



**Bethel United Methodist Church**

# CHURCH NEWS

July 1, 2021



Greetings Saints,

I saw this article and wanted to share it with you as it is very timely with 4th of July upon us. I pray that you have a safe and enjoyable holiday with you family and friends.

***Pastor John***

## **Christian Faith in American History**

The freedoms we enjoy in America today originated in Judeo-Christian ideals that date back to long before the American Revolution. As we teach our families to appreciate those freedoms, we also have the privilege of introducing our children to the rich Christian heritage that so profoundly influenced the development of this young nation. Here are just a few highlights in American history of faith being the impetus for freedom.

Matthew Spalding, author of *We Still Hold These Truths: Rediscovering Our Principles, Reclaiming Our Future*, says, "Of the many influences that shaped the American concept of liberty, the first and most formative was faith." Indeed, America was the first country in all of history that was deliberately formed to protect and promote religious freedom. Our founders rightly noted that people don't give people freedom — God does.

In 1620 Pilgrims seeking to practice Christianity within their own political community wrote the Mayflower Compact. As stated in the Compact, their new colony was established "for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith."

*Continued on page 4*



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:**

**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# .



## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Pending any unforeseen changes, the BUMC music ministry will be resuming ALL activities in the fall! And YOU can be a part of it!

Please contact Jessica Bardelli to get involved!

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

# What's Happening At BUMC—Finance Committee

*By Nancy Howland*

BUMC friends-

For the first time in more than 20 years BUMC is DEBT FREE! Our “burn the mortgage” fundraiser in the spring of 2019, spearheaded by Pastor John, was a huge success and with your help we have achieved our financial goal!!!!

During these lazy, hazy days of summer we remind you to help our church finances remain strong by keeping up your financial commitment. Please consider using our online payment platform, VANCO. This platform allows recurring donations to keep up your commitment over the summer months. Just go to the church website or scan the QR code below to set up your account.

Our church is blessed to be financially stable because of your generosity-

**thank you, thank you, thank you!**

*Your Finance Team*



## 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.

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

For questions regarding online giving, please contact Nancy Howland at nan-



## Visit BUMC's *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>

# Church Guidelines for Worship Services

## If you are “Fully” Vaccinated

“Fully” meaning you have had both shots of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or 1 shot of Johnson & Johnson and 2 weeks has passed since your last vaccination.



**You may worship with or without a mask as you feel comfortable**

Entering in and out of the church

Singing of songs and hymns

No need for social distancing

Participate in Fellowship if offered

Walking on church property

## If you are NOT “Fully” Vaccinated

“Fully” meaning you have NOT had both shots of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or 1 shot of Johnson & Johnson and 2 weeks has NOT passed since your last vaccination.



**You may worship with a mask with the following restrictions**

Mask must be worn at all times including entering in and out of the church

Mask must be worn at all times including when singing of songs and hymns

No need for social distancing

Participate in Fellowship if offered with mask on

Mask must be worn at all times including when walking on church grounds



change happens in circles, not rows

Join us on Monday nights at 7:00 pm for on virtual small groups! Below is the link to the week devotional so you can follow along.

**Brotherhood** is on temporary hiatus, and will likely resume meeting in person in the fall.

**Sisterhood call** (Mondays at 7pm, always the same numbers):

<https://zoom.us/j/780169624>

One tap mobile +19292056099,,780169624# US (New York)  
+13126266799,,780169624# US (Chicago)

From a normal phone: call 1-929-205-6099 or 1-312-626-6799, then enter passcode 780169624 and press #.

## PERENNIAL PLANT SALE!

Alice is again selling plants to benefit our Outreach projects. If you want to be included in her “plant of the week” email, email her @ [amayer@snet.net](mailto:amayer@snet.net).





***Our children need to know the truth about the influence of the Christian faith in American history. After all, the freedoms we enjoy in America today originated in Judeo-Christian ideals that date back to long before the American Revolution.***

The spirit of the Mayflower Compact is reflected in other national documents that would come later in American history, including the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. In each of these documents, the dignity and value of every human being, a fundamental principle of the Christian faith, is reflected.

America's history is unique in that our founders designed a government to protect our God-given rights. Evidence of this intent can clearly be seen in the Declaration of Independence, where our founders penned these words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Sadly, courts today seem intent on undermining the religious freedoms and Christian practices that were so vital to our Founding Fathers and early America's way of life. One example is the courts' intent to redefine the concept of the "wall of separation between church and state." This terminology was first used by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to explain that the First Amendment exists to protect religious freedom from government interference; this quote has since been dangerously twisted into government-sanctioned suppression of religious expression in the public square.

Our children need to know the truth about the influence of the Christian faith in American history. In fact, the very future of our nation depends on a revitalization of the free practice of Judeo-Christian principles in public life. Ben Franklin said it best when he publicly called for prayer during the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He said, "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' "

As 21st century American families, let's be diligent in recognizing God's hand in the founding of our country, and commit to encouraging our nation's leaders to continue to seek God for wisdom and guidance as He continues to govern in the affairs of men.

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