

**Faithfully Yours**  
Bethel Presbyterian Church  
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# Faithfully Yours

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April 2017

I have a friend with cancer, and he has prayed for God to heal him. He said, “So far he hasn’t healed me. My friend says I should pray with more faith. Is he right?” Let me share with you two false notions people have about heavenly healing.

First, *death is always bad*. We see a hearse, we think sorrow. We see a grave, we think despair. We hear of a death, we think of a loss. Not so in heaven. When heaven sees a breathless body, it sees the vacated cocoon, and the liberated butterfly. Ever since sin entered the world, the body has been doomed to die. Not only is death inevitable, death is necessary for us to inherit the new life we are to enjoy in Christ. “Flesh and blood cannot have part in the kingdom of God...This body that can be destroyed must clothe itself with something that can never be destroyed.” (1 Corinthians 15:50&53).

As long as we see death as all perceive God as being deaf to our prayers. Ask those in heaven if their prayers for healing were answered, and you might get a different perspective.

Second, *prayer heals*. God heals, not prayer. A matter of semantics? No. If you think the power is in the prayer and not the One who hears the fault the pray-er for unanswered prayer. How many people have had to deal with the false guilt of inadequate prayer? “If I had prayed more, if I had prayed better, if I had prayed differently, if I had prayed in the chapel or with a priest or with rosary beads or with different words.” To claim that prayer heals is to place prayer in the realm of magic chants and medicine man dances. Worse still, to place the power in the prayer relegates God to the personality of a computer. If I push the right buttons or type the correct code, he must respond. No, the power of prayer is in the One who hears it, not the one who makes it. Don’t assume that the faithful will never suffer. If the faithful never suffer, how do we explain the illness of Paul (Galatians 4:13), of the poor health of Paul’s friend Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20), and the near death of his beloved Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:27).

Hebrews 11 describes the plight of God’s faithful: some defeated kingdoms, stopped fires, and were saved from being killed. Others were put in chains and thrown into prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in half and they were killed with swords. Some wore the skin of sheep and goats. They were poor, abused and treated badly. All of these people are known for their faith. (Hebrews 11:33-39).

If the faithful never suffer, how do we explain the agony of Gethsemane and the death of Christ on the cross? Jesus himself prayed to be delivered from earthly pain (Matthew 26:39), and that request was denied. Was that due to a lack in faith? Absolutely not. God said no to the earthly prayer for a heavenly reason. The plan of salvation was worth the pain of the Savior. There are times when God chooses to say no to the earthly request so he can say yes to the heavenly one.

Doesn’t he still do that today? Doesn’t he use the challenge of the body to strengthen the soul? We need to remember that Peter was in a storm before he walked on water. Lazarus was in a grave before he came out of it, the demoniac was possessed before he was a preacher and the paralytic was on a stretcher before he was in your Bible. “We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28).

Please don’t interpret the presence of disease as the absence of God’s love. I pray he heals you. And he will ultimately.

Bob

## Building & Grounds

The new Memorial Committee project has been completed in the fellowship hall, entry way and hall entry. Eighteen wrap around light fixtures were placed in the fellowship hall with ballast to cover the old fixtures. The hall and entry needed seven wrap around fixtures to replace the old lighting. These are LED energy saving bulbs which has twice the life of a florescent. Thank you to the Memorial Committee for all their hard work to bring this project to fruition.

**Steve Egan, Matt Fleck, Bob Coyle, Brad Greenslaugh, Marc Cochran**

## Fellowship and Outreach

The Easter season is upon us and Bethel will be busy preparing. Following are a few important dates:

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Easter Cantata 10:15am  
April 9<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service @ Bethel 5pm  
April 13<sup>th</sup> – Seder Supper 6pm  
April 14<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Service 3pm  
April 15<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Dying, Basket Making, Hunt 10am  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter 10:15am

**Karen Austin, Kirk Neally**

## Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee has completed the lighting project for the fellowship hall, hallway and entry. The total project totaled \$ 3031.00. In addition, a bid was forwarded by Joe Hopp Electric for lighting in the church office of \$ 189.00 which will be voted on next meeting.

**Connie Kunz, Dr. Strobe, Marlene Piggott, Karen Feikert, Marsha Froman**



## April Coffee Hour

2<sup>nd</sup> Carry-In Sunday  
9<sup>th</sup> Fleck/Figge Family  
16<sup>th</sup> Jones, Spence, Kunz  
23<sup>rd</sup> Deacon's Donuts  
30<sup>th</sup> Egan Family



It's Spring! Time to start preparing for the annual June yard sale. We are accepting items now and yes, we have "moving men" to help collect your donations. Please give generously so we can continue doing God's work for our local missions. Thank you! Adult Fellowship



Note from a member.... I am continually amazed by how much beautiful music comes out of so few choir members, aren't you? Do you know that Bethel is the only church in Hamilton that still has a choir? Do you realize we have ONE employee who directs the choir, plays the piano as well as the organ and sings? Do we support them and let them know how much we appreciated them? If their numbers decrease much more, will we have a choir? I would miss their music very much, wouldn't you? Do you know of anyone in our congregation or in the community who might be willing to sing in our choir? Please give this subject some thought and share your ideas.

## Upcoming Community Events

**March 28**-Hanock Co. Health Dept. Medical Reserve Corps meeting for volunteers with or without medical training. 217-357-2171

**April 5**-American Red Cross 3-4pm@ Memorial Medical Bldg. 1454 N. County Rd. 2050, Carthage General Disaster Preparedness. Call Tyler-217-357-6836

**April 8**-8:30-12:30pm-Hamilton United Methodist Church Cookie Walk Bake & Craft Sale 9<sup>th</sup> & Walnut Streets.

## April Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Sharon Martin  
7<sup>th</sup> Brandon Coyle  
8<sup>th</sup> Robert Heagy  
10<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Lamporte  
15<sup>th</sup> Rob Coyle  
18<sup>th</sup> Angie St. Clair/Joni Morris/Steve Egan  
21<sup>st</sup> Dylan Morris  
23<sup>rd</sup> Karrisa Taylor  
26<sup>th</sup> Kim Taylor/Kathleen Martin  
12<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY Joni & Mike Morris

## Deacons of the Month

"Tammy & Brad Greenslaugh"

## April Bethel Sunday School

4/2/17 Thelma Cochran  
4/9/17 Lindsay Figge  
4/16/17 Tammy Greenslaugh  
4/23/17 Joni Fojtik  
4/30/17 Debbie Neally

# APRIL



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship/School 10:15am Carry-In  Lent-Assembly of God Bob Wagner	3 <i>B. Sharon Martin</i>	4	5 Choir 6:30pm	6	7 <i>B. Brenton Coyle</i>	8 <i>B. Robert Heagy</i>
9 Cantata/ School 10:15  Lent-Bethel Doug Campbell Spaghetti Dinner	10 <i>B. Marilyn Lamporte</i>	11	12 Choir 6:30pm  <i>A. Mike &amp; Joni Morris</i>	13 Lions 7pm  Seder Supper 6pm	14 Good Friday Service 3pm	15 <i>B. Rob Coyle</i> Easter Egg Hunt 10am
16 Worship/School 10:15 am  <i>Easter Service 10:15am</i>	17	18 <i>B. Angie St. Clair/Joni Morris/Steve Egan</i>	19 Choir 6:30 pm	20 Lions 7pm <i>Session 6:30pm</i>	21 <i>B. Dylan Morris</i>	22
23/30 Worship/School 10:15 am <i>B. Karissa Taylor</i>	24	25	26 <i>B. Kim Taylor/Katie Martin</i> Choir 6:30pm	27	28	29



Roger (Brian Andersen's uncle)  
Kathy Bartholomew  
Dane Buschling (head injury)  
Barbara Cochran  
Jackie Weigand Cooper  
Kathy Courtois (Kevin's sister, cancer)  
Shay Sewell Darnell (liver cancer)  
Erik Diderikson  
Gladys Fleck  
Matt Fleck  
Amy French  
Paul French  
Danny Griffith (cancer)  
Ruth Henze (Glenna's aunt)  
Ethan Jones  
Samantha Jones (Nicole Dadant Jones' daughter) (cancer)  
Megan Kelly (cancer treatment)  
Donna Leffler  
Linda Massey  
Mike Menn  
Gary Miller  
Monsignor Greg Ketchum  
Tony Newton (brain surgery)  
Rod Postle (stroke)  
May Ramsey (Glenna's brother's in-law)  
Austin Reneau (kidney)  
Carrie Sampson  
Joyce Schevers (cancer)  
Susan Sewell  
Marie Spence (illness)  
Mary Starman (Glenna's Mom)  
Ethel Thomas  
Patty Thrush  
Hayden Wheatley (cancer)  
Duck Whitaker  
Family of John Wilde Jr.



- MONTEBELLO/OTHER FACILITIES

Rosemary Taylor, Katie Martin, Mabel Lee VanAusdall, Marilyn Lomax, Enid Marshall, Kay Schmitz

- PRAYERS FOR MILITARY/OTHERS

Amber Froman, Brandon Matlock, Brent Tripp, Anthony Hopp (Deployment Kuwait)

## **The Hamilton Food Pantry**

Monetary donations can be made payable to:  
**"Hamilton Food Pantry"**

*and mailed to:*

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**1421 Broadway**  
**Hamilton, IL 62341**



Other items are also accepted, such as toiletry items: soaps, detergents, personal hygiene products, etc. May God bless you for all of your continued community support.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Assembly of God Church*

*Tuesday, April 11th*

*11:30-5:00pm. Call Judi Davis 847-2919*