

The Capsule



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

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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

February 2017

A Message from our Pastor

Ever feel like life is unfair? A few years back during a men's prayer meeting, I meet "Joe". Joe had lead a life which was a bit on the wild side. Week after week, Joe just could not grasp the idea the God would forgive him for all of the mistakes he had made in his life. Finally, Joe came to accept God's grace and moved on from his past.

I ran into Joe not too long ago. When I talked with him, I could see that his enthusiasm had been replaced by grumbling. Joe said to me, "I just don't understand how God can let evil people prosper and get ahead while so many of us (including himself) are struggling to make ends meet." The grumbling chewed up the joy of his faith.

Like so many of us, he had forgotten how much he had needed Christ's grace not that long ago. God owes us nothing, yet He freely gives us amazing grace when we accept Christ. We can't focus on the unfairness of life, our faith demands that we always keep our eyes on Him and His Word, not on others. All we need to know to stay content is this: God is good, all the time, and all the time, God is good!

In Christ,
Pastor John



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!

Facebook

If you are on Facebook and have not liked our page, please do so. Here you will find links to our sermons and also 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 Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 5th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Peter Eckert **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Julien Schaad, Sarah DeShan **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Peter Philip, Kyle Johnston **Counters:** Tracy Brown and Krista Mayer **Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus **Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 12th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Paul Young **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tom Wolff, Diane Meldon **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Angela Bassett, Uta Robertson **Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin **Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 19th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: David McClain **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Family Worship **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship **Counters:** Craig & Kathy Keith **Greeters:** Family Worship **Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 26th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Marty Bishop **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Chris Barnabo, Tracy Brown **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Julien Schaad, Sarah DeShan **Counters:** Linda Bruce & Betty Lepus **Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown **Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Brenner, Tammy Esposito

8:30am Worshippers

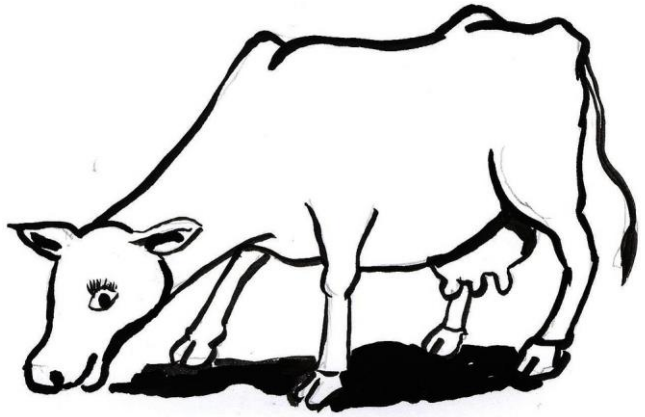
Are you interested in an Adult Sunday School Class from 9:30-10:15? Please tell the pastor if you are interested.

United Methodist Women News

* 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.

Sunday School News**Cows for Rwanda**

It's Heifer time again!!!!!! The Sunday School is raising money for an economic development project in Rwanda. The money goes to improving their dairy farms to which then results in better fertilized land for crops and a sense of self sufficiency for the people. Watch for opportunities this month to support this project.

**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 **February 4th**. For more information, go to 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 2nd Saturday of every month. Our next drive is **February 11th**. 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**

February 11, 2017

March 11, 2017

April 8, 2017

May 13, 2017

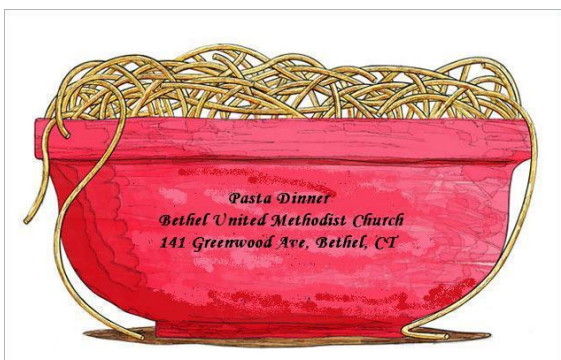
June 10, 2017

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**

Paint Event

Sunday afternoon, **February 12, 2017**, 2 pm, \$20/person. Sign up board in Narthex.

Carillon Chimes Fundraiser

Please join us on Saturday, **February 18, 2017** at 7:00pm for our Carillon Chimes Fundraiser. This event is an adults only evening, dress is semi-formal, five course dinner including instrumental dinner music. Cost is \$35.00 per person. Tickets go on sale after church this Sunday, January 15th. All proceeds go to helping us reach our goal to pay for and have Carillon chimes installed before Easter. Carillon chimes will be dedicated to all those who have lost their life to addiction or are struggling with addiction. There will also be a small silent auction and we are looking for donations for that. Please call or email Jackie Penyak with questions at Jackiepenyak@me.com or 203-994-9717.

SAVE THE DATE

Next Bloodmobile Sat. February 25th 9:00-2:00 You can make an appt. @ redcrossblood.org

BUMC Wednesday Night Dinner Services

Objective: To bring the congregation together to prepare and celebrate the Lenten season in an informal and relaxing atmosphere.

Format: Volunteers would sign up each week to bring a soup, bread or dessert to be shared in a pot-luck format. Dinner would start at 6:00 pm and go until 7:00. We would meet in Mitchell Hall.

During this time, folks can mingle, break bread together and get better acquainted. Before we head up to the sanctuary, folks would be given a piece of paper with a symbol on it such as a palm or crown. These symbols will be used to break folks into groups for the discussion piece of service.

At 7:00 pm, we would gather in the sanctuary and enjoy worship together with 2 hymns or songs. Pastor would welcome all and then have an opening prayer.

After prayer, at approximately, 7:10, the folks would break into small groups. These groups would be facilitated by appointed table leaders marked by the symbols that were presented in fellowship. They will be in different parts of the building to allow each group some space.

The discussions will have a specific theme to them that will include scripture, some reflection and then pointed questions to help folks share their personal journey and how it relates to the topic at hand. The facilitator will help to guide these discussions along giving everyone a fair chance to share so that all may be heard if they choose to do so.

All will be encouraged to share however it is not a requirement for folks to speak or read if they choose not to do so.

By 7:40, Pastor John will circulate to the groups giving the facilitator a five minute wrap up warning. By 7:45 all groups will return to the sanctuary for one final hymn or song. Pastor will close in final prayer. Goal is to be out of the building by 7:50-7:55

Additional Information

Each week groups will be new. The goal is to have the same facilitators lead.

The weekly discussion will have a common theme but will be unique to each week

Folks will be encouraged to bring guests to introduce others to BUMC in a casual setting.

The services will start the week after Ash Wednesday and end the week before Holy Week.

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 203-797-0841 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 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

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.)

Music Program

Donate to a new organ

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.

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 bmthodistchurch@snet.net or 203-743-6835

BUMC Outreach Project
We will be supporting the following program:

Simsbury UMC is a registered chapter of Days for Girls (www.daysforgirls.org), an organization that provides quality sustainable feminine hygiene kits and education to girls and women in over 75 countries to help reverse the cycle of poverty.

They continue to make kits for girls in Ghana and Uganda in support of mission teams traveling to these countries in October, November, and February.

They welcome donations of the following:

colorful washcloths
 hotel size bar soap
 boxes of gallon freezer Ziplock (no sliders) plastic bags
 cotton fabric (quilt & flannel)
 sewing & overlocker thread

We will have a box in Mitchell Hall to collect these items.

Thank you
 BUMC Outreach Comm.