

Bethel Messenger

News of Bethel United Methodist Church, Lower Burrell, PA (724) 339-2420



Katy Wrona serves in U.S. mission field



“I have always been ‘the glass is half full’ kind of person. I look for the good in bad situations and try to see the silver lining in every cloud. I believe that one person can make a difference whether big or small.” This is our own Katy Wrona’s mantra as she serves God as a Global Mission Fellow of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Katy grew up in The United Methodist Church and came to a relationship with Jesus Christ through the youth group at

Bethel. The youth group also helped to shape her sense of mission. “As part of the youth group, I was involved in three mission trips. When I went to college, one of the first things I did was find a church and join one of the religious clubs on campus. My faith journey is always evolving.”

It was on a mission trip to Hannah House in Niagara Falls when she felt a call to mission. “After this trip,” she recalls, “I was even more passionate about finding ways I could help so I could touch the lives of others.”

After earning her chemistry degree from Lycoming College, Katy felt called to work in the mission field. She accepted a two year assignment to Mobile, Alabama.

As Katy adjusted to her new surroundings, she shared, “This past week I have seen God working with and through others to make a difference in the Mobile area. We met with ten local churches and each one touched my heart. I heard about the poverty, hunger, homelessness, and drug abuse that is affecting thousands of people. But more importantly, I learned about how local congregations are addressing those needs and serving the people in their communities.”

Too many children go hungry on the weekends when they don’t have the lunch provided at school. Multiple churches have started a backpack ministry where the kids go home with a backpack full of food every Friday. These churches are providing food for fifty to a hundred kids week after week.

One church started making mats for the homeless out of plastic bags. These mats are created by crocheting five hundred store bags together. They have taught people at dozens of churches in the area to make these mats. A blanket and toiletries are wrapped in the mat and then they are passed out to those who need it.

“These are just two examples of ministries that are happening. Philippians 4:13 reads ‘I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me.’ God gives strength to all those who need it. He is giving strength to the people in the congregations, the churches, and the communities, working together to serve those in need.’

“I am currently training to learn more about Circles of Transformation, a process by which people of faith respond to the needs of those in poverty. I will soon be working full time on helping the community bring Circles to Mobile. I’m excited because my new role will be to help change the conversation and mindset about what poverty is and to walk alongside those in poverty to help them lift themselves out of poverty.”

If you would like to keep in contact with Katy during her time in Alabama you may email her at KWrona@umcmmission.org. Katy has also been assigned her own Advance Special # 3021970 if you would like to support her on an ongoing basis. You may visit the General Board of Global Ministries website to find out more about donating online at:

<http://www.umcmmission.org/explore-our-work/missionaries-in-service/missionary-profiles/wrona-katherine>

(See related Giving Tuesday article on page 2)

Advent Study begins November 6

Advent is a season in which we watch, wait, and prepare to bear witness to the coming of the true light of God's presence in Jesus Christ. Through worship, Scripture, and prayer, we train our eyes to see God's presence so that in the hubbub of the "holidays," we are prepared to celebrate a "holy day" – the day when God came down among us in human flesh.

In this study, you will explore the lives of people who witnessed the miracle in the Incarnation. James Harnish invites you to reflect on their stories and, in your reflection, to become a witness with them to the one light that will never be overcome.

Pastor Nancy will lead a 5-week Advent Study using James Harnish's *When God Comes Down*. Class dates are November 6, 13 and 20 and December 11 and 18. Two sessions will be held each day, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Cost of the book is \$9.00. Kindle or tablet users can download the book for \$7.69. Please sign up in advance and indicate if you need a paper book so that we can order enough material. You can make a note on the Friendship pad, or email or call the office to enroll.

Double your donation on GivingTuesday

On December 2, you can extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday. Every gift made online through The Advance



at www.umcmission.org/give on December 2 will be matched up to \$1 million.

Global Ministries will allocate the matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on December 2 between 12 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. EST. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds. A project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds.

Last year on UMC #GivingTuesday, United Methodists collectively raised a record \$6.5 million on line through The Advance. 11,000 individuals and churches in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts to mission and ministries they believe in. It was a wonderful sign of commitment and extravagant generosity, maximizing the impact of thousands of United Methodists coming together on one day to transform the world.

UMC #GivingTuesday is part of an international movement to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season. It offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season by giving instead of getting by supporting organizations that are transforming the world.

As a United Methodist Mission Fellow, Katy Wrona has been assigned her own Advance Special #3021970. You may donate to her mission at any time as ongoing support, but if you are able to donate early enough to be part of the first million dollars on

December 2, the money will be doubled!

Visit www.umcmission.org/give to search for other Advance projects and give.

PARC Party outreach warms the heart

Nothing shares God's love and ours better than our annual PARC Party for mentally challenged adults. Coordinator Penny Dombroski reports that all the major areas are covered, but we still need help with the "details." Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board looking for helpers – greeters, servers and cleanup. Seashells in meat sauce and cakes will be needed along with monetary donations to cover the costs of Sam's Club purchases – rolls, butter, salad, beverages, etc. Donations can be put into the offering plate at any time. Just be sure to mark your envelope "PARC Party."

"This is such a beautiful event," says Penny. "The guests and their caregivers are so grateful, and our people who participate are warmed from their toes up. If you haven't had the opportunity to help in the past, I urge you to give up your evening for what most people find to be the true spirit of the Christmas season."



Witnessing our faith and sharing God's love
as we live, learn, and grow as Christians!

Bethel's Blessings

- ♥ Jacque and Donna Curll for picking up the Friendship Pads in the sanctuary and straightening the pews each week. Thank you for your service!
- ♥ Carol Parsons for stepping up to assume the sanctuary job.
- ♥ Barbara Saylor for organizing a Concordia luncheon, assembling the Bethel gang for food, fellowship and communion. It was Pastor Nancy's first time to meet our Cabot members.
- ♥ Jenn Celo for taking over the Children's Chat Coordinator Position. She's doing a great job.
- ♥ Dave and Melissa Shevlin for volunteering to split the Junior church schedule with Kim Vivirito, taking over half of

them. It's great for the kids to see different parents stepping up and nice for others to be able to attend church more frequently.

- ♥ Thank you to Jenn Celo and Sarah Litz for hosting a fun-filled Harvest Party for the Sunday school kids! They all had a blast and you did a great job!
- ♥ Deb Tansimore for the wonderful job she does with the Tweener program. You truly have a gift for teaching the Word to the youth is such a fun way!
- ♥ Trish Grubb, Penny Dombroski, Martha Mackey, Darci Koscianski, Amy Weibel and all the other folks who made the Rummage Sale happen. There was a record

amount of stuff and the help was a bit sparse. Thanks to these ladies with help from others, the Rummage Sale was a huge success!

- ♥ Everyone who turned in their Pledge Card for 2015. To date, 27 cards have been received with pledges totaling nearly \$68,000. If you have not turned in your pledge, please place it in the offering plate or return it to the office as soon as possible.
- ♥ Rick Grubb for revising the Permanent Endowment Policy at the Endowment Committee's request. He simplified it and made it easier to understand and follow. Thanks, Rick!
- ♥ Drew Vivirito for learning to operate the AV System.

Hospital/Post-Hospital visitation policy for Bethel UMC

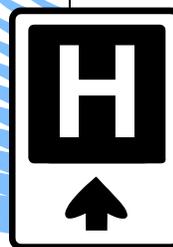
Today the desires of those experiencing a health event are varied. Not everyone wants to be visited in the hospital. Therefore, in an effort to avoid miscommunication, the following are a few guidelines regarding pastoral hospital visits.

- The parishioner, family member, or church member should call the pastor or church office to inform them of the hospitalization. The pastor will make contact to insure the patient desires a visit.
- Inform the pastor or church office of the following:
 - Name of hospital

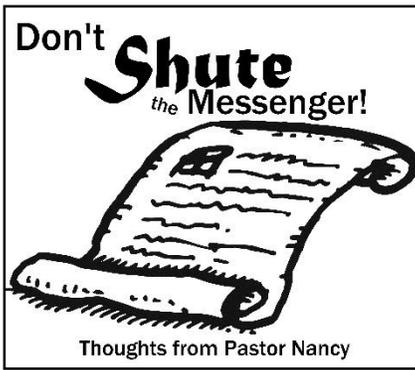
- Room number, if available.

- If the patient is in a hospital that requires a security code for admittance of visitors, such as Children's Hospital, the code must be supplied to the pastor. Without this code no one is allowed entrance to the hospital. The hospital security staff allows no exceptions.
- The pastor is bound by a confidentiality covenant as well as HIPPA laws. This forbids her from discussing a patient's condition and even

the place of hospitalization. Therefore, she cannot discuss a parishioner's condition with anyone, including sharing health updates, without the parishioner's expressed permission.



- People in the hospital need rest. The average pastoral visit is no more than 15 to 20 minutes.
- Bearing in mind what is best for the patient, the pastor will not visit if she is ill.
- Friday and Saturday are the pastor's days off. Hospital visits on these days will be limited to emergencies.



It is Charge Conference time! Well rather, Church Conference. This is part of our Wesleyan heritage. A charge conference is the annual gathering of the elected leadership of the local church or churches under a pastor's care, as well as all retired ordained ministers and retired diaconal ministers, to conduct the business of the church. A church conference is the same, however it also includes all members of the local church membership. Each member of the local church has both voice and vote at a church conference. The DS generally presides at charge/church conferences or designates an ordained elder to preside.

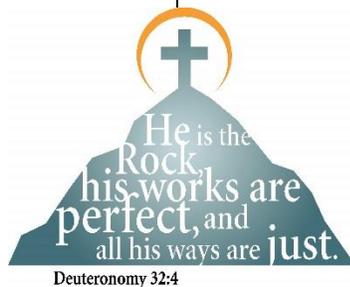
What makes a church/charge conference different from regular Council meetings? Well, there are items that only appear on the church/charge conference agenda such as the setting of salaries for the coming year, reaffirming the ministry of certified lay servants, and the election of church leadership. Sometimes a special session of charge/church conference is called to address matters that are outside of the ordinary realm of annual church business such as the sale of church property, the merger of two congregations, a church building project, financial investments, and so on.

A church/charge conference cannot occur without the permission of the District Superintendent and the appointed pastor. It must be announced at least two Sundays before the meeting in writing (bulletin) as well as verbally from the pulpit. A meeting quorum is comprised of those that show up after the meeting has been duly announced.

As professing members of the local church it is the responsibility of each of us to know what is going on in the local church by attending this annual meeting. This year the meeting will carry a worship format so there will be music and scripture as well as

business. In addition we will discuss the ongoing ministry of the church as well as future ministry projects. It is a wonderful way in which we gather to discuss how it is we will continue to be

salt and light to the world around us. I hope you will join us as we carry out this specific ministry of the church.



Practices begin for *Let It Shine*

Come one, come all! It's that time of year again for blacklight to kick off. Below is a schedule of practices.

Due to the minimal practices it is very important that you make every effort to attend. Please note, the first practice is for 6th and 7th graders ONLY. The second practice will be with all



participants. Please contact me if you have any questions or problems.

Sunday, Nov. 16:
2:00 – 6:00 (Tweeners free to leave at 5:15)

Saturday, Nov. 22:
2:00 – 6:00.

Kris Nemet
Business Manager
Let It Shine Blacklight Puppetry

Memorial/ Honor Gifts received

Nancy Jones in honor of Gene and Garnet Howard.

Eric and Pam Cutch in memory of Loretta Taylor.

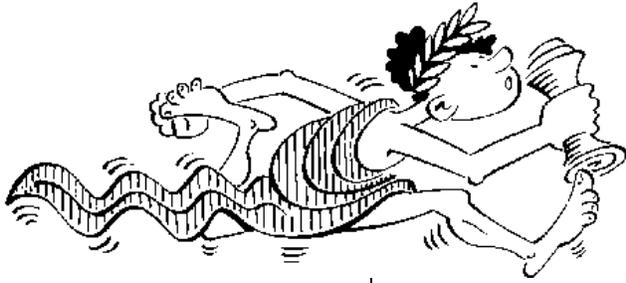
Policy for borrowing church equipment

Members of our congregation are able to borrow tables, chairs and other equipment from the church.

The policy of the Trustees is that equipment can be borrowed, but it must be signed out in the office and a donation is expected.

The donation for a table is just \$2 and each chair is 50 cents. All equipment is expected to be returned within three days. Miscellaneous equipment borrowed from the church will also be subject to a donation as well.

These funds will be set aside to help with replacement costs. Members can enjoy the convenience of borrowing from the church for a reasonable price.

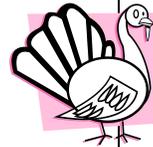


On the Run Tidbits and Reminders)

will light a candle in

- Communion will be November 23 at the altar.
- Salvation Army Angel Tags will be here at the end of the month. This is your opportunity to provide gifts for a specific local child for a joyous Christmas morning.
- We finished collecting school supplies for UMCOR kits. We were able to complete 15 bags and have 2 more complete without a bag. The remainder of the supplies will be sent to The Mission Barn to help complete bags. Thank you to all who participated in this outreach ministry and to Joan and Pauline Critchlow for sewing book bags.
- Many Thank You's to everyone who ordered Pumpkin Rolls to benefit the Sunday school program! The pumpkin rolls will be available for pick up after church on November 23rd. Pre-payment is greatly appreciated Please see Donis Prignon.
- The Trustees are asking members to refrain from dragging tables across the waxed floors in Friendship Hall and the hallways. The tables are very light, and dragging them scratches and damages the waxed surface.
- The next book for the Bethel Book Club is *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. Join us on Monday, November 24 in Friendship Hall for discussion and dessert. New members are always welcome!
- All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 2. We

- remembrance of church members who have passed on to eternal glory during the past year and recognize memorial gifts with nameplates on our Memorial Plaque.
- Daylight Savings Time begins on November 2. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour to enjoy that extra hour of sleep!
- The office is closed on Tuesday, November 12 in observance of Veteran's Day and on Friday the 28th and Monday, December 1 following Thanksgiving.
- National Bible Sunday is November 23. In keeping with our Bethel tradition, 3rd graders will receive a Bible from the church. Be sure to have your 3rd grader in worship that day!
- November 30 is the United Methodist Student Offering. When you give to United Methodist Student Day, you support students who are finding new ways to serve God in the world. Your contributions are needed more than ever. Gifts support the United Methodist scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Even a \$1.00 gift from United Methodists across the globe has a major impact. Several students from our church have benefited from these scholarships over the years.
- Seems that many of our members are dropping their



- home phones and using their cells as their main phone. Please keep us updated on how best to contact you.
- If you have trouble reading the colored paper bulletins that we often use on Sunday morning, Paula has been printing some white copies for folks with vision issues. Be sure to ask the greeter for a white bulletin if it helps you see.
- Our annual Hanging of the Greens (decorating our church for Christmas) will be after church on Sunday, November 25. This is an activity for the whole family. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Serving this month

Greeters

2	Kris & Joshua Nemet
9	Michelle & Greg Schafer
16	John & Dee George
23	Lynda & Perry Davis
30	Justin & Jeffifer Celo

Nursery Workers

2	Emily & Ian Shane
	Riley Sterlitz
9	Erin Pattison
16	Donis Prignon
23	Joanne DeBolt
30	Lauren Daily
	Melissa Shevlin

Offering Counters

2 & 9	Kim Jedlowski
	Lauren Daily
16 & 23	Kim Jedlowski
	Penny Dombroski
30	Ed King
	Penny Dombroski

November Birthdays

- 1 Bryce Black
Kathryn Bruce
Jacque Curl
Donald Hecker
Daniel Schall
- 2 Cole Greiner
Molly Greiner
Rick Grubb
- 3 Ed King
- 6 Marie Beers
Tim Hines
- 8 Lauren Daily
Lydia Polaski
Gina Sarniak
- 9 Craig Brown
Emerson Celo
- 10 Brendan Keller
- 11 Trish Grubb
- 12 Donna Curl
Bobbie Merrick
Christopher Schall
- 14 Lance Montgomery
Pat Reimer
- 15 Sharlene Alcorn
Ed Golembiesky
- 16 Sheila Brunner
- 17 Jonathan Alcorn
Shirley King
- 18 Garnet Howard
- 19 Jack Hunter
- 22 Andrew McKruit
- 23 Jacqueline George
Chuck Meredith, Jr.
- 24 Micah Daily
Kristin O'Connor
- 25 Madison Stringfellow
- 27 Chad Vincent
- 28 Carl Bracken, Sr.
Sarah Litz
Tiffany Simmons
- 29 Paul Talda
- 30 Calvin Schafer

If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.



November Anniversaries

- 4 Joe and Janie George (48)
- 6 Tracey and Tim Kalik (21)
- 13 Michael and Penny Dombroski (22)
- 14 Darryl and Kim Jedlowski (33)
- 17 Rich and Debbie Acre (32)
- 22 Sheila & Jeff Brunner (34)
- 24 Frank & Martha Mackey (41)
Phil and Paula McManus (35)
Bob and Kathy Schall (36)
- 29 Chuck and Josie Meredith (43)



Gratitude's Gift



Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

—Max Lucado, *You'll Get Through This*

Returning Thanks

After a family sat down for breakfast, the father offered his standard prayer of thanks. Afterward, though, he began his usual grumbling about financial hardships, the food's poor quality, how it was cooked and so on.

One of his children interrupted: "Dad, did God hear what you said a while ago when you were giving thanks?"

"Certainly," the father replied confidently

"And did he hear what you said just now about the bacon and the coffee?"

"Of course," the father said, more hesitantly.

"Which did God believe?"