

THE BETHEL BREEZE

Bethel United
Methodist Church

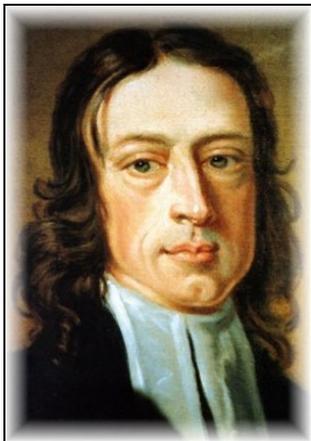
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THE FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



John Wesley 1703-1791

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement along with his brother Charles, helped to organize and form societies of Christians throughout England, Scotland, Wales, North America and Ireland as small groups that developed intensive personal accountability, discipleship and religious instruction among members. He appointed from these groups itinerant, un-ordained preachers who travelled widely to evangelize and care for people in the societies. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues of the day, including the prison reform and abolitionism movements. Wesley planted the seeds for what we as Christians and Methodists are called to do today.

With our Methodist heritage in mind, our belief is that God will make a significant difference in our church and world if we work toward the following goals with as much commitment and co-operation as our forbearers did in their time:

Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. That includes women and people of color the world over. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for all people who are in ministry in countless ways.

Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones. If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.

Engaging in ministry with the poor. As an expression of our discipleship, United Methodists seek to alleviate conditions that undermine quality of life and limit the

opportunity to flourish as we believe God intends for all. As with John Wesley, we seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering. We engage in ministry with the poor, and in this, we especially want to reach out to protect children.

Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally. Conditions of poverty cause illness and death. The lack of access to doctors, nurses, medications and appropriate facilities is deadly, especially among those who live in conditions of poverty. But the diseases of poverty are not inevitable. We believe the people of the United Methodist Church can play a significant role in educating others about diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and treating and preventing their devastating effects.

Dismantling racism. We are committed to creating a culture of inclusiveness. The reality of racism keeps many persons away from fellowship with us. We are richer with diversity and we will continue to find ways to witness with full inclusion and the embracing of all our sisters and brothers of color.

All of us, as Christians and Methodists, need to do our part to achieve these goals and make a difference in our church and world.

**Sunday School
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service
at 11:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Dinner on the
fourth Sunday
following the
worship service.**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

“Weather” . . . The Word on the Street

Men’s Saturday Breakfasts Are Back!

**Delicious pancakes,
eggs, toast, bacon,
sausage, hash browns,
biscuits and gravy,
orange juice
and coffee
served the last
Saturday of each
month
at Bethel Church!
Come and bring your
friends, men!!**



Remember the old saying: “Everybody’s talking about it, but nobody is doing anything about it?”

Of course, “it” is the weather. Why do we talk about the weather so much? Why is so much time dedicated to it during the local news telecast? Why have “Weather Report,” “Weather Up-date,” “Weather Watch,” “Weather Forecast,” “Weather Almanac” and “The Weather Channel” become so prominent in our culture?

Farmers may be the most dependent of all professions upon the weather. Other “outdoor” professions may

be bothered by the weather. But for the most of us the weather is just interesting subject matter. This winter I’ve heard lots of talk about the mild winter here in Pennsylvania. Who isn’t enjoying it? Well, perhaps the skiers and snowboarders and the ski resorts.

When my uncle from Oregon calls he always wants to know what kind of weather we are having “back home.” His childhood memories of Pennsylvania winters have become more dramatic with the passing years. If I don’t have some news of a big snowfall or extreme low temperature he seems a little

disappointed.

Weather is something we all share. We are not in control of the weather so we must adjust to its demands. Shelter, furnaces, air conditioning, insulation are ways we cope with the weather’s affect on us. Even though we may control the environment of our dwellings we have not yet been able to subjugate the weather to our will.

Sometimes I think how amused God must be with us. Weather could be one of his ways to keep us humble and dependent.

Pastor Jerry

Sunday School News

The adult class has just begun a Lenten study entitled *The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ: Final Teachings*.

The study follows Jesus in his last days as he faces questions by the religious leaders of the day and proceeds to

to condemn them and warn them of what the future holds.

The religious leaders plot to kill Jesus, aided by Judas Iscariot who agrees to betray his master. At the Last Supper, Jesus talks with his dis-

ciples to try to prepare them for what is to come, and teaches his final lessons.

All adults of the church are invited to join the class for this moving and timely study as we prepare for the coming of Easter.

Bible Study Scheduled: *Tribal Church, Ministering to the Missing Generation*

Our next bible study will be based on a book written by Carol Howard Merritt: *Tribal Church, Ministering to the Missing Generation*. Ms. Howard presents ideas that show how the small membership church is poised to provide ministry to the lost generation; i.e. – those absent from participation in the church.

She believes that the trademarks of tribal gatherings are exactly what the missing

generation needs and that they will respond positively to our overtures. It is her opinion that the church at its tribal level is a subculture, a network of relationships, and a group of people who care for each other in the most basic ways.

Participants in this new study opportunity will meet to discuss the characteristics that make the tribal church appealing to the youngest and most technologically advanced generation.

Topics for the Four-Week Bible Study:

April 11 - *The Tribal Church and Relationships*.

April 18 - *The Tribal Church’s approach to Understanding and Inclusion*.

April 25 - *The Tribal Church’s Ability to Affirm Traditions and Promote Shared Leadership*.

May 2 - *The Tribal Church as a Place for Nurturing a Spiritual Community*.

Time: 12:30 p.m. Gather for provided lunch (no cost to participants) 1:00-2:00 p.m. Class session
Place: Bethel Church

Registration is required so adequate provisions may be made for the lunch. You may order a book (your own responsibility) but it is not necessary.

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Circuit Rider Five to Appear at Bethel

The Circuit Rider Five will present a concert at Bethel Church on Sunday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m.

This group has been performing gospel music for twenty years. The quintet is comprised of active United Methodists from various

Methodist churches in the Erie area. They have cut four CD's and have presented concerts throughout western Pennsylvania and as far away as New Hampshire. Their mission is to present the gospel through music.

A couple members of the

group have ties to the Bethel area. Mary and Harry Wheatall and Norman and Dorothy Wheatall are their grandparents and uncle and aunt.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special event at Bethel Church.



Upcoming Events to Put on Your Calendar

As the Easter season comes upon us, we want to be sure you don't miss out on the special events that make this time so special to Christians.

A Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5th at Bethel Church. On the following evening, April 6, Bethel Church members are invited to attend the Good Friday service at Rometown Church. The Easter Sunday Service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 8th.

In the midst of the Easter solemnity, an Easter Egg Hunt for the children will

take place at 10:00 a.m. on April 7th. If the weather cooperates, the hunt will be outside; otherwise the eggs will be hidden indoors in the fellowship hall. Your children, grandchildren and your neighbors' and friends' children and grandchildren are all invited to participate in the fun.

April is also the time the members of the United Methodist Women will commence their 2012 meetings. The first one is scheduled for April 9 at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be a video, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*,

which tells the story of a Christian –Muslim women's movement to stamp out war and its accompanying evils.

On Sunday, May 6th, as stated in the article above, is a musical program at 7:00 p.m. presented by the Circuit Rider Five.

Looking a little farther into the future, our annual church picnic with White Oak is set for July 21 at 3:00 p.m. at Wheelock's Picnic Pavilion. We plan to have musical entertainment followed by our picnic dinner.

Join us for these events!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16-17

Missions for White Oak 2012

For the calendar year 2012, the White Oak congregation has agreed to support several mission causes. For many years we have supported Susan Fuller who is a missionary in Russia, and we will continue to do that. We always enjoy the periodic updates and pictures that she sends. As we watch her family grow through photos, it almost makes her feel like family.

We will also continue to

support the Erie Alliance (The Refuge). Families who find themselves in need of temporary shelter don't have to turn to the streets as a result of this option. It gives them a place to stay while they have the chance to get back on their feet and figure out a “next step” while they transition.

Another mission that we have supported for quite a while (and will continue to do so) is Lifebuilding Ministries in

Cochran. With a world full of so many addictions, it is great to have a place for men to recover, get clean, and have a second chance at life.

We had the wonderful opportunity to hear Reverend Wilson speak at White Oak – all I can say is “Wow! What a speaker.” He was pretty impressive. We feel that the work he does spreading the word of God and building churches in Ruiru, Kenya, is a very worthy cause also.

The last, but most certainly not the least important, is Children's Rescue led by Bruce Ladebu. Children are such precious gifts from God and should be cherished, yet there are so many in all corners of this earth that are not. If Bruce and his team can rescue even a few from abuse, starvation, and slavery, then he certainly deserves our support.

Contributed by Kelli Davis

**Bethel United
Methodist Church**

Bethel United Methodist Church

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***Rev. Jerry Gray,
Pastor***

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Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Love INC of Titusville Mobilizes Local Churches to Help the Community



*Debbie Miller, Executive Director of
Titusville's Love In the Name of Christ*

One of the local missions supported by Bethel Church is Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ), headed by Debbie Miller. The mission of Love INC, a non-profit organization, is to mobilize local churches and to transform lives and communities.

Love INC partners with 28 churches, 23 community organizations and 700 volunteers throughout the com-

munity to accomplish its very important work for our community. Bethel Church has been especially supportive of the Backpack Program which provides weekend food for 99 children at the present time.

Other programs provide beds and linens for children and adults, minor home repairs completed by volunteers, assistance in managing finances, transportation for appointments both in and out



*Volunteer Julie Neely organizes food
for the Backpack Program*

of town for those who qualify and a prayer ministry – volunteers praying consistently for needs of the ministry, churches



*Dave Millholen volunteers his carpentry
skills in completing the kitchenette*

and community. Love INC has recently moved from its former home in the Northwest Savings building to the Towne Square building across Spring Street. As can be seen in the photo, a compact kitchenette is being constructed in the organization's

On March 13th from 4:30-6:30, Love INC will hold their annual Winter Picnic at Titusville Middle School. For \$5.00, picnickers will be served up a meal of sloppy joes, hot dogs, macaroni salad, baked beans, potato chips, drink and dessert. Sounds yummy!



Contact Information:

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Office Hours

M & W 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

F 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.