

# Faithfully Yours

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**

1421 Broadway  
Hamilton, Illinois 62341-1635  
(217) 847-2516  
e-mail-sec@bethelprsb.org

September 2018



Churches are not museums that display perfect people. They are hospitals where the wounded, hurt, injured and broken find healing.



# *Faithfully Yours*

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September 2018

While Jesus was climbing up the hill of Calvary, Judas was climbing another hill; the hill of regret. He walked it alone. Its trail was rock-strewn with shame and hurt. Its landscape was as barren as his soul. Thorns of remorse tore at his ankles and calves. The lips that had kissed a king were cracked with grief. And on his shoulders he bore a burden that bowed his back--his own failure.

Why Judas betrayed his master is really not important. Whether motivated by anger or greed, the end result is the same--regret.

Several years ago, I was in Washington D C and visited the Supreme Court. As I sat in the visitor's chambers, I observed the splendor of the scene. Here was man's best efforts to deal with his own failures.

How pointless it would be, I thought to myself, if I approached the bench and requested forgiveness for my mistakes. Forgiveness for pledging "I won't" on Sunday and "I will" on Monday. Forgiveness for hours I have spent wandering in society's gutters.

It would be pointless because the judge could do nothing. Maybe a few days in jail to appease my guilt, but forgiveness? It wasn't his to give. Maybe that's why so many of us spend so many hours on the hill of regret. We haven't found a way to forgive ourselves.

So up the hill we trudge. Weary, wounded hearts wrestling with unresolved mistakes. For some the pain is on the surface. For others the hurt is submerged, buried in a rarely touched substrata of bad memories. Some trying to forget, others trying to remember, all trying to cope. We walk silently in single file with leg irons of guilt. Paul was the man who posed the question that is on all of our lips, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

At the trail's end are two trees.

One is weathered and leafless. It is dead but still sturdy. Its bark is gone, leaving smooth wood bleached white by the years. On the strongest of these branches is tied a hangman's noose. It was here that Judas dealt with his failure.

If only Judas had looked at the adjacent tree. It is also dead; its wood is also smooth. But there is no noose tied to its crossbeam. No more death on this tree. Once was enough. One death for all.

Those of us who have also betrayed Jesus know better than to be too hard on Judas for choosing the tree he did. To think that Jesus would really unburden our shoulders and unshackle our legs after all we've done to him is not easy to believe. In fact, it takes just as much faith to believe that Jesus can look past my betrayals as it does to believe that he rose from the dead. Both are just as miraculous.

What a pair, those two trees. Only a few feet from the tree of despair stands the tree of hope. Life so paradoxically close to death. Goodness within arm's reach of darkness. A hangman's noose and a life preserver swinging in the same shadow. But here they stand.

One can't help but be a bit stunned by the inconceivability of it all! Why does Jesus stand on life's most barren hill and await me with outstretched, nail-pierced hands? A "crazy, holy grace" it has been called. A type of grace that doesn't hold up to logic. But then I guess grace doesn't have to be logical. If it did, it wouldn't be grace.

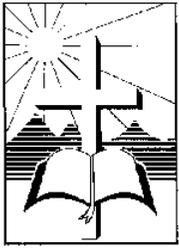
Bob

# September 2018



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

						1
2 Worship 10:15 AM Communion/Carry-In	3 B. Karen Piggott Labor Day	4 HUGS 5:30 PM Carthage	5 Choir 6:30 PM	6 B. Mark Strope	7	8 B. Ralph Froman A. Brad & Tammy Greenslaugh Haley Kirkpatrick
9 Worship 10:15 AM Coffee Hour: Open First Day Sunday School	10	11	12 Choir 6:30 PM	13 B. Alaijah Shattell	14 CASA Orientation 12:00 PM Carthage Baptist	15 Dan Bremnes Legacy Theater Carthage
16 Worship 10:15 AM Deacon's Donuts Hymn Sing-Elvaston 6-7PM	17	18	19 Choir 6:30 PM	20 Session 6:30pm B. Tony Strope	21	22
23 Worship 10:15 AM Coffe Hour: Open B. Tanner Barnett	24 A. Russ & Jane Iutzi	25	26 B. Bob Miller Choir 6:30 PM	27 B. Mylee Martin	28 B. Serena Anderson	29
30 Worship 10:15 AM Coffee Hour: Open						



**Bible Study.** Can't do that, its boring, I don't understand the Bible or I'm not interested! I have used these excuses myself over the years. At the Saturday morning study no big, heavy words are used, just easy understanding of God's word. Please join us for an informative and enjoyable hour.  
**September 8th, 2018 @ 10:00** in church lounge. with John Furniss. Bring your bible and your coffee! Extra bibles are always available.



**BETHEL CHOIR**

Bethel Choir will be beginning practice September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm. The first performance will be Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have a desire to sing with us or if you are breathing, please contact Glenna Egan.

**Building & Grounds**

Big thanks to Matt Fleck. The storm that moved through last week dumping five inches of rain on Hamilton was diverted away from the church and the basement stayed dry. Matt built the dirt grade around the east side of the building and seeded it to protect from further water damage. It was true joy not seeing the red alarm light!

Bethel received an estimate for the material and labor to remove and rewire lights in Sanctuary and re-hang and replace all bulbs with LED lights. If the bid is accepted, the work will begin immediately.

**Adult Fellowship**

August 25<sup>th</sup> the T.J. Lunt benefit was held at Smokin' Gun Lodge. Bethel Adult Fellowship made a contribution to the cause in the name of Bethel Presbyterian. The attendance was the largest benefit yet to date and brought in over \$ 100,000. What a wonderful community we are blessed to live in. God is Good All The Time, All the Time, God is Good. Thank you to Adult Fellowship for your generosity and thoughtfulness! Keep the Lunt family in our prayers.

**Outreach & Fellowship**

The Horsin' Around Farm trip this year will be cancelled due to repairs. Appleberry Orchard and Harvestville Farms are two close alternatives, located on HWY 2 Donnellson. If you or your children would enjoy one of these, please let Session know so we can book a hayride. Their season opens Sept. 1, 2018.

**Stewardship**

The 2017 Bethel Presbyterian Church Financial Audit was held Aug. 28, 2018 in the church office. In attendance were Kevin Spence, Sharon Martin and Dani Jones. The books were closed with 100% accuracy. The Bethel financials are now current as of Dec. 31, 2017.



**Deacon of The Month**  
**"Pat Potter"**

**September Birthdays**

- 1 Ralph Froman
- 3 Karen Piggott
- 6 Mark Strobe
- 8 Haley Kirkpatrick
- 13 Alaijah Shattell
- 20 Tony Strobe
- 23 Tanner Barnett
- 26 Bob Miller
- 27 Mylee Martin
- 28 Serena Anderson

**September Anniversaries**

- 1 Brad & Tammy Greenslaugh
- 24 Russ & Jane Iutzi

**September Coffee Hour**

- Sept. 2<sup>th</sup>: Carry-In
- Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: Open
- Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>: Deacon's Donuts
- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Open
- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>: Open



The first day of Sunday School for the 2018-19 school year will begin Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers have been working hard to provide lessons and crafts for our young students. Let us pray for our little ones as they learn the word of God. Thank you to our teachers for your time and talent!



**Upcoming Events.....**

Are you ready for some crisp fall air, sweatshirts, bon fires and smores? Stay tuned for information regarding our fall "Weiner Roast".

## PRAYER LIST .....

Sharon Anderson  
Bes Brenenstall  
Dane Buschling (head injury)  
"Sarge" Cochran  
Jackie Weigand Cooper  
Kathy Courtois (Kevin's sister, cancer)  
Shay Sewell Darnell (liver cancer)  
Erik Diderikson  
Matt Fleck  
Amy French  
Paul French  
Ruth Henze (Glenna's aunt)  
Mary Holmes  
Ethan Jones  
Samantha Jones (Nicole Dadant Jones'  
daughter) (cancer)  
Megan Kelly (cancer treatment)  
Shelby Kite (cancer)  
T.J. Lunt  
Sue Marson  
Marlene Piggott  
Marie Spence (illness)  
Dave Stark  
Mary Starman (Glenna's Mom)  
Larry Taylor  
Ethel Thomas  
Bob Wagner  
Ashley and Laura Toler  
(daughter/granddaughter of Carol  
Wagner)  
Duck Whitaker  
Hayden Wheatley

- Montebello & Facilities

Katie Martin, Mabel Lee VanAusdall,  
Enid Marshall, Kay Schmitz (River  
Hills)

- PRAYERS FOR MILITARY/OTHERS

Amber Froman, Brandon Matlock

## **The Hamilton Food Pantry**

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



**Bethel Presbyterian Church**

**1421 Broadway  
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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.