

# *Bethel Light*

*Summer 2022*

*the quarterly newsletter of*

*Bethel Presbyterian Church*

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**CHANGED BY CHRIST SO WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

# Summer Bethel Light

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**We will be emailing the Bethel Light where possible to reduce postage costs. This document will also be posted on our website. We will only mail to those individuals who do not have access to a computer.**

## *From Pastor Cathie*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Summer! Do you remember the excitement that word gave you when you were little? It meant the last day of school was finally here and long days stretched ahead with lots of outside play time and freedom - riding bikes until the lights went on, drinking water from the hose and making rainbows with the sun shining through the water spray, playing in the sprinkler, watermelon and popsicles on the porch, beach days or pool days if you were lucky, summer reading programs at the library, a week away at church camp, a week of Vacation Bible School at church ... there was just such an easy and relaxed rhythm to the summer - and yet it was so fun and exciting as those months allowed for such different things to do and places to go. Summer!

As we move into the months of summer in our faith life and in our life together at church, I invite you to think about the way summer was when you were young and to use some of those memories to help you construct a discipleship plan for these special months. Here are a few ideas ...

1. Summer when we were little was all about being outside - riding bikes, playing with friends, splashing in the sprinkler or digging at the beach. We spent so much time out in God's world - using all of our senses to engage with it - digging, running, eating, smelling, watching, listening ... what a great time of year to be out in God's world - enjoying the handiwork of our Creator! The colors are bright, the flavors are sweet, the sounds are joyous! So, how about taking your Bible reading time each day (you do that, right?) outside to your porch or deck? Or sharing a meal and breaking bread with friends outside, enjoying God's gift of fellowship? Or taking a long walk - and slowing down - to observe and wonder at and give God praise for all the big and little wonders of God's creation? How about trying a new fruit or vegetable this season and marveling at the variety of God's garden? Or how about joining God's creative work in this world and grow some veggies or herbs at home - even just a little basil in a pot?
2. Summer, when we were little opened up longer periods of focused time on our faith walks - whether it was a week in our church classrooms that had been transformed into Vacation Bible School wonder-worlds or a whole week away at church camp with all the incredible moments and memories of campfires and vespers, crafts and adventures. How can you recapture the focus, the wonder, the adventure and the special moments of those weeks? Maybe you can help make VBS magical and meaningful for the children of our community and church (ask Barb how you can help - she'll definitely have a place for you!). Watch for invitations to come out in the coming weeks to backyard Bible studies and sing-alongs around the firepit. Maybe pick up a new creative way to approach your devotional or prayer time - like a prayer journal with colored pencils or making a prayer rope or praying the psalms with playdough (ask me how to do these, I'd love to imagine with you!). What can you do that takes more than one day - and engages with the Bible and others in a special, focused way?

3. Going to worship in the evening at camp was the best - after a day of adventure and dinner - joining friends and leaders in the worship space as the temperatures began to drop and the sun hit lower in the sky - the smell of bug spray and sunscreen lingering - and then the singing and learning and then going out to get ice cream at the snack shack with the songs still ringing in your heart - I loved that!! I am so looking forward to our summer 'Revive' Services (May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.). We'll gather in the gym to share great music and singing and we'll explore the ways that we each uniquely experience God's love in our lives. Maybe we won't be coming from canoes or archery and maybe there won't be the smell of bug spray in the air - but some of the special wonder of summer evenings in worship at camp will certainly be there. (And yes, the message will be different than the morning - so it will be a great way to launch into the new week!) And I bet we can get a group to go out for ice cream after!
4. For me, one of summer's best things was the summer reading program at the library. I loved filling out my chart with the books I read and reaching reading goals and getting the prizes for full sheets (at our library - you got to pick out a free book - for me, that meant getting my own Nancy Drew books!). So, how about your summer reading? What's on your list? Is it all mystery and romance? How about a book to challenge your faith or stretch your spiritual imagination or stir your soul or inspire more joy in Jesus or encourage you in your daily walk? Need ideas? Ask for suggestions! One awesome idea ... this summer, the Monday night group will be reading and discussing the book, *God Speaks Your Love Language*, by Gary Chapman. It's a perfect summer read and I know the discussion will be awesome! If you haven't been before, jump on in! And don't worry if you can't come every week, you'll be able to come and go and keep up!

What memories does SUMMER bring to you? What anticipation and promise and hope does it stir in you? How can you use those memories to imagine new and different, fun and relaxed ways to engage more deeply with your life of faith this season? Look over the pages of this Bethel Light for ideas - and get creative with your own ideas! Summer is the time to grow - let's get to it!

***You are loved,  
Pastor Cathie***



# Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee (comprised of Fellowship and Membership Committees) is committed to making Bethel Presbyterian Church a warm and welcoming church home for all people. We focus on welcoming visitors and new members, as well as promoting and creating opportunities for fellowship within the congregation. We strive to create and implement events that are meaningful and enjoyable for people of all ages to help them build relationships and become involved in the life of the church.

We have been very busy with a lot of things happening:

Weekly Fellowship started April 24<sup>th</sup>. We are doing the alphabet teams again by last name (A-C, D-E, F-J, K-L, M-N, O-R and S-Z). Check out the sheet so you know when your team will be hosting. We need help setting up/cleaning up and serving and, of course, bringing something to share (example: cookies, fruit, cheese).

We have created an "Information Center" in the Narthex for anyone looking for more information about BPC as well as in the Auditorium on the evenings we have 'Revive'. For those who stop by and leave their contact information, they receive a small gift.

We had our first "Informational Gathering" on May 1<sup>st</sup> and new members will join BPC on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us in welcoming them.



**August 28<sup>th</sup>** Church Picnic  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>** Food Trucks - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to be part of this exciting Committee, please contact Kristen Kiesling or Jack Miller.

**Elders:** Chair of Fellowship - Kristen Kiesling; Chair of Membership - Jack Miller

**Deacon Member:** Pat Brown

**Staff Support:** Barb Clark, Nick Barilla, (Cathie Smith)

**At Large Members:** Cindy Fair, Diane Miller and Suzanne Gamble



New Fellowship Dates for Family Alphabet Teams 2022 and 2023

<b>A - C Families</b>	<b>D - E Families</b>	<b>F - J Families</b>	<b>K - L Families</b>	<b>M - N Families</b>	<b>O - R Families</b>	<b>S - Z Families</b>	<b>No Fellowship on Dates Below</b>
<b>Year 2022</b>							
April 24, 2022	May 1, 2022	May 15, 2022	May 22, 2022	May 29, 2022	June 5, 2022	June 12, 2022	
June 26, 2022	July 3, 2022	July 10, 2022	July 17, 2022	July 24, 2022	<b>PW Ice Cream</b> July 31, 2022	Aug. 7, 2022	No May 8, 2022 <b>Mother's Day</b> No June 19, 2022 <b>Father's Day</b>
Aug. 14, 2022	Aug. 21, 2022	Sept. 4, 2022	Sept. 11, 2022	Sept. 18, 2022	Sept. 25, 2022	Oct. 2, 2022	No Aug. 28, 2022 <b>Church Picnic</b>
Oct. 9, 2022	Oct. 16, 2022	Oct. 23, 2022	Oct. 30, 2022	Nov. 6, 2022	Nov. 13, 2022	Nov. 20, 2022	No Nov. 27, 2022 <b>Thanksgiving</b>
Dec. 4, 2022	Dec. 11, 2022	Dec. 18, 2022					No Dec. 25, 2022 <b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Year 2023</b>							
			Jan. 8, 2023	Jan. 15, 2023	Jan. 22, 2023	Jan. 29, 2023	
Feb. 5, 2023	Feb. 12, 2023	Feb. 19, 2023	Feb. 26, 2023	March 5, 2023	March 12, 2023	March 19, 2023	No Jan. 1, 2023 <b>New Year's Day</b> No April 9, 2021 <b>Easter</b>
March 26, 2023	April 2, 2023	April 16, 2023	April 23, 2023	April 30, 2023	May 7, 2023	May 21, 2023	No May 14, 2021 <b>Mother's Day</b>
May 28, 2023	June 4, 2023	June 11, 2023	June 25, 2023	July 2, 2023	July 9, 2023	July 16, 2023	No June 18, 2021 <b>Father's Day</b>
July 23, 2023	July 30, 2023	Aug. 6, 2023	Aug. 13, 2023	Aug. 20, 2023	Aug. 27, 2023	Sept. 3, 2023	No Nov. 26, 2023 <b>Thanksgiving</b>
Sept. 10, 2023	Sept. 17, 2023	Sept. 24, 2023	Oct. 1, 2023	Oct. 8, 2023	Oct. 15, 2023	Oct. 22, 2023	No Dec. 24, 2023 <b>Christmas</b>
Oct. 29, 2023	Nov. 5, 2023	Nov. 12, 2023	Nov. 19, 2023	Dec. 3, 2023	Dec. 10, 2023	Dec. 17, 2023	No Dec. 31, 2023 <b>New Year's Eve</b>
<b>Year 2024</b>							

# Contemporary Worship News

I began my ministry at Bethel Presbyterian Church as a Contemporary Worship Leader in January and I truly can't believe we are into the summer months already! As I continue to think about the ways in which my gifts can best be used at our church, I am encouraged about everything that has been happening since my arrival, as well as all of the events we are currently planning for the future.

In March, we launched our new Contemporary Service with a Worship Night in the Auditorium and in April we had our very first 'Revive' Service. To say the least, God was surely moving in this place on Worship Night. We initially set up 70 chairs, but as people arrived, we had to put more chairs out as we had over 80 folks in attendance! We had a great message from Pastor Cathie and a full band to lead people in worship and song. Our first 'Revive' Service had about 30 people in attendance and featured a four-piece band and our beautiful new stage risers!

I could not be more pleased with how things came together for our first two Contemporary Services, with the staff, volunteers and the musicians who gave their time to serve this church - and continue to do so each month.

As a Ministry Team, we decided to name our new Contemporary Service 'Revive'. Our vision for 'Revive' is as follows: To bring the gospel of Jesus Christ into the Bethel Park culture in a new way as a church, in hopes of growing our church as a whole for the future (but not to be moved by culture).

The dictionary definition of 'Revive' is: To give new strength or energy to. As Pastor Cathie and I were brainstorming about what to call this new service and what it would mean for our church, she shared with me her ideas of flowing waters, growth, greenery and being rooted. While thinking of what this new service might mean for our church as I was listening to music in my office one day, the word 'Revive' came out of my speakers and was also in my devotional. It seemed to make the most sense!

I am optimistic about what this new service will mean for this church and this community. Our church has been here since 1776! Since then, there have been many people and ideas that have gotten us to where we are as a church, as God's church, today. There are just as many willing and faithful individuals in our church family who can help us reach more people in Bethel Park by using their gifts, praying about and serving at our upcoming 'Revive' Services. If you, or someone you know, are interested in helping at the coffee table, with the welcome team, sitting at the projector controlling the graphics on the screen or using your voice to sing, we can use you! Feel free to contact me at:

*barilla.bethel@gmail.com*

## ***'Revive' Contemporary Service summer dates:***

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you at 'Revive' and hearing from you!

*Thanks,  
Nick*



# *Digital Media News & Online News*

As I have been looking into new ways to market our church, I came upon a book by George Barna from 1991 in our Church Library. You might ask why I would refer to a book that was published before I was even born, but I was pleased to find some encouraging information.

When quoting a study of successful churches, Barna stated that, “The key (to the church growth across the board) was when members, or regular attenders, of the church consistently invited other people to church whom they had built previous relationships with.” Barna goes on to say that, “People are most likely to visit a church when they are invited by someone they trust”. And to think these words of wisdom came from a text that was written long before social media was even a thought!

In an ever-growing online world, social media is the place to be. With a few sponsored ads in March on Facebook and Instagram, we were able to get even more new high school students to attend our monthly Open Mic Night, Hope Café. However, an online advertisement is much different than an invitation from inviting someone in a more personal way. We will continue to actively promote all of our upcoming events on the website, Facebook page, Instagram and with flyers in the community.

I encourage you to think of someone who you know in your life that hasn't been to church in a while (or has never even been to church) and be praying about the ways you might be able to introduce them to Christ here at BPC. You might start by going out for coffee and telling them about our “Jesus, Lego's and Me Program” their children can attend. A foot in the door is a start!

Leading up to the fall season, we plan on creating new, engaging content for our online users, including video devotionals, worship songs and online group chats each month. I am constantly being mindful of all the ways we can keep people engaged online.

Lastly, I am optimistic about all of the ways things are coming together throughout church to promote Jesus's name in our online community and the community at large.

If there is an event you are planning or something you would like to put on our website or Facebook or Instagram page, please let me know and I would be happy to assist you!

You can follow us on:

Instagram: @bpconline

Facebook: @BethelPresOnline

Our website is: [www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org)

***Have a great summer!***

***Nick Barilla***

***barilla.bethel@gmail.com***

# Deacons

*Our Mission: To serve the Lord by ministering to the needs of the church, the faithful and the community.*



- ✚ The Deacons prepared and distributed beautiful Easter Baskets to shut-ins this spring.



- ✚ Our Deacons held an Election Day “Bake Sale” on May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Clark Entrance. They are planning for a fall Election Day “Quarts of Soup Sale”.
- ✚ The Deacons are now in charge of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and are encouraging beginner and experienced needle workers to become part of this very special ministry. Shawls and lap robes are given to persons who are ill, suffered a loss or are in the midst of a life crisis. Anyone can make a request for a shawl or recommend a recipient. If you wish to work independently, you may use your pattern and yarn or we have a very nice selection of yarn and patterns you may choose. Before beginning, say a prayer for the individual who may be receiving the shawl. You can pray for healing, good health and peace. Please take the time to repeat your prayer as you knit. Prayer is good for you as well as the one who will receive the shawl. There are no deadlines, just bring the shawl when it is finished.

# Deacons

For all those who would be interested in gathering once a month for an afternoon of knitting or crocheting prayer shawls or for more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Cindy Fair ([cfair2222@gmail.com](mailto:cfair2222@gmail.com)).

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## **SAVE THE DATE**



***JULY 3, 2022***

***BLOOD DRIVE***

***8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

***Bethel Church Auditorium***

The Deacons will be hosting a Pre-Fourth of July Blood Drive on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Vitalant will provide a BBQ apron to each person who donates. Our Deacons will offer donuts, coffee, juice, etc. in the early morning and follow with hot dogs at lunchtime! Watch for more information coming from the Deacons and Vitalant.



# Finance Committee

## OUR MONEY IS WORKING FOR GOD'S MISSION!

We are pleased to announce that the new security system that was installed at our church is now performing exceptionally well. A computer partner of our church was able to diagnose a problem and make a slight adjustment to the wiring that made all the difference.

Our pipe organ, which is a crucial part of our worship service, is undergoing much-needed repairs to some of the leathers of the valves and modernization of the electrics. The last big repair was done in 1988 - 34 years ago. \$13,364 will be used from the McGregor Fund for this project - additional funds of \$4,000 will be needed to complete.

The compressor used for control of the air actuated valves which regulate the heat distribution throughout our building needed replaced. The new compressor with installation was \$7,050.

The new LED sign for the front of our church has been ordered at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Partial funding for the sign will come from the Memorial and Building Funds.

***Thanks for your continued support of our church - off to a good start for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter A.D. 2022!***

March 2022 Received Total Offerings	\$71,377
2022 YTD Budgeted Total Offerings	\$59,001
Difference	+ \$12,376
2022 Annual Budget Pledges	\$200,000

Ongoing 2022 “pet projects” for additional giving to our church include: projector for the Sanctuary, mission work with SHIM and Malawi, community outreach with LED signage in front of the church and pipe organ maintenance.

***Helping to serve and support His mission at Bethel Church,  
Finance Committee***



# Mission Committee

*As Christians we are called to continue the mission of Christ in this world; as a Committee we are directed to use our resources to address these areas:*

-  *Overcoming Hunger and Homelessness*
-  *Seeking Health and Wholeness for All*
-  *Working for Justice*
-  *Sharing the Good News*



## *Our Summer Events Will Include the Following:*

**A Drop Off Food Drive for SHIM:** A Community Food Drive is planned for the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in support of South Hills Interfaith Movement.

**Memorial Day:** We will again be providing water and ice pops to those participating in the Bethel Park Parade and Memorial Day Service. This is a great opportunity for community outreach. We invite and encourage everyone to join us.

**The Table:** We will continue to provide meals in support of the community outreach at Hot Metal Faith Community on the South Side ... where meals are provided by various churches twice a week for the poor and homeless in the area.

**Vacation Bible School:** The members of the Mission Committee will be helping with VBS this year. Please see Page 22 for details!

We also invite you to participate in any of our projects even if you are not a Committee Member, as we offer our projects as a church-wide opportunity to serve.



*When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

**The Mission Committee:** Barb Clark, Beth Mundsinger, Joyce Pratt and Barbara Jay

# *Music and Worship Committee*

With Easter already well behind us, it is hard to imagine that we will soon complete another musical season at BPC. With June rapidly approaching, the musical ensembles of Bethel Presbyterian Church will soon be taking a hiatus for the summer. Do not fear though, for we will return for another wonderful season starting after Labor Day! We will be back shortly with many wonderful classics as well as some new and exciting music.

I do want to take a moment to thank everyone for another wonderful journey this musical season. It was our pleasure to be able to perform on Sunday mornings and we hope that you enjoyed our singing and ringing as much as we enjoyed singing and ringing for you!

As we proceed to end our choral season on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, a special thank you goes out to everyone who made this another successful year. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir have continued to devote their time, energy and talents to the music ministry at BPC. For that, I am eternally grateful.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, joyous and blessed summer! Please be safe in all travels and endeavors God has planned for you and your loved ones over the next few months! I look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall for another wonderful musical season.

*God Bless,*

*Jason Wilcox,  
Director of Music and Worship*



# Youth Group / CE News

Children's footprints ...

Easter has come and gone; the baskets are put away and summer is knocking at the door. Have you taken a moment and reflected on the past Lenten Season and Easter? What does it truly mean to you in your heart space? Did the Lord nudge you with changes to make this year? What take-aways do you have from this? Is there so much JOY in your heart as you began reflecting on this wonderous season that it is hard to wrap your head around the knowledge that Jesus died and rose again, not for him, but for you and me and our children and our children's children? Or that God loves us so much? Well, you know the rest of the story. Was it like seeing and hearing the story for the first time? My prayer for each of you is that your eyes have been opened to something new, that the Holy Spirit whirls around you and you feel his love.

In this new post-Covid era, we are in a time when we are invited to reflect on what is most important in our lives. The question that has been heavy on my heart is this: Who is teaching our children and grandchildren the Bible stories? We know those stories well, don't we? They are in our hearts. But we need to ask: While our *heart space* knows the stories, do our children's *heart spaces* know them? Who is teaching them the stories? Do you spend time reading to them so they will get the opportunity that you had as a child? Do they truly know God and Jesus as you do?

I truly believe that we think that because we know the stories, that they do, too. But, in my observations in children's ministry over the past several years, I have found that they don't. A few years back I discovered at the church I was serving that the children did not even know who Moses was ... Moses! I was floored they didn't know who Jonah was or Joseph. They know that "God" is the answer to questions at church - but do they know the holy, just, righteous, loving nature of God who created this big, beautiful universe that we call home for now and has a beautiful plan and purpose for them? They know the name of Jesus, but do they know of his deeds, his kindness, his sacrifice, his grace and his radical shifting of the world? Do they know his parables and his teaching for themselves or just what the world says that he said?

This is important stuff. This is the most important stuff your children will learn in this lifetime. Anxiety is a real problem with children and youth of all ages right now. We can debate on why this is, but certainly social media and the ready supply of all kinds of information and dis-information have a role to play in this. The world is changing and frightening and so much is uncertain. Jesus told the parable of one house that was built on a firm foundation - and another one built on the sand. When the rain and storms came, the house built on the foundation stood firm, but the one on the sand fell. As parents and grandparents, our responsibility is to give our children a firm foundation to stand on in this changing and uncertain world.

You may have learned to turn to the pages of Scripture for direction, but I feel in this day and age we use (and teach our children to use) other tools to lean on for support. As soon as I have a question or need the correct answer or want information on pretty much anything I need to know, I turn to my phone - which is most times in my other hand or right by my side. That truth, right there, scares me a little. "You shall have no other God's before me." So, I will ask again - IF you are not sitting and teaching your children or grandchildren the stories found in Scripture, if you are not connecting them to others that believe there is someone more powerful than the phone in their hands - then how in the world are they to learn and retain the stories as their foundation? It only takes, what, probably two generations to create a scenario of children not knowing who they can lean on for everything in their lives - not even the easy answer, "God."

Let me introduce you to "My Jesus" (I encourage you to look up the song by that title sung by Anne Wilson). He walked this earth for 33 years. In the last three he healed the sick, he fed the poor. He died for my sins! Jesus relied solely on God the Father for every need. When he had a problem or a question, what did he do? Yep, he prayed. So, are your children praying? Do they know that there is One they can always turn to? Have they met him in the stories of Scripture and come to trust him by what they have learned about him?

## Youth Group / CE News

They are children - we are the adults in their lives. We have a responsibility to teach them, to show them, to lead them to the One they can lean on and trust in their whole lives. But culture has sent us, and them, a strong message that we should rely on no one else but ourselves in this fast paced and tiring world. We need to give them an alternative place to learn and grow - in our homes, but not just there. They need to be surrounded by a whole community of faith - to be among others who believe God is the Creator who loves us despite all our baggage, who will teach us that God is with us whatever may come, who will show us how to help those in need and bind the broken-hearted as Jesus did. People haven't been to church in such a long time. Covid took care of that. But now it is time to come back - for the children if nothing else. Jesus Christ is very clear as he talks with his disciples. In the book of Matthew 7:7 it says this, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." Are you knocking? Are you searching? What about your children?

I need you to hear this ... if we do not teach them, then the hope and truth of the Bible will not be in their hearts. They will not have it as their foundation for the storms of their lives. And they will not have it to pass on to their children or grandchildren. I invite us all - as parents, as grandparents and as a congregation - to seriously think about this. This is a dangerous future we are creating. It is not new, but it is becoming a large frightening truth.

Jesus tells us to teach our children and to not push them away, for they belong to the Kingdom of God. They belong to him. If we believe this - truly believe this - then we need to obey our Lord and lead our children to him. (And we must ask ourselves, if we are not leading our children to Jesus, are we pushing them away from him?) Their world is scary and uncertain, but God is bigger and able and loving and forgiving. It is our responsibility to show them who God is and the way to know him and trust him. So, let us share with them that God is bigger - yes bigger than all that surrounds us and them. Let us pray with them about the disease, war, corruption in this world. Let us show them that leaning on God will get you through the most difficult times.

It is our responsibility as the care givers of this generation to right this sinking ship. Let's do this together. I am praying for you and I am here to help however I can. Do you need a Bible or a resource on a particular topic? Stop in my office - or shoot me an email. If I don't have what you are looking for, we can get it for you.



*Praying God's best for you today,  
Barb Clark*

# Youth Group / CE News

Programs developed at Bethel Presbyterian Church are here to help children and their families grow closer to God through play, story and crafts. PLUS - there is something for all ages. Please visit the website to see all we have to offer. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Barb Clark at [barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com). You can always stop in the office or call 412/835-0405.

✚ **Graduation Sunday** is June 5<sup>th</sup>.

✚ **Vacation Bible School - Lifeway's Spark Studios**



Where we will learn - *We Are Created in Christ and Designed for God's Purpose*; June 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>; from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are many opportunities to help the children. Please visit the website to sign up or visit the area by the Narthex stairs for more information. The children say "Thank You" for helping us! ([www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org))

✚ **Sprouts, Pre-K Children and the Families Who Love Them**

Join us on May 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-10:30 a.m., as we have breakfast together, build a craft and have Bible Story Time! Summer Programs vary ... please check the website for more details. Beginning in July, Sprouts will meet on the third Saturday of the month. (July will be an outing event at Simmons Park on Clifton Road in Bethel Park.) You can register at [www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org). Details to follow.

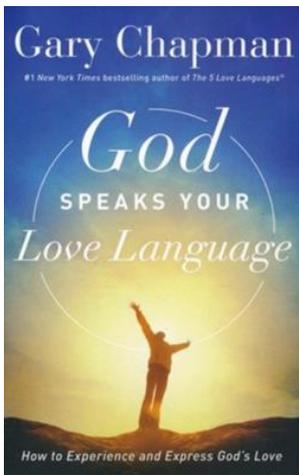
✚ **Jesus, Legos and Me**

The graphic has a dark blue background. On the left side, there is a pile of colorful Lego bricks in shades of green, blue, red, yellow, and orange. To the right of the bricks, the title "Jesus, Legos, and Me" is written in a large, bold, orange font. Below the title, the text "Thursdays 5-7 pm" and "April 28th to May 26th" is written in a yellow font. Underneath that, it says "Dinner will be provided for \$5.00" in a smaller yellow font. Further down, the text "A special time to build, to play, to learn, to laugh, and to sing" is written in a white font. At the bottom right, it says "for children PK-5th grade" in a yellow font. At the bottom left, it says "For more information, please contact: 412-835-0405" in a white font.

Children K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, join us for Lego building, snack and a Bible Story. The summer session starts Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Please register online - [www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org). The fall session is scheduled for Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner provided - cost \$5 per session.

# Youth Group / CE News

- ✚ **3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** We have special days throughout the year with events on and offsite. Look for these special times in the weeks and months to come. On May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m., we will go to Sunset Golf - meet us at the church!
- ✚ **Youth Group - Hope Café:** We meet once a month for coffee, open mic night, games and so much more. The next Café meets Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-10:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. June's event is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>. The tentative dates for the rest of the summer are July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>. Check the website for confirmation of these dates.
- ✚ **Monday Night Study Class**



Join Pastor Cathie and Barb as we delve into Gary Chapman's study "God Speaks Your Love Language: How to Feel and Reflect God's Love". Learn how you can give and receive God's love through the five love languages. This is a 10-week study. The first class starts Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., in the Youth Lounge. Come every time or as often as you can; it will be easy to catch up! No prior Bible knowledge needed. We hope to see you there! A sign-up sheet will be in the hallway outside the McMillan Room as we get closer to the study.

- ✚ **Coming In the Fall:** Learn how to navigate the Bible with your children. (It is helpful for the parents to join in this process.) It will be a Sunday Morning Program. Bibles will be provided.
- ✚ **Rally Day** is scheduled for Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will start with Sunday School for all ages, followed by the morning service at 10:30 a.m. Food trucks will be at the church from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., followed by our 'Revive' Evening Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

## ✚ **Give What You Can! Drive By/Drop Off Food Drive**

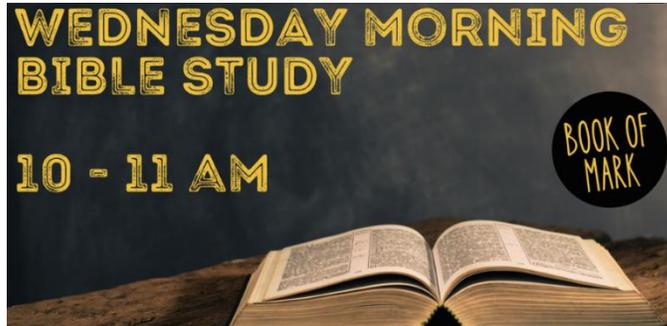


**When:** Second Saturday of Every Month  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Drop your food off outside the Clark Entrance.  
**Benefits:** SHIM Food Pantry

Bless you for helping those in need.

# Youth Group / CE News

- ✚ **Wednesday Morning Study on Mark Continues:** We will finish Mark in June and then pickup in September. Watch for further details coming soon.



\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* **The Oliver Miller Homestead** \*  
\* presents \*  
\* **TOOLS OF OUR FOREFATHERS** \*  
\* **Sunday, June 19** \*  
\* **1:30 to 4:30 PM** \*  
\* **Celebrate Fathers' Day at the Homestead.** \*  
\* **See draw knives, hand-augers, the snitzelbunk,** \*  
\* **the forge, hand-planes, axes, and other** \*  
\* **TOOLS THAT CONQUERED THE FRONTIER** \*  
\*  
\*  \*  
\* **Located in Allegheny County's South Park, 1 Stone Manse Drive, 15129** \*  
\* **ADMISSION (Cash only): \$2 / person**  **olivermillerhomestead.org** \*  
\*  \*  \*  \*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# Bits & Pieces

## CHANCEL FLOWER VASES:



*Thank you to all those who sponsor our Chancel Flower Vases each Sunday. If you have wanted to sponsor a vase or two, there are several Sundays available:*

*July 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>*

*The cost of each Chancel Vase is \$25. Please contact:*

*Carol MacDonald  
Bethel Presbyterian Church  
2999 Bethel Church Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
412/835-0405*

**HELP NEEDED!** We all enjoy having the slides available on the screen to help us in worship and hearing the music, readings and sermon through the sound system. Having our services live-streamed has been a blessing and continues to reach so many people. But did you know that those things don't happen without people? A small group of dedicated individuals have made sure that our Sunday tech happens every week so we can have and enjoy worship. But because of college, work, travel and health, we are down to just a couple of tech volunteers and may not be able to provide these needed and appreciated parts of worship unless our tech teams can grow. Helpers are needed to join the rotation in all three areas: slides, sound and streaming. All are easier than you think and full training will be provided. Let Pastor Cathie or Nick Barilla know if you are able to help keep this important aspect of our worship going!



**ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH?** If not, your email address may not be in our database and you may be missing out on important updates. Contact the church office today with your email address.

**'REVIVE' WORSHIP NIGHTS:** We are looking for nursery help during the service. If you are interested, please contact Barb Clark at [barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:barbclarkce.bethelpc@gmail.com).

## Bits & Pieces

**2022 PER CAPITA GIVING:** Do you know that each year Bethel Presbyterian Church supports the missions and services of the larger Presbyterian Church through our Per Capita offering? The Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity and the National Presbyterian Church U.S.A. are funded by these gifts from each member congregation. The Presbytery keeps an eye on the bigger picture serving needs such as poverty, disaster assistance, abuse and neglect, but the key source of funding is the Per Capita giving from each and every member of the Presbyterian Church. Bethel Presbyterian Church was the recipient in 2018 from disaster assistance for all the flooding in Bethel and we were able to help our neighbors financially.

Bethel Presbyterian Church's Per Capita assessment for 2022 is \$34.79 (the same amount as 2021) for each confirmed member of the congregation, totaling more than \$8,500. You can do your part and pay the \$34.79 all at once or throughout the year. *If you don't pay, BPC still has to pay the larger Presbyterian Church for each confirmed member*, so we ask that you prayerfully consider and submit your family's expected contribution for each confirmed member and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Bethel Presbyterian Church is a very giving congregation and our offerings directly support dozens of local and global missions, as well as the needs of those in our own church family.

***In Christ's Service,  
BPC Finance Committee***



I would like to thank everyone who sent my mom, Jean Smith, a birthday card to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 1<sup>st</sup>. She received so many beautiful cards, notes and well wishes from our wonderful church family and has read each one many times over. They make a happy, colorful display all over her room! Thank you for being a celebratory part of her big day!

Blessings,  
Pam Rawlings

## Bits & Pieces

**SEND SOME LOVE:** The following Bethel Church family members would love to receive notes and emails from us!

**Artis Senior Living:** Jean Smith (#306), Maria is the Activities Director. Send emails to her ... she will see that the right people get them. Her email is [mdeangelis@artismgmt.com](mailto:mdeangelis@artismgmt.com); 1001 Higbee Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

**Bethel Park Retirement Residence:** Charleene Paupa (#335), Rodney Payseure (#232) and Betty Ramsey (#236), 2960 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

**Concordia of the South Hills:** Helen Spence, 1300 Bower Hill Road, B169, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

**Country Meadows:** Allene Crossman (#210), 3580 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017 and Louise MacLachlan (#48), 3560 Washington Pike, Building 1, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

**Heritage Manor:** Marilou Booth, The Activities Director will see that the residents receive emails ([activities@heritagemanorsl.com](mailto:activities@heritagemanorsl.com)); 4220 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

**Passavant Community:** Bette Wetzel, Passavant Community, Whittenberg Place, 2000 May Drive, Zelienople, PA 16063.

**Strabane Hills Village:** Ginny Flynn, Celebration Villa, 153 Logan Road, Room 114, Dillsburg, PA 17019.

**Sunrise Senior Living:** Art Brandenburg (#305), 500 Village Drive, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241.

**The Residence at Bethel Park:** Bert Drummond (#201) and Beverly and Mel Lacich (#230), 5851 Keystone Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102.





# shim

**SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT**

**SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE:** The Presbyterian Women of BPC (PW) are collecting school supplies for SHIM. The donations need to be at SHIM by Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your support!

*Debbie May  
General PW Mission Coordinator*

### Items Most Needed

- Binders (no bigger than 2")
- Scissors
- Pens/Highlighters/Mechanical Pencils
- Folders
- Rulers
- Combinational Locks
- Glue Sticks
- Colored Markers & Pencils/Crayons



If anyone has any gently used scientific calculators to donate (especially Texas Instruments), they would be greatly appreciated. ***Place your donations in the Marshall Road entrance, in the area designated for SHIM Back-To-School Supplies.***

**DURING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This year the Mission Committee will be helping with VBS and their mission activities for the week by collecting school supplies for SHIM in support of the PW's Back-to-School-Drive. In addition to the items listed above, Mission will also be asking for pocket folders, earbuds/headphones, 70-count spiral notebooks, pencil cases, index cards, pencil sharpeners, erasers, 3-hole punches, subject dividers and loose-leaf paper.



This annual program is essential for providing much-needed school supplies to the children in our local community serviced by SHIM. A special thank you to our PW and to the Mission Committee for supporting them in their efforts this year.

# Presbyterian Women



**OUR PURPOSE:** *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and study. To support the mission of the church worldwide. To work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.*

It's hard to believe that our '21 - '22 season is coming to an end soon! What started out as a year of doubt and hesitancy has turned out to be a great comeback to a life of almost normalcy at Bethel Church. We got back to many of our normal activities and attendance, including the return of Holiday-A-Fair, with only minor changes but maximum results!

- Our spring has been quiet, but our fall certainly won't be! We have a Harvest Tea to look forward to and, of course, the Bazaar!
- Our last event for this season will be our Ice Cream Social on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost. Enjoy ice cream and strawberries during Fellowship Time, as we celebrate our graduates as well!
- During the summer we will be collecting school supplies for SHIM. (See our separate article on previous page.)
- Naomi Circle finished up its year with a summary of our Women of the Bible that we have been studying with Pastor Cathie and a lovely luncheon at the Bethel Residence. Mary and Martha Circle will have an end-of-the-year picnic celebration in the McMillan Room on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.
- Our refrigerator in the kitchen broke down after 10 years. Cost-wise, it would not have been worth fixing so we purchased a new one.
- PW decided to replace the back curtains of the Auditorium stage as they were falling apart! We found out they hadn't been replaced since 1953. We were able to do this before Tartan Day used the stage for its performances and it will be ready for use during the 'Revive' Contemporary Service if needed.
- After an almost two-year pause, we celebrated the life of Mary Helen Burroughs at a Memorial Service on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- PW would like to thank everyone who contributed to our fundraiser for Brother's Brother to help the Ukraine. We were able to send over \$1,200 to them!
- We also thank those who contributed to our Blanket Sunday Fund which is still ongoing.
- We would like to remind all of our ladies to keep in mind as you travel this summer to be collecting items from all the different states of the US for our Holiday-A-Fair travel basket, as well as collecting items to donate to a basket or create your own for the Bazaar. It's never too early to be thinking about the baskets and what kind of theme you might be able to create!

Have a restful summer and be ready when September comes to start right in again with many wonderful activities!

Our PW Board will meet again on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the McMillan Room. This is a change from the normal meeting time because of VBS running the prior week.

***Blessings,  
Pam Decker, Moderator***

# Child Care News

We have loved the beautiful days we have been gifted this spring season here at BPC! The children in our center have enjoyed getting outside for walks and playing on the playground after the long and cold winter. The children have been busy creating beautiful artwork to decorate our walls and send home for families to enjoy! We have also kept ourselves busy preparing to celebrate our Moms on Mother's Day and will be celebrating our Dad's soon enough! We are so excited to enjoy the activities and events summer sends our way!

We are excited to say that our Child Care Center is full for enrollment in the summer and for the upcoming school year. Our families are keeping our staff busy and we would love to welcome new staff members to our team. It is a great position for Moms who are looking for work during the school day or anyone who loves spending quality time with children. Feel free to reach out for more details if you or a friend may be interested.

We wish everyone a relaxing, fun-filled and safe summer! As a reminder, Child Care is closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, for Memorial Day, Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, in observation of Independence Day, and Monday-Friday July 25-29 for a vacation week for our staff!

Thank you!



**Nichole Murphy,  
Child Care Director**

*"You can find magic  
wherever you look.  
Sit back and relax,  
all you need is a book."  
— Dr. Seuss*

# Preschool News

It is hard to believe that Preschool is winding down for the school year. This school year sure was filled with many friendships, adventures and growth for our little ones ... both academically and socially. We had a busy spring with a successful Spring Fling Event, Muffins in the Morning Programs and we even had a Graduation Program for our T-Class! Many of our students will be moving on to Kindergarten next school year and are more than ready for this next step!

We are busy enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year, with 119 students registered so far. Availability remains in the following classes:

- Morning and Afternoon Three Year Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.)
- Morning and Afternoon Three-Day Four Year Class on Monday/Wednesday/Friday, (9:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.)
- Afternoon T-Class on Mondays - Thursdays (12:30 - 3:00 p.m.)

We appreciate your recommendations of our Preschool to your neighbors, relatives and friends who might be looking to enroll their little one in a Preschool Program. Anyone looking to enroll, schedule a tour of our Preschool and receive more information, should contact Angela Burns at 412/835-0441 or [bethelpresps@verizon.net](mailto:bethelpresps@verizon.net).

The Preschool Scholarship Fund has started to grow for next year due to our successful Spring Fling Basket Auction, which raised a good portion of the funds needed for this coming school year. Helping families who are financially in need send their children to Preschool is a very worthwhile mission of our Preschool. As always, we appreciate donations to help provide a child with an excellent educational beginning (no amount is too small!).

I would like to thank all of our teachers for another fantastic year! Our Preschool really is blessed with a fantastic group of teachers whose love for their job and the children is demonstrated in all they do. I wish all our teachers and students a relaxing and fun summer break ... see you in the fall!



*Happy Summer,*

**Angela Burns - Preschool Director**  
**[bethelpresps@verizon.net](mailto:bethelpresps@verizon.net)**  
**412/835-0441**

# Welcome to AmazonSmile!

Thank you for supporting **Bethel Presbyterian Church**.

**Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**  
and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible  
AmazonSmile purchases.

**Prime Members:** Once you log on using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
you will be asked for your user name and password. You will  
then be directed to amazon smile prime. Under the search  
bar will be "Supporting: Bethel Presbyterian Church".



## Our Unique Charity Link

This link will take you directly to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to support our church so you won't have to search for BPC among almost a million other organizations. Use this link in all your AmazonSmile marketing promotions.

**<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0974289>**

# June Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members  
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

1	Cathy Misko	2	Ryan Anderson
2	Mary Burford	2	Geno Lavezoli
2	Mary Pursglove	5	David Kunkle
6	Walter Bown	6	Rebecca Lavezoli
9	Cheryl Pantano	9	Linda Jones
12	Jacob Smith	13	MacKenzie Fetsick
13	Marian Rhodes	13	Pamela Rawlings
14	Justin Pratt	15	David Cobb
16	Jason Szymanski	16	Steven Zeiler
18	Shirley Gales	18	Jesse Virgin
19	Cynthia Quinlan	19	Maria Jay
20	Kristen Ericson Szott	22	DJ Lucidore
27	LaVerne McConnell	27	Craig Placke
28	Steven Ericson	30	Fred Shoemaker
30	Martin Webler		



# July Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members  
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

2	Sheila Vandevander	3	Courtney Kiesling
4	Laura Davin	7	April Lucidore
8	Linda Elko	9	Carol MacDonald
10	Shayne Long	11	Lacey Shreffler
11	Matt Davin	12	Angela Stroeck
13	Zachary Cashman	14	Donald DeFurio
16	Conrad Adomaitis	16	Roy Burford
18	Pamela Adomaitis	19	Richard Kraft
21	Isaac Selle	23	Kevin Carr
24	Joanne Ericson	24	Marilyn Beckstrom
25	Helen Spence	26	Lora Spence
28	Jerret Hannigan	28	Shannon Good
30	Leanne Parise	30	Lindsay Zimmerman
31	Quinn LaTorre		



# August Birthdays

*Birthday wishes to the following active members  
and their families celebrating birthdays!*

2	Ava Zeiler	3	Judith Mittleider
3	Bruce Virgin	3	Jason Ericson
4	Pamela Spence	5	Cynthia Fair
5	Nancy Carr	5	Kayleigh Moon
6	Ruth Stotesbery	6	William Kossan
10	Jerry Wade	10	Michael Schultz
11	Rachel Schoenberger	12	Mabel Dare
12	Carole Legleitner	14	Pam Backstrom
18	Leland Frazier	19	Kathy Crump
20	Edward Korchok	20	Robin Macherey
22	Natalie Szymanski	24	Leah Day
28	Maxx Gregg	29	Violet Cumpston
29	Carol Kadar	29	George Ritchie
30	Norma Jacobs	31	Elizabeth Fetsick
31	David Fair		



# *Our Blanket of Prayer | The Military and Families*



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

**OUR BLANKET OF PRAYER:** Ansley Basso (Virgin), Gary Bittner, Marilou Booth, Marina Bowser, Art Brandenburg, Michele Cobb, Marilyn DeHuff, Pete Edwards, Ginny Flynn, Steve Kloc, Dick Kraft, Robin Macherey, Diane Miller, Jack Miller, Emily Parise, Pam Rawlings, George Ritchie, Wendy Roithner, Fred Shoemaker, Sally Sinatra, Jean Smith, Lynne Smith (Pastor Jim's wife), Sheila and Rich Vandevander, Edith Wallace

## **THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Joshua Croner**, Army Reserves, Serving in the Middle East

**Robert Dalzell**, Department of Defense, Korea

**Michael Davis**, Marine Corps

**Capt. Christopher Demetraides**, Marines, Iraq

**Pett. Off. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Gary M. Dernus**, Iraq

**Comm. Christopher Rose**, U. S. Navy, Tennessee  
(Son-in-law of Roy & Mary Burford)

**Captain Blane T. Shearon**, Navy  
(Son-in-law of Phyllis Criss)

**Private Larry Shoop**, Demolition, Afghanistan

**Capt. Mike Sieber**, Army, Special Services (on third tour in Iraq)

**SFC David Williams**, Army Recruiter  
(Son of Gregory Williams, stepson of Deborah {Werner} Williams)  
has been promoted to Station Commander of the Burlington  
Recruiting Office in Burlington, VT)



**Call Kathy Young with updates and additional names of friends, family or community members who are in the military.**

# Prayer Concerns

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to the Elko family on the loss of Richard Elko, the Good family on the loss of Angie Good (Shannon Good's step-mother), the Lugin family on the loss of Nicholas Lugin (Child Care Director Nichole Murphy's grandfather), the Black/Moberly family on the loss of Thelma Moberly (Elma Black's twin sister) and the Williams family on the loss of Edwin Williams (Debbie Williams's father-in-law). May these families find comfort in knowing that our thoughts and prayers are with them during these challenging times.



Praying  
for you and  
your family..

## Staff & Church Contact Information

2999 Bethel Church Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102  
412/835-0405 Church Office 412/835-1037 Fax  
Website: [www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org)  
Email: [bethelpres@verizon.net](mailto:bethelpres@verizon.net)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or [pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com)

**Worship Leader/Digital Media Coordinator:** Nick Barilla, 412/835-0405

**Christian Education:** Barb Clark, 412/835-0405

**Director of Music and Worship:** Jason Wilcox, 412/651-4638

**Organist:** Cody Soska, 412/877-9139

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathy Young, 412/835-0405

**Administrative Assistant:** Nancy Carr, 412/835-0405

**Custodian:** Bob Murphy (Day), 412/835-0405

**Maintenance/Custodian:** Russ Young (Night), 412-835-0405

# Church Officers

## SESSION

Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, Moderator  
Barbara Jay, Clerk of Session  
Robin Macherey, Assistant Clerk

### Class of 2022

Jack Miller  
Carl Parise

### Class of 2023

Conrad Adomaitis  
Dan Beckstrom  
Cliff Decker  
Barbara Jay  
Robin Macherey

### Class of 2024

Pam Backstrom  
Kristen Kiesling  
Judy Ritchie  
Mike Smith

## DEACONS

### Class of 2022

Pam Adomaitis  
Lana Kling  
Debbie May  
Cheryl Pantano  
Joyce Pratt

### Class of 2023

Marilyn Beckstrom  
Cindy Fair  
Diane Miller

### Class of 2024

Pat Brown  
Joanne Ericson  
Pat Kaczmarek  
Ted Keenan  
Carol MacDonald

