

# 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)

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Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Choir Director – Jessica Bardelli email: [jessicabardelli@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabardelli@gmail.com)

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December 2017

### A Message from our Pastor

A Time of Waiting.

Dear Saints,

I pray you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and now we enter a very busy time here at our church. The Christmas season is upon us which means our personal lives become very busy as well. As much as this is a season of being on the move, it is also a season of waiting: we wait in checkout lines as we purchase gifts, we wait in holiday traffic, we wait to see family and friends that we don't see all that often, we wait for that special meal or tradition that makes Christmas unique to your family.

All this waiting can be a bit frustrating at times. However, I think waiting can be a good reminder to us that Christmas is a celebration of waiting for something much more important than a glass of eggnog or a favorite Christmas movie.

You see, the Israelites spent centuries waiting for their Messiah. Although we know He already came to earth once, we now wait for Jesus' second coming where He will be ruler over all the earth. As Christians, that is something to get very excited about.

Do you know that God is waiting as well? You would think that God could snap his finger, and have whatever He wants when He wants it. However, God still waits for His people to finally admit they are lost without him in life, that they need the Savior to receive His forgiveness, and turn away from the things in this life that are empty and offer no future.

We may be waiting for Jesus' second coming, but, God is still waiting for the lost to repent. We may think sometimes "why is God taking so long?" Yet God, in His mercy, is patient as well as He waits. You see, the Lord is waiting to have a relationship with all and not let one slip by.

What can you do to help the process along? Share the gospel with others this Christmas. Be bold in your witness. The Lord is counting on us to share the greatest gift ever given to mankind: the Savior of the world, Jesus!

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas!

Pastor John Parille

### 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.



*Sunday, December 24, 2017*

*8:30am & 10:00 am Morning Services*

*Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols*

*Family Worship at 5:00pm*

*Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols*

*with Holy Communion*

*Worship at 9:00pm*

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Reader & Communion Steward 8:30am:** Peter Eckert **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tracy Brown **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Chris Barnabo & Tom Wolff  
**Counters:** Bill Struth and Tom Wolff **Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi **Coffee Host(s):** Don Olson

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

**8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward:** Paul Young **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** James Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Julien Schaad & Diane Meldon  
**Counters:** Tracy Brown and Krista Mayer **Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin **Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Benner, Tammy Esposito **Coffee Host(s):** Marty Bishop

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward:** David McClain **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Family Worship **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship  
**Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin **Greeters:** Family Worship **Ushers:** Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito **Coffee Host(s):** Betty Campbell

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward:** David McClain **10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tom Woff, Ann McLellan **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):**  
**Counters:** Betty Lepus **Greeters:** **Ushers:**

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 5:00pm December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Peter Eckert **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Angela Bassett & Rick Kelly **Counters:** Betty Lepus **Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown  
**Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 9:00pm December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tracy Brown & Chris Barnabo **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** James Wolff & Steve Temple **Counters:** Betty Lepus **Greeters:** Marty Bishop & Dawn Tomaino **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi

**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward:** Marty Bishop **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Julien Schaad & Tom Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Diane Meldon & Stacie McLaughlin **Counters:** Bill Struth and Tom Wolff **Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus  
**Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Benner, Tammy Esposito **Coffee Host(s):**

**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 **January 6<sup>th</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 **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. You can bring them to the parking lot between the hours of 11:00am – 1:00pm. This year the benefits go to Julien Schaad's ASP tuition.

**Buy a Brick and Give the Gift that Lasts a Lifetime!**

Bethel United Methodist Church is selling engraved commemorative bricks that will line the walk way to our front door. The bricks may be personalized with names, dates, and special messages, and can include one of five artwork designs if you choose. Bricks will be 4" x 8", red, and are offered at \$50 per brick (same price if artwork is used or not). Includes up to three lines of print, and 15 characters with an image, or 20 characters without an image, per line.

Your brick will remain visible for generations to come! All proceeds raised from the bricks will go to fund our landscaping design project. A sample of the brick is available for viewing in the downstairs area outside the kitchen (Brick will not include the company's name).

We also offer a 4" x 4" replica brick of your order, suitable for indoor display, or use as a coaster! These replicas are offered at \$20 each in addition to your brick order.

Orders can be placed either by a paper order form found in our communications center, or via online at [www.polarengraving.com/BethelUnitedMethodist](http://www.polarengraving.com/BethelUnitedMethodist). At the site you can see a sample of your brick with your image and engraving. Orders placed online still need to have a check mailed in - there is no online payment accepted. Deadline is **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Please contact Lori Mott at 203-300-8516 or [zoogirl527@gmail.com](mailto:zoogirl527@gmail.com) with questions. Thanks!

**Please join us for our monthly  
Family Pasta Dinners**

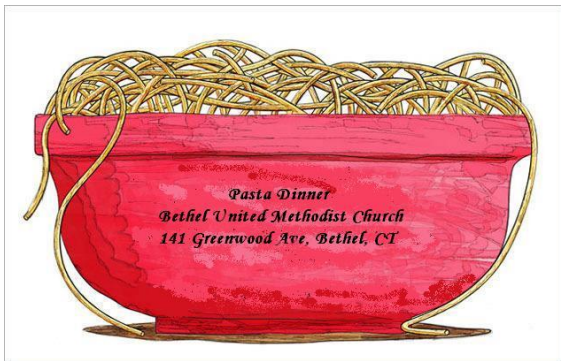
**Bethel United Methodist Church  
141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

**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**



**Jewelry Show**

Our Annual ASP Jewelry Show fundraiser is **December 10<sup>th</sup>** @ 11:00am. It will be held at our church 141 Greenwood Ave. This is a Premier Design Jewelry. Any questions please contact Tracy Brown at 203-241-8523.

**50<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the Randall-Wright Hall**

Come celebrate on **December 10<sup>th</sup>** our **50<sup>th</sup>** year of the consecration of Randall-Wright Hall, our education building.

Dateline 1966: Although agreement is not unanimous, the Bethel Methodist Church decides to build a church school building. Prior to the courageous decision - assumption of debt far beyond what seemed repayable - church school was held in the church hall. Rev. Randall wrote: At the Fourth Quarterly Conference last year we appointed a Building Committee with the task of interviewing and hiring an architect to have preliminary plans drawn for an addition to our church. They have met faithfully throughout the year interviewed architects and hired the firm of Van Summern and Weigold Architects of Stamford, Connecticut and New York. These men have been working on sketches and meeting with a committee and discussing the needs of the congregation. More final preliminary plans have been made and they are working still and exploring further all avenues of how best to meet the needs of the people of this church. How far we go in planning and in plans for our new building depends on all the people of this church. This is your church and how you meet the needs as foreseen and forecast by the Committee and those concerned depends on each individual member. As your Pastor and friend I see the need for we are losing people and children from the church because of our inadequate facilities. My plea and prayer for you to all is that we move ahead with faith as God has given us the ability to see it and erect a structure dedicated to God and the religious education of our children and children of the future.

**UMW News**

UMW Christmas Dinner will be held on **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm at Putnam House. Instead of our grab bag we decided to put together a basket for Dorothy Day House. Please bring adult socks or adult warm winter gloves or adult warm winter hats. We will be bringing the basket of items to the house before Christmas.

We filled 34 cubic feet of boxes with clothing not sold at the clothes sale. They will soon be on a barge to the commonwealth of Dominica! They are being received by the Wesley Methodist Church and will be distributed to people in need. The winter clothes went to Good Will and everything else (over 34 cubic feet) went to Save a Suit.

# Breakfast with Santa

**ASP**



**ASP**

AT THE BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WHEN: DECEMBER 16, 2107

FROM: 8:00AM – 10:00AM

\$5.00 – child \$7.00 adult \$25.00 family max

Pancakes, bacon, sausage, muffins, juice, coffee

## ASP JUG

“Brother can you spare a dime?”

Our ASP spare change jug is being placed in Mitchell Hall on Sunday mornings. Please stop by and drop in your loose change. Every little bit helps our teams get to Appalachia...

Thank You!!!



### Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group meets at 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Johnson Building Alcove. All who like or want to learn crochet or knitting are welcome. See Linda Bruce for information.

### Perennial Plant/ Flower Sale

Thanks to all who purchased plants / flowers this year. We made **\$840.00** and the money will be used to landscape the front of the church come Spring. -Alice

### 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. Additional Support Group: “Over-eaters Anonymous” contact Chris at 203-942-3986 for more information. Emotions Anonymous: Tuesdays 5:00pm- 6:00pm, Saturdays 6:00pm- 7:00pm. Support Group for Family & Friends who have a loved one suffering from the disease of addiction and/or alcoholism contact Joe Benner 203-313-3681.

### 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 , non-pledging members \$25.00 per hour

### 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.

### Food Pantry

Please remember the basket (located in our Information Center) for food donations for the Bethel Community Food Pantry located right here @ our church. The Bethel Food Pantry is open every other Tuesday from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Their phone number is 203-947-1754

**Library**

Our lending library is currently looking for new or gently used infant to teenage books. The books should be appropriate for our church library. There will be a box in Mitchell Hall to drop these books off. You can also make a monetary donation so our Library Coordinator can purchase a book or two. Any questions please leave a note in the box or contact Uta Robertson.

**Sponsorship**

We have set a goal this year to have a sponsor for each of the pasta dinners. We currently need sponsor to offset the cost. 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 Jen Garrity at 203-300-1982 or Dave Morey at 203-744-6345.

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar News**

The 2017 48th annual Bazaar was a significant success! We earned over \$12,000. This was possible thanks to the sincere and capable effort and time provided by our booth chairs and their supporting volunteers. The crafts were beautiful, we sold as many as 2000 homemade cookies! The biggest excitement came from the silent (not too silent) bidding for four Boston Red Sock's tickets which went for \$1,400! Wow! And, we had a vacation home that went for \$600. Lunch was superb, gourmet, and delivered by an energetic contingent of our high school wait staff. If you missed the musical productions presented in our sanctuary you missed a good treat.

The people who collected gift certificates, and gift baskets did an exceptional job. They like the craft makers, were working on their efforts since early October.

Thank you all, you are wonderful, you make the Bethel Methodist Church a leader in community support in Bethel.

My very best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year;

Peter Philip

**CBS**

Community Bible Study is beginning again! We have a challenging year ahead as we consider the book of the prophet Isaiah. While Isaiah contains some sobering judgments against the nations of the world, it also holds glorious promises and comfort for God's people! Though written centuries ago, much of what was happening in Isaiah's time might be surprisingly applicable to the situations of today. Human nature with its needs, desires, attitudes, and weaknesses remains the same, but we have a God who is in control. Isaiah highlights God's power, sovereignty, holiness, trustworthiness, and salvation.

Classes are held Mondays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Our local CBS meets at the Ridgefield Baptist Church located at 325 Danbury Road in Ridgefield, CT. Feel free to invite a friend or two to come along!

For more information, feel free to call Peter Eckert ((203)-733-8917). To register, please contact our class coordinator, Linda Tilton at 203-431-9491 or [LTilton@prodigy.net](mailto:LTilton@prodigy.net).

May this study of Isaiah awaken us to hear God's voice.

"They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

I am looking forward to studying God's Word together!

**Dorothy Day House – Annual Report and Call for Volunteers**

Dorothy Day House would like to thank all of the volunteers, and donors, who have helped feed the hungry and shelter the homeless in our community this past year. With no paid staff, this mission has continued for 35 years thanks to the 300+ volunteers from throughout the greater Danbury area.

On Spring St.: We served 24,629 people (68 per day) at our daily afternoon meals. Our shelter provided 5,108 bed-nights, 11 months/year. The Morning Glory program, run by Catholic Charities, also served breakfast in our kitchen each morning.

During the 5 winter months, the Overflow Shelter we managed at the First Congregational Church of Danbury provided 2,420 bed nights of shelter. Our Evening out of the Cold program at St James AME

Church (Williams St) had 5,017 visits and provided a safe, warm refuge every evening for those waiting to enter the 4 shelters.

New volunteers are needed every year to continue this mission. Most volunteers serve 1 day/month. Currently we are most in need of volunteers for the weekday afternoon meal, and for overnight shelters.

For information on volunteering, please visit the Dorothy Day website at <http://www.dorothydaydanbury.org/volunteer.htm>

Again, we are very grateful for the countless hours of volunteer support, and the generosity of our community.