



**BETHEL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST "AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION"**

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens—Pastor

October 12, 2020

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God, everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1John:47"

October, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Bethel,

November 8th is Stewardship Sunday when, after prayerful consideration, you will be returning your 'intention' (pledge) cards as we determine our giving for 2021. We plan to kick-off our Stewardship campaign on October 18th. Gary Pierson, our vice-chair of Council, will be sharing a short message each Sunday. We have never done a campaign virtually, so this is a first! There have been many 'firsts' this year and Bethel has found ways to keep moving forward while we keep the safety of our congregation as our top priority.

This past year has been a challenge in so many ways, but Bethel has been blessed with gifts that have given us the means to stay connected. Not only have you met your 'intention to give', many of you have surpassed your commitment. Like we stated in last years' campaign, "**Because of you**, our church changes lives..." 2020 has definitely changed our lives as we have had to look at church, worship and fellowship and life in general in new ways.

We will be sending out information each Sunday with the bulletin, starting on October 18: Beloved, Love the Children, October 25: Beloved, Love Your Neighbor, November 1-Beloved, Love Creation, November 8-Beloved, Love in Action. The campaign is lifting up the 3 Great Loves Initiative that the UCC introduced at General Synod in 2017: Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation and Love of Children: A Just World for All.

There is a saying from Archbishop Desmond Tutu that speaks to how Bethel continues doing missions and ministries that touch so many people, even during this pandemic, "Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Our generosity continues to grow, expand and touch peoples' lives in amazing ways. Thank you for all you have done with your gifts and love for Bethel.

You will receive 2021 Time and Talent Sheets on Sunday, November 1st through your e-mail along with your giving cards which need to be in by November 8th. The Time & Talent sheets and the pledge cards can be filled out and returned via e-mail, dropped off at church or mailed. For the Time & Talent, fill out your areas of interest, including those areas where you are already serving and intend to continue. We offer so many opportunities for our members. Find a ministry you feel called to and check it or write down one that is not listed. **These Time and Talent sheets are very important to Council, Commissions and Committees as we strive to be inclusive of all of our members amazing gifts.** Pray about your giving and your service. We will build our campaign around the Three Loves: Children, Neighbor and Creation.

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 Never place a period
where God has placed
a comma,
**God Is
Still Speaking**



As we come to the end of 2020, we complete Bethel's 60th year as the church-the body of Christ. Our celebration included: remembering Bethel's history throughout the year, sharing "What Bethel Means to Me" (you can still send in your memories) and a service that shared "Celebrate Life" from the choir at our 50th Anniversary. It wasn't the celebration that the Anniversary Team had in mind, but this year Bethel continues to be strong due to the foundation that was built by founding members in 1960. Thanks to members and friends who support Bethel's ministry with their time, talent and treasure. You are Beloved!!

Peace,

Pastor Karen
Gary Pierson, Stewardship Chair

PRAYER LIST UPDATE – OCTOBER 12, 2020

Hospitalized: Liz Guevel, NKC Hospital Rehab; Garrett Malsom, Children's Mercy Hospital

Prayers: David Schindler; Debbie Robinett's niece, Danica Woychesin; Jamie Elder; Randy Pace's friends, Marvin Jackson & Jed Hedges; Vicki Thompson's brother working at NKC Hospital and all health care providers; Marilyn Helmich's daughter Carolyn McNeal; Cathy Leslie and friends, Tyler Cain & Carol Miller; Liz Guevel; Alice Inman; Vern Bohlmeier; Lauri Buck's Brother-in-law, Jim Saylor, Stan Niederhauser's mother, Nancy Niederhauser; Joe Germer; Alice Terrill, Dave Bunch; Jim Derry; Jeremy Manley; Jim Inman; Adam Niederhauser; Gerry McGuire; Doug Berka; friends of the Pace's, Shanna Villarreal and the Jacobsen's; Kathy Corn's sister, Ruthanna Rodatz (& friend Judy Lightheart; Crittenton Center staff and residents, prayers for all medical staff and first responders; Mollie Geitz; Mark & Jeanene Easley; Maggie Basch's cousin, Linda Phelps; Karen Lind-Olson, sister of Doug Berka; Pat Conrad, Shellie Willis' Lora Carey; Aiden Liesveld, neighbor of Bob & Lauri Buck; Jody Meyer's niece Delores Starr and great niece, Diane Shoemaker

Please keep us informed of any additions or corrections to the Prayer List.

***Drive-In Parking Lot services– October 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (Weather Permitting)**

THANK YOU

*"You are a blessing to my heart and uplifting to my soul.
I thank God every time I remember you."*

Philippians 1:3

Your gifts and cards have been so meaningful, humbling and creative!! Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers sent my way. I always feel appreciated and so grateful that I was called to be your pastor almost 14 years ago. The words from Paul in Philippians capture what is in my heart.

Peace and Love,
Pastor Karen

FESTIVAL OF SHARING QUILT AUCTION

Festival of Sharing Online Bidding for quilts will open at 8 a.m. CST, Nov. 5 and close at 11:59 p.m. CST, Nov. 14. Quilt photos, details and bidding information can be found at benefitbidding.com/festivalofsharing. Proceeds of the online auction will support the work of the [Church World Service \(CWS\) Blanket](https://www.cwsusa.org/) program. As we see the ways CWS is responding during the pandemic and natural disasters of 2020, we are reminded of the impact our gifts and auction contributions can make.