

# The Capsule

## A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Bethel United Methodist Church

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Website – [www.bethelmethodist.net](http://www.bethelmethodist.net)

Pastor – The Rev. John Parille

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Choir Director – Jessica Bardelli

Praise Team Leader – Erin Volpintesta

Administrative Assistant – Cheryl DePoi




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April 2017

### A Message from our Pastor

Hello Saints, April has arrived and with that comes the beginning of spring and soon the end of Lent. I have been praying for "transformation" in all of us as we have journeyed through Lent together. All of the music, prayers, and messages have been geared to help us reflect and ponder deeper the incredible sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. In just a few short weeks, we will walk through Holy Week beginning with the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday, then of course the darkness of Good Friday, and ending with the celebration of our resurrected King on Easter Morning! I encourage you to join us on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday, and of course Easter Sunday. We have much to celebrate because we were once lost, but now are found...all because of Jesus! In closing, I came upon an interesting poem that I wanted to share with you this month. Please enjoy and I hope to see you at one of our many services in the coming weeks. Happy Easter!

### DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE.

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd. Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ. There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water.

Now when you get off the bridge, make a Right Turn and Keep Straight. You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound. Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Spirit.

Then take the Grace Blvd exit. From there, make a Right Turn on Gospel Lane. Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road. As you go on your way, Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave. Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END. Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue. Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd.

However, you will have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave, but that's all right, because VICTORY Street is straight ahead! AMEN! (Author Unknown)

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> PALM SUNDAY  
8:30AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> HOLY THURSDAY  
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> GOOD FRIDAY  
12:00 NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS – MEET @ BISHOP CURTIS HOMES  
7:30PM GOOD FRIDAY PASSION SERVICE**

**APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL  
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> EASTER SUNDAY  
9:00AM & 11:00AM (FAMILY WORSHIP) SERVICES**

### **Stations of the Cross**

We will again be participating in the annual Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Walk around Bethel. Meet at 12:00pm at Bishop Curtis Apartments across from the train station. At each station of the cross, there will be an appropriate reading and a short hymn. The walk ends at the First Congregational Church where a light lunch will be served. **We are responsible for dessert!** -Please volunteer.



We are excited to announce that our new Contemporary style worship service is in full swing. This service is held on Sunday evenings from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We believe that there are many folks in our community that are not able to attend a Sunday morning service because of other family or work commitments. This service is intended to reach those folks! Come join us!

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Peter Eckert

**Readers & Communion Stewards 10:00am (set up & serve):** Julien Schaad & Peter Philip

**Communion Stewards (serve and clean up):** Kyle Johnson & Angela Bassett

**Counters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus

**Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown

**Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Paul Young

**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Diane Meldon & Tom Wolff

**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Rick Kelly & Uta Robertson

**Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer

**Greeters:** Marty Bishop

**Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Ushers:** 2 from Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Brenner, Tammy Esposito

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Ushers:** 2 from Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Ushers:** 2 from Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 9:00am April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** David McClain

**Counters:** Tracy Brown and Krista Mayer

**Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus

**Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Brenner, Tammy Esposito

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 11:00am April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin

**Greeters:** Family Worship

**Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Marty Bishop

**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tracy Brown & Chris Barnabo

**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** James Wolff & Julien Schaad

**Counters:** Linda Bruce & Betty Lepus

**Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin

**Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

### **Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Marty Bishop

**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Peter Philip & Kyle Johnston

**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Angela Basset & Uta Robertson

**Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer

**Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown

**Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold

### **Facebook**

If you are on Facebook and have not liked our page, please do so. Here you will find links to our sermons and get a sneak preview of the upcoming sermon. If you are a member of our Facebook page we would ask that you "share" links with your community of friends.

### **Parish News**

Longtime church members Craig and Kathy Keith have moved South. Their "temporary" contact information is [kathykeith@comcast.net](mailto:kathykeith@comcast.net), phone 475-206-9468.

We are honored to announce that we have a new Assistant Pastor! John Esposito is the new Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism. Pastor Espo will assist Pastor John in worship service, hospital visits, outreach to the community and of course evangelizing to those who need to come to know Jesus Christ. Offer your congratulations and well wishes to him and be one of the first to call him Pastor!

### **Note to Congregation**

Dear Pastor John and BUMC Congregation,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for the support you have given us during the past few challenging months. We appreciate every card, gift, prayer and hug.

God Bless You All. – Bob and Pat O'Neil

### **Off the Streets**

Off the Streets is all all-volunteer run organization which works to get homeless people into housing. If a homeless person has a source of income, Off the Streets will provide a security deposit and basic furniture and household goods. Off the Streets collects furniture and household goods from 10am to 12noon on the first Saturday of each month behind the Bethel United Methodist Church. Items most in demand are dressers, small kitchen tables with chairs, end tables, nightstands and lamps. The next drop off date is **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. For more information, go to [www.offthestreetsnow.com](http://www.offthestreetsnow.com) or call 203-733-5880.

### **Fundraiser – Bottle/Can Drive**

Please consider saving your nickel deposit bottles and cans for our bottle/can drive the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. Our next drive is April 8<sup>th</sup>. This year the benefits go to Julien Schaad's ASP tuition.

**Please join us for our monthly  
Family Pasta Dinners  
Bethel United Methodist Church  
141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT**

**April 8, 2017**

**May 13, 2017**

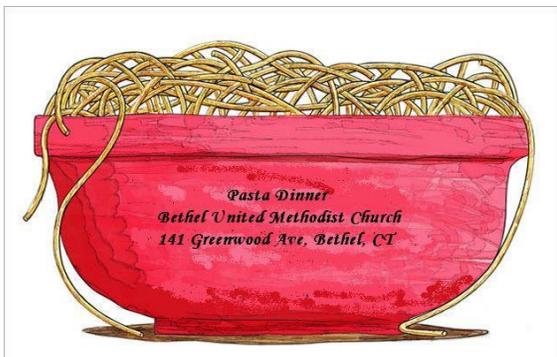
**June 10, 2017**

**Serving 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Adults \$10    Seniors & Students with College ID \$8    Kids \$5 (under 5 eat free)**

**Family max price \$25 (parents & kids)**

**Dinners also available to go! Call BUMC 203.743.6835 the day of dinner to place your order**



**Dinner includes:  
Salad with homemade dressings  
Pasta with marinara or meat sauce  
Homemade meatballs .50 ea  
Homemade desserts**

### **Mitchell Hall**

Please note that Mitchell Hall will be completely off limits from April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup> as we have the windows replaced. Meetings will be held upstairs in the Randall Wright building. (Education building). If you have any questions, please see Bob O'Neil our head of trustees.

## **UMW – April Events**

Knives, Forks and Spoons: We are collecting miscellaneous flatware for Off the Streets through the month of April. There is a box in the Narthex or they can be left in Mitchell Hall next to the Boxtops for Education basket.

April 1 – Spring Luncheon at Plain Janes at noon followed by a trip to Loew's to see *Beauty and the Beast* in 3D at 3:15pm.

April 24 – UMW Meeting at 7:30 with a Workshop on Disability and the Church.

April 26 - The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. All who like or want to learn crochet or knitting are welcome. They meet in the Johnson Building alcove. Contact Linda Bruce for more information.

## **“Women of the Bible”**

Marty Bishop will be leading a Women's Bible Study on Saturday mornings starting May 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing May 13, 20, 27. Times are from 9:30am – 11:30am.

## **Islam 101**

Everyone in the Congregation and friends are invited to attend Islam 101, presented by Shazeeda Khan of the Danbury Islamic community. Date: **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm. The class will be held at the Majid at 339 Main St, Danbury (next to The News-Times building) Parking is at the back. All those interested in understanding more about the faith of our Muslim neighbors, please save the date!

## **Sunday School**

We are planning a trip to a dairy farm for Sunday morning **April 30**. Children should be at church by 9:30am and will return by 12 noon. Parents can drive their own children if they wish. This is still a work in progress, and a notice will be sent home with final details. This is a chance for the kids to see dairy cows in action and a few donkeys like the one that Jesus rode. The final report on the Heifer Project will be in the May Capsule.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Save the Date!!!! Vacation Bible School is **July 31<sup>st</sup>** through **August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Anyone interested in helping out, please leave your name and contact information on the church office desk..

## **Support Meetings / Groups Held at BUMC**

AA Meetings are held Sunday @ 7:30pm, Monday @ 6:00pm, Thursday @ 7:30 pm, Friday @ 7:30 pm and Saturday @ 8:00 pm.

Family & Friends Group – Support Group for Family & Friends who have a loved one suffering from the disease of addiction and/or alcoholism meets Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Additional Support Group: “Over-eaters Anonymous” contact Chris at 203-942-3986 for more information.

## **A Public Service Announcement to our Church Family** **Opiate Overdoses On The Rise**

The number of individuals in the state of Connecticut who died from opiate related overdoses rose to 917 in 2016, a 25 percent increase from 2015 (729). This significant increase is related to the introduction of synthetic opiates, most notably Fentanyl that is 50 times more potent than morphine. It is important to note that these numbers only represent those who died from a drug overdose and does not include other fatalities due to being under the influence of an opiate substance. When those numbers are combined, there was estimated to be over 2,000 fatalities relating to opiate related deaths in 2016.

The impact that these overdose and drug related deaths go far beyond the addicted individual themselves. Each one of the individuals was a son / daughter, father / mother, brother / sister and/or friend. Their loss has far reaching effects on potentially ten's of thousands of people throughout this state and in our immediate community.

Addiction is a disease, that does not discriminate and is very active right her in the church's town of Bethel, CT. It is up to all of us to get educated about the disease and how to approach a loved one, colleague or friend who may be struggling outwardly or in silence. Alcoholism and drug addiction remains the number one preventable cause of death in people under the age of 50.

For more information or if you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Pastor John or Joe Benner at 203-313-3681.

### **Pasta Dinner Sponsorships**

We have set a goal this year to have a sponsor for each of the pasta dinners. We currently need 4 more sponsors. When you contribute towards a sponsorship, you are at least doubling your donation towards the church. The pasta dinner committee works so hard for the church and having a sponsor makes it all worthwhile. A full sponsorship is \$300. If that doesn't work for you, you might be able to donate half or a quarter of that amount. Caraluzzi's gift cards can always be used too. Please consider being a sponsor to make this year's pasta dinners a big success. To donate please contact Kathy Keith at 203-205-5676 or Dave Morey at 203-744-6345

### **Randall Wright Hall 50 year anniversary**

We are looking for people to join our Randall Wright Hall Anniversary committee. Anyone interested in being part of the committee please contact the church office at [bmethodistchurch@snet.net](mailto:bmethodistchurch@snet.net) or 203-743-6835. Also, anyone having information concerning the construction of this building please leave your name and number so we can get in touch with you. Thank you!

### **Need activity space?**

Mitchell Hall: \$180 for 4 hrs including set up time, (Pledging Members: \$51.00 – tax deductible donation). \$51.00 for partial Kitchen use (refrigeration and warming of meals), There is also a \$75 refundable deposit in case of damage to the room or in case professional cleaners have to be called in. Rm. 201: \$15.50 hr

### **BUMC "Giving Gifts for Christ" List Items Needed**

*The Giving Gifts for Christ program is a program where you can make a donation of an item needed by the church in honor or memory of someone. Below is a sample of some of the items needed at this time:*

#### **General Needs of Church**

Donations to the painting fund  
 New steam mop  
 Water for the cooler  
 Replacement chairs for Mitchell hall  
 (Costco, # 253029 Samsonite)  
 Costco gift cards

#### **Music Program**

Donate to a new organ

#### **Pasta Dinner Needs**

Sponsor a Pasta Dinner - \$200.00  
 White Plastic Tablecloths 52" x 108"  
 Roll of white plastic for tables  
 1 case of sterno for dinners (Costco)  
 Bethel Food Market gift cards

#### **Sunday School Needs**

Sanitizer wipes or hand sanitizer  
 3 first aid kits  
 Small item for the Incentive Store (Religious theme items preferred.)

### **Opportunities to serve our church**

Please consider volunteering for our church service! We currently need readers, communion stewards, greeters, ushers and acolytes. Please contact Cheryl for more information or to sign up at [bmethodistchurch@snet.net](mailto:bmethodistchurch@snet.net) or 203-743-6835

### **BUMC Outreach Committee**

In the past few weeks our church has donated \$286 toward bunk beds for a family with 5 children who were sleeping on air mattresses. There were donations of new and gently used towels and sheets. Also Pastor John and Carol Morey signed a new Covenant to Care contract with Wellmore Agency in Danbury and pledged to support the needs of those children. The Wellmore Agency has identified 17 children who could use some springtime/Easter help. Each youth will receive a basket with spring toys and activities plus a small gift card for clothes; the teens will receive a clothing gift card, a McDonald's or Dunkin Donuts card, and a movie gift card so that they can participate in activities with friends. The materials collected for Days for Girls will be delivered to Simsbury this month. Thank you for ALL your generous help with these projects!

In the near future, we hope to be visiting shut-ins and bringing them some encouraging messages and a little cheer [maybe cookies?] If you know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please let us know. Carol Morey [damorey@comcast.net](mailto:damorey@comcast.net) 203-744-6345

**Red Bird Mission**

The UMW collects **Campbell's labels** and **Boxtops for Education** for the **Red Bird**. Please cut the bar code labels as we only need the bar codes. There is a small basket on the counter in Mitchell Hall for the labels.

**From the Red Cross President**

When you made the commitment to sponsor a blood drive you helped save lives. Your efforts have helped to boost the community blood supply and ensure that hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need ---YOU make a difference!

Your blood drive registered 33 donors and collected 30 pints of blood. We are looking forward to our next partnership!

Sincerely, **The American Red Cross**