

July  
2017



**BRADLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**The Bradley Beacon**

Our Mission: *To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

 **FROM THE  
PASTOR**

**One Small and Simple Decision**

*“Then Gideon said to God, ‘In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said, I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said.’ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.”*

Judges 6:36-38 (NRSV)

I remember the first “fleece” I laid out before God. In 2001, I was still struggling with committing to God’s call to a new vocation in ministry. I believed that Jesus was the way, the truth and the life, but the truth was, I couldn’t see a way that led to the new life that I sensed was the call of God. Part of the difficulty for me was that I was overwhelmed by the combination of seminary work and the comprehensiveness of the United Methodist ordination process. But finally, like Gideon, I laid out my fleece and reduced my struggle to one small and simple decision. I told God I would enroll at Asbury Seminary and, if accepted, would take one class. If that class went well, I’d consider taking more. Five years later I received a Masters of Divinity degree and was commissioned as a full-time Provisional Elder in the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was a huge accomplishment that started with one small decision.

Recently, I laid another fleece out before God. I had been feeling like there was something missing in my approach to ministry. I had known about SLI (Spiritual Leadership, Inc.) for some time, and felt God’s prompting to become trained as and SLI Coach. I really had no idea where this might lead me in ministry, but once again I told God I would contact SLI and, if invited to coaching training, I would attend. I started SLI’s program in January of this year and completed it in May. This training was probably the most spiritually invigorating experience I’ve had since my ordination seven years ago. It was another blessing that started with small, simple decision.

Now I have laid out yet another fleece before God. I feel like sharing the SLI process with Bradley might invigorate us as a congregation and lead us to a new level of vibrancy. So, I told God I would provide applications to participate on an SLI team to you all, and if God would lead you to participate we would move forward together. This is now up to God’s call upon you and your response. Maybe it seems too in depth, too time consuming, or maybe you are hesitant to make this kind of commitment – I get that! But maybe, instead of thinking about all the work it might entail, you might make a small and simple decision to apply to be part of our team, and if selected, take a step forward and see where God might take us. I don’t believe you will be disappointed! We’ll continue accepting your applications into July. If you have questions, I would love to discuss this with you at any time.

May your heart be always at peace,

*Pastor Dave Seifres*

## Rev. Linda's Corner

### Good Music - a Vital Ingredient for Our Happiness!

The "Festival of Music" presented on Sunday May 21st that ended the choir's yearly schedule, and began their well deserved Summer break made me realize that the combination of our choir, praise team, organists, and instrumentalists had served us a banquet of Spiritual food! I noticed how happy, joyful, and energized we were as we greeted one another after worship that Sunday. The music spoke to our spirits, our minds, and really our whole bodies. It was the striking power of the organ and piano together that gave me goose bumps all over. The instruments and voices were strong with emotion. The styles and types of music were diverse, reminding us that our God is such a big God, no single kind of music can respond to all that God is! We need to experience the variety of musical forms and sounds given to us as gifts that are to be shared.

Immediately after worship, a few things became evident to me. We had just experienced something very special that unified us and produced a sudden boost of energy and inspiration from God's Spirit. As I looked around the sanctuary, I saw an outpouring of joy and happiness on our faces. One of the beautiful things about music is that it can focus us in the moment, bringing us relief from reviewing the past or worrying about the future. Our hard working and well prepared musicians saw to it that we gave our full attention to their message.

This year's "Festival of Music" got me thinking about the connection between music, our health, and our happiness. Research tells us that music has a huge impact on us. Music can ease our pain, motivate us to exercise harder, improve our sleep quality, reduce stress and depression, elevate our mood, and relax patients before and after surgery. Studies have proven that music helps release those happy chemicals in our brain. Simply put, our brains are programmed to be happier when we listen to music. And best of all, researchers have discovered that live music is the most potent happiness trigger of all because it bonds us together in the same positive experience. That's exactly what we felt on "Festival of Music" Sunday. Music is an indispensable gift from God, and we should never take it, or the joy and happiness it produces for granted. Psalm 95:1 tells us; "Oh Come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation".

## Family Connect with Heather

Summer is a great time for families to have some rest and relaxation. But that's not how it usually ends up. Time keeps flying and activities still happen and there's always something to do. I hope that you find some time to unplug and recharge!

Our Family Life ministries are the same way. After an awesome Easter Egg Hunt, we did take a little time to rest and relax. But now there are things to do, and we are recharged and planning.

What are we planning? First, we are planning to finish our room updates. On July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am we are having a final cleanup day. Last October, we filled an entire dumpster, and now we need to fill another one! Then, on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am, we are having a paint day to patch and paint the walls in the room that used to be Wesley Closet. Signup sheets for both days will be in the church office and at both sides of the sanctuary starting July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider helping us! We need you!

We are also planning our next big event – our first Community Trunk or Treat. Trunk or Treat gives families a safe opportunity for their children. Kids come in costume, walk around our parking lot, visit cars that have decorated trunks, and get lots of candy! We will also be serving dinner. It's a wonderful way to be present in the community. We get to be good neighbors, meet new people, and get their name!

How can you help? Don't think you can decorate your trunk? Worry not! We will make sure this is a fun and easy process and that there will be something for everyone! So mark your calendars for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30-7:30, for our first Community Trunk or Treat. We have seen what God can do through our best efforts, and I know this will be another success!

If you have any questions or need anything, please, as always, call, text or email me!

Blessings,  
Heather Cress  
812-219-5752  
hcress@bradleyumc.org

### Join Us to Pray in July

The prayer group will meet on July 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Due to the July 4th holiday, we will only meet once in July.. Everyone is invited to join us to prayer with and for one another. We are a group that welcomes all and would love your company. Mark your calendar!





The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

There will be no printed newsletter in August due to Sandy's sick leave.



Thank you very much for the graduation gift. I greatly appreciate it. I cannot wait to start my new career as a clinical pharmacist at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis.

Sincerely,  
Molly Locke

Words are not adequate to express my sincere appreciation for the prayers, good thoughts and cards I received following my surgery and radiation treatment. A very special thanks to our small group for the meals furnished. I truly believe in the power of prayer and love of friends in assisting the healing process. Many thanks to all of you for your continued support. Love you all.

Dave Willis



Natalie Huber	7/1
Kim Polizotto	7/5
Dennis Hoover	7/9
Emma Love	7/11
Chuck Fewell	7/15
Scott Davis	7/17
Marge Brammer	7/23
Brenda Eaton	7/23
Bill Wrchota	7/23
Don Erwin	7/24
Laura Theurer	7/24
Mal Griner	7/27
Della Benefiel	7/28
Charlotte Cress	7/28

## PRAYER HELPS

Some of you may know my sweetie was ill for many years. When he was first diagnosed we were referred to a hot shot doctor in Chicago because no one here worked on his problem and the hot shot had some experimental treatment.

Our first trip we drove. Two country bumpkins in the big city. Many of the medical staff were foreign and hard to understand. Traffic was so crazy that we prayed that if God would just get us out safely we would never drive again. We flew and took taxi's for all future visits. There were many trips to Chicago, lots of tests, lots of experimental procedures. Once they cut a tiny hole between heart chambers to release pressure; this meant Mike took on a slightly blue cast to his lips as he had less oxygen in the blood. Finally, he got a new lung at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis and all those Chicago trips stopped.

I was alone on all those trips. I remember calling Pastor Terry and getting an answering machine. He said "God bless you" and I just started crying, it felt so comforting. But even more comforting was the constant communication with the Lord, the presence of the Holy Comforter. Mike was in the cath lab or somewhere for a test or scan. I was in the hall or waiting room talking one on one with God. I always felt His everlasting arms. That old expression that if you don't feel near to God, it wasn't He who moved away, it was you, is true. God is always there for us, but sometimes we as humans think we know how to handle everything and fail to look to God for direction.

There is much more to being a follower of Jesus than just coming to Sunday worship. To deepen your relationship with God I encourage you to talk to Him in daily prayer. Muslims pray five times a day. How often do you pray? If you took quiet time and said the Lord's Prayer five times daily it would make a difference, but I encourage you to do more. Praise God and thank Him for your blessings. Share your concerns, ask for direction. He is the Rock of Ages and you will not be disappointed.

God loves you and so do I.

Lyn O'Neal

## Upcoming Events:

Chocolate Walk - Friday, August 11 - 5:30 - 9:30 pm -  
Bradley will be participating with chocolate  
shakes. Shake it up with Bradley UMC!

Bradley at the Ballpark - Friday, August 25 - 7:15 pm -  
Indianapolis Indians vs Columbus Clippers - Friday night  
means FIREWORKS!

Donations to the food pantry can be given anytime  
the church office is open or on Sundays. As we  
spend time with family and friends feasting and  
fellowshipping with month, please think of those  
less fortunate and donate a bag of non-perishable  
foods. They also now accept pet products.



## From the Finance Team

Here is the Financial Report for the Operating Budget as  
of May 31.

	May 2017
Income:	\$ 27,678
Expenses:	<u>\$ 31,631</u>
Shortfall	\$ <3,953>

	May 2016
Income:	\$ 28,085
Expenses:	<u>28,028</u>
Net Income	\$ 57

# Blood DRIVE

The Bloodmobile will be at Bradley on Monday,  
July 10 from 4:30-7:30. A signup sheet is in the  
office or you can schedule an appointment online  
at donorpoint.org and look for the Bradley drive.

## Hilltoppers

The Hilltoppers will meet at the Bluebird Restaurant in  
Morristown on Thursday, July 13th at 11:30 a.m. Please  
call Bill or Martha Stoner at 317-462-2675 for reserva-  
tions.

## Do we have your current information?

It will soon be time to mail out year end infor-  
mation.

If you move or change your phone number,  
please notify the church office. Many times we  
aren't aware of a change of address until the  
newsletter is returned to us because it is undeliv-  
erable with a fee to pay for the return. Please  
take a moment to email us or call if you have  
any change in your mailing address, email ad-  
dress or phone number. Thank you!

8 a.m. -12 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
During July.



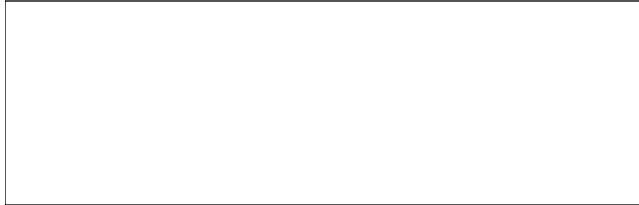


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Email: [info@bradleyumc.org](mailto:info@bradleyumc.org)  
Website:  
[www.Bradleyumc.org](http://www.Bradleyumc.org)



## How to Reach Us



Bradley United  
Methodist Church



@bradleyumc

### Sunday Worship Schedule

The Beacon Café is open from  
8:00—11:00 a.m.

8:30 A.M. Traditional Worship  
Service  
9:45 A.M. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.—Fellowship in Cafe  
11:00 A.M. Blended Worship Service

Church Telephone:	317-462-2662
Church Fax:	317-462-3211
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Website	<a href="http://www.BradleyUMC.org">www.BradleyUMC.org</a>
Look for Bradley United Methodist Church on Facebook	
Preschool Telephone:	317-462-8858
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Preschool Email	<a href="mailto:preschool@bradleyumc.org">preschool@bradleyumc.org</a>
Senior Pastor:	Rev. David P.Scifres 765-277-1014
Visitation Minister:	Rev. Linda Brackney 812-722-3272
Family Life Community Leader:	Heather Cress
Music Ministries Team Leader:	Heather Pechin-Myers
Organists:	Tom Magee, Chris Gordon
Financial Secretary:	Bob McCorkle
Interpreter:	Zach Evans
Preschool Director:	Kathy Vahle
Administrative Secretary/Treasurer	Sandy Yavor

Office Hours:..... Monday-Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm

**Deadlines: Bulletin Announcement—12:00 p.m. Thursday**  
**Newsletter Information— the 15th of the month for the following month's issue.**

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