



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

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens—Pastor

September 21, 2020

Blessings,

To the Church of God that is in Kansas City (*Corinth*), to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (*the salutation from Paul's 1st Letter to the church in Corinth*)

The Apostle Paul just had a way with words, so I borrowed them today as my greeting to all of you as we continue gathering in outdoor worship and on line due to the pandemic. The sad news is that we have now surpassed 200,000 deaths due to COVID-19 and here in Jackson County we are still waiting to see the numbers go down for two weeks before we consider in-person worship in the sanctuary. It's been a long stretch, but for now I am so glad the weather is cooperating and we can meet outdoors.

Yesterday we celebrated another baptism for Ollie and Adler Schmidt, the great-nephews of Don and Anne Eversmeyer. Sponsors were Anne's brother Paul and his wife Nancy Schmidt and niece Paige Schmidt. It was a beautiful morning and the joy that was felt in our parking lot was so special as the Schmidt family rejoiced in the baptisms of Ollie and Adler.

Thank you for the gifts you have given to Festival of Sharing. We have collected \$575 up to 9/20 (not including the gifts made to Tithely in September for FOS). So we have enough for six and 1/3rd buckets!! Great job! That money will be sent into Festival of Sharing sometime in October, so you can still give!! Thanks for your generosity!!

If you haven't given to the Bethel Team for CROP walk, there is still time. The date for our virtual walk is Saturday, October 10th. By donating online to our Bethel walkers, we get immediate feedback on what has been given. See the link in this mailing on how to connect and give. If I can do it anyone can!! You can also give by writing a check to Bethel and putting CROP on the memo line.

As I write this letter, it is the last day of summer! We have been the church on line and in our parking lot for over six months and we are Bethel strong! I know there have been those days where we get down, want things to get back 'to the way it was' and just want to throw up our hands and say "What else can I do?" What we need to remember is that we are already doing what we can do. We are following guidelines by wearing masks, distancing and washing our hands! We are praying for one another and checking up on our friends. We are trying to do all those things that ensure another's safety, as well as our own safety. We are living our discipleship in the midst of this pandemic by showing compassion, giving to missions and supporting our church as much as we are able. **BETHEL IS GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOUR GIFTS!!**

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



So, as we prepare for the first day of fall, I offer these words from the book Emergence: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering from the Stillspeaking Writers Group:

Blessing for a Face Mask
God of health and wholeness
of neighbor love and kindness,
bless this mask, my slight shield
against great ills;
Bless the fabric that repels the drops,
the ties that go behind my ears,
the wire that fits snug against my nose,
the folds that cup my chin.
Make me grateful for my mask
even when it makes me hot,
even when I look funny in it,
even when I'm dying to take it off.
Bless me also and everyone
who for their own and others' sakes
put on this holy inconvenience every day,
our minds made up to love.
Mary Luti

Peace,

Pastor Karen

PRAYER LIST UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

In Sympathy: **Ron Wendle** on the death of his uncle, Leonard Pohlman, on September 16, 2020.

Hospitalized: **Liz Guevel**, knee replacement surgery Sept. 23 NKCH

Prayers: **Debbie Robinett's** niece, Danica Woychesin; **Jamie Elder**; **Adrea Berka's** friend, Patti Elher, **Vicki Thompson's** mother, Velma Farrar, and her brother working at NKC Hospital and all health care providers; **Marquita Pace**; **Marilyn Helmich's** daughter Carolyn McNeal and daughter-in-law, Allison Pope; **Cathy Leslie**; **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**; Shanna Villarreal, friend of the **Pace'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'** cousin; friend of **Laurie Arbuthnot**, Fred White; **Lora Carey**; **Schindlers'** sister-in-law, Susie Carpenter; 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.

***Outdoor services– September 27 at 10:00 AM**

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Join Bethel UCC in support of the Virtual CROP Walk October 10, 2020

Even a pandemic can't stop Bethel from supporting this important mission!

Walk. Give. Change the World.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of **Church World Service**, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Twenty five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

This year's **Heart of America CROP Walk** will be a virtual event "happening" **Saturday, October 10th**. The Bethel congregation has supported CROP with walkers and financial contributions for many years. This year we will have a virtual team of "walkers" who will welcome your donations, prayers and other support to benefit CROP.

Want to support? On-line contributions are encouraged. To support Bethel's walking team, or a specific walker, go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/kansascitymo/>. **Click on the "Donate" button.** Once there, in the box for Team type in **Bethel UCC** (our team name **Bethel UCC**), or a specific walker. Just follow the steps on the screen to make your donation. **By following these simple steps Bethel will receive credit for your donation.** If you prefer to make your donation by cash or check, please make your check out to Bethel and indicate the amount for CROP in the memo line.

Interested in becoming a member of Bethel's virtual "walking" team? Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/kansascitymo/> and click on register. At the "join a team" option, type in **Bethel UCC**. That should allow you to add your name to the Bethel Walking team. Once you are registered, you can choose to share the information regarding your fundraising efforts for CROP Walk via Facebook and other social media venues, as well as to copy and share your personal link with friends and family members.

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

