



Bethel United Methodist Church

CHURCH NEWS

February 4, 2021

Greetings Saints!

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. This is truly a day where the word "Love" comes to mind and is probably said quite a bit. The word love may bring to mind the scripture that says "Love is patient, love is kind." These words can be found in the book of 1 Corinthians 13, often called the "love chapter" of the Bible.

We also hear the words "Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and of course, love never fails." I have seen this scripture read at many weddings that I have officiated, maybe to the point where folks are so used to hearing it that they actually just think, "Yeah, yeah, I've heard all of this before."

Many times the word love has been overused or exhausted. That's because if we read or speak words about love again and again, but do not do it with an intention or action, then the words begin to sound like empty statements.

However, a closer look at the scripture from 1 Corinthians 13 teaches that people must connect to love, specifically the love of God, in order to live meaningful lives.

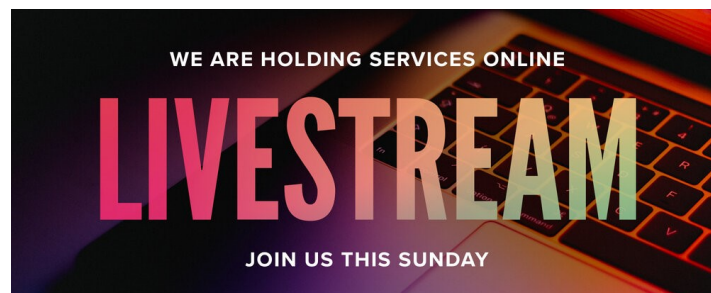
Valentine's Day can bring good news regardless if you are married, single, divorced, or separated. Instead of mentioning romance in 1 Corinthians 13, this great love chapter teaches not about the love of humans, which can never be perfect, but about the love of God: agape love, everlasting love, unconditional love, unselfish love. God's love is open to all and is also available to anyone who will simply surrender their hearts and lives to Him.

My daughters enjoy the show named the "Bachelor." Women compete for the affection and ultimate love of one man. They try anything and everything to impress him and week by week he rejects one until he makes his choice. I think it is mean and cruel myself, but it is a great reminder that God's love is nothing like this.

God does not line people up, inspect them, and then reject the ones He doesn't like because that is not what real love does. Shows like this express ideas about love that are so cheap that it's almost impossible to understand in contrast, the extent of God's love for us.

The Bible teaches that God is love. God does not simply profess His love in words. God proves His love in action. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

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We are pleased to have the capability to live-stream and video our service from our sanctuary. Just click on the link below and it will take you to the new BUMC YouTube channel. We suggest you save this link to your "Favorites" in your web browser so you can easily access it. This link can also be found on the BUMC website.

This link will always take you to the channel where you will find previous live-streamed services, and be able to connect to the current weekly live-stream. Again, the live-stream begins either at 8:30am or at 10:00am on Sunday mornings. You can always go back and watch any live-streamed service at a later date.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCok6vCI5EnWaCpjARNbaH2g>



How To Call In & Hear Messages

Anyone who does not have access to a computer can now call in to listen to the weekly messages at 10am on Sundays. Listeners should call either 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099 (providing both numbers in case one has a problem/is busy/etc). When prompted, enter the meeting ID 113-104-770 and press #, then just press # again when asked for their participant ID.



Please consider joining our stewardship campaign for 2021. Covid 19 has taken its toll on our church so your giving helps us to continue to do the work that God has called us to do here at BUMC.

Thank you!



WHY I SERVE

By Laurie Fernandez

I grew up attending a catholic school and church. When I turned 40, I was lucky enough to meet my now husband, Jim. I was not able to marry in the Catholic Church where I spent my first forty plus years, as he was divorced with children and of the Methodist faith. I still continued to attend services,

though saddened that my marriage wasn't recognized in my church. Then Jim suggested we go together next door to where we live (actually 2 doors away) to the Bethel United Methodist Church. So at the end of July 2018 we made the decision to enter the church next door. The BUMC family welcomed us, literally at the door- people smiled, introduced themselves and seemed truly excited to have us join them in worship. We heard a great message from Pastor John and after service we were invited downstairs to "Fellowship". This was a completely new concept to me. I saw that a lot of people stayed and spent time together- talking, sharing, and eating together. There was a drive for school supplies happening that day and I happily grabbed a tag and was excited to see the outreach being done in my home town of Bethel, by the BUMC Outreach committee. Soon after we established that BUMC is where we wanted to be, we were invited to be ushers. I couldn't imagine being in a role like that so soon, but we were honored and accepted the call. Now I was able to be one of the welcoming people at the door, to anyone coming into the church. What a gift to be able to provide a smile, a hug (pre-COVID) and be a part of what made my joining this church so special to me. I had been so drawn into the outreach I saw from our first visit, I asked if I could be a part of the outreach group as well. I was welcomed into that area of service which spoke to me so greatly and am now able to help others in a way I had not done before. The members on the Outreach Committee are such smart, caring, amazing people- I am so blessed to be able to help and serve with them. I am truly in awe of them and their dedication to others and hope to grow in my service in this area. And lastly, I was nominated to join SPRC. I had no idea something like that even existed. I am an HR Director professionally and now I was being asked to use my professional studies to help with my faith journey and the church. I never even realized that my profession and education would lend a hand in my BUMC community this way. So this all started with the question, "why do I serve?" I serve because I was given the opportunities to do so. I feel as if God laid this path before me and planned it all along - from meeting my husband, my education, and His placing our home right next door. This path has led me here, and I serve because I feel like God has given me this chance, and I believe it is my calling.

Make a Joyful Noise!

We are thrilled to have our bell choir back in service, and are welcoming NEW RINGERS! Basic music reading skills are a plus, but not necessary (we can teach you!). Bells rehearse on Thursdays from 7pm-8:30pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Jessica Bardelli if you have questions, or are interested in joining: jessicabardelli@gmail.com.



HOW TO CONTACT

THE PASTOR

Feel free to contact Pastor John:

Cell Number **203-312-6789** Call or Text

Email: pastorjohnparille@gmail.com



change happens in circles, not rows

Join us on Monday nights at 7:00 pm for on virtual small groups! Please visit our website for more detailed information found under announcements . Below is the link to the church website

<https://www.bethelmethodist.net/>

From the Kitchen of Alice:

Turkey Noodle Soup	\$7.00 quart
Cranberry Ginger Relish	\$3.50 8oz.
Dilly Beans	\$4.50 pint
Garlic Dill Pickles	\$4.00 pint

All proceeds to benefit Outreach
To order:

AMAYER@snet.net

OR 203-748-2774

USHERS ARE NEEDED!

Are you being called to serve? Not sure where to start? We are in need of ushers for both 8:30 and 10:00 services. Contact Victor Holomakoff for details or to volunteer.





A Note from the Music Department

When Jessica asked me to write something for the Music Notes section of the newsletter, she suggested I call it "The View from the Piano Bench". While that certainly brought to mind my own view from the BUMC piano bench, that title also made me think of my grandparents. Some of you know that, for decades, my Grandma Betty was the church organist/pianist/choir director at her small Lutheran church in Long Island. Her piano, much like ours, was along the side of the altar. My Grandpa Ed wasn't hugely invested in church, but he would attend service out of support for Grandma. He always sat in the same exact seat - on the outside of a pew almost at the back of the church, which offered him the best view of Grandma at the piano bench.

Back in BUMC, sitting at the piano puts me directly behind the pulpit and blocks my view of the whole Johnson Building-side of the sanctuary. It would be easy to feel a bit disconnected from the congregation: between my unique position in the sanctuary, the preparation and packing up before and after service, and especially with our current changes in passing the peace and fellowship time due to COVID precautions, I feel like I haven't said hello to some of you in months! However, I don't feel that way at all. I feel blessed to share the music loft perspective with my Grandma, and I feel a connection with her whenever I'm providing music for worship. And I always feel a tremendous connection to and support from our amazing congregation, whether or not I am able to see you during service, or greet you during the passing of the peace. I hope my music lifts you up, and gives you all a greater connection to the Scripture, the message, Jesus, and each other.

Sarah DeShan, accompanist

When Jesus laid down His life for us on the cross, this represented the ultimate act of love because it shows God's amazing grace. Christ is not just some person who did good things for people and then was willing to die for His actions. Christ died in order to bring people closer to God. Jesus was all about love for us as well!

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we must remember that for the most part, it is all about romantic love. The love of humans for one another. We must remember that there's so much more to that simple four-letter word. We can move beyond February 14th and celebrate that we have a lifetime of days to connect to God, the source of love, who teaches us, by example, to love with patience, faith, generosity, wisdom, and grace.

Pastor John Parille



**ONLINE
GIVING**
now available

Many have been asking about their giving for the church. We have set up online giving for BUMC. There is a link with specific instructions on how you can sign up and create your own safe, personal account. Just go to the BUMC website and find the link.

Please note, giving can still be mailed into your perspective church as we are still making deposits and paying expenses.



We at Bethel United Methodist Church are so excited to have the opportunity to roll Breeze, an online member directory out to you.

If you have not yet set up a Breeze account and would like to, please contact Steve and Claudia Temple at templefamdocs@gmail.com with your name and email address as you wish them to appear in Breeze. We will then send you an email invite directly to set up your account.

He makes Beauty out of Ashes



Bethel United Methodist Church

Special Live Stream Service

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 pm