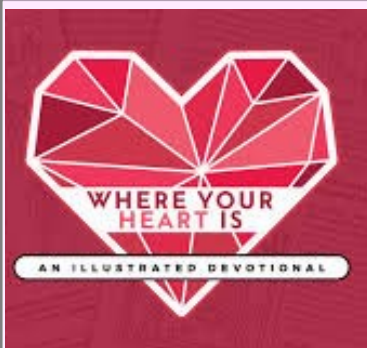


The Messenger

WINTER 2021



Lent

Lenten Packets are coming your way! Look for a manila envelope in the mail or at your doorstep early in February. Each packet will have a small baggie with ashes to use during our Ash Wednesday Zoom service on February 17 at 7pm. Ashes will be self-administered during the service. The Lenten packet will include a “Where Your Heart Is” Illustrated Devotional. There’s one entry per week with scripture, reading, reflection questions for conversation or journaling, and opportunities to color! The devotional is suitable for families to use together and for personal reflection. We will have further ways to reflect on this theme, “Where Your Heart Is,” at our Wednesday services.

Kindness Chain

Join the Children of Bethany this month in creating a Kindness Chain. Each week, there are suggestions of ways you can spread kindness among your family, neighbors, and in the community. Report your kind activities in this [Google Form](#). Each kind act will add a link to our Kindness Chain. When we check in during worship each week, we’ll see how our acts of kindness add up and stretch out into our community. The whole congregation is invited to participate.

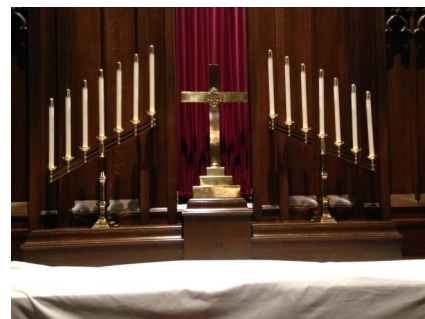


Winter Worship Walk: New Date

You are welcome to join us for a Winter Worship Walk on Saturday, February 20 at 10:30am behind the Lemont Township Community Center (on Alba St.) Participants must wear masks.

Prayer Stations

We have been out of our sanctuary for over ten months now. But for many, it is such a place of comfort and peace. This Lent, we will be opening the sanctuary during designated hours and providing interactive Prayer Stations for your use. You may use the Prayer Stations to guide your time or enjoy the beauty and peace of the sanctuary for reflection and prayer. Participants can attend alone or with family members. Participants should sign-up for a 30 minute time frame. Masks should be worn at all times. A sign-up will be available in mid-February.



Children & Family

Save the date for a Zoom Paint night on Friday, March 19. More details to come!



Racism Study

The Racism Study group continues to meet monthly to continue to learn how racism infects and affects us all and to practice conversations on this challenging topic. In January, they discussed the Code Switch podcast episode called “From the Fringe to the Capital” and The Atlantic article “Denial is the Heartbeat of America” by Ibram Kendi. Their next meeting is Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30pm.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bethany Members

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ginny Connelly | Peyton Kirk |
| Nancy Iwan | Frank Iwan |
| Ben Sabourin | Kerri Schroeder |
| Marie Heeren | Norma Johnson |
| Vivian Tiemeier | Glenn McAdam |
| Jerry Johnson | EJ Ahlberg |



Friends and Relatives of Bethany Members

| | |
|--|--|
| Joanne Bauer—friend of Jim & Ginny Connelly | Gary Cobbett—friend of the Bergmarks |
| Gene Sobba—uncle of Carole & Jim Ross | Sharon Bolerjack—Bethany quilter |
| Bernie Schroeder—father of Cheryl Hagedorn | Dennis Murphy—friend of the Andersons |
| Finley Engnell—friend of the Olkiewicz Family | Yvonne Borkhuis—sister of Rev. Glenn Bergmark |
| Monica Johnson—friend of Beth Howell | Jim Driscoll—friend of Gary Gray |
| Stella Slowik—friend of Kim Stowe | Julie Hayes—friend of Sue Gray |
| Jim McKeever—colleague of Kris Falese | Dan Herzing—friend of the Iwans |
| Sean Clark—friend of Kelsey Schroeder | Frank Roy—friend of Barb & Michael Woods |
| Rev. Glenn Bergmark | Kyle Williams—friend of Sue Gray |
| The Halama Family—friends of the Iwans | Gail Boehme—friend of the Jaje Family |
| John Shea—brother-in-law of Heather & Mike Nilles | Sherri Vick—cousin of Gary & Sue Gray |
| Sue Lucheon—friend of Ginny Connelly | Mike Hoffman—friend of Kerri & Corey Schroeder |
| Kelli Wilson—relative of Cliff & Bev Wilson | Omni Rook Myers—friend of the Taylor Family |
| Ranada Rymkus—friend of Don Garling | Lenny Kobilca—great-grandson of Marie Heeren |
| Justin & Stephanie Wormsley—friends of Jodi & Bruce Taylor | Beau Dowling—friend of Kris Falese |
| Tim & Virginia Schroeder—relatives of Jim & Carole Ross | |

*If you would like to add anyone to the Bethany Prayer List, call or email the church office OR drop a note in the offering plate—be sure to include your name.
Conversely, if anyone listed is no longer in need of our prayers, please notify us as well.*

Thank you to everyone who donated monetary gifts, food staples and paper goods to the Open Pantry over the last year. We could not have provided for our clients without your generosity. A special shout out to our tireless volunteers too!



Bethany Messenger

Yep, Bethany Messenger was out of commission for the past ten months. There were several reasons for that. One, it seemed that plans were always changing and evolving. Two, we had less going on than our usual list of activities. Three, it was just one of the things we let go of as pandemic life offered new challenges. For awhile yet, it may be a seasonal or bi-monthly newsletter. We'll see, but regardless, we will make every effort to keep you informed.
Thank you for adapting with us!