



The Capsule

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

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Website – www.bethelmethodist.net

Pastor – The Rev. John Parille

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Choir Director – Jessica Bardelli email: jessicabardelli@gmail.com

Praise Team Leader – Erin Volpintesta

Administrative Assistant – Cheryl DePoi

February 2018

A Message from our Pastor

Lent is coming!

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the oldest tradition in Christianity is once again approaching. The tradition of Lent has changed over the years and can be a bit different depending on denomination. However, its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and repentance demonstrated by self-denial in preparation for Easter.

Lent, which comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for “spring,” can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning. This is a special period of time for 6 weeks where we can take spiritual inventory and then clean out everything that might hinder our personal relationship with Christ.

On Wednesday, February 14, the season of Lent begins with a sign of repentance by placing ashes mixed with oil on one's forehead or hand. This day is known as Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate the beginning of Lent with a special service at **7:00 pm** which I encourage you to be a part of.

I don't know about you, but Lent always seems to sneak up on me! It seems like the Christmas decorations have just been stowed away and Lent arrives. Yet year after year, I'm find myself unprepared and scrambling to make some spiritual changes that I'm hopeful I can then keep. How about you?

Today, as I write this Capsule article, I remind myself and all of us that Lent is only a few short weeks away. Here are a few simple ways that I'm going to try to get my soul in order this year, so that I'm ready for Lent when it comes. Maybe you will join me?

1. **Keep moving physically:** Being made of both body and soul, I'm still inclined to forget how much the body tends to influence the state of my soul. The more I move physically the more I tend to have the energy to do the right things I know I need to do.
2. **Keep moving mentally:** The more I feed my mind with the Word of God, the more prepared I will be for God to direct me in this season of Lent. The mind, like any muscle, needs to be used to stay strong. The more we use our mind, the deeper we can go in our faith.
3. **Take stock of my problem areas:** We all have areas in our spiritual life that can use some help. Some of these “problem areas” I would love to conquer during the season of Lent. The best decision I can make over the next 6 weeks is to be closer to Jesus. That's the point of our whole life, after all.
4. **Pray and then pray some more:** Prayer is something I can do pretty much anywhere and at any time even if I'm tired physically or worn out mentally. It matters not what you pray about; what matters is your perseverance in spending more time with God. There is incredible power when we form a habit. Wouldn't it be amazing to have daily prayer become second nature for us?

I'm hopeful one or maybe even a few of these suggestions will help you in the coming weeks to prepare for Lent. It is a special time of year where we can form new habits and maybe break a few that we don't like tagging along with us on this journey we call life.

Know that I will be praying for all of you and I look forward to seeing you in church!

In Christ,
Rev. John Parille
Senior Pastor



*Remember that you are dust.....
And to dust you shall return.*

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Ashes distributed in Sanctuary 11:00am—1:00pm
Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm

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.

Baptisms

During the month of December, we celebrated the baptism of Lily Catherine Maria Adams. Lily Catherine Maria is the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth Adams. Her sponsor is Sarah Bordeaux. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 4th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Peter Eckert Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Chris Barnabo & Tracy Brown Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): James Wolff Counters: Tracy Brown & Krista Mayer Greeters: Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus Ushers: Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino Coffee Hosts: Martha Bishop

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 11th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Paul Young Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Julien Schaad & Tom Wolff Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Diane Meldon & Stacie McLaughlin Counters: Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin Greeters: Deb and Dave Albin Ushers: Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi Coffee Hosts: Mary Jane Strasser

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 18th

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: Bill Struth & Tom Wolff Ushers: Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito Greeters: Family Worship Coffee Hosts: Uta Robertson

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am February 25th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Martha Bishop Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Steve Temple & Chris Barnabo Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Tracy Brown & James Wolff Counters: Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus Greeters: Alan and Debbie Brown Ushers: Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Benner, Tammy Esposito Coffee Hosts: Dawn Johnson

Bloodmobile

Our next Bloodmobile is **February 3rd** from 9:00am-2:00pm. There is an urgent need for blood in the Winter. Please make an appointment @ redcross.org or 1-800-red-cross (1-800-733-2767). You can reduce your wait time @ the bloodmobile by using redcross.org/rapidpass the day of your donation.

Any questions- see Alice Mayer

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 3rd**. 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 10th**. 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.

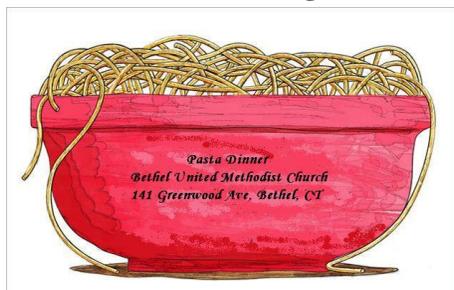
**Please join us for our monthly
Family Pasta Dinners
Bethel United Methodist Church
141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT**

February 10th

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**

Pasta Dinner Dessert Donations

Each month for our Pasta Dinners we need donations of desserts. Please contact Ann McLellan at ann_mc_ellan@sbcglobal.net if you can help out. All donations are greatly appreciated!!!!

Holly Hearth Crafters Meeting

Holly Hearth Crafters meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00pm. All are welcome! We will be sharing Christian fellowship and crafting for next year's Bazaar. Our next meeting is **February 13th**.

ASP Bake Sale

ASP will be having a Bake Sale on **February 25th** after our 10:00am service. Please help support our ASP team as they help make homes warmer, safer and drier!

United Methodist Women Upcoming Events:

* **February 26**, Monday at 6:30 pm - our annual Grinder Supper followed by business and Marty Bishop's Series on Women of the Bible: *Eve*. This meeting will be held in Mitchell Hall.

* **March 4**, Sunday after church - UMW Sunday - In addition to the Soup Sale we will highlight the Prayer Shawl group, Days for Girls and the Coffee List. Come down after church and learn more about your UMW.

Note: UMW has a new time and new place. We meet the 4th Monday of each month. Starting in March, we will be meeting at 7 pm in Room 201, upstairs in Randall-Wright Hall. We have access to the stair lift so anyone having difficulty with the stairs, please let Cheryl DePoi (Church office) know by the day of the meeting. It is an easy ride.

Our annual tag sale date has been set for **April 19th and 20th**. Please start saving tag sale items.

Fundraiser Dinner

This year's mid-winter social is a fundraiser dinner for the Tamburino Family. Mike Tamburino has been diagnosed with ALS. They will be faced with numerous medical bills, and we would like to help. The event will be held on Saturday **March 3rd** starting at 6:00pm in Mitchell Hall. We will be serving a 4 course dinner with a dessert buffet. Tickets are \$40.00 a person with all proceeds going directly to the Tamburino family. For tickets or information please contact Jackie Penyak at 203-994-9717, jackiepenyak@me.com or Deb Albin at 203-313-9226, dalbin61@att.net.

Open Choir Rehearsal

Ever wanted to see what goes on behind the scenes with our wonderful BUMC Chancel Choir? We'll be hosting an open rehearsal on Thursday **March 8th** from 7:30-9:00pm in the sanctuary. Come listen to the choir practice, see what happens during a rehearsal, and sing along if you'd like! Please contact Jessica Bardelli (jessicabardelli@gmail.com) for details. We hope you'll join us for a fun, musical evening!

Mark Your Calendar! The BUMC Coffeehouse is BACK!

Please join us for an evening of snacks, songs, stories, and more! The BUMC Coffeehouse is back on **March 17th, 2018 at 7:00pm in Mitchell Hall**. Free will donations will be taken at the door and will benefit the BUMC music department. Bring the whole family!

Want to perform at this event? Contact Alan Blackstock (alan.blackstock@yahoo.com) or Jessica Bardelli (jessicabardelli@gmail.com). There are a limited number of performance slots available, so sign up soon!

Prayer Shawl

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

Brick orders are still being processed.

PLEASE CONTACT LORI MOTT RIGHT AWAY TO PLACE A NEW ORDER OR PAY FOR YOUR EXISTING ORDER.

There is still time to order a brick – contact Lori Mott!

The bricks 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).

Please contact Lori Mott RIGHT AWAY at 203-300-8516 or zoogirl527@gmail.com . Thanks!

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 the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Their phone number is 203-947-1754

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!!!



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.

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.

ASP

ASP has a few spots available for this summer's trip. We will be spending the week in Virginia, leaving on Saturday June 30th and coming home on Saturday July 7th. If you are interested in joining us and/or learning more about the trip please contact Tracy Brown at tracybrown1085@gmail.com

Letter Received from Bethel Food Pantry

Dear Friends at the Bethel United Methodist Church,

The Bethel Food Pantry would like to thank you for your ongoing donations of food and non-food items. Your very generous donation in support of the pantry and our neighbors in Bethel is greatly appreciated. The extra food we have received is especially important so that we can provide a variety of nutritious food items.

We are also very grateful for the new home that you have provided for the pantry. Our clients are very comfortable in the new space and feel very much at home. In addition, having the option of a chair lift makes the pantry accessible for all.

Yours truly,

Susan Pople, Secretary

Letter Received by the Bethel Women's Club

Dear BUMC,

On behalf of the Bethel Women's Club GFWC, we thank you for your continued support of our annual "Support our Veterans" community drive. Thanks to you and our entire community, we raised approximately \$8,500 in merchandise and monetary donations, all of which was donated to our various veterans' causes, as described below.

Members of the club, also known as "Santa's Elves," visited Rocky Hill Veterans Home in early December where we delivered and wrapped the items collected during our month-long drive that included the "Stuff-a-Van" event held at your church. These gifts were then specifically selected for resident veterans and given at Christmas.

Later in the month "Santa's Elves" once again headed out on two different days to deliver specific gifts and gift cards to the veterans at the Vet House and Home for Heroes both located in Danbury. These gifts were very much appreciated by all the veterans.

Many of our programs, including those involving veterans, are documented in pictures on the Bethel Women's Club GFWC Facebook page. We invite you to take a look.

We continue to be amazed at the generosity of the Bethel Community on behalf of the veterans we support and we especially thank you for your continued contribution to our efforts.

Sincerely, Kathleen A. Aiello Co-President

Letter Received by Bethel Social Services

Dear Members of the United Methodist Church,

I wish to extend to you my sincerest gratitude for your support of Bethel, Connecticut. I began my position as the Social Worker for the Town of Bethel this past September. I have been a lifelong Resident and have always appreciated all aspects of this beautiful town. My gratitude for the kindness of others has grown over the last three months. I have been amazed by the outpouring support from Residents of Bethel and surrounding towns.

I must admit, I was surprised by the many needs within Bethel and the reliance on the town to meet these needs. Without people like you, these needs would be left unmet. I have been pleasantly overwhelmed by the continuous support and generosity of others to help our community in various ways.

Although I started my position two months following the fire on Greenwood Avenue, I had the opportunity to distribute the donations to the individuals and families victimized by the fire. We were fortunate to have 65 donors reach out to aid those victimized. Along with \$890.00 in gift cards donated, a total of \$16,105.99 was donated or raised. All donations were divided and distributed to the eleven affected individuals and families at a pizza celebration held at the Municipal Center on October 4, 2017. I am fortunate to have witnessed the excitement on the faces of the recipients when they received their check and gift cards.

I truly appreciate your concern for the well- being of those victimized by the Greenwood Avenue fire. Your donation is appreciated.

Thank you for supporting Bethel's Social Services.

I wish for you and your loved ones a beautiful 2018. Happy New Year! –

With Apprecation. – Megan Alworth-Khazadian – Town of Bethel Social Worker.