



Church of the Brethren

"THE CALL"

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

July, 2018

PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

One of the many characteristics people have had ever since the dawn of creation is the great desire to be independent! History is filled with the recounting of wars of independence. The English established colonies in America and the desire of the people in the colonies for independence led to war and July 4, 1776 was an independence day for America. It is a day that is still celebrated with a great deal of parades, speeches and fireworks.

Will America continue to celebrate independence for generations to come-if Jesus tarries?? The freedoms we have are very precious, especially our freedom to worship and lead a Christian life. If that is to continue America must be very careful about the standards she sets. I remember a portion of an article I read some time ago which I believe was in the Detroit News.

"Fifty years after Washington was first elected, a French historian and philosopher traveled across America in search of the reasons for the young republic's success. He wrote: 'I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I searched the fertile fields and boundless prairies, and it was not there. In her rich mines and her vast world of commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness, did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.'"

America is good because of the Christian influence that was, and still is, prevalent in our country today. That influence is under attack every day and Christians must be ever watchful and stand for the truth of God's Word.

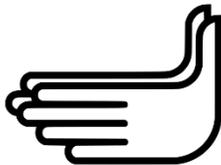
The Fourth of July is truly a great Independence Day! However, there is a greater Independence Day, and it's called Easter! It celebrates an independence that was not achieved by war, but by surrender. Jesus Christ surrendered His life on the Cross of Calvary and three days later rose from the dead and gave freedom over death and the power of Satan to all who would accept Him.

As we celebrate this Fourth of July, remember to celebrate our freedom in Christ and share the good news that those in bondage without Christ can experience a true Independence Day in Him!

Enjoy the holiday-and the freedom and independence you have in Christ!

Shalom, Pastor Bill

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
John 8:36



What are your prayer requests?

gathering of friends

time for instruction

Join Us

prayer for each other

Sunday July 1 7:00 p.m.

A note of inspiration about prayer:

"Prayer is when you talk to God, meditation is when you listen to God." Unknown

BEAVERTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

THE VALUE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNE, 2018

In his book, The History of the Church of the Brethren in Michigan, Walter M. Young (1946) wrote concerning the Beaverton Church of the Brethren:

"We believe that the spirit of healthy aggression which characterized those first years has never been surpassed."

"The Beaverton Sunday School has always been a strong organization."

"A fine group of young people is in preparation here for capable leadership in the future."

"We would greatly desire to elaborate on the long service rendered to the church through the years by devoted teachers, officers and lay members, but space forbids. The voices of those who have gone before seem to say, 'Press on,' and it remains for those filling responsible official positions to continue to make the Beaverton church a center of consecrated effort for the community and for the church at large."

In its beginning the Church of the Brethren did not have Sunday Schools as they felt that Christian education was something that should be taught in the home. Sunday Schools were gradually accepted and had a boost in 1789 at the Brethren Annual Meeting: *"Concern had been expressed that many young people were going astray because of the lack of 'sufficient diligence used in instructing the children according to the Word of God.'"* (Page 1237 Brethren Encyclopedia) This concern motivated many Brethren churches to develop Sunday Schools. We have a similar concern today as young people leave the church.

The greatness of a nation, or a church, is dependent upon the quality and scope of its educational system. To be effective a system of education must start with the basics and build upon them. There must be an ultimate goal or any system will be ineffective. Random training without an ultimate goal will profit very little, if at all. Teaching this and that without a goal or destination in mind, one will find that they have expended a great deal of energy and gained very little.

Walter Young wrote that the Beaverton Sunday School was a strong organization, and that's what is required for a Sunday School to be effective. It requires strong leadership, a supportive congregation, dedicated teachers, and sufficient classroom space. Yes, two or three classes can be held in a large room, however the quality of the teaching will suffer greatly.

I know I quote from his book often, however, in his book The Knowledge of the Holy A.W. Tozer wrote: *"We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past."* It is equally important that children and new believers are taught all of Scripture and the beliefs and traditions of the Church of the Brethren.

Belief and tradition are very rich and powerful in drawing a believer to a deep and saving relationship with God and the church (each other).

The Brethren have some very rich beliefs and traditions that must be taught to new believers, young and old. Some of them are, not in order of importance:

- (1) The meaning and practice of Trine Baptism, Love Feast, Bread and Cup, Anointing, and Feetwashing.
- (2) What it means to be a "Peace Church?"
- (3) What "simple living" means and how is it lived out in our world today?
- (4) What does the "priesthood of all believers mean and how it apply to the church today?
- (5) What are the attributes of God and how do they affect our relationship with Him?
- (6) What does it mean to be a disciple or an apostle?
- (7) The meaning of so many words in the Christian jargon, and there are others as well.

We have talked about teaching by quarters and having new offerings each quarter. This greatly helps increase Sunday School attendance, because if a subject is offered that appeals to some who do not attend, they may be motivated to do so. It's easy to become comfortable in a class and not want to change; however, doing so may hinder others who need to become a part of Sunday School. Children, new believers, and those new to the Church of the Brethren need instruction on our beliefs and traditions, and Sunday School is where that happens.

A strong organized Sunday School is the pulsing heart of a church. It is the place where real Christian growth occurs. A church without a strong Sunday School will always be in decline.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to develop a Sunday School that, in the words of Walter Young will have *"A fine group of young people (and older too) in preparation here for capable leadership in the future."* It will require teachers and support of others, however, the benefits and rewards are eternal.

Share your thoughts and ideas with me, and each other, about how we can develop a strong and effective Sunday School!

Shalom,
Pastor Bill

MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL PART OF YOUR REGULAR WORSHIP



Sunday School News

Sunday School classes begin at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings with “Get your worship on,” music and a short message. There are several classes available, and everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend.

Preschool - Kindergarten – Teacher, Becky Phillips

1st - 3rd grades- Teacher, Candy Schnepf

4th - 7th grades - Teacher, Joanne Fassett

Adult – Teacher, Tom Prager – Study of Deuteronomy

Adult – Teacher, Lila Hannahs – Study of Romans

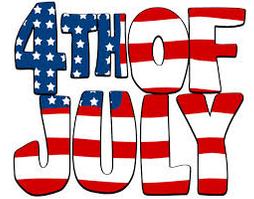
Adult/Teen – Beginning a new study of Frances Chan’s books Forgotten God and Crazy Love. Please see Sherry Garvin or Peggy McKimmy if you would like to join in this group.

~~~~~“Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief.” ~~~~~

Marcus Tullius Cicero

# “SADDLE UP” 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

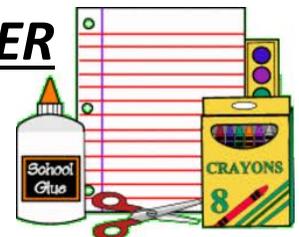
IT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



11:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Our church will once again have an entry in the parade. The float committee is organized and work has begun. Assembly is taking place at Bob and Becky Phillips' home. “God blessed the open road that led me straight to You” is the message the float will convey. Think about how you can help. The next meeting is Monday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are always willingly accepted!!!!

## 2018 SCHOOL SUPPLY FUND RAISER



The 2018 school supply fund raiser has begun in earnest. Now is the time to support our school children, our teachers, and our community.

Once again our goal is \$4,000 to purchase gift cards.

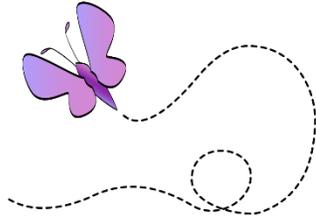
Prayerfully consider how much you can give and place your donation in the outreach cup or the offering plate with a designation for school supplies. This comes from our heart!!!

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



## Gladwin County Fair July 15 - 21

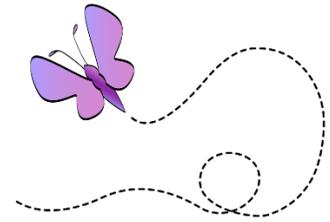
*Once again the Beaverton Church of the Brethren will have a booth at the Gladwin County Fair. The booth will be “manned” Monday through Saturday giving us a chance to speak with people in person about God’s love and our church. Becky Phillips will be organizing the booth. Helpers will be needed to work at the booth and help with set-up and tear-down. All of us need to consider taking on this outreach opportunity.*



## **Women's Fellowship**

The women held their monthly meeting on June 6th. Everyone enjoyed going out to lunch on June 13 at the Welcome In restaurant in Beaverton. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, at 10:30. A "lunch-out" is planned at Sherry Garvin's on Saturday, July 14, at noon. Please join us for Bible study at 9:00 each Wednesday and the monthly Fellowship meetings and outings.

**FUNERAL DINNERS**—*The women have discussed the ministry of this church in providing funeral dinners for families who have lost loved ones. It was decided there will be no charges to families for food. If a family would like to donate to the Women's Fellowship they may. Claudia Whitmer, Peggy Hillman, Sherry Garvin, and Peggy McKimmy are the funeral dinner committee. Any one of these ladies or Pastor Bill can be contacted when there is a need.*



## **WEB SITE, FACEBOOK, SOCIAL MEDIA**

Jessica Murrell has been working to create a web site for the church and update the Church Facebook page with current information. Now, when someone "googles" the Beaverton Church of the Brethren he/she will be directed to current news from the Church, maps, phone numbers, etc.-- Keeping the Church "out-there" for those who use social media.



**ITEMS OF INTEREST: \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* Outreach cup offerings for May, June, July, August**

designated for school supplies (teacher gift cards)

**\*\*\*\*\* Birthday Sunday, July 1, worship service**

**\*\*\*\*\* Prayer gathering, Sunday, July 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Coffee Break and doughnuts, Sunday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 Commissions, 7:30 Board**

**\*\*\*\*\* Women's outing, Saturday, July 14, 12:00 p.m.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Vet's dinner, Sunday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.**

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**Worship Leadership**

**July**

**Date: July 1**

Worship Leader: Glen Blades  
Music Leader: Amy Burns  
Special Gifts: Children  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Eric and Peg Hillman  
Deacons: Lana Blades & Bob Phillips  
Closer: Dan Bergman

**Date: July 8**

Worship Leader: Sherm Fassett  
Music Leader: Glen Blades  
Special Gifts:  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Jane Raymor  
Deacons: Amy Burns & Sherm Fassett  
Closer: Dan Bergman

**Date: July 15**

Worship Leader: Dan Whitmer  
Music Leader: Sherm Fassett  
Special Gifts:  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Don Shaffer  
Deacons: Joanne Fassett & Dan Whitmer  
Closer: Dan Bergman

**Date: July 22**

Worship Leader: Sandy Sprague  
Music Leader: Glen Blades  
Special Gifts: Puppets  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Ward Simpson  
Deacons: Rick Painter & Bob Phillips  
Closer: Dan Bergman

**Date: July 29**

Worship Leader: Rick Painter  
Music Leader: Becky Phillips  
Special Gifts: Dan Bergman  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Eric and Peg Hillman  
Deacons: Leta Painter & Glen Blades  
Closer: Dan Bergman



**Beaverton Church of the Brethren Vision Statement:**

*The Beaverton Church of the Brethren is a dynamic, Spirit-filled church impacting our community and beyond through worship, ministry and leadership development.*