

The Ladder



A Publication of

New Bethel UMC

May 2017

Glen Carbon's United Methodist Congregation

KINDLING NEW FIRES OF



This year's celebration centers on the theme "Kindling New Fires," taken from Luke 12:49 *"I came to set the Earth on fire, and how I wish it were already kindled"* May Friendship Day focuses on "Kindling New Fires of Love" and how we might extend loving hands and hearts to address the needs of children in our community and the world. During the Celebration listen for places in the worship service where children's needs are mentioned, and think how you might help meet those needs.

Come to the table to find the grace necessary to do God's work of reconciliation in your family, church, community, the movement of Church Women United, and the world.

**Church Women United ~ Spring Celebration
Held at New Bethel U.M.C. ~ Glen Carbon, IL
Friday, May 5, 2017 ~ Time: 9:15 am**

Little Grassy Work Day

New Bethel United Methodist Men is sponsoring a work trip to Little Grassy United Methodist Camp on Friday and Saturday May 12 and May 13.

We will leave from the Church parking lot at 6:00 pm on Friday and return late Saturday afternoon. We do not have the activities we will be working on but have been assured we will not be without something worthy to do. All are welcome to join us. (If we have girls join us, we need 2 women to chaperon)

Friday night and lunch Saturday will be \$12 a head. We will stop on the way down for dinner and will provide our own breakfast of coffee, juice, milk and donuts. The cabins do have microwaves.

We need to know who is going to join us, so please inform Cheri at the Church office (288-5700) or John Kutz (288-9431) or myself (288-1917). We need a headcount for transportation and beds by Monday May 8.

Respectively, Rex Humerickhouse

May 14 is Mother's Day!

New Bethel UMC will be sharing flowers with each of our mothers (and daughters) and Pastor Penny will even have a few additional gifts for a special *Mother's Day Give-Away!* Do join us as we worship God, give thanks for our mothers and other important women in our lives, and listen to Pastor Penny's message on the importance of transmitting the faith to children (1 Timothy 1.5-7).

Graduate Recognition Sunday - May 21

New Bethel's high school graduates will be recognized on May 21st at the 10:30 Worship Service. There will be refreshments after service that day. Please congratulate our graduates on a job well done!

PASTOR'S PEN

Our Easter celebrations and worship services at NEW BETHEL UMC were awesome! I really enjoyed the way the whole church worked together to coordinate, construct, and present such engaging celebrations of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ! It really was inspiring.

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrected Lord, we are looking at several of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus in the Gospels. We've looked at the story of Thomas, and last Sunday, Eric Freese led us in an exploration of Jesus' appearance to two of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus. And this next week, May 7, I will lead us in an examination of Jesus' post-resurrection breakfast on the beach with his disciples (if you like reading ahead, take a look at John 21.1-14). It took a little time for the realization of the resurrection to sink in and become a part of the disciples' faith story. In other words, it took them a while to learn to live with resurrection hope.

It takes us a while sometimes, too. What does it mean to live with resurrection hope? For one thing, it means because of Jesus and what he's done for us in the crucifixion and resurrection and because of his presence with us – it means that no situation is hopeless! No situation is beyond Jesus' ability to redeem.

I'll give you a recent example: on the Wednesday of Holy Week (April 12) Youth Director Judy Lee led the youth group to a day of volunteering at the Granite City Community Care Center and I had the privilege of tagging along.

The work wasn't glamorous – Some of the youth and I were elbow deep in onions and potatoes for 4 hours!

We didn't fix everything - although we did help them catch up, there were still more bags of onions to be sorted and bagged, and shelves to be stocked, etc.

We didn't solve anyone's problem for the long term – the food we served fed them for a day, and the groceries we sent home would last people maybe a week...

But we did share hope. Hope that somebody cares. Hope that our youth have a willingness and a deep desire to serve others in Jesus' name, to make a difference in the world. Hope that tomorrow may be a little brighter. Our presence was appreciated by the folks who work there daily. And we even prayed for one of the workers who is battling cancer.

Whatever else we accomplished, we shared hope. And not just any hope – we shared Jesus hope. We connected our assistance and our enthusiasm and our desire to be a blessing to others – we connected all of it to Jesus Christ.

We sang a song recently called, *Easter People, Raise Your Voices*. Written by a United Methodist pastor named William Marceus James (1913-2013), the hymn's theme is how the resurrection of Jesus Christ overcomes the evil of this world. And we, as Easter people, people who live with Resurrection hope, continue to bear witness to that truth. We continue to reflect the light of Christ into a sin-darkened world, sharing the Good News that God loves us, Jesus Christ can redeem us, and the Holy Spirit will help us!

Resurrection hope. This is where we live. (Even though I'm writing to you from Gulf Shores, AL!)

I'll see you Sunday,

Pastor Penny

Memorial Sunday - May 28

During our morning services on Memorial Sunday, we will be remembering those of our family and fellowship who have passed on to Heaven in the last year. As part of our memorial, we will be creating a bouquet of flowers on the altar table, representing the beauty, joy, and continuing influence of their lives. At a certain time in each service, if you have lost someone dear to you in the last year (whether or not they were a member at New Bethel UMC) you will be invited to stand and speak their name. You may also bring a flower of any kind (i.e. rose, iris, carnation) and place it in the vase on the altar. By the end of the service, we will have a beautiful memorial arrangement that celebrates our loved ones. Pastor Penny's message will be *Living Legacies*, based on Hebrews 12.1-14.

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL ANYONE?

If any adults would be interested in some recreational volleyball games, let the Pastor know. She would like to schedule a few friendly games with other UMC's in the area for some summer fun!

ALVIN WENTZ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

Philip Griffin has been named the recipient of the 2017 New Bethel United Methodist Church Alvin Wentz Jr. Scholarship. The annual scholarship provides a \$1000 award to a worthy student.

Philip is a regular attendee at the 8:30 worship service where he volunteers to be usher, greeter and communion steward. Philip is a member of the senior high youth group and is active in the group's community outreach.

Philip is the son of Jay & Jane Griffin and brother to Elise Griffin. He will be attending Knox College in Galesburg, IL this Fall and plans to study Chemistry and German.

The goal of the scholarship is to provide education funds to an EHS graduating senior who is an active member of New Bethel. To qualify for the scholarship, the student must be a New Bethel member, active in the church and in the upper half of their class academically. The scholarship money is given after the first year of college if the student has maintained at least a 3.0 GPA on a four point scale.

Coming in JUNE, 2017:

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

Looking for a short-term Sunday School class to try out? Pastor Penny will be leading a 4-week adult Sunday School class during the month of June, on one of C.S. Lewis' classics - *The Screwtape Letters*. First published as a book in 1942, this year marks the 75th anniversary of this important book. Have you ever read it? Basically, Lewis re-imagines Hell as a gruesome bureaucracy where a senior demon - Screwtape - corresponds with his apprenticing nephew - Wormwood. The younger demon's assignment is to corrupt a newly converted young Christian man, living in London during the tumultuous days of World War II. The the letters Screwtape writes his nephew, Lewis examines Christian morality, temptation, good, and evil. It's a fascinating story and you can get a copy of the book for around \$15 at any local bookstore (or Pastor can get you a copy if needed).

The Sunday School class will meet on Sunday mornings during Sunday School time (9:40-10:20) in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday **June 4 - Sunday June 25th!**

And Coming in August, 2017:

C.S. LEWIS' MERE CHRISTIANITY

Open to everyone, this adult 8 - week Sunday School class, led by Pastor Penny, will begin, **Sunday, August 6** and run **through Sunday, September 24**. We will be reading a book by C.S. Lewis called *Mere Christianity*, "mere" meaning basic. His wonderful British humor and his sharp intellect shine brilliantly in this classic presentation of the basic tenets of the Christian faith. Come as often as you can, or just a couple of times, you will still enjoy a good discussion as we deepen faith and build fellowship.

First United Methodist Church of Trenton Offers Scholarship

J.A.M. Scholarship – A Celebration of the Life and Music of Justin Andrew Melzer

The mission of this scholarship is to honor the memory of Justin Melzer and his ministry through music and to encourage participation in church music ministries. It is our prayer and intention that this scholarship will cultivate and stimulate a future generation of church musicians.

\$500 will be awarded to a qualified recipient. Applicants for this scholarship must be a member of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. These persons may either be graduating high school seniors, college undergraduates, or students attending a tech or trade school. A requirement for award selection is that the applicant is an active participant in a music ministry within their church. Deadline to apply is June 15, 2017. Award will be announced in July. To obtain an application for this scholarship, you can go to the church's website at www.trentonfumc.com and click on the link to the scholarship.

SUMMER MOWING SCHEDULE.

The Trustees are looking for a few willing participants to mow and trim the area behind the church. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please take a week or two and help keep New Bethel looking good.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Although confirmation is not an official sacrament in The United Methodist Church (we have only 2 sacraments - Baptism and Communion), it is an important marker along a young person's spiritual journey. At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and into God's family in a special way, as we are marked with the Holy Spirit. For many, this happens at a very young age. We recognize children as members of their human families, but no one expects them to clean their rooms or take out the trash until much later. So it is with baptized infants in the church - members of God's family of faith - but not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership. Confirmation is a later opportunity to respond to the grace of God in a more mature way. During confirmation a student's understanding of God's love and grace, the destructive power of sin, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is explored and hopefully, the student grows in faith. The goal is to help students grow into their relationship with Christ and understand and respond to the call of Christ to live in God's world as a person of faith and a follower of Jesus. At the completion of the classes, students are invited to consider whether or not they are ready to claim the name of "Christian" for themselves, repent of their sin, profess openly their faith in Christ, and join the Church. It is a rich and informative part of the journey of faith.

Pastor Penny will be offering Confirmation classes this summer. A sign-up sheet for Confirmation is now available on the welcome desk in the church lobby. Please fill in the information requested and Pastor will contact you shortly. Sign-up deadline is May 31, 2017.

Music Director Position

The New Bethel UMC is currently seeking applicants for the Music Director position. We are seeking a person who is a gifted musician, good with people, one who leads a Christian life, and one who is able to coordinate the many music ministries of the church. We seek a person who loves the mission of New Bethel UMC, and will strive to offer musical and worship opportunities to people of all ages and abilities, as we help them grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. The search for Music Director will remain open until the position is filled. The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to begin interviewing applicants after Easter. Interested persons should go to the church website at www.newbethelumc.org to download a full job description and an application form. Please refer all applications to Dr. Penelope Barber, 131 N. Main St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034 or email to pastorpenny@newbethelumc.org.

Nursery Worker Position

We are also seeking applicants to care for children in our Nursery on Sunday mornings, from 8:15 a.m. - Noon. This position pays \$40 / week. Again, interested persons should go to the church website at www.newbethelumc.org to download a full job description and an application form. Please refer all applications to Pastor Penny or by email to pastorpenny@newbethelumc.org.

Sunday School Superintendent Position

New Bethel UMC is looking for a member of our faith community who would be able to work 1-3 hours a week fulfilling the important duties of this position. This is a *volunteer* position in the church, easily filled by someone who appreciates the importance of having a strong Sunday School program that offers Bible-based teaching to all age groups, preschool - Adult! The **Sunday School Superintendent** helps to insure that our Sunday School Department runs smoothly and has all classes well-staffed, and teachers have the curriculum and resources they need to help students grow in faith. The Sunday School Superintendent would collect the offerings and count attendance in each class, weekly. He/she would work with the Pastor and teachers to approve curriculum; work with the Church Secretary to order books and supplies for each class; and meet with the Pastor and teachers from time to time, to set goals for Sunday School growth, evaluate effectiveness, and brainstorm creative ways to reach our goals. If you would be willing to prayerfully consider serving for 1-2 years in this capacity, please speak with Pastor Penny.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12 - 16, 2017

Theme: *Maker Fun Factory*

We are all created by God, and built for a purpose!

For kids ages pre-school - 5th grade!

Registration and helper sign-up will begin mid-May!

THANK YOU'S

Dear Friends at New Bethel,

Thank you so very much for your kindness and grace toward me and my family during the past couple of months. New Bethel is a great church family because its people treat each other with love and kindness even when there are challenges. Thanks, too, for your kind gifts and cards and words and prayers. They are all appreciated. Words cannot adequately express how much we will miss you on Sundays and how much we appreciate your kindness and generosity toward us. Maybe a song could? "Have we told you lately that we love you? Have we told you there's no one above you? You fill our hearts with gladness; you take away our sadness..." Thanks and many blessings to you all.

Mike, Dynette, Joel, and Lydia Rogier

To **Linda Lawhead** for her organization of the Appreciation Dinner for the Rogier's. And thank you to all others who helped!

To **Jill Oertle** and **Donna Hale** for working with our children's choir. The children will be singing at both worship services on Mother's Day, May 14.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Thursdays at 6:45PM

May 4, May 18 and May 25 (No practice on May 11)

BELL CHOIR

Bell Choir will meet May 4 and May 11 at 6 pm. After these two practices they will be taking a break for the summer.



May 10th will be the last meal. Because the number of participants and cooks have fallen off so much, we will not be having a Wednesday Night meal return in the fall. Ongoing classes will continue to be held.

Middle & Senior High School. "The Red Stuff: Exploring the words of Jesus" with 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 6-8 pm in room 203 with Pastor Penny Barber.

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

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE

The children's choir meet on Thursday evenings at 6:45 pm in Room 202. They are practicing a song to sing on Mother's Day.

Can't make it to practice? That's ok! We can get you the lyrics and the YouTube link is below to the song, and you can practice on your own. Contact Jill Oertle, Jenny Mulvihill. We also need 3 adult/teenage volunteers for our performance. We have one volunteer, so we just need two more!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni_9LXEv_JE

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Our Middle School and Senior High Youth Group is under the direction of Judy Lee. On Wednesday nights the youth are using the bible series *The Red Stuff, dig in to the words of Jesus himself*. They'll take a look at five of Jesus' parables, uncover what His message was, and see how it still applies to their life today.

Wednesday, May 3 6:00 pm "Car Care 101" with Brian (lower parking lot)

Wednesday, May 10 - Youth Group bible study 6-7:30 pm

Saturday, May 13 Youth community work day at Watershed, if anyone is interested

Wednesday, May 17 - Finals

Sunday, May 21 Graduate Recognition Sunday (Photos and bios from grads are due by May 7)

Wednesday, May 24 End of School Celebration

Saturday, May 27—EHS Graduation!

Congratulations to our seniors: Madelyn Foster, Hamada Freese, Philip Griffin, Beau Lewis, Tyler Morris, Matthew Nuoffer, Emily Schroeder and Joe Towner.

GRADUATION PARTIES

Joe Towner would like to invite his church family to celebrate with him and his family!

May 21st 1-4 pm in New Bethel's Fellowship Hall

Lunch and cake will be served all afternoon

The Freese family extends an invitation to **Hamada's** High School graduation reception along with **Jordan's** Associates Degree completion

Sunday, May 28th from 2-4 pm in New Bethel's Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for **Matt Nuoffer's** High School Graduation Party!

Sunday May 28, 2017

12:30pm - 5:00pm

109 Northlane Drive, Glen Carbon, IL

Lunch and Cake served all afternoon

RSVP to Joanna @ 618-444-2174 or jonuoffer@msn.com or just come by!



BIRTHDAYS ...

- 2 Brian Lee
- 3 Richard Norfleet
- 4 Joe Towner
- 7 Eric Freese
- 10 Dottie Buescher & Nejua Freese
- 13 Colin Kelsey
- 17 Sarah Slater
- 22 J.D. Mulvihill
- 23 Glen Burlingame & Sarah Paul
- 27 Ginger Little

ANNIVERSARIES ...

- 7 Mike & Pam Chamberlain
- 10 Jay & Jane Griffin
- 14 Bill & Beverly Wann
- 17 Ron & Jamie Foster
- 21 Brian & Karla Hohlt
- 25 Glen & Sallye Burlingame
- 28 Howard Bell & Penelope Barber
- 31 Ken & Nancy Gaines

Quote of the month:

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

- C.S. Lewis

RECURRING EVENTS AT NEW BETHEL...

SUNDAYS:

- Worship.** 8:30 & 10:30 AM
- Nursery.** 9:30 AM-12 PM
- Super Church.** 10:30 AM
- Sunday School.** 9:30 AM

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES—SUNDAYS 9:30 AM:

- Son Catchers—Room 204
- Embracing Grace—Rome 203
- Women's Bible Study—Room 202

WEEKLY:

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

Mid-Week @ New Bethel. (May 10th will be the last meal)

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

Kids WOW. The kid's program is taking a break.

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

Prayer Shawls. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Room 101

Disciple Bible Study. Wednesdays at 6-8 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

Thursday evenings -

Bell Choir. Bell Choir Practice will be May 4th and May 11th at 6 pm

Chancel Choir. Practice is at 6:45 pm - May 5, 18 and 25th

Praise Band Practice. Thursday evenings at 7:45 pm

Sunday evening—Disciple Bible Study. 4-6 pm IN Room 203

MONTHLY:

United Methodist Men. 2nd Saturdays, 8 AM breakfast and meeting (this month the meeting is being replaced by the work day at Little Grassy)

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

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Bible Study 6 pm	2 Quilters 9:15 am	3 Mid-Week Meals & activi- ties 5:30 pm Disciple Bible Study 6 pm	4 Bell Choir 6 pm Chancel Choir 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	5 CWU Spring Celebration at New Bethel 9:15 am	6
7 Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	8 AA Bible Study 6 pm	9 Quilters 9:15 am Finance meet- ing 6:30 pm	10 Last Wednes- day Night meal and classes Disciple Bible Study 6 pm	11 Bell Choir 6 pm Leadership Team meeting 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	12 UMM leave for Little Grassy 6 pm	13 UMW 9:30 am UMM return from Little Grassy
14 Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	15 AA Bible Study 6 pm	16 Quilters 9:15 am	17 Disciple Bible Study 6 pm	18 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	19	20
21 Graduation Sunday Joe Towner's graduation party Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	22 AA Bible Study 6 pm	23 Quilters 9:15 am	24 Disciple Bible Study 6 pm End of School Party	25 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm Praise Band 7:45 pm	26	27 EHS Graduation
28 Hamada Freese & Matthew Nuoffer's graduation parties Disciple Bible Study 4 pm	29 AA Bible Study 6 pm	30 Quilters 9:15 am	31 Disciple Bible Study 6 pm Youth group 6-7:30 pm			