. This fund is here to help people - inside and outside the church family. As Paul wrote the Galatians 6.10, *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (NIV).*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

In the elementary class, we are finishing up our lessons on David this month. We will begin learning about the Advent season on November 25th. Mrs. Jenny will be reaching out to you with opportunities to get involved in worship and fellowship this Advent season!

--Mrs. Jenny, Mrs. Nancy, and Mr. Andrew

THANK YOU NOTES

From the Great Rivers Choral Society - Dear Friends at New Bethel UMC, Thank you for the opportunity to hold our October 14th concert at your beautiful church. We hope all that attended enjoyed the "America Sings" concert as much as we had performing it.

To the New Bethel Quilters - for their generous donation toward our outstanding mortgage balance.

From the Mountain Mission School - for the donation made to them.

From Pastor Penny - Thank you for the kind cards, gifts, and meals shared with me during October! You are a warm and wonderful congregation and I appreciate you, too!

OUR ANNUAL IN HIS STEPS COMMITMENT SUNDAY

was Sunday, November 4th and we had a very good return on the commitment forms. With 90 in worship, we received back 75 forms. Thank you so much for your tremendous generosity and your wonderful commitments to serving God through the ministries of New Bethel UMC. The results are still being tabulated but we will share with you more information as it becomes available. In the meantime, we keep moving ahead with our November and December ministries....

*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow **in his steps**.* 1 Peter 2.21 (NRSV)

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW BETHEL!

At our annual Charge Conference on October 8th, **New Bethel UMC** was recognized by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference:



- for faithfully supporting Connection Giving through the payment of **100%** of our apportionments for the Year 2017.
- as a 2017 Five Star Mission Church. This means we met or exceeded the conference's expectations in these areas:
 - ☆ Paid 100% of Apportionments
 - ☆ Supported one or more General Advance or UMCOR Projects
 - ☆ Supported one or more Conference Advance Special Projects
 - ☆ Supported a GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries) Missionary
 - ☆ Three or more UMC Special Sundays

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We gotten this new class off to a great start! This month Larry and Pam Evans will be leading the group. Be sure to invite a friend to join you on Sunday mornings!

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Youth will meet on Wednesdays from 5pm til 6:30pm for dinner, fellowship and Bible study. No meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 21.

All are invited to help put together Thanksgiving meal boxes on Sunday, Nov. 18, after the second service.

We have "adopted" a family for Christmas; we will shop for them in December.

Planning has begun for Mission Trip 2019! Let Judy know if you are interested.

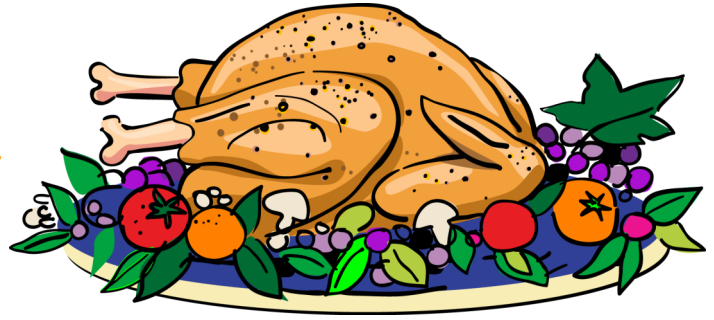
Judy is headed to a Youth Leadership conference this month, and is looking forward to sharing ideas with other leaders.

NEW BETHEL IN MISSION

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING BOXES

This Sunday, November 11th, we invite you to take a turkey feather off the Thanksgiving Basket display board in the church lobby, shop for the item on the turkey feather, and **bring it back to church by the following Sunday, November 18th**. This gives us just a week to collect all the food that will go in our Thanksgiving Baskets, but with everyone's help, we can do it!

Then on November 18th, after the second worship service ends, we invite you to meet us downstairs in the fellowship hall to pack the 10 boxes. Then on Monday, November 19th, we will distribute the boxes. Most people come to the church and pick up their Thanksgiving Dinner box, and if needed, some of them can be delivered. Speak with the Pastor if you'd like to help on Monday, Nov. 19th.



These boxes are a true blessing to the families who receive them. Each box has the food, including a ham or turkey, a pumpkin or apple pie, and a note that tells them about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation, and invites them to join us at worship anytime. If you know of a family that might appreciate such a box, please contact the church office (618-288-5700) or Pastor Penny (217-932-3115). If this ministry interests you, be sure to help us collect food, donate a turkey or a ham, or volunteer to help with the packing or distribution of the boxes. This is yet another excellent way that New Bethel UMC-ers strive to bless others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



"Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child." -Franklin Graham

We look forward to dedicating our gift boxes **this Sunday, November 11th, at both services**. If you took a box to fill, please be sure to bring it with you on Sunday. For many children, this may be the first gift they have ever received, so please make it special for them, just as you would for a child in your own family. Most importantly, pray for these children.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY: GLEN ED PANTRY

Current needs include:

Cereal	Chili beans
Flour	Canned potatoes
Paper towels	Spinach
Oatmeal	Laundry soap
Coffee	Dish soap
Tissues	Body wash
Jelly	Hand soap
Beef stew	Razors/shave cream
Tea	Hair conditioner





MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
midwestmission.org

The mission of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center is to compassionately help God's people in need locally, nationally and around the world and to offer a center to fulfill the call for service to our neighbors in Christ's name.

MMDC is asking for donations of [new or laundered blankets](#) of all sizes. These will go to Feed the Poor, for distribution in Trinidad where there has been massive flooding. All blankets must be in their own bag, washed and ready to go.

MMDC is also collecting [adult-sized winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks](#). These will be loaned to attendees of the upcoming Special Session of the UMC General Conference in February in St. Louis. Afterwards, these items will be given to St. Louis area charities for redistribution. These items may be new, handmade, or gently used. Help show hospitality to the delegates.

St. John's UMC (Edwardsville) is taking a week-long trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham in January, and we have space for 32 people! They invite anyone age 11 and up who is interested in learning about, and participating in, the great disaster-preparedness work that goes on at MMDC. More information is available in the office.



Edwardsville/Glen Carbon

Habitat
for Humanity®

Saturdays, 8am - 12noon
920 Klein Ave in Edwardsville

*No special skills required -
just a desire to help!*

Not into hammers and saws, but still want to help? Meals are also needed each week for 12-15 hungry workers.

<http://www.edglenhabitat.org/>

RESTORE DÉCOR

Restore Décor is a resale shop for gently used furniture and home accessories. 100% of their net proceeds support the ministries of the parent organization, Faith Coalition Edwardsville. Their concept is simple: they accept donated furniture items, restore and paint the items with an all-volunteer staff, and sell them to raise money for families and other non-profit groups in our community.

How can you help?

- **Donate** your gently used furniture items. Volunteers can help with pick up.
- **Paint and restore** the donated furniture items. New volunteers are encouraged to join in - no sign up or experience is required. 223 N. Main ST, EDW.
Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm; Tuesdays, 10am-Noon and 6:30-8:30pm;
Thursdays, Noon-2pm and 6:30-8:30pm
- **Move** furniture. Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
- **Help** with sales on Saturdays.
- **Provide** cookies for customers on Saturdays.
- **Spread the word** through Facebook, and to your friends.
- **Pray** for our community and a spirit of unity among area churches and civic groups.



Pick up a flyer with more information in the Office. Find them at faithcoalitionedwardsville.com and on Facebook at [facebook.com/faithcoalitionedwardsville](https://www.facebook.com/faithcoalitionedwardsville)



We are Getting New Lifetouch Directories!

You've been asking! Now it's time!

Portrait sessions will take place by appointment at New Bethel UMC on **December 12 and 13**, and on **January 4 and 5**. Sign up after services on Sunday, November 18 and 25, or *online* anytime starting November 9.

Participating families will receive a printed directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait.

If you are not available for a portrait session during these times, there may be opportunities to have a sitting at another church. Ask Linda Lawhead about this option.

Lifetouch is also helping our community, by offering a discount to families that bring non-perishable food items to their sitting. These items will be donated to the Glen Ed Food Pantry.

TRUNK OR TREAT REPORT



Thank you to all who participated in, prayed for, attended, and helped in our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat event. Everyone involved has deemed it a success! We had over 300 attendees. The weather was perfect weather, spirits were joyful, and the music was great! Our 1st Responders had so much fun they said they will be back next year!

SOUP AND BREAD FOLLOWUP

Saturday, November 3rd, was our Fall Soup and Bread Lunch. We had over 20 varieties of soup, delicious breads and desserts, plenty of hands in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall, and many satisfied guests! Initial reports show the lunch brought in about \$1500, and the bake sale \$200. Many items went home Sunday, so we will see what the totals are soon. Thank you to everyone for another successful dinner and outreach to our community!



OUR CHURCH FINANCES AT A GLANCE:

Operating Budget for 2018:	\$278,083
Received Jan - Oct:	\$269,345
Expenses Jan - Oct:	\$231,690
October Offerings:	\$ 23,691
Church Mortgage balance:	\$ 14,819 (as of end of October)

Five Dollar Club spent \$156 in October, assisting 3 families with utilities and housing.

Loose Change Offering \$ 244.00 (year to date)





Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays

- 1- Taylor Frick
- 3- Robert Kelsey, John Kutz
- 5- Mikayla Hoult, Linda Lawhead, Jo Meikamp
- 8- Nancy Slater
- 10- Mike Meikamp, Jon Sanfilippo, Kathy Witzke
- 13- Kristen Azotea
- 14- Addison Erdmann, Madelyn Foster
- 15- John Meckel
- 17- Cody Azotea
- 25- Melissa Spencer
- 27- Shannon Meckel
- 29- James Nuoffer

November Anniversaries

- 11- Dave & Betsy Dodds

December Birthdays (first week of...)

- 3- Mike Chamberlain
- 6- Vickie Harris

SAVE THE DATE!!

The New Bethel United Methodist Women
invite the women of New Bethel
to a **Holiday Luncheon** on
Saturday, December 8th, at noon.

Please mark your calendar!
More information closer to time!

RECURRING EVENTS AT NEW BETHEL...

SUNDAYS:

Worship. 8:15 & 10:45 AM

Nursery. 8:00 AM-Noon

Sunday School and Small Groups. 9:30 - 10:30 AM

WEEKLY:

Tuesday Daytime

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

Wednesday Evening

Middle & Senior High School. Lively learning and fun with Youth Director Judy Lee. See details inside newsletter.

Bible Study, Prayer Shawl Ministry: Groups meet at 6:30 pm for about an hour.

Chancel Choir: Practices at 7:30 pm.

Thursday Daytime

Agape Fellowship Group: 9:30 AM

Thursday Evening

Bell Choir. Rehearsals are on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6 pm.

MONTHLY:

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

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

The Hour Between... something for everyone!

SUNDAYS 9:30 - 10:30 AM:

Women of Faith: *The Remarkable Women of the Bible*, Room 202

Seekers Group: *All In*, by Mark Battison, Room 102

Son Catchers: led by Norma Abram, Room 204

***Embracing Grace*: led by Sherri Luttrell, Room 203**

***Good Religion*, led by Pastor Penny (six-week course beginning Nov. 11)**

Elementary Class (K-5th grade) - Room 101

Middle School Class - Room FH-1

High School Class - Room 103/104



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Agape Group- 9:30a Bell Choir- 6pm	2 Set up for Soup and Bread- 6pm	3 Soup and Bread Lunch
4 In His Steps Commitment Sunday Disciple 1 4-6pm	5	6 Quilters- 9:15a	7 AA- 7am Youth- 5pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir- 7:30p	8 Agape Group- 9:30a	9 Private Use of Fellowship Hall- 5pm to 9pm	10 Habitat for Humanity build - 8am-Noon UMW- 9:30am
11 Dedication of Operation Christmas Child Boxes Disciple 1 4-6pm	12 Veterans' Day Observed Office Closed	13 Quilters- 9:15a Finance Committee- 6:30pm	14 AA- 7am NBY- 5pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir- 7:30p	15 Agape Group- 9:30a Bell Choir- 6pm	16	17 Habitat for Humanity 8am-Noon
18 Thanksgiving Baskets- preparation Disciple 1 4-6pm	19 Thanksgiving Baskets- delivery	20 Quilters- 9:15a Admin. Board meeting- 6:30pm	21 Aa- 7am NBY- 5pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir- 7:30p	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Habitat for Humanity 8am-Noon
25 Disciple 1 4-6pm 7 pm - Pastor Penny and Mike Rogier lead worship at Eden Village	26	27 Quilters- 9:15a	28 Aa- 7am Youth- 5pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bible Study - 6:30pm Choir- 7:30p	29 Agape Group- 9:30a	30	