



First Bethel Church
King's Light Newsletter



2026

FROM THE HEART

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR DAVID



I am having fun with this Summer's worship series, Rock of Ages (Cleft for Me). I hope you are too! I have traditionally preached from the texts of the Revised Common Lectionary. But the Summer months invite variation, levity, and creativity. For the readers who have not been at FBUMC for Sunday worship the past two weeks, I have been using a different classic rock song each week to inform the topic/theme for the service. The Kansas song *Dust in the Wind* informed the first week as we explored texts from the book of Ecclesiastes.

This past week, U2's song *Where the Streets Have No Name* turned our hearts to creating incidences of "Heaven on Earth" as we allow Jesus to turn hearts and minds to his work of love – which break down walls of race, religion and economic status. I have kept the artist and the song unnamed until, in the course of the sermon, someone figures out the artist/song I am sharing. After this second week, one of our senior members of the congregation greeted me after the service with a suggestion: "How about some Neil Diamond!" That is a possibility!

The song *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* is another song from the band U2 that uses real life Christ-follower experience as the basis for its lyrics.

*I have climbed highest mountains;
I have run through the fields
I have run, I have crawled, I have scaled these city walls
Only to be with you...
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for*

Taking in the totality of the song lyrics, one can tell the songwriter has faith in God and in Jesus as the one God provided to offer salvation. The writer is not searching world religions looking for the best one. The writer is expressing the manner in which we can't completely shake human nature and be perfect in our following of Jesus. His lyrics remind us that our life is a journey that finds its way through mountains and valleys, times when our eyes are on Jesus and times when we allow our gaze to wander to the world. Perfection is not found; but is being ever approached. More lyrics from the song:

*You broke the bonds;
And you loosed the chains
Carried the cross of my shame;
You know I believe it
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for.*

May we have the honesty with God and understanding that God is full of grace and hears the baring of our soul. God values our being real far more than any measure of white-washed obedience. At the same time God understands and is full of grace, God desires that we become more like Jesus as we walk the faith God has called us to. When we do, we become even more aware how Jesus is...our Rock of Ages and is cleft for us all!

Journeying Together,

Pastor David



SUMMER SCHEDULE



SUNDAYS

9:30AM WORSHIP

10:45AM WIRED WORD

ADULT DISCUSSION

10:30AM COFFEE HOUR AND
FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNION IS HELD THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 27th to

Thursday, July 30th

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Ready for a Road Trip?

Pack your bags, and grab your sunglasses. We're taking the kids on an epic Road Trip with God this summer. We will learn that God is with us on the journey, when we go off course, when we are joyful or lonely, and near and far away.

We would love to spend time with the youth in your life who are potty trained preschoolers (age 3) through rising 5th grade.



Register using the QR code or on our website at

www.FirstBethelUMC.org/Events

Contact Catherine Taylor or Melissa Smith for more details or ways you can volunteer. We can't wait to see you there!

MARILYN WEBER KEBE

June 26, 1938 – June 14, 2026



Marilyn Weber Kebe, 87, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 14, 2026, in Clemmons, NC.

Born on June 26, 1938 in Somers Point, NJ to George and Mildred Weber. Marilyn married Joseph Kebe, November 5, 1960.

Marilyn worked as a secretary for Owens Illinois in Bridgeton, NJ and as an EKG Tech at South Hills Cardiology in Pittsburgh, PA. She volunteered for many years with Hospice, sang with Harmony Singers and while living in Pittsburgh volunteered with and was a longtime member of First Bethel United Methodist Church. She loved the beach, crafts and sewing, travel and spending time with her family and friends. She especially enjoyed being with her grandchildren and spent many hours watching their activities, playing games and sharing her love of crafts. She was thoughtful, welcoming and had a kind heart.

She remains in the hearts of her children Mark (Sharon) Kebe, Michele (Steve) Johnson, Maribeth Byrd, her grandchildren Paige Kebe, Olivia Johnson, Nick Byrd and Natalie Byrd, her sister Joan Lowell, and sister-in-law Jill Ferguson. Her life was enriched with extended family members including cousins, nieces and nephews and with countless friends. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband Joe, her parents George and Mildred and her sister Jacqueline Snyder.

To celebrate Marilyn, the family respectfully requests contributions in her memory be made to Trellis Supportive Care, 101 Hospice Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.



<https://cremationsvc.com/2026/06/22/marilyn-weber-kebe/>



Jul 4 Jack Warywoda

Jul 20 Keith Swan

Jul 8 Lisa DiGorio

Jul 22 Kirk Steinhagen

Jul 1 Benjamin Melber

Jul 22 Lilly Zeminski

Jul 16 Aaron Lauver

Jul 28 Gloria Ninness

Jul 16 Mary Ann Ritchey

Jul 28 Ted Phillips

Jul 19 Todd Zahniser

Jul 31 Madison Newman



Users of the **Universal Church Directory** *myUCD* app have reported a problem where the app requests you to re-enter your unique Household Code. The company is aware of the problem and has corrected it in the latest version of the app.

If you experience this issue, be sure to download the latest version of the app from the Apple App Store, or Google Play.

To obtain your unique Household Code again, call the church office, see the list in the Narthex near the church portrait directories, or contact Gloria Stephan.

Sorry for any inconvenience!



FISH SWIM

FISH SWIM (*Fun In the South Hills – Summer With Inclusive Meals*) will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1PM to 3PM at Parkford Apartments in South Park through August 21st. Contact Brynn Rinehart, Mary Courtney or Lisa Rulong for more information.



Outreach is organizing a day trip to the **UMCOR Mission Barn on Thursday, July 9th**. Sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office. Meet at the church at 8:15AM and we'll carpool, returning around 3:30PM. **Bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle.**



To the People of First Bethel United Methodist Church,

Thank you for paying 100% of your Conference apportionment for 2025!

I know this achievement took an intentional effort and I deeply appreciate your faithfulness and your commitment.

Apportionments are the heart and soul of our denominational and Conference ministry. They underwrite Christian mission and ministry around the world, but most importantly you need to know the majority of your apportionment giving supports people, mission and ministry right here in our own backyard.

I give thanks for a Christian dedication that calls you to reach out beyond the walls of the Church you attend. May God continue to bless you abundantly, and may you continue to be a blessing that brings the presence of Christ to others.

Peace,
Sandra L. Steiner Ball
Resident Bishop



HERE AM I, SEND ME!

by Gloria Stephan



Nineteen volunteers traveled to Buchanan County, Virginia for our 26th summer trip. The ASP center was located at the Mountain Mission School in Grundy, which was a lovely campus setting nestled in the mountains, with great facilities, and even better food. Our projects were a handicap ramp and a room

addition on a mobile home. The First Bethel group included: Ayden and Grayson Bowser, Alexandra Cecalá, Sarah, Samantha and Melissa Combs, Ken Courtney, Lisa DiGorio, Claire Garfold, Lisa McDermot, James Morrow, Robert Pugh, Thaddeaus and Zofia Smith, Gloria Stephan, Mchael Taylor, Kevin Weigold, and we were joined by ASP employee Justin Reilly and his son Samuel. Please see the next page for some reflections on our trip from Justin.

Although we have barely unpacked, we are already looking ahead to our **ASP Adult Fall Weekend Trip to Jonesville, Virginia which will be either October 8-11 or 15-18.**



If you'd like to join us, please contact Gloria Stephan as soon as possible with your date preference or any questions.



At the end of an Appalachia Service Project volunteer week, we hold a share circle. A sacred time and space. Volunteers and staff share a miracle moment from the week. What makes it sacred, I think, is the relationships formed. Relationships built in Agape love.

St. Augustine called Agape the highest form of love because it is selfless and unconditional. When we serve others, we invite Agape in and

remember that we belong to each other. Martin Luther King put it simply: it is a love that seeks nothing in return. You look at every person and love them because you know God loves them.

My son and I were washed in that love this past week, volunteering alongside First Bethel UMC in Buchanan County, VA. We joined as tag along volunteers and were welcomed with open arms.

On Thursday night we held the ASP picnic and invited the homeowners. One homeowner prayed over our meal. His prayer was full of gratitude, but that's not what caught me. He prayed that we would be blessed by our ministry. He deeply understands something Father Greg Boyle has written about; when we try to make a difference in someone's life, it's often us who are made different. When this happens, it becomes about all of our lives being changed together.

People say ASP is a relationship ministry that also does some construction. I've found that true. I drove away from Buchanan County a different person. Making homes warmer, safer, and drier truly transforms lives.

Justin Reilly
Development and Sustainability Officer
Appalachia Service Project
Johnson City, TN

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS



Popular Foreign Authors

MY FRIENDS

Four 14-year-olds form a tight bond of friendship to escape their abusive, neglectful and dysfunctional homes and school lives. One of them is a brilliant artist who creates a world-famous and valuable painting. Twenty-five years later *Louisa*, 18, an aspiring artist just out of foster care, homeless and grieving the death of her only friend, seeks to learn more about the painting and its origin. She meets *Ted*, a middle-aged man who was one of the teens long ago. They alternate in telling their stories in this deeply moving past-and-present novel by celebrated Swedish author *Fredrik Backman*. NPR says it “breaks your heart with themes of trauma and grief, but ultimately restores faith in humanity.” The New York Times says it “explores the enduring power of friendship and the impact of art across decades.”

We now have five *Fredrik Backman* books. The others are *A Man Called Ove*, *Britt Marie Was Here*, *Us Against You* and *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry*.

HAMNET

This book by popular Irish writer *Maggie O’Farrell* was a winner of the *Women’s Prize for Fiction*. It is described by the publisher as “a heartrending historical novel that imagines the life of *William Shakespeare’s* family”, including the bubonic plague death of 11-year-old Hamnet.

The Guardian praises *O’Farrell’s* story as “finely woven.” The BBC said it is magical -- “one of the most acclaimed bestsellers of the 21st Century.”

Your Library Staff

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club delves into a wide range of books to broaden our insights and viewpoints, and sometimes just for the pleasure of enjoying a good story.



The group gathers for discussion at Panera Bread in South Park Shops once a month on a Friday evening.

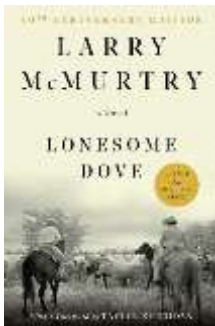
July 17th - Election by Tom Perrotta.



Tracy Flick wants to be President of Winwood High. She's one of those ambitious girls who finds time to do it all: edit the yearbook, star in the musical, sleep with her English teacher. But another teacher, staunch idealist Jim McAllister, aka "Mr. M.," thinks the students deserve better. So he persuades Paul Warren—a well-liked, good-hearted jock—to throw in his hat. But that puts Paul's sister Tammy in a snit. So she runs too, on an apathy platform, before starting a real campaign...to get herself kicked out of school.

The idea was to educate the students at this suburban New Jersey school in the democratic process and the American way. But with all the sex scandals, smear campaigns, and behind-the-scenes power brokers at Winwood High, it doesn't look as if they need any lessons....

August 28th - Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry



Journey to the dusty little town of Lonesome Dove, where retired Texas Rangers Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call undertake a perilous cattle drive to the untamed plains of Montana. Along the way, they face danger, adventure, and an unforgettable cast of characters. Richly authentic and beautifully written, Lonesome Dove is a story of love, loss, and the unyielding spirit of the American West. This book was a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1986. 864 pages.

ALMOST THERE!



Hospitality means making others feel welcome, valued and comfortable. To increase this hospitality, we are in the process of upgrading the current air conditioning system in the education wing of the church by replacing window air conditioners with new wall units.

The cost of the upgraded system is \$47,294. The remaining amount to fully fund the project as of June 25th is

\$5,752

Please consider a second-mile donation to the Air Conditioning Fund!

Mark your offering envelope "Air Conditioning", use the QR code, or give securely online here:

<https://www.firstbethelumc.org/give>



Please contact Dave Miller or Pastor David if you have any questions.



Senior High Sunday School with Pastor David will be held on **Sunday, July 19th at 5PM at the parsonage**

FIRST BETHEL MEN'S GROUP



The next Men's Group meeting is Saturday, July 11th at 8:30AM. Note the later date due to the Fourth of July holiday. The men also gather informally for breakfast on Wednesdays around 9AM at the Eat 'N Park in South Park Shops.

JOSHUA – LIVE ON STAGE



Please contact Dave Miller or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lobby if you're interested in a trip to see "**Joshua Live on Stage**" at the Sight and Sounds Theater in Lancaster, PA.

Date to be determined.



MEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 9-11

at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant PA, led by Rev. Joel Garrett.

The weekend begins with dinner at Nino's restaurant on Route 31 around 5PM. All meals are provided on Saturday and Sunday. Lodging is in the Fernheim cabin, and you'll need to bring your bedding, towels, and toiletries.

Sign up in the lobby if you're interested, and see Ken Williams if you have any questions. Cost is \$120

GO WILD!



The ASP Ministry Team and the Youth Group are sponsoring a trip to attend a **Washington Wild Things baseball game** on Sunday, July 26th at 4:05PM at EQT Park in Washington, PA. Order tickets online here:

www.FirstBethelUMC.org/Events



Total cost is \$11.50/seat, and we'll get \$5 back for each ticket sold which will go into our Appalachia Service Project mission trip fund.



FRONTIER
LEAGUE
PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL



PROFESSIONAL
PARTNER
LEAGUE

First Bethel Mission Statement

*“Nourish Every Body,
Stimulate Every Spirit,
Satisfy Every Soul,
for the Glory of God”*



First Bethel United Methodist Church

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Director of Maintenance: Jim Howells

KINGS SCHOOL KIDS

Director of KSK: Mary Beth Deckard

Assistant Director of KSK: Nicole Crisson

KSK Office Administrator: Charlene Phillips



<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBethelUMC/>

KINGS LIGHT DEADLINE: The 20th of each month is the due date for submissions for the next issue of the King's Light. Please have your information submitted on time to avoid the disappointment of not having it appear in the next edition. Send via email to Gloria Stephan or FBUMC@Verizon.net

FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.firstbethelumc.org

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