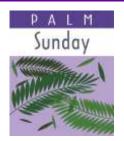
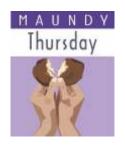
The Rock

The newsletter from Beth Eden United Methodist Church "A Christian Community, Open and Loving"

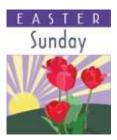
VOLUME 61 - APRIL 2017 - ISSUE 4











BETH EDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3201 Huffman Blvd. - Rockford, IL 815.877.9237 ~ bethedenumc@gmail.com www.bethedenumcrockford.org

"This is a good place to visit, to come frequently, and to remain"



CHANGING FOR A BETTER CHURCH! REALLY?

"We continue to have a deficit year after year. We have budgeted \$5,000.00 per quarter from the trust to use towards our financial obligations, however we have used an additional \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 every year from the trust in order to pay all of our bills.

We have cut our budget back as far as we can, and we only have 3.5% of our budget going toward Ministry & Programs (total budget for expenses \$204,874.56; for ministry & programs \$7,300.00)

As a church in recovery, we must use more of our income for programs in our church. If we consider that we are investing ONLY ABOUT 3.5% of our annual income in programs, the days are numbered before we disappear! Then, as your Pastor and leader, I Have To Call You, My Dear Brothers And Sisters, To Consider A Major Intervention. With the slogan "do not sit and wait to die". Our BEUMC is called to be people of faith and work hard knowing that the church will never be rich in finances but very rich in faith, in hopes, generosity, and in love.

What are our weaknesses?: Mainly our congregation is getting older. The average age is surpassing the times when energies are abundant, and consequently we need new blood; more new young families and new energies. We also need to invest more resources (\$) in providing workers that are absolutely necessary...but we don't have this money" ... What can we do?"

Here is what my presentation was to the whole church and now, almost three month later I invite you to see what is being answered:

It was already approved by the Church Council and Finance Committees to invest, as a first response, \$20,000 to hire a Music Director (Chancel+Bells+Kids Choir) and a Director Of Children And Family Minis-

tries, both as part-time jobs, beginning 2nd semester in 2017.

I think what we need to do is to work on two areas:

- 1. Concerning with PROGRAMING: I think we need urgently, for the next three years at least, to work intentionally and hard on developing/redeveloping our Congregation. For this purpose, we have been preparing ourselves by doing our previous connections with our community through: Community Dinner, Kids Program, Boy Scouts, Movie Night, Young Adult Encounter, Last Summer's Program, plus a Monthly outside Christian Music Encounter that will be a new plan to reach out to our community! We have to be open for changing ministries and forums. We have to use another strategy in sharing our programs with the community. Our proposed electronic sign, for example, will be a great help. To have, as it was approved, our BMP+Cookie-Walk+Santa Shoppe in one day, which will bring more people for the three activities.
- **2. Concerning with our FINANCES:** We need everyone, all BEUMC members and friends, to remain faithful providing for our financial needs by tithing, contributing, and giving sacrificially if it's necessary. It is difficult to keep diminishing our expenses, but still possible in certain areas to benefit others important for developing, for example, beginning June 2017, we will have a bi-monthly NL, saving yearly more than \$ 2,000, which will be a precious income for programs. Maybe we can find another way to be a church running a more realistic life according with these times, we are not a church with 250 members in attendance, we hope, by God's Grace, we can be there again and we will but we need to work hard, we need to make a bigger effort.
- **3. We need to be loyal to our BEUMC:** This is not the time to go seeking for another church. You are necessary, you are all called to do your effort here and to accomplish your mission at BEUMC. We have to revive our love and care for this congregation. I know that it is easy to leave behind a place where we face challenges and to find a place where you go and sit to listen to a good sermon and go back home. But we have to ask ourselves, is this what Jesus is expecting me to do or am I following my own agenda?

4. We need to love and care for one another: "People in this congregation need to stop talking bad about one another, or gossiping or eluding their own responsibilities...People need to show Christian love and respect to one another". This was a comment that a BEUMC member shared with me, assuming that this is the reason some people are leaving our church.

What can I say? Better to listen to what the Words of God says... "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1John 3:18)... "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love come from God" (1 John 4:7)

We have to continue to welcome everyone, we have to show God's love for everyone, we have to be careful how we talk and what we talk about, we have to learn and practice the Word of God. Without that, all effort will be a waste of time, money, and energies.

In His name, Pastor Mario S. Mayer



NEW MAILING DATES FOR "THE ROCK" NEWSLETTER

News It was decided by the Church Council & Finance Committee that beginning May 2017 The Rock will be mailed every two months in an effort to minimize our costs.

The schedule will be as follows:

May/June
July/August
September/October
November/December
January/February
March/April

This will require a little more planning on our part. Please be sure we get those important dates into the Rock.

Remember, you can always check the weekly "Life at Beth Eden" for updates!



Listed below are the names of beloved sisters & brothers in Christ. Each of their lives and ministries was a great blessing and cherished memory for each of us.

These are the names of persons who have passed away since March 28, 2017:

Kiya Strawbridge June 9, 1973 ~ March 1, 2017 *Grand-daughter of Anna Lake*

Cleora "Cle" Vance

August 27, 1918 ~ March 24, 2017

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labors for their deeds follow them." ~ Revelation 14:13





MEMORIAL GIFTS

As a reminder from the Memorial Committee, memorials remain open for 6 months after an individuals passing. There is a memorial box with cards & envelopes in the Narthex.

Memorials are currently being accepted for:

Jean Block (10/19/16) Charles Yates (2/12/17) Micki Sterling (12/5/16) Cle Vance (3/24/17)

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist for the month of April is: Kim Emery							
April 2 Greeters: 8:30 am 10:50 am	Main Door Kathy Walker Elaine McDuell	Welcome Center Dianne Young Dolores Rundberg	North Door Helen Emerick Ruth Gilbertson				
Ushers: 8:30 am 10:50 am	Ruth Plock, Jean Steckling, Jerry lamb, & Gary Rieken Beth Barrett & Dustyn Wiersema						
Communion Servers: 8:30 am Mike & Darlene Scott and Barb Stenger 10:50 am Beth Barrett, Blake Smith, & Dan Todora							
April 9 Greeters: 8:30 am 10:50 am Ushers: 8:30 am 10:50 am	Main Door Dixie Hoffman Robin Smith Ruth Plock, Jean Ste	Welcome Center Kathy Berschneider Tom Paine eckling, Jerry lamb, & Gar & Mike Peacock	North Door Carol Bennehoff Blake Smith ry Rieken				
April 16 Greeters: 8:30 am 10:50 am Ushers: 8:30 am 10:50 am	Main Door Jerry Lamb Sue Viel Ruth Plock, Jean Ster	Welcome Center Wilma Kuhlmeyer Tim Kast ckling, Jerry lamb, & Gary	North Door Patti Luevano Gary Holmes y Rieken				
April 23 Greeters: 8:30 am 10:50 am Ushers:	Main Door Steve & Deb Moburg	Welcome Center	North Door Alec Scott Jesse McDuell				
8:30 am 10:50 am	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,						

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

April 30

Greeters: Main Door Welcome Center North Door
8:30 am Wayne Young Rhonda Burright Carolyn North
10:50 am Mike Peacock Mike Rundberg Blake Smith

Ushers:

8:30 am Ruth Plock, Jean Steckling, Jerry lamb, & Gary Rieken

10:50 am Blake Smith & Dan Todora

Bible Readings for the Month of April

April 2 ~ 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 130: john 11:38-45 **Sermon:** "You Will See His Glory"

April 9 ~ Passion / Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 **Sermon:** "The King is Here"

April 13 ~ Maundy Thursday

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sermon: "Love Them"

April 14 ~ Good Friday

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-56

Sermon: "The Suffering Servant"

April 16 ~ Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: "The Glory of the Servant"

April 23 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 16; John 20:19-31 **Sermon:** "Stop Doubting and Believe"

April 30 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35



Brenda Blair (Sister of Amy & Blake Smith)

David Boeselager

Judy Branson

Doris Collman

Carolyn Decker

Chris Grousch (Friend of Anita Collingwood)

Malachi Hill (Grandson of Sieg & Betty Schwirblat)

Carol Holmes

Anna Lake

Joanne Larkin

Wayne Loury (God-Nephew of Tony Bradford)

Marge McCraney (Mother of Betty Schwirblat)

Mason Manning (Grandson of Teri Zimmerman)

Mike Pastuska (Son-in-Law of Ginny Pearson)

Dottie Roberts

Dolores Rundberg

Frank Schou

Carl & Mae Schumacher

Natalie Todora

John Vanderheyden

Jean Waeffler

To have a card sent to someone to let them know we are praying for them, please give their name and address to Dorothy Van Matre at 815.637.1580.



1	Tina Todora		
3	Chuck Stenger		
7	Bob Bartlett		
	Abigail Bauer		
	Dana Meacham		
8	Marlise Maurer		
10	Steve Aisenbrey		
12	Kelcey Kast		
13	Helen Roser		
	Mary Ann Schou		
	Narrissa Gaines		
	Becca Jacobs		
	Brinna Sutliff		
14	Elizabeth Hopkins		
15	Cathy Smith		
16	Carter Abrahamson		
17	Mary Sue Wright		
19	Jerry Severing		
20	Robin Smith		
	Jim Bailey		
	Amy Brummett		



- 2 Pastor Ken & Judy Krause
- 10 Jerry & Geri Quincy
- 12 Robert & Susan Alderman
- 14 Jesse & Elaine McDuell
- 25 Gary & Carol HolmesMike & Mindi Fasshauer



28 Jeannette Boeselager

29 Keira Shannon

30 Marcia Church



If your Birthday or Anniversary is listed wrong or missing, please notify the Church Office so we can correct it.

Thank you!

9999999999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
April	2017	
May 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
2 5th Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday	3	4 Elections 9:30 am-Congregation Care Ministry Team
	6:30 pm-Cub Scouts #389 7:00 pm-BS #2	6:00 pm-Spanish as a 2nd Language 7:00 pm-Boy Scouts #6
9 Passion/Palm Sunday Wear Purple for Child Abuse Prevention Month 8:30 am-Choir Cantata 9:40 am-Kids Breakfast with Jesus 10:50-Modern Worship 3:45 pm-Youth Group to Pizza Ranch	6:30 pm-Cub Scouts #389 7:00 pm-BS #2	6:00 pm-Spanish as a 2nd Language 7:00 pm-Staff Parish 7:00 pm-Boy Scouts #6
16 Easter Sunday 7:30 am-Sunrise Resurrection Service 8:30 am-Easter Congregational Breakfast 9:30 am-Easter Combined Worship	6:30 pm-Cub Scouts #389 7:00 pm-BS #2	18 World Malaria Day 6:00 pm-Spanish as a 2nd Language 7:00 pm-Boy Scouts #6 7:30 pm-Men's Bible Study
23 2nd Sunday of Easter	24	25
12:30 pm-BMP Meeting 5:00 pm-Youth Group Game Night		6:00 pm-Spanish as a 2nd Language
30 3rd Sunday of Easter 3:00 pm-Alleluia Quartet @ Brooke Road UMC	6:30 pm-Cub Scouts #389 7:00 pm-BS #2	7:00 pm-Glory B's @ Mary Jo Lafferty's 7:00 pm-Young Adults Encounter 7:00 pm-Boy Scouts #6 7:30 pm-Men's Bible Study

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	Beth	Eden	UMC			
8:30 a.m.— Traditio 9:40 a.m.— Sunday	Schedule mal Worship Service y School for all ages rn Worship Service		1 April Fools Day			
5 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast @ Spring Garden	6 9:00 am-Upper Room Prayer Circle	7	8			
6:30 pm-Lenten Bible Study	6:30 pm-Weight Watchers 6:45 pm-Chancel Choir	1:00 pm-UMWomen Leadership Team Meeting				
12 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast @ Spring Garden 11:30 am-Wesley Willows Luncheon	13 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am-Upper Room Prayer Circle 12:30 pm-Edenettes Circle	14 Good Friday 6:30 pm-Service of Tenebrae	15 ROCK DEADLINE			
6:30 pm-Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm-Girl Scout Leader's Mtg	6:30 pm-Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion 6:30 pm-Weight Watchers					
7:30 am-Men's Breakfast @ Spring Garden 11:30 am-Jolly Beth Eden Seniors	9:00 am-Upper Room Prayer Circle Men's Walk	21 to Emmaus April 20-23, 2017	22 Earth Day			
6:30 pm-Church Council Meeting		6:30 pm-Harmony for Hunger Concert @ Honnonegah Performing Arts Center				
26 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast @ Spring Garden	27 9:00 am-Upper Room Prayer Circle	28 Arbor Day 9:00 am-Stuffers & Stickers	29			
	Women's Wal	k to Emmaus April 27-30, 2017				
6:00 pm-Fishes & Loaves Community Dinner	6:30 pm-Weight Watchers 6:45 pm-Chancel Choir					
Раде 10						



Beth Eden will again be a polling place for the 2017 Consolidated Election on **Tuesday, April 4**. We sincerely thank those who hosted and provided food recently on February 28. We anticipate more voters on the 4th, so lots of help is again needed to provide

this ministry to our neighborhood. Please find the signup list on the Welcome Center.

APRIL'S COLOR EMPHASIS IS PURPLE

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month. It breaks our hearts when we hear about the tragedies that happen all too often. What could be more important than protect-

ing the lives of our precious children? On **Sunday, April 9** everyone is invited to wear something PURPLE to bring attention to this serious concern.

Purpose: To honor God's gift of our bodies and to practice good stewardship of them, "I thank you, High God - you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made!" (Psalm 139:14 - The Message)

EDENETTES CIRCLE

At their next monthly meeting on **Thursday**, **April 13** at **12:30 p.m.** in the Youth Room, the Edenettes are planning to bring items that are needed for the Carrie Lynn Children's Center. This includes Office Supplies, Paper Products, "Forever" Stamps, Games, New Small Stuffed Animals, other individually Packaged Toys, Wal-Mart Gift Cards, Baby Items, and Cleaning Supplies. A detailed list for each category is available at the Welcome Center. Anyone interested in participating is most welcome to do so. Refreshment hostess will be Diana Gorrell and Karen Weiss.

\$1.00 donation for the Carrie Lynn Children's Center is suggested each month.

JOLLY BETH EDEN SENIORS

The next meeting of the Jolly Beth Eden Seniors will be **Wednes-**NIORS day, April 19 from 11:30 am-1:30 p.m. for a potluck meal. As always, all are welcome to attend.



GLORY B'S

The Glory B's will meet on **Tuesday, April 25** at **7:00 p.m.** at Mary Jo Lafferty's home.



<u>"YOUNG-ADULTS ENCOUNTER" (AGES 18-30)</u>

The next gathering of the Young Adults Encounter will be on **Tuesday, April 25** at **7:00 p.m.** We will be decorating cookies, playing games, and fellowship time. Child Care will be provided.

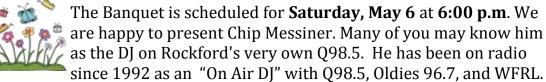


FISHES AND LOAVES COMMUNITY DINNER

The next Community Dinner will be on **Wednesday, April 26** from **6:00-8:00 p.m.**All are invited to join us!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SPRING BANQUET



Chip does many things including Producer, Radio DJ, Master of Ceremonies, Performer, and so much more. You can learn more about him at his website www.chipmessiner.com.

Additional details will be announced as available.

Thank You!



The Library Committee wishes to give a special thanks to Charlotte Hackin for donating a copy of the book she wrote: CHURCH LIBRARY "Stay Young to 100".

Library News

Some of the recent donations we have received are:

- Forty Days of Fruitful Living by Robert Schnase
- Having a Mary Spirit by Joanna Weaver
- I'm OK You're OK by Thomas A. Harris, M.D.
- John Wesley: Holiness of Heart & Life by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.
- Joshua, Judges, and Ruth by Ray Newell
- New Testament Survey by the Evangelical Teacher Training Association
- Peace Pilgrim (the story of Carla Anette)
- The Cross-Country Quilters by Jennifer Chiaverini

Remember that we have cleared a shelf for **magazines**. Please feel free to take some and donate some. They are for all ages and interests. Older magazines are welcome. Recipes, car repair, crafts, and so on do not change much over the years.

Please continue donating books and magazines. There is an orange donation crate located on the floor by the Welcome Center.





To thank you for your thoughtfulness. It meant far more than you can guess. Thank you for all of the cards for my 97th Birthday.

Anna Lake

Dear Prayer Friends,

The Irish Prayer was heart warming. Thank you for your love and prayers. It is wonderful to be remembered when you are confined mostly to your home. Take Care!

Bless you all, Love, Faith, Prayers Your Friend, Judy Branson

"A big thank you to Dan Todora for completely rewiring the youth room outlets so they will not be bothered by water under the foundation. We sincerely appreciate his time needed to do this along with his contribution of resources."

An additional "thank you" to the anonymous contributor for the new file server to replace the damaged server. It is greatly appreciated.

Mike Scott, Chairman of the Trustees

To My Friends at Beth Eden UMC

Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and well wishes. They have been much appreciated. I am recovering well and look forward to returning to normal activities. I was certainly under God's watchful eye during my health incident and he clearly isn't finished with me yet.

John Vanderhyeden

DO YOU KNOW?



An enthusiastic group of people known as the "Inn" Team have already been meeting and planning for the 39th year of the Bethlehem Market Place on December 3, 2017. The Team plans to meet monthly all year.

You can expect changes. We ae looking at the format of having the Cookie Walk and Santa's Shoppe at the same time as the BMP. This will require more participants as people in the past have helped on both days.

We are planning much more publicity and are looking at the theme of "Follow That Star".

You are invited and welcome to join in this gift to our community of sharing the massage of God's love in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Any changes in meeting dates will be announced.



Did you know that you can have flowers put on the altar for any given Sunday? See the flower sign-up book by the Welcome Center or call the church office. Flowers are a nice way to honor or remember someone!



Did you know that Weight Watchers meets at Beth Eden UMC, 3201 Huffman Blvd., Rockford, IL? They meet on **Thursday's** at **6:00 p.m.** with weigh in starting at 5:30 pm. They meet on the lower level in the Fellowship Hall. For more information about Weight Watchers please call 800.651.6000 or go to www.weightwatchers.com.

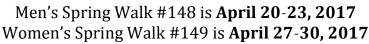


Why does the date for Easter change every year? Have you ever wondered why Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25? In Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon date of the year. The date of

the Paschal Full Moon is determined from historical tables, and has no correspondence to lunar events. In the year 325 AD astronomers approximated the dates of all the full moons in the year for the Western Christian churches. These were called the Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates, and they have been used ever since 326 AD to determine the date of Easter. So, the Paschal Full Moon is always the first Ecclesiastical Full Moon date after March 20 (which happened to be the vernal equinox date in 325 AD). The Paschal Full Moon can vary as much as two days from the date of the actual full moon, with dates ranging from March 21 to April 18. As a result, Easter dates can range from March 22 through April 25 in Western Christianity.

WALK TO EMMAUS

Have you thought about taking this Spiritual Journey? Plan ahead!



De Colores!..

Men's Spring Walk #150 is **September 28-October 1, 2017**Women's Spring Walk #151 is **November 2-5, 2017**

Walks are at Bishop Lane in Rockford, IL

If you are interested in learning more about the Walk to Emmaus you can visit their website at www.nil-emmaus.org or see anyone who has been on the walk. It's an experience you don't want to miss!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NI CONFERENCE!



Rockford District Leadership Training

April 29, 2017

Calvary UMC 315 W. Maple Ave., Stockton 815-947-2414

Schedule 8:30 -9:00Registration 9:00 -10:15Workshops -Session 1 10:15 -10:45Break/Fellowship 10:45-noonWorkshops-Session 2

Workshops

Ministry Review

led by Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford

This workshop is for pastors and SPRC members to help understand and implement the clergy Ministry Review. Please come learn more about this process before implementing it in your setting. Led by Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford.

Alternative Leadership Structure (pt. 2)

led by Trinity UMC leaders

At our January training, the workshop "Alternative Leadership Structure" introduced us to this idea. At Part 2you will hear how one church, Trinity UMC in Freeport, moved into this structure and what their experience has been like.

Church Branding: More than Just a Logo

led by Mrs. Lisa Smith

A church's brand quickly tells people who you are and what you stand for. Branding doesn't need to be complicated. Come and learn what branding is and how you can apply it to your church, simply and quickly. Designer Lisa Schickert Smith will lead the discussion on branding, provide examples and resources, including some free ones!

Mission Insite

led by Pastor Jeff Brace

Get a demographics report for your local church and learn how to extract important information from it as well as how to use this information for ministry!

All attendees are encouraged to register for 2 workshops! REGISTER SOON AT: www.umcnic.org/2017SpringRkfd For more informationcall:815-508-1388

BETH EDEN UMC—STAFF

Rev. Mario Mayer, Pastor

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Secretary

Sherry Severing Email: bethedenumc@gmail.com

Office: 815.877.9237

Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Worship Musician & Choir Director

Barbara Fisher-Livingston

Nursery Care Givers

Ashley Collins, Megan Emery, & Maggie Orlando

Custodian

Anthony Bradford



Contributors

Pastor Mario Sherry Severing Norma Shipton Kim Emery Anita Collingwood

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

YOUR ARTICLES EARLY

REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

ARTICLES IS
April 15

(For May & June Rock)

Production & Mailing

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THE ROCK—BETH EDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3201 HUFFMAN BLVD. ROCKFORD, IL 61103 www.bethedenumcrockford.org

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