

FUMC News

MAY 2024

BEDFORD FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Character over Appearance

Bedford First recently hosted the annual Art Show by students of Bedford-North Lawrence High School. One entry especially intrigued me. It was a painting of a photograph of the singer Drake. In the picture (and painting), Drake is wearing what looks to me like a Green Bay Packers football jersey (the colors match) and silvery braces and implants cover his teeth. He has what appears to me to be a diamond stud earring in his left ear and there are five hair clips in his hair each a different color. Most images of Drake depict a completely different man whose hair is too short for clips and no braces.

Before someone showed me the actual photograph of Drake that the BNL artist had copied, I thought it was a picture of Jesus, albeit from a different perspective than I might ever have, but still. That image has stayed with me as I've struggled with the clarification of identity. After all, Drake couldn't possibly be Jesus, could he?

I don't know enough about the man to give a definitive answer to my question, but a song by Joan Osborne from 1995 has gotten me to think. The song is titled "One of Us" and if you'd like to hear it here's a link: <https://youtu.be/aDdOnl0bH04>. As I listen to it, the lyrics remind me that none of us knows what God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit look like. We all have images that we conjure up, but none of us really knows.

We read in Acts 1:11

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

To me, that verse assures me that Jesus will one day return. So, what will that be like? How will I know Jesus when I meet Him? Well, I don't have a definitive answer to the question either. But this I do know. Jesus wasn't recognized by most of the people He was sent to redeem. Despite centuries of pictures of Him, I don't think He had a permanent halo hovering over the top of His head. Because of the culture

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Pastor's Message, continued

and region of the world Jesus was born in, I'm not so sure that He had blond hair and blue eyes like many of the actors who have portrayed Him in movies and television shows. Truthfully, it helps when I ignore all my tendencies to assign any physical attributes to Jesus. So maybe Jesus will return sporting shiny metal teeth or multicolored hair clips. Maybe even dress in a Packers jersey. In His time, Jesus was one of us. "Just a slob like one of us. Just a stranger on the bus. Tryin' to make his way home" (<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=lyrics+to+what+if+god+was+one+of+us&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>).



And that is my point to all of this. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed in his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1964:

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Judged by character, not by appearance. And that, my friends, is how we need to approach the return of Jesus. Maybe we'll recognize Him immediately, removing all my doubts and anxieties. But the last time the Messiah showed up, He was nothing like people anticipated and unfortunately, many refused to believe. I don't want to be one who misses the boat when He returns. So, I try to keep an open mind. And that sometimes means I see Jesus in a painting of a photograph of Drake!

~Pastor Judi

Administrative Council

With the approval of the Indiana Conference, our church Administrative Council voted to move from a full-time minister to a part-time minister. This allows the church to save \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually by eliminating employment benefits.

Also, Pastor Judi was reappointed as our minister on a 3/4-time basis for the next 12 months (July 2024 through July 2025).

~Jerry Jackson



Next Generation

In the month of April, the Next Generation was hard at work. They spent a couple afternoons raking up tons of gumballs at Jim and Rowena Mount's home. They also worked over at Jim Bellush's home cleaning up flower beds and getting rid of the leaves. They also took some time one Friday to start organizing items for the yard sale coming up this fall.

This past Friday, we hosted the BNL art show and it was incredible! There were all sorts of amazing art such as drawings, sculptures, stained glass, tee-shirt designs, paintings, and even some metal work. Some of these awesome pieces belonged to our own Kat and Kayeh Kwakye. Photos of their artwork will be on the bulletin board next to the newsletter. Thanks to all who helped make it happen!



Finally, I would like you all to join us in praying for the upcoming mission trip to Midwest Mission. Pray that we can go safely and be able to help others in need. Also, pray that we may learn and grow closer to the Lord through this experience.

Thanks for checking out the Next Generation update!

~Levi King

Soul Food

Soul Food will meet on Wednesday, May 1 to discuss Laura Childs' *Death by Darjeeling*. I found this was a very relaxed reading with a touch of mystery. We will, of course, head to lunch after our meeting.

Our June 5th book was recommended by Kay Collins. It is *A Darker Reality* by Anne Perry.

~Linda Schoonmaker



No More Soup Labels!



Some of you may have noticed that the collection cube for Campbell's Soup labels has disappeared from the hall. This is because the Campbell's "Labels for Education" program actually ended in 2018!

Also, the General Mills "Box Tops for Education" program became fully digital in March 2023. To continue to participate in that program, an app must be downloaded to your device so that receipts for the eligible products can be scanned. To learn more, please go to <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/about>.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these programs in the past.

~Tammy Dodds, Administrative Assistant

Mountain Mission

The truck from United Methodist Mountain Mission will be at our church on Monday, June 10. We are usually one of their first stops in the morning (sometimes within moments of the office opening at 9:00 AM), so please bring your donations prior to June 10. If at all possible, they request that items be in boxes rather than bags, since boxes are much easier to stack in the trucks.

Their list of urgent needs includes: bed sheets, blankets, comforters/quilts, bed spreads, pillows, towels, and wash cloths. They also need pots and pans, purses, socks and underwear (for both adults and children), swimwear, and crafting supplies (yarn, material, etc.).

Their warehouse needs 33-gallon trash bags, paper towels and air freshener spray.

Financial donations can be made on their website at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNV4/home>



- 6 Bart Bertolino
- 10 Sherissa Minshall
- 13 Catie and Abby Scott
- 14 Jack Kenworthy
- 15 Darryl Ivanson
- 23 Phil Scott and Blake Bower
- 28 Mike Berry
- 29 Bill Whitted
- 30 Mike Collins



UPCOMING Events

- May 1, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
- May 7, Hospitality Committee at 9:00 AM
- May 14, Administrative Council at 6:00 PM
- Last Monday of the month, Euchre at 2:00 PM
- Every Tuesday, Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans at 9:00 AM
- Every Tuesday, Grief Share from 2:00 to 3:30 PM
- Every Tuesday, Bible study at 4:00 PM
- Every Thursday, Fiber Time at 2:00 PM
- Every Friday, Youth Group at 6:30 PM
- Every Saturday, Gideons at 8:00 AM

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*Making disciples Jesus
Christ for the transfor-
mation of the world.*