



**Bethel United Methodist Church**

# CHURCH NEWS

March 29, 2021

## Making the Most of Holy Week

Palm Sunday is the start of what Christians refer to as “Holy Week.” It is a week full of emotional highs and lows with the celebration of Palm Sunday to the face to face encounter with the Old Rugged Cross.

Many denominations observe Holy Week with different traditions and practices. However, what draws us altogether as Christians is the most unifying element of the Church’s belief: Jesus laid down His life for us and then was resurrected three days later.

Beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday morning, the entire church year focuses like a laser beam on the center point of agreement in the Gospels and in the Christian community: the passion and resurrection of Jesus.

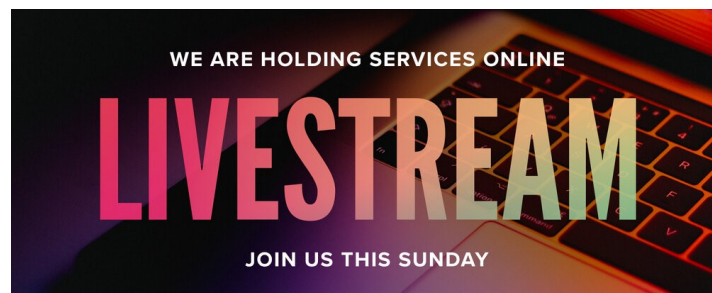
As we remember the events of that first Holy Thursday, the scriptures focuses on the Last Supper as recounted in John’s gospel. Here we listen to the words spoken at the last supper, and then witness the humble act of Jesus washing of the feet of the disciples. The resounding note of the Last Supper is Jesus’ saying, “Do this in memory of me,” making it clear that no one can escape the message that all those who follow Jesus are called to be servants.



Then on Good Friday, around 3:00 p.m., we should take a moment and reflect and thank Jesus for the suffering He endured for us on that cross. I would also suggest that you make time in the morning to read the account

of Good Friday in the book of Luke. Yes, it is a story that you have heard many times, however, there is tremendous power in reading the account of what occurred that fateful day on Good Friday itself. This will help to bring to life these events and prepare us for Easter Sunday.

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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 8:30 or at 10:00 am 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:  
UPDATED!**

### How to Listen to Services by Phone

If you do not have access to a computer, you can call in to listen to the weekly services at 10am on Sundays. Listeners should call either 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099 (two numbers available in case one has an issue/is busy/etc.) Simply follow the prompts: when asked, enter the meeting ID 113-104-770# , and the passcode 000000# .

## 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.



## Easter Sunday Service Reservations

Due to Covid 19, we are restricted of how many folks we can allow into the sanctuary for Easter Sunday service. Our goal is to have as many members who want to be in the sanctuary be able to join us for Easter. We will be having two services, 8:30 & 10 am. We will also be live streaming the 10:00 am service.

We are asking that if you plan on attending Easter services, you please make a reservation. We will accommodate as many as we can, however we are trying to not publicly announce to attempt to not have to turn anyone away if we reach capacity.

Below is the link to the online registration form. Once you click on this link, you will be asked for your name, which service you will attend, and how many will be joining. We are asking that you bring no more than 5 individuals with you.

When you arrive on Easter, you will need a reservation to attend, unless we have open spots. Please register as soon as possible as this will be a first come first served basis. Ushers will have a listing of all who have registered to allow entry to a particular service.

Thank you for your cooperation as we try to bring a safe and blessed Easter services to as many as possible.

[https://bethelmethodist.net/easter\\_sunday\\_attendance\\_registration](https://bethelmethodist.net/easter_sunday_attendance_registration)

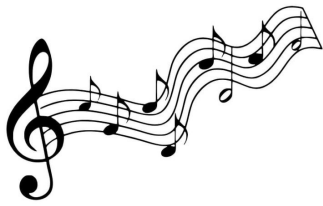


## Friday, April 2, 7:30 PM

Please join us in person or on our Livestream channel to observe Good Friday. We will offer in person worship with our usual Covid 19 protocols including masks and social distancing.

We will also offer this service Livestreamed on our BUMC YouTube channel as we do weekly. Just click on the link below after 7:30 pm that evening to view. This service will be recorded for viewing at a later date.

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



## Notes from the Music Department

### Happy Holy Week!

This is normally a time of intense preparation for our music volunteers and staff. Sarah and I spend many hours choosing music for Lent and Holy week, prayerfully asking for guidance and discernment so that what is played, sung, or rung might best glorify God. We spend weeks practicing, rehearsing, finding brass musicians, conferring with the Pastor, and it all ultimately leads up to now. One busy, emotional, exhausting week—culminating in a celebration of the greatest gift we could ever receive. Christ is Risen!

I'm so grateful that this Holy Week has some of the normal "busy" that we missed so much last year. Our bell choir has not played during Holy Week in the past, but the members have risen to the challenge admirably. Their determination and spirit have lifted me each week that we've rehearsed, and I couldn't feel more blessed to work with them. I know that their pieces at the Good Friday and Easter services will uplift you!

We'll also have a small group of singers on these high holidays! While we're still unable to have the full chancel choir sing, some volunteers have stepped up and offered to share their gifts. Singing in a mask is a real challenge! They've all taken it on with grace and little complaint, and I'm so proud of their devotion to this church and to the music we present in worship.

I am fervently hoping that we will be able to sing together—ALL OF US—again in the fall. Til then, I pray that the music we can make enhances your worship, and brightens your Holy Week.

Blessings, Jessica Bardelli

Music Director

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## United Methodist Women (UMW)

By Ann McLellan



While UMW has not been meeting during this time, we have been active! Linda Bruce has continued her role as Sunshine Officer and has sent out thinking of you, birthday, get well and sympathy cards during this time. In addition, some of the Prayer Shawl creators have continued on their own at home. Prayer shawls were recently given by UMW to several people in need of our prayers. Our treasurer, Maureen Raftery is keeping an eye on our funds and making sure we keep our District 5 -star commitments. The membership was contacted to vote for the 2020 Mission Pin recipient. It took quite awhile to reach everyone, but we have the person chosen and hope to be able to present the award once people are vaccinated and able to feel comfortable in the church service. The officers conferred by email and the consensus was that we would not do soup sale during this time and of course we have not been able to have our Spring tag sale for 2 years. We are looking forward to continuing those in the future! We are putting our coins in our Thank Banks individually and V.P. Marty Bishop continues to prepare a Women In the Bible essay each month. We are looking forward to being back together, both with our BUMC members and with the Long Ridge women who participated in our Bible Study.

If you are interested in joining UMW, please contact Ann at [ann\\_mc\\_lellan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ann_mc_lellan@sbcglobal.net)





## ONLINE GIVING AT BUMC

Vanco, our online giving platform is now available! Vanco can now be accessed for online donation through the church website: simply click on "Donate Now" and the link will take you directly to the BUMC page. Your account can be set up using a credit or debit card, and donations can be made once or set up for recurring donations!

The QR code below gives you easy access to access online giving directly on your phone. As an incentive, 10% of your first donation will be given directly to The Bethel Food Pantry, now through Easter! Our first week raised \$80 for the Food Pantry-keep up the good work BUMC!!!!

To visit the online giving website directly: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHX4/home>

For questions regarding online giving, please contact Nancy Howland at [nancyjhowland@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjhowland@gmail.com)



Visit BUMC's  
new  
**ONLINE STORE!**



The BUMC online store is now available and is offering a wide variety of merchandise with the BUMC logo either printed or embroidered with all proceeds benefiting The Jerry Shike Youth Missions Fund! The Jerry Shike Fund raises monies to be gifted to our BUMC youth to help offset the cost of mission work and travel.

Check out the online store on our website and support our youth missions!

Shop now:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/bumc/shop/home>

## HOW TO CONTACT

### THE PASTOR

Feel free to contact Pastor John:

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

Email: [pastorjohnparille@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnparille@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:jessicabardelli@gmail.com).



## SMALL GROUPS

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/>

**SMALL**  
**groups**  
change happens in circles, not rows

Then after sunset on Holy Saturday, we have another opportunity to take time out of our busy lives, slow down and reflect and pray in preparation.

In ancient times, Christians would read from the Old Testament stories of salvation history all night long, and then celebrate resurrection with the dawn. I'm not suggesting you stay up all night, however, I would encourage you to continue to read the Word from the Gospels and of course, enjoy quiet time with you and God.

As I was listening to the news this morning on my drive into work, a lot of time and effort was put forth regarding college basketball. I thought how interesting that Holy Week falls in the midst of March Madness this year.

The annual college basketball tournament has some common themes with Holy Week. There is a relentless pace, many emotional highs and lows, and it can seem like the entire college basketball season is packed into a short span of days.

So it is with Holy Week, a week that can fly by in a relentless pace. There will be readings, celebrations and remembering. Holy Week is truly the heart of what we believe—two thousand years of Christian salvation history, all packed into one week of emotional highs and lows.

The power of what we are about to remember cannot be diminished or overstated. Jesus, a man with no possessions, no army to follow Him, no earthly kingdom with palaces and treasures, still has impacted all of humankind like no other individual who has walked this earth.



As we enter into it Holy Week once again this year, let us consider how we can walk with Jesus through these life-altering days. Let us learn from the one who is not controlled by time how to truly be transformed in these final days of Lent.

Let us be keenly aware as we draw closer and closer to the single most important event in the history of the world—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed and safe Easter!

*Pastor John Parille*

