



## *News & Views*

What is the purpose of the Church? I'm certain that if this question were asked to a group of people, the responses received would be varied and the list long. But praise God that His word provides us insight into the answer to this question. The short answer to this question is found in Acts 2:42: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* We gather together to worship God, dine together, observe Communion, and to pray. Certainly, we enjoy the social aspects of our gatherings and we should! It's part of who we are as the community of faith. However, such gatherings are not the only reason for gathering. We gather to pray together and learn and when we gather, such prayer should be for others, churched and unchurched, for God's will to be on earth as it is in heaven, and our learning and response to such learning should be grounded in scripture. As I've often heard it expressed, we are to be "people of the Book." As such, our conversations should be uplifting others as Paul reminds the church of Corinth: *"No one should seek their own good, but the good of others (1 Corinthians 10:24)"* or to the church at Ephesus he writes: *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Ephesians 4:29)."* Following this passage, Paul cautions believers not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) so our teaching, learning, and conversations about these or other issues should seek to uplift others and glorify God! K.I.A.J. . . Keep It About Jesus! This applies to all we do and say as a community of faith!





# SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	April Average	2024 Average	2023 Average
<b>Sunday School</b>	38	37	34	39	37	36	35
<b>Church</b>	113	84	91	87	94	86	84



## May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Ralph & Mariam Clevenger (Anniv)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Nicholas Harber
<b>5</b> Rick Littrell	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Lew & Gayle Prine (Anniv)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Timothy Evans Gavin Hardacre Pastor Eric & Stephanie (Anniv)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Blake Williams Roger Rutledge Heather Friis Lee Riehle	<b>15</b> Cherrell & Damon Parmer (Anniv)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Robert Suver	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> JJ Legge	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Jeremy Brewer	<b>25</b> Josh & Melissa Hensley (Anniv)
<b>26</b> Matthew Harber	<b>27</b> Devyn Cooper Craig & Melissa Hensley (Anniv)	<b>28</b> Dean Wilson Elenora M. Moore	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Layne Ann Florence	<b>31</b>	



Blessings from the Deacons,

Have you ever considered that the church is divine in nature? I used to drive by a church everyday with a sign that said “The church gathers regularly in this building.”

The sign calls our attention to the fact that the “church “ is comprised of the people of God rather than the structure in which it gathers.

I saw an interview with a pastor recently who’s church building was destroyed by fire. The reporter said “I know that the total loss of your church must be a tragic shock to you.” Calmly the pastor answered “ yes it is a terrible tragedy to lose our building, but you must understand that that our church did not burn. Only the building was destroyed. Our church is God’s People, and we will find a place in our community to gather and worship. What a testimony to the nature of the church!

Christ established the church-He laid the foundation. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said. “Upon this rock, I will build my church.” Do you notice His personal involvement? “I will build my church.”

Evil lashes out at the church because it represents Christ and His divine mission here on earth. Sometimes we can become an unwitting tool of satan. Early in the ministry of the early church in Jerusalem their fellowship was rocked from inside by “murmuring.”

As Christian’s it is our duty to do all things in the light and not hide in the dark trying to manipulate the church in the background. We need to understand that we have to surrender our preferences to God’s plan. That just because we like or dislike something it doesn’t automatically make it right or wrong.

I pray that each and everyone of us would choose to walk in the light and pray for those who take missteps.

Prayers requests may be put on Bethel’s prayer chain by calling Etta Paugh @ (937)323-9850 or by email @zbbcs06370@hormail.com

Questions or concerns may be addressed to any Deacon. We would be happy to sit down and discuss anything with anyone.

Tom Baker (937)416-6822. Kevin Sullivan (937)215-3626

Bill Beverly (937)360-6926. Bob Suver (937)207-9674

Craig Fitch (937)631-5783

# Missions Team

Why should Christians do outreach? Outreach ministry is a common practice that helps the church spread God's word and share His love with the community and the world at large. As a Bethel family member, you have many opportunities to get involved and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The Blessing Closet has been blessed with many donations of housewares this past month and we look forward to helping meet the needs of those in our community. We also had the opportunity to provide clothing to those served at the community meal. We were able to help a lady replace clothing that had been stolen from her on the streets. The closet is currently accepting donations of shoes, girl clothing size 4t-16, men's gently used jeans and sweatpants all sizes, housewares, furniture and appliances. Please see Elaine or Stephanie for more details.

Operation Christmas child seems so far away but it is never too late to start planning. Some of our mission team members were invited to attend a brainstorming session at Church of the Brethren in New Carlisle. We have decided to offer some workshops to learn how make items for packing in the shoe boxes. These will open for everyone who would like to be involved. The first workshop will be learning how to make jump ropes from recycled t-shirts on May 17th 4pm-6pm at Church of the Brethren. The second session will be held at Bethel June 10th from 1-3pm where we will be making a variety of items. If you are interested in attending, please see Stephanie for more information.

Do you want to help be the hands and feet of Jesus? Do you have a desire to shine the light of Jesus to those in need? Listed below are other Bethel ministries that you can do just that. Contact a mission team member to get involved.

Operation Christmas Child Operation Rebirth Family and Youth Initiatives

Blessing Food Boxes Blessing Closet Mobile Blessing Closet

Springfield Soup Kitchen Habitat for Humanity Nehemiah Foundation

Upcoming Mission events

May 4th & May 18th Blessing Closet Openings

May 12th Blessing in a Bottle collection begins for Pregnancy Resource Center

May 27th Mobile Blessing Closet

If you have a new opportunity that you would like Bethel to consider getting involved with, please contact one of the members listed below.

Stephanie Swenson Fonda Yonker Judy McNier Toni Helfrich Judy Johnson Christina Lovelock





## BOCE

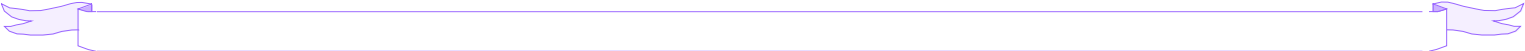
Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is overall and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Ephesians 4:1-7

The Board of Christian Education met on Monday April 15th with Sarah Sarrazine, Nancy Shoopman, Shawna Sullivan, Jennie Hardacre, and Elaine Scott present. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 7:00pm.

We have divided the Sunday School into 2 programs each being led by different individuals to fellowship with the people in their groups respectively to hear and see what we can offer in Sunday School to ensure Bethel Baptist colleagues can continue to grow in Christ. Shawna Sullivan has agreed to spearhead the adult programs and Pastor Craig Fitch has agreed to direct the children's Sunday Schools.

We had very good feedback on the small Sunday School groups that we offered at the beginning of the year. We are trying to focus on 4-6 week classes that we can offer in Sunday School to help our adults. Some of the topics that have been discussed are, "How to love an addict, Anxious for Nothing (Max Lucado), Grieving/Preparing for death, Empty Nesters". If you have any ideas or if you feel lead to help teach, please reach out to Shawna Sullivan or another BOCE member to get this arranged. Shawna/Craig/Sarah may approach you to ask you if you would like to teach one of these classes. Feel free to say gracefully say no, but if God is leading you to guide other individuals with your path, we would love to help facilitate God's plans for you!

Do you have family or friends graduating this year? We would like to recognize our graduating members and friends here at Bethel. Please contact any BOCE member (Jennie Hardacre, Aaron Leighty, Sarah Sarrazine, Elaine Scott, Nancy Shoopman, Shawna Sullivan) with Name, School, and diploma by May 19th to ensure we can get everyone recognized.





**IT'S TIME TO RECOGNIZE  
OUR GRADUATES!**

Please give the graduate's name, school and degree (if applicable) to a Board of Christian Education Member by May 19.

We will be presenting our Graduates to the church on June 2, 2024 during the church service at 10:30 AM



**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 15th

**GAME TIME:** 7:05 pm

**TICKETS:** \$9.00 each

See Pastor Craig

We have limited seating all together while supplies last.

Meet at the church @ 5:00pm

Operation Rebirth is asking for donations for their daily needs. These items include:

1. Wood for stoves
2. Boxed Au Gratin/Scalloped potatoes
3. Cake mixes with Icing
4. Brownie Mixes
5. Muffin Mixes
6. Instant Rice
7. Dawn Dish Soap
8. Laundry Detergent
9. Dishwasher Detergent
10. Cleaning Supplies
11. Toilet Cleaner
12. Bleach
13. Tissues
14. Paper Plates
15. Toilet Paper
16. Paper Towels
17. Napkins
18. Aluminum Foil

They are also in need of :

Kitchen stove with a double oven.

Chain Saw

\* Lawn Mower (Already Donated by Bethel Baptist Church)

You may call 937-663-5765 with any questions.

# May 2024

			<b>1</b> Choir Practice- 7:00pm	<b>2</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 6:30pm: Daniel	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Trustee Meeting 6:30pm	<b>7</b> Praise & Worship 6:30pm	<b>8</b> Ladies Luncheon @ Studebakers on 41 12:30pm <b>Choir Practice- 7:00pm</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00am: Experiencing God  6:30pm: Daniel	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Deacons Meeting 10:00am
<b>12</b> <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Dayton Dragons Game 7:00pm. Meet at the church @ 5:00pm <b>Choir Practice- 7:00pm</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00am: Experiencing God  6:30pm: Daniel	<b>17</b> Hardacre Farm Work Day 5:30-7:30pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> New Member Potluck after church	<b>20</b> BOCE Meeting 7:00pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Choir Practice- 7:00pm	<b>23</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00am: Experiencing God  6:30pm: Daniel	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Choir Practice- 7:00pm	<b>30</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00-am- Experiencing God  6:30pm: Daniel	<b>31</b>	

