



Volume 14 Number 3  
April 2024

Editors: Chylene Daub/Shirley Giebel  
Graphics Editor: Ginger Doherty

*Heard through...*

**WILDWOOD CHURCH**  
Come Home to Bethel - Since 1858



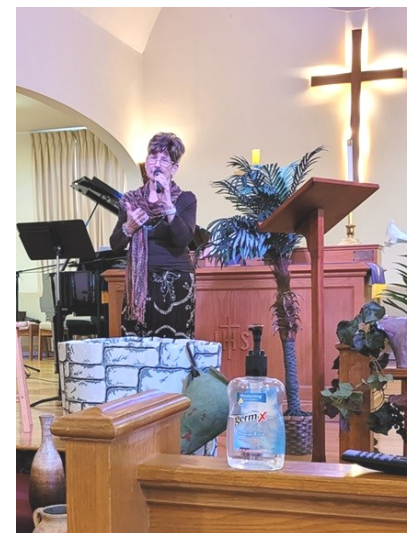
## The OPEN DOOR

17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, Missouri 63038  
www.bethelwildwood.org Phone: (636) 458-2255



### PALM SUNDAY DRAMA

On Palm Sunday Bethel's music team presented a drama depicting a woman waiting to see Jesus as He passed the crowds on His way to Jerusalem. Chylene sang her original song, "Jesus Is His Name." She was joined by Linda Himmelman who met her at the well and told her that she had seen Jesus and that He performed miracles. Then she met Don Walsh who portrayed a fisherman who had witnessed Jesus when He called his first disciples "to become fishers of men."



## THANK YOU, PASTOR JEFF

Our Thanks to Pastor Jeff and his family for making our Easter Season inspiring and meaningful for all. The Tenebrae service on Good Friday was a solemn gathering, focused on the brutal events of the day when Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross and buried in a tomb. The Tenebrae candelabra has 12 candles, representing the 12 disciples. A single center candle is the Christ candle. As the gospel stories relate how the disciples denied Christ for fear of being crucified alongside of him, the candles are extinguished one by one. The light of the Christ candle is put out to represent when Jesus died on the cross and the world was thrown into darkness. Those who attended the service were asked to take their time to pray, and then to leave in silence.



In contrast, the Easter Sunday morning service was a chance to celebrate the joy of the resurrection of Christ. Our church was filled with families who came to hear about how Jesus defeated death and arose from the tomb. And, that He invites us to follow Him and have everlasting life.

## BETHEL'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT SPREADS HAPPINESS FOR YOUNGSTERS

It was a day of happy faces as children and grandchildren came to Bethel for our annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 30. Katie, the "Easter Dog" joined in the fun. There were crafts and games for the kids, as well as balloon animals and other special items made to order by Steve Queen of Circus Kaput Entertainment. Pastor Jeff sat in a circle with the children to tell them the Easter story, and then the hunt was on!



Bethel Crafters had stuffed more than 1,200 plastic eggs with wrapped candy and the church grounds were loaded with eggs for all ages. The fun of the Easter egg hunt never gets old, and every one is already planning how to make it even more special next year.

**Our thanks to everyone who helped  
to make the day special, and  
for bringing your children.**



# BETHEL'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT (continued)



## NEWBORNS IN NEED

Bethel's Mission Project for March was "Newborns in Need," a charity that assists young parents who may be struggling with all the necessities for their new babies. Bethel folks brought diapers, blankets and adorable outfits for the little ones.

**Thanks to everyone who participated!**



## 'THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT'

### St. Louis Ronald McDonald Houses Help Families Who Need a Place to Stay

"Welcome to the house that love built!" This is the greeting from a young child's voice when you call the Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis. It truly seems to be an appropriate message because spreading hospitality and compassion is the goal of this unique charity.

The Ronald McDonald House is Bethel's Mission project for the month of April. Ronald McDonald charities describes its purpose: "a non-profit family and children's charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need."

Currently there are three Ronald McDonald houses in the St. Louis area, providing a home-away-from-home for the families of seriously ill children. They are located near pediatric hospitals. In order to be eligible for housing in a Ronald McDonald house, families must reside 50 miles or more away from the hospital where the child is being treated. For those families who do not live that far away, there are four RMD family rooms located inside three pediatric hospitals. These are large rooms with comfortable furniture, snacks and toys for the siblings of sick children. They make it more convenient for families instead of having to sit in a crowded waiting room for hours. They even have gifts for children to take to their sick brother or sister.



A new and larger Ronald McDonald House is currently under construction in the St. Louis Grove business area. The new house will have 72 bedrooms and will greatly increase the capacity to meet the needs of many more families. Ground was broken in 2022 for the \$30 million project. They plan to have the facility complete later this year.

## 'THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT' (continued)

### A Father Saw a Need

The concept of the Ronald McDonald House began in 1974 in Philadelphia. Kim Hall, the 3-year-old daughter of Philadelphia Eagles' tight end Fred Hill, was diagnosed with leukemia. Hill and his wife slept in hospital waiting room chairs, and ate food from vending machines. They did not want to leave their child alone. They saw many other parents doing the same, and they learned that some had traveled great distances to bring their children to the hospital.

Hill reached out to his teammates to raise funds for those families. He wanted to help to ease their emotional and financial trauma. He met with his Eagles' general manager Jim Murray and Eagles' owner Leonard Tose. They contacted the McDonald's restaurant regional manager and that was how McDonalds became involved. They partnered with Dr. Audrey Evans of Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, and from there the idea branched out to other cities. By 1979 ten more homes were built, and 15 years later there were 100.

St. Louis opened its first RMD House with eight bedrooms in 1981. It has grown to three locations with a total of 59 bedrooms. With the new home under construction, there will be 72 more bedrooms available. New accommodations are needed because there is always a waiting list of 20-25 families needing lodging. The website states that St. Louis Ronald McDonald houses served 524 families in 2022. RMD houses welcome volunteers who give of their time to cook meals and offer a shoulder to help carry a burden.

Today, there are 380 chapters of Ronald McDonald Houses serving families in 62 countries worldwide. The Ronald McDonald restaurant is the founder of RMD House Charities and its forever mission partner.

### Collect Those Aluminum Tab Tops!



The rather unusual request for donations for the RMD Houses is to collect the tab tops of aluminum cans. They are small but weigh more than a large collection of the cans. You can still recycle the cans. Please make an effort to save your aluminum tab tops and bring them to church during the month of April. If you prefer, you can always make a monetary donation to Ronald McDonald House Charity.

## COLLECTION FOR GIRL SCOUTS' APRIL SHOWERS PROGRAM

Please donate the following new personal care items:

Deodorant, Facial Tissue, Feminine Hygiene Products, Diapers, First Aid Supplies, Mouthwash, Shampoo, Soap, Razors, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Toothbrushes & Toothpaste



Our collection ends Monday, April 21.

Please place donations on the rack in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!



# HEALTHY LIVING EXPO

HEALTH FAIR + BLOOD DRIVE

Bethel Wildwood Church  
17500 Manchester Rd, Wildwood, MO

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 20TH  
10 AM-1 PM

Learn about common health risks & preventative measures, give blood, and receive free health screenings & samples provided by a variety of local businesses

TO DONATE BLOOD



Bloodcenter.org/group,  
grp #11620 (800-747-5401)



Blood collection by:  **ImpactLife**  
50 Years of Saving Lives

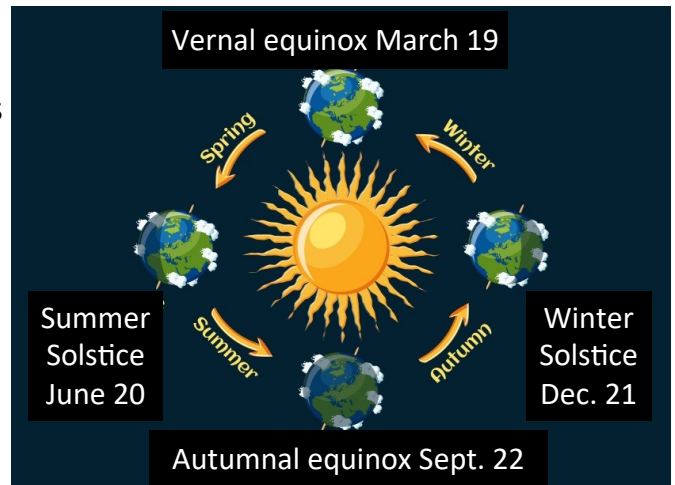
Give blood in April; have your choice of gift card, donation to the featured charity, or points to store!

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

[secretary@bethelwildwood.org](mailto:secretary@bethelwildwood.org)

## THAT TRICKY SUN CHANGES THE SEASONS

After a relatively mild winter, spring snuck up on us March 19, though we had seen signs like daffodils and tulips pushing up through the earth, and early blooming saucer magnolias stepping forth. April will bring Spring in full glory. The date changes a day or two every year, but essentially the summer comes next in June, fall in September and winter in December. All fall on about the same date each year.



The sun has more to do than come up in the East in the morning and set in West in the evening. On one day the season begins, called the day of the equinox, the sun rises precisely due east and sets precisely due west everywhere in the world. This creates what is known as the vernal equinox when the sun crosses the celestial equator: an imaginary line. This brings spring to the Northern hemisphere and autumn to the Southern hemisphere.

We are reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1—*To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.* We expect April showers now to bring May flowers. God’s creation is everywhere.

## SEEDS: THE MIRACLE WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS

When Jesus told the *Parable of the Sower* to his disciples in *Matthew Chapter 13* He was making the comparison to planting real seeds in good soil to the planting of God’s word. The sowing of seeds, by parable and fact, are given great importance. We are grateful at Bethel to Barb Jacobs who has for some weeks been busy planting seeds and watching over them as they send up the seedlings that will become beautiful plants for the annual Bethel Plant Sale—with the promise of bountiful vegetables and fruits. Barb admits spending time going through those enticing colorful seed catalogs that arrive while winter is still with us. She looks for new things and the tried and true ones. She plans based on many factors that make certain varieties popular.

**Potting Soil Needed!** From starting seeds to transplanting them in pots and in containers for the sale, potting soil is a necessity. Jesus makes a point in his parable of the importance of the soil; *“some seeds fell into good ground and brought forth fruit.”* Barb favors Miracle Grow. There are many sizes to choose from.

## SEEDS: THE MIRACLE WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS (continued)

### The International Importance of Seeds.

The Svalbard Seed Vault on the Norwegian Island of Spitsbergen is a secure backup facility for the world's crops. There is great diversity of seeds from all parts of the world. The facility in the remote Arctic exists to provide security for the world's food supply. A look at a fuller description on the Internet is worth the time to read about this Vault and to think again the importance of the seed and it's miracles.



## SPRING IS BLOOMING EARLY AT BARB JACOB'S HOME

### Preparing for Plant Sale

While we are just beginning to see early spring flowers breaking ground, Barb Jacobs has a head start on the season. She is preparing for the annual Bethel Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11, from 9am-1pm. She has a wide array of flowers and plants in her basement under grow lights, in pots, tubs, and small greenhouses, both inside and out, soaking up the warm sun. She plants from seeds and takes cuttings from varieties like geraniums and friendship plants and others. She watches over each and every one, ready to move them into larger pots when the root system is hardy.

### A Call for Potting Soil

As each plant is ready to be transplanted, there is a need for good potting soil. So Barb is putting out a request for folks to contribute potting soil. She prefers Miracle Grow in the blue bag, but will accept any and all contributions. She can also use planter pots and boxes.

### A Sample of Plants to be Offered

Just to name a few: in addition to the geraniums and friendship plants, Barb has double petunias, Echinacea or corn flowers, primrose, coral bells, lavender, hollyhocks, silver sage and salvia. Also, pepper plants (tomatoes will come later), and several varieties of sunflowers, including the Mongolian giant sunflower. There are also many indoor plants, including cactus and a unique little plant called a "living stone" (Lithops) that comes from Africa. They look like tiny little flat stones with spots and designs. These are only a sample of the plants that will be offered for sale. There will be vegetable plants, herbs and hanging baskets of cascading foliage.



Grow lights are working overtime in Barb's basement to ready plants for the sale.



## SPRING IS BLOOMING EARLY (continued)

How does she handle this difficult job of choosing plants for the sale? “My winter reading consists of Seed Catalogs,” she says. She also works with her volunteer helpers to assess which plants were the best sellers after each sale. She starts seeds in December. She also relies on volunteers to raise some plants, such as Linda Knip who is growing herbs for the sale at her home in Kansas City. Then, when the day of the sale approaches, she recruits Bethel volunteers to contribute plants from their yards or even to bring in garden flowers they have bought. She reminds people who want to bring in plants, they must be labeled so they can be identified for the sale.

### A Successful Event Year After Year

Barb has chaired the Bethel Plant Sale for 13 years. The sale has consistently brought in about \$1,900 for the church, which has amounted to a total of \$21,000. The beauty of the sale is that many of the plants are donated by church members, and a great crew of volunteers always shows up to help.

This year, Barb plans to display seed packets next to the flowers to give buyers more information. The sale also will feature a table of pollinator plants, for those who want to attract butterflies and bees to their gardens, and a table of plants that will work well in small spaces. Barb has an impressive knowledge of plants. She has a lifelong love of plants and watching them grow. One of her favorite plants is the daylily, which are featured in her beautifully landscaped yard. She has over 400 varieties of daylilies which she has to guard against the deer who also seem to prefer them. “It’s a battle every year,” she says.



These interesting little “Living Stones” are from Africa.

Anyone who wants to help Barb and her committee can bring potting soil to the church, and can plan to donate plants closer to the sale. Most important, plan to attend the Bethel Plant Sale on May 11 and bring your friends. It is in time for Mother’s Day.



Barb Jacobs is on schedule to have a huge variety of plants ready for the Bethel Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11. These small plants are almost ready to transplant into larger pots.



These pepper plants are soaking up warmth from grow lights. The sale will feature more vegetable plants such as tomatoes and cantaloupe.



**Diane D,**

Thank you for donating postage stamps.—**Bethel Wildwood Church**

**Dear Pastor Jeff,**

Thank you for being at the Troop's Court of Honor on Sunday and leading the invocation. The Court of Honor could not have gone better. It was a good day for my son, Jake, receiving his Eagle award and a good day for the Troop. The Troop appreciates the congregation's generosity with the Fellowship Hall. Thank you again—**Sherry**

**Bethel,**

Thank you for your donation of \$35. With your giving, you bring help and hope to families when they need it most. On behalf of those we serve, thanks!—**Circle of Concern**

**Bethel,**

Thank you for your generous gift of 8 bags of men's clothing, 3 bags children's clothing, 6 men's shirts, and 1 blanket (valued at \$486). These are dollars saved which we are able to apply directly to support our programs and services.—**New Life Evangelistic Center**

**Bethel Cemetery,**

I appreciate all you do!—**Ginny H**

### **OPEN Praise Team**

Anyone with singing or instrumental musical talents interested in helping the praise team please get in contact with Shirley Martka ASAP.

### **Giving**

In an effort to make you aware of our ongoing income and expenses Bert, our treasurer, has calculated our monthly expenses and we have provided a total of our offerings for the given month as follows:

Total estimated monthly expenses:	\$13,900.00
Total offerings received as of 3/31/24:	\$20,531.87

### **Circle of Concern is currently in need of the following items:**

healthy snacks (granola bars, popcorn, nuts, crackers), cereal, oatmeal, canned beef/chicken, beef stew, dinner helpers, pasta sauce, canned fruit, condiments, boxed potatoes, rice, pasta, baking items, flushable wipes, body wash, vitamins, lotion, cotton swabs, hygiene products, cleaning products, dry pet food & litter

Please leave donations in the shopping cart next to the elevator. Thank you!

## On The Calendar @ Bethel

- Bethel Fitness**—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am
- Music Ministry Practice**—Tuesdays @ 3pm
- Crafters & Prayer Shawl Warriors**—Thursdays @ 9:30am
- Highway Cleanup**—Saturday, April 6 @ 8am
- Communion**—Sunday, April 7 @ 10am
- Juliets' Luncheon**—Tuesday, April 9 @ 11:30 - Big Chiefs
- Reception of New Members & luncheon**—Sunday, April 14 @10am
- Healthy Living Expo & Blood Drive**—Saturday, April 20 @ 10am—1pm
- April Showers collection ends**—Sunday, April 21
- Ronald McDonald House Mission ends**—Sunday, April 28
- Next Board Meeting**—Tuesday, May 7 @ 7pm

### Fellowship Time

Join us for coffee in fellowship hall after worship every Sunday. All are welcome.

### Nursery

Childcare provided during Sunday service.

**We are blessed to have a good number of gifted lay leaders willing to help make our Zoom service a success.**

**Our schedule for April is as follows...**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Devotion</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Prayer</b>	<b>ZOOM</b>	<b>PPT</b>
4/7	PJeff	Shirley	Carolyn	PJeff	TBD	TBD
4/14	PJeff	Shirley	Patricia	PJeff	TBD	TBD
4/21	PJeff	Shirley	Barb	PJeff	TBD	TBD
4/28	PJeff	Shirley	Amy	PJeff	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

### Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

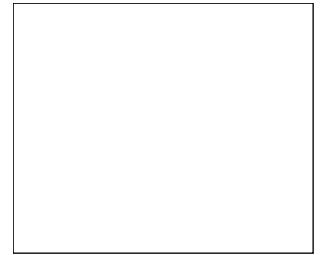
	<b>Sheila</b>	<b>RuthAnne/Bert</b>	<b>Bert</b>	<b>Bert</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>

### Counters Schedule

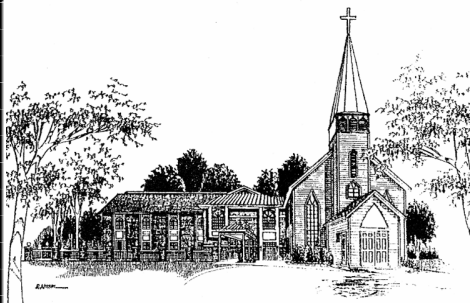
	<b>Dale/Sheila</b>	<b>RuthAnne/Bert</b>	<b>RuthAnne/Suzi</b>	<b>Bert/Debbie</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>



Bethel Wildwood Church  
17500 Manchester Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907



**April 2024  
News!**



## **Bethel Wildwood Church**

***Love God,  
Love Others,  
Serve All!***

***Please Join Us Sunday For Service***

Service will be **LIVE** in the sanctuary @ **10 a.m.**  
or you can use one of the following:

**Church webpage:** [www.bethelwildwood.org](http://www.bethelwildwood.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BethelWildwoodChurch/> "Like Us" on Facebook

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@BethelWildwoodChurch>

**Zoom:** Please contact the church office at 636-458-2255 to receive the link.