



BETHLEHEM STAR

www.BethlehemUMC-Fishers.org

SEPTEMBER 2016

BETHLEHEM

UNITED

METHODIST

CHURCH

**INVITES YOU
TO WORSHIP
WITH US!**

**WE ARE
LOVING,**

**SUPPORTIVE,
AND ACTIVE**

**SUNDAY
SERVICES
INCLUDE
WORSHIP AT
10:00,
CHILDREN'S
SERMON
AND
YOUTH
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**PASTOR
Rusty
Allanson
317-
441-3876**



Bethlehem is once again, in transition. We want to thank Pastor Rusty for all he has done for Bethlehem. We have moved forward in so many ways and are on such a positive path. We went from inward to outward. We have learned to take Christ out

into the world, as was the Great Commission.

As we continue to grow, Pastor Angela Gafford Asmus will take the lead. We look forward to new ideas and great strides forward, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Chat With Pastor Rusty



Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings in the most holy and precious Name Above All Names, Jesus Christ!

If you read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, you will discover something surprising, at least I think so. Jesus spends very little time convincing people to believe in Him. He really doesn't. Instead, He tells them The Kingdom of God is near and to follow Him. "Follow Me" He says, and to all those who do, He promises abundant life.

"Follow Me" implies a couple unmistakable things. First, it implies movement....doing. Not sitting and reading or praying or learning—all very important things. But it is the DOING that Jesus calls us to. All those other things are necessary in order to know what then to DO. So, if you've been stuck in a kind of rut in your faith journey—even if you've been walking with Jesus for a long time—you don't get a "pass" on this. He still expects you to DO something about what you've learned, what you know, what you've

prayed about, what you've read about and studied. The power is in the DOING.

Second, "Follow Me" implies we are to follow not us, not the world, not news outlets, not Facebook, not our friends, not our employers, not blogs, twitterly tweets, or Pinterest boards. We are to follow Jesus the Christ. And we are to follow on days when that's easy to do and on days when following cont'd on p.4



Bethlehem Family Happenings



Susan Miller's son Christopher was married in Las Vegas on August 4th. The newlyweds live in Raleigh NC.

I would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and prayers I received during and following my knee replacement surgery. I appreciate all of the support I have received.

Sue Beesley

Sharon Woosley's mother, Hazel Ward, is having her 90th birthday this weekend. Our family and friends will be there to cele-

brate with her.

Jamie Baber appreciated using the church for a baby shower for her friend, Jessica.



After the storm the rainbow, God's reassurance of His love.

Vivienne Kerwin

The Brown Family continues to do well at the 4H competitions at the Hamilton County and State Fair competitions. Great grandson Tyler received Grand

Champion in food preservation of asparagus. Jordan Brown got Grand Champion for her pecan pie and it's creative resen-tation. She was also involved in beekeeping, chickens, and the talent show.

Gary Melton and Gordon Woosley are "appreciating" Gordon's new toy, a 2017 Grand Sport Corvette. Gary had just spent the weekend in Bowling Green, KY at the National Corvette Museum with his Corvette Indy friends and his son, Craig.



Is anyone of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone of you sick? He should call upon the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise him up. If he has

sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective.

I thank you for your prayers of faith on my behalf. I thank you for your kind words of encourage-

ment, your cards and phone calls. God caused may thing to happen for me because of your prayers, and I thank each and every one of you so much for them. You helped save my life. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,
Gordon Woosley



Spark Balloon Boat Races



Fun Photo Op in the Spark Express



Steve & Marilyn Anderson helping set up for Fishers Fest.



Crew Change at the Fishers Fest This Year



Spark Ice Cream Sundae Party



Pastor Rusty and Jessie presenting our kids with a back-to-school gift. Jackie, Hurlock, Lauren Wirthwein, Haley & Ashley Holder



Spark Cook-Out



Our Ice Cream Social was Held Indoors This Year, Due to the Heat

Summer Spark!

Spark continues to face the challenges of reaching children for Christ. Evelyn White, JK Williams, John Van Ness, Sharon Woosley and I, Susie Melton, have been working each Monday at 5:00 at the Deer Chase Apartments, to do fun activities, provide snacks and teach our kids about God's love. At this point, we plan to continue through Christmas and perhaps, take the winter off, as the cold and darkness seemed to keep the kids away, as they all walk to the community building. Please continue to pray for our outreach. Thank you.

Cont'd from p.1

Him will really cost us something significant. We are called...commanded...to follow HIM.

The Israelites were a finicky people—a lot like us! Did you realize that when God rescues them from 400 years of slavery in Egypt, they then felt compelled to complain—a lot. In Exodus chapter 14 they have their back up against the sea and Pharaoh's soldiers are pressing in on them and so they complain to Moses (and really complaining to God, because Moses was just a divine mouthpiece) "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt?"

In chapter 15, after crossing the sea, they get thirsty in the desert and so they complain again for water. In chapter 16, after God gives them water, they complain about not having anything to eat. So God gives them quail and manna. In Chapter 17 they get thirsty again and God brings water from a rock. In chapter 18 the people are really busy complaining about each other to Moses and so God gives advice through Jethro. And on and on. So, what's the moral of the story? Complain to

God and get what you want? Nope. Far from it, because in EVERY situation, God was ALREADY WORKING ON THE SOLUTION BEFORE THE PEOPLE EVEN KNEW THERE WAS A PROBLEM. By the time they complained, the "fix" was already "in!"

God is never surprised. We are surprised all the time and that often causes fear in us. But God is never surprised. Remember that next time you are tempted to be afraid by an unwelcomed surprise. Either you believe that or you don't, but it is still true either way.

So, when I announced that I would no longer be physically able to pastor Bethlehem, I was surprised at the cause and you were surprised at the announcement, but God was already working on the solution. God loves and cares for you, me, and this church. And His plans are better than anything we could ever dream of. So....trust Him, as I am, and keep moving FORWARD following Him!

Remember that I love you, and I will see you in worship!

Pastor Rusty



Update From Jessie

As many of you know I will be staying once Pastor Rusty leaves Bethlehem UMC. My role within in Bethlehem will shrink slightly but Gavin and I will still be here. I do have some duties at The Promise and I can't choose one church over the other as I love both church families the same.

Some of you may also know that shortly after I moved I developed some medical issues that required a short hospital stay. Please do not be offended that I did not tell anyone about my hospital stay, only my mother and stepfather knew what was going on. As Gavin is still very young and I am Gavin's only parent, I was trying to do my best to prevent him from worrying. He knows mommy is still a little sick and that I have changed jobs but he doesn't really think anything else has changed. I was placed on Medical Leave from my fulltime job about a month ago due to medical issues. These medical issues are not permanent and were caused due to medication interaction.

I have made the decision not to return to my previous job and to choose another path. I have begun to nanny for two little girls a few days a week here in Fishers. The remainder of my time is spent doing some odd jobs and

Cont'd on p 8

Angela's Angles

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus the Christ. I am honored and humbled to serve as your pastor beginning September 12, 2016. I look forward to us working together, sharing our stories of faith and inviting others into the community of Christ at Bethlehem UMC. My husband Joel and I have made Fishers our home for the past 4 years. We have two daughters, Isabella and Evelyn.

PPRC asked me to share a little bit about myself so here are some highlights: I grew up in the deep south of New Orleans, Louisiana, and was baptized in the United Methodist Church. My earliest memory is of my parents volunteering as tutors for the Methodist Home for Abused and Abandoned Children. I am grateful to my home church in New Orleans for so many opportunities through youth choir and youth group. Active in district and conference youth leadership roles, I continued my education by attending one of our United Methodist institutions of Higher Education, Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, majoring in Sociology and French with a minor and Honors project, in Religion. While at Millsaps, I was co-chair of the campus ministry team and served an internship at an inner city congregation in transition. After graduation, I took a year off

from formal education and worked in Houston, Texas as a youth director for a cooperative parish of 4 congregations and tried my hand at retail employment to save money for seminary. I then headed to United Methodist Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina for three years of seminary and graduated with a Masters of Divinity in 1997. I was ordained a deacon in 1996 and an elder in 1998. (FYI: The UMC has since changed the process of ordination and these days you are only ordained either as a deacon or an elder depending on your calling.) Following graduation, I pastored churches in NE England, the suburbs of Houston and East Texas. In the early 2,000's, I made my way to the Midwest and became Chaplain at Simpson College in Iowa. For six years I supervised the campus ministry and taught undergraduates. My last two summers there, I also served as interim pastor for churches in a time of transition.

Joel and I met through a mutual friend at the college and were married in 2008. We then moved to Northwestern Iowa so I could return to parish ministry and Joel could commute to Omaha, Nebraska. While in that appointment, I was the first female pastor and Isabella was the first baby born to pastor in the 155 years of the church! For a brief moment, we were both celebrities. In fact, there is only one appointment in my

history where I was not the first female pastor to serve the congregation. Four years ago, Joel was transferred to Indy and we made another move! During this time I have been on what the UMC calls family leave to stay at home and mother as my primary responsibility. I am also active in a local MOMS group. My hobbies changed drastically after becoming a parent. These days I enjoy scrapbooking, playdates and sleep! There are many, many stories to be told from my journey and I invite you to join us in worship each week to hear them.

I believe the spirit of God is alive and at work in our world. Our mission is to listen for God's guidance and respond to the needs around us, in love. I believe it is essential we nurture our own faith lives with quiet time. I also believe that truth is often stranger than fiction and sometimes all you can do is laugh. I pray that my presence with you will be as much a blessing to each of you as I know it will be to me and my family.

My hope is that together we can continue to name the presence of God in our lives and our world, continue to support and love one other through the varied journeys of our lives, continue to proclaim justice for the oppressed, healing to the broken and hope to the lost.



Children's Ministry and Bethlehem Church

When I was younger my parents never forced me to go to church. My parents to this day are still unchurched. I went to church because God called me to a safe place away from all the sadness and loneliness that I faced at home. In my 29 years I have been to so many different churches and experienced so many different denominations that I am happy that Gavin and I have found 2 church families that care about us. Recently you may have seen some of the children receive a Bible, that was provided by the church. All four girls do their best when they come down, all the kids do. When I was 10 I received my first Bible and I still have it. I still look at it from time to time and remember all the fun I had with my Sunday school teacher, Her name was Ruth. She gave me snacks and juice boxes every Sunday, now you know where I get it from...

Below is a list of ways that I feel Children's Ministry benefits our church... there are so many more ways but there are more articles to read in this newsletter.



FOOTPRINTS

When you saw only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you.

The Lord.

1. It helps bring in new families to the church. Most parents especially first time parents are worried about bringing their children to church. Parent's with babies especially worry about their baby crying during service and disrupting the service. While Children's Church is more geared towards school age kids, all children are welcome to come down.

2. It helps train future church leaders. Children are the future of the church. No children would mean that eventually our church would cease to exist.

3. Having children present helps the pastor to keep the Gospel simple.

4. Having children present reminds the congregation that all people were made in God's image. The innocence and creativity of kids reminds us all that people were created to be holy and happy.

5. It brings joy for the church to see children grow through the years. Everyone loves to see the little ones growing up. Children's ministry helps make that happen when we keep the kids in front of the congregation.

6. It provides senior adults with the opportunity to be spiritual-grandparents. There are great blessings for everyone when we spend time with the young.

7. It provides ways for churches to cooperate with one another. While our sister church The PROMISE UMC has a significantly larger number of children, they are always willing to share new ideas and help any way they can.



As We See the Signs of the End Times Appearing, PAGE 7 What Shall We Do?

From the New Testament epistles, Dr. David Jeremiah (our Bible Study guide) has gleaned ten ways in which we should be different as a result of our prophetic knowledge. In each Scripture quotation, there are italicized words connecting the admonition with the promise of Christ's return.

Here are the first five:

1. **Refrain from judging others:** "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God" (1 Corinthians 4:5)
2. **Remember the Lord's Table:** "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death *till He comes*" (1 Corinthians 11:26)
3. **Respond to life spiritually:** "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. *When Christ who is our life appears*, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4)
4. **Relate to one another in love:** "and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at *the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* with all His saints" (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Jude v. 21)
5. **Restore the bereaved:** "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain *until the coming of the Lord* will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
6. **Recommit ourselves to the ministry:** "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead *at his appearing* and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
7. **Refuse to neglect church:** "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more *as you see the Day approaching*" (Hebrews 10:24-30)
8. **Remain steadfast:** "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for *the coming of the Lord is at hand*" (James 5:7-8)
9. **Renounce sin in our lives:** "And now, little children, abide in Him, that *when He appears*, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him *at His coming*. If you know that He is righteous you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him" (1 John 2:28-29)
10. **Reach the lost:** "keep yourselves in the love of God, *waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ* that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. (Jude 21-23)



The Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
13550 Olio Road
Fishers, IN 46037



Christ is Risen!

So True.....

There is no substitute for hard work.

*

You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who can never repay you.

*

Give Satan an inch and he will become a ruler.

*

What we do in life echoes into eternity.

*

The secret of true greatness is simplicity.

*

Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.

Submitted by Monna Leiter

Jessie, cont'd from p 4

finishing up my college degree. As well as changing my job I have also begun the process to become a local pastor. God has been calling me to go into ministry since I was a child and I have always been too busy to listen.

Something that I need to do as a Christ follower is to listen to God and trust that he will provide for me. I am a planner and I always need to make sure that my bases are covered. So trusting that God will provide for me in every aspect of my life including financially is a hard thing for me. I have worked fulltime since I was 17 and even worked 2 or 3 jobs sometimes. I am very unsure of

this process and any bumps that may arise, so I am asking for prayers during this time. I will do my best to keep everyone updated as much as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Jessie Espino

Happy Labor Day!

Rest and Relax!

