



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

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens—Pastor

September 28, 2020

Greetings and Blessings,

Today I am attending an all-day virtual workshop on “Pandemic Leadership: Leading in Uncertain Times.” This was offered at no cost by the Kansas/Oklahoma Conference to include clergy in the Missouri Mid-South Conference. We are using the book, **Your Leadership Edge: Lead Anytime, Anywhere** by Ed O’Malley and Amanda Cebula. I plan to share with you some of the skills and insight I gain from this special webinar.

Please look at all the announcements and our prayer list as I am doing a short letter today. Even with the threat of rain, the musicians, the video directors and you the congregation, whether in the parking lot or at home, had the opportunity to worship together. Thanks to all! In the future, if rain is a threat, the filming of the service will move inside and you are welcomed to come to the parking lot and listen on 92.1 or stay home and get the service live and later posted on Bethel’s YouTube channel.

Special thanks to Marty who was my dragon called Emotion. I hope the children and adults liked the skit. Christian Education Commission met and will be contacting parents and children about virtual Sunday School to get your input. The hope is to start virtual Sunday School sometime in October.

Time to get back to my webinar. Stay Safe and call a friend!

Peace,

Pastor Karen

October 4 is World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It focuses on an observance of the eucharist. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. According to *Presbyterian Outlook*:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.^[2]

It was then adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936 and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), led by Jesse Moren Bader, endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.

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PRAYER LIST UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

In Sympathy: **Andrea Berka** on the death of her friend, Patti Elher, on September 21, 2020.

Prayers: **Liz Guevel; Debbie Robinett's** niece, Danica Woychesin; **Jamie Elder; Randy Pace's** friend, **Marvin Jackson, 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 and the Jacobsen's, friends of the **Pace's; Kathy Corn's** sister, Ruthanna Rodatz (& friend Judy Lighthart; 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– October 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM—World Communion Sunday

October Birthdays

2 Jeannie Kenyon 4 Sheri Achille, Dominic Achille 6 Jeffrey Kluender 7 Ron Wendle 12 Matthew Terrill
13 Joyce Manley 14 Jeanene Easley, Darleen Jurgensen 22 Alice Terrill 24 Jeff Bohlmeier 25 Lilly Willis
26 Gerry Hendrix 28 Jhon Payne 29 Phil Achille

Thank You

Dear Bethel,

Your generous gift of \$50 makes it possible for families in our community to live free of violence. Because of you everyday we have the privilege of keeping children safe and loved. As we work to end family violence, your gift will create the supportive environment and therapeutic tools need to change a life forever.

With gratitude, Jennifer Hurst, Director of Development, Synergy Service

Dear Bethel UCC Friends,

Thank you very much for the generous contribution on \$75 from your special offering to Steppingstone, We're so very thankful for your gifts that support the work we do. Steppingstone provides supportive assistance to older homeless not equipped to live on their own, Thank you again for helping our youth who need hope, support and guidance to gain successful independence as adults.

Sincerely, Lynn Durbin, Steppingstone Director

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and good thoughts following my recent surgery. Just so you know, those prayers do work.

Love, Marquita "Marty" Pace

Missouri Voters—Know Your Options! TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER REGISTER BY—OCTOBER 7

- Absentee in Person—Starts Sept. 22. No application in advance or notary is necessary, but must give a reason at the time you vote.
- Absentee by Mail—Must apply by email, fax or in-person. Health-based reasons do not require a notary on ballot envelope, but voters will. Can be returned IN PERSON to Election Board/Clerk's Office.
- In Person on Election Day—Polling places may have changed—know before you go.
- No-Excuse Mail-In Ballot—Must apply by mail or in person. Ballot envelope must be notarized and can only be returned by US Mail.

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.

