



# THE BETHEL BREEZE

Bethel United  
Methodist Church

Fall, 2015

## Meet Our New Pastor!

Janet Sill, pastor of Bethel, White Oak and Pleasantville United Methodist Churches, a three-point charge, comes to us from a pastoring position in the Corry area where she presently resides.

Janet is a graduate of Edinboro University with a degree in Elementary and Early Childhood education. She also has graduate certification in Special Education from Edinboro, and is only 6 credits short of receiving her master's degree. Recently she completed licensing school, mandatory for her position as a local pastor, and will begin classes next year to complete the requirements.

Janet has been married to her husband Lynn for 40 years. They met at Edinboro when he was a graduate student and Janet was a freshman. After living in Elizabethtown, PA for 5 years after they were first married, they came back to the Corry/Union City area where Lynn was raised and moved into his grandparents' home where they still live. Lynn works for the Department of Corrections as an Educational Guidance Counselor.

Lynn and Janet have 4 grown children. Courtney and her husband Patrick live in Hanover, MD where Courtney is a high school athletic trainer and teacher of sports medicine while Patrick is the boys' ath-



*Pastor Janet Sill*

letic director. They have two daughters, Addison, 8, and Jenna, 4.

Douglas currently lives at home and is attending Stanford University online for engineering through the VA benefits.

Scott and his wife Elizabeth live in Apex, NC where he works as an IT network specialist and Liz as a nurse. They are expecting their first child in late March.

Amy and her husband Kristopher live in Wattsburg with their daughters Gabrielle, 6, Elianna, 18 mo., and Sadie, 4 mo. Amy is the executive director at the Corry Area Love INC., and has a cake decorating business. Kris works in surveillance at the Erie Casino.

In her spare time, Janet loves to sew but hasn't much time to do that nowadays. She enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with her granddaughters.

As to why Janet decided to enter the ministry, she says, "I have always had a strong family of faith so it seemed no big thing that I felt called to the ministry at age 16 during a winter retreat at Jumonville." She attended Lay Speaker classes, then became a Certified Lay Minister and was from there assigned to ministry with the Corry charge.

Janet's vision for the three churches she now pastors is to build them up through relationships in small groups. She is planning Bible studies which will help to serve this purpose. Look for news about one coming up soon.

Janet feels that all people of the church are called to serve, just in different ways. There is a quote that Janet says speaks of her call to the ministry, "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." She says there are many times when she does not feel qualified to be doing God's work. She prays a lot for wisdom and strength, but she knows God will use whatever she does for his glory. As long as God has a plan for her, she will do her best to serve him and his people.

At Bethel Church, we welcome Janet as our new pastor. We are very happy God decided to send her our way!



### Inside this issue:

<i>From the Pastor's Pen</i>	2
<i>Adult Sunday School Offerings</i>	2
<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	2
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	3
<i>Funny Story</i>	3
<i>UMW Wins Quilt</i>	3
<i>Advent Program</i>	4

**Sunday School  
at 10:15 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship  
at 11:15 a.m.**

**Fellowship Dinner  
4th Sunday of the  
month following the  
worship service**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## From the Pastor's Pen . . .

### Pastor Janet's Gluten Free

#### Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup peanut butter

1 cup granulated sugar

1 large egg lightly beaten

Mix all together and form into balls about the size of walnuts. Roll in more granulated sugar and place on a cookie sheet. Press with a fork to slightly flatten each cookie. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 min. Makes about 18-20 cookies.

There's a verse from Philippians that has been popping up in my thoughts recently. It's a verse I came to appreciate years ago during a very stressful couple of months. Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who gives me strength." It is this verse that comes to mind when I get a bit overwhelmed with life and the past few weeks have been overwhelming. The words from Paul to the faithful church at Philippi were to encourage and lift up the work they were doing for the kingdom. Paul wanted to let the faithful know they were doing good work and not to get discouraged or overwhelmed.

There are times when we all get pushed to our limit physically, mentally and emotionally. These words from Philippians, or others you may find a blessing, help to lift us beyond our human strength and remind us that Jesus

Christ is with us when we feel we can't do any more. In the last six weeks my life has seen a great deal of change, most of it good. But change can drain our energies and leave us feeling tired and unfocused. It's then we need to rely on words that restore and give us renewed hope. God is our strength when we feel we can't go on.

As we get to know one another better, I pray my ministry leads you to a deeper relationship with the one who is our strength and salvation. God is my strength and hope every day. His blessings are new each morning. I am excited for us to grow together in this faith journey. Along with the blessings of God's word we can encourage and strengthen each other.

Blessings,

*Pastor Janet*



### Calling all Men —

**Don't forget the  
MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday,  
October 17th  
at 7:30 a.m.**



## Adult Sunday School Offerings for Fall

Have you ever, in reading your Bible, run across words of Jesus that just didn't seem to make sense? Words that made you scratch your head?

This fall on October 11, the adult class that meets at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall will begin a study that will look at some of those words, read them together, discuss them and try to figure out just what Jesus had in mind when he spoke them.

The study is based on a book by Talbot Davis entitled appropriately "Head Scratchers." Words from the mouth of Jesus such as "Hate your mother and father," make us wonder why he would ever say such a thing. We invite you to come and add your two cents to our exploration and discussion. We may all learn something.

Our Advent study for this year, "Christmas, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" promises to be just as interesting and certainly somewhat non-traditional.

The first week's study is an intensive look at Herod, the evil man who tried to kill Christmas. We might not think too much about "Herod the Great" on Christmas Eve, but we should not forget his important part in the Christmas story.

The second week we will take a look at the Wise Men and their part in the story (which may be a little different than what we usually see in the Christmas pageant). Where did they come from? Were they really kings? How many were there?

Next will come Joseph who is often neglected in favor of Mary, the Baby Jesus and the angels. What do we really know about him?

On the Sunday of Advent we will be thinking about the shepherds and why God gave them the first opportunity to see his newborn son.

Please consider coming to join us in our quest for greater knowledge of God's Word. If you have any questions about the studies, please see Carole Hall, teacher of the class.

## Vacation Bible School Takes Place in “Nazareth”

Bethel Church was a very busy place during the third week of June when Vacation Bible School took over. “Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid” was the theme for the week, requiring the church building to become a biblical village. The teachers and helpers dressed in biblical garb to help set the scene in the past.

Every evening started off with the singing of peppy songs to get everyone in the mood for what was to come. The children then went to the “village.” On one end of the fellowship hall was “Mary’s house” where the children visited Mary, Jesus’ mother, each day to hear stories of Jesus. On the other end was the “marketplace” where the kids could make crafts and toys typical of those ancient times.

The sanctuary became the “synagogue” where the children at-

tended school each day learning about what school was like for Jewish boys of the time of Jesus. Snacks such as grapes, cheese, pita chips, raisins and grape juice were served to the pupils after they had participated in games that Jesus and his friends might have played.

Most everybody would agree that the best part of Bible school was the visit across the road to the pond where the kids met the fisherman (Pastor Jerry) who took them for a boat ride, provided fishing poles for them to use to fish, and even cooked fish for them to eat. Everybody caught fish, which was a big thrill, even though they had to throw them back. They also enjoyed a fishing story from the Scriptures each evening.

A big thanks goes to all those who made this fun-filled educational week possible!



*Taking a boat ride on the pond with Pastor Jerry, the fisherman.*

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A little girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



### *Bethel UMW Wins Quilt for the Year*

The Bethel Church UMW received a 5 Star Unit certificate at this year’s Mission Study in April. To qualify, the UMW unit used five channels of undesignated giving:

- Pledge to Mission,
- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission,
- Gift in Memory
- World Thank Offering.

The gifts they and other UMW units provide are used for mis-

sion work world-wide that is carried out through the UMW.

This year when all the names of the qualifying Erie-Meadville District 5 Star Units were put into a hat, Bethel’s name was drawn to receive the special quilt you may have seen hanging in the fellowship hall. Janet Kerr embroidered Bethel’s name and the date on the quilt.

The quilt will be here until next year’s Mission Study in April, so be sure to stop and look at it.

Bethel United  
Methodist Church

**BETHEL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**15068 State Hwy. 89  
Titusville, PA 16354**

*Janet Sill,  
Pastor*

**Phone:  
814-827-1082**

**Email:  
bethelumctitusville@gmail.com**

**Website:  
bethelumtitusville.org**

**Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*Devine Inspirations To Present Advent Program*

The Devine Family—Rebecca, Adam, Bellina, Cole and Lillian—will present a Christmas program on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. at Bethel Church.

Those of you who saw their presentation last year know what a talented family the Devines are. This year the program will be held in the afternoon to encourage families with children to come and enjoy the

Devine children's performances.

Following the presentation, there will be cookies and punch in the fellowship hall.

There is no charge for the program, but a free will offering will be taken to present to the Devines.

Mark your calendar now for December 6th, and invite your friends and neighbors!



*At far left are (l. to r.) Bellina, Lillian, Cole, Adam and Rebecca.*

*At left (l. to r.) are Bellina, Cole and Lillian.*

*Above, Rebecca and Adam join Cole, Lillian and Bellina.*