



Our mission is to welcome everyone to God's House of Worship in the Heart of Bethel. We are committed to active spirituality, Bible-based learning applied to everyday life, and service to our brothers and sisters in communities near and far.

The Heart Beat

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Weekly Illuminations and Inspirations

March 19, 2017

Church Person(s) of the Week

We would like to thank Chuck Murad for all of his hard work on our Trustee Board

Today's Worship Assistants:

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: David McClain

Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Rachel Greene, Kayleigh Wood

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Brooke Brescia, Rachel Greene, Kayleigh Wood

Counters: Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin

Greeters: Zachary Wood, Ben Greene, Raquel Olson, Madison Turlis

Ushers: Team F: Nathan Wood, Braeden Barnabo, Abby and Hailey Mott, Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

For the convenience of those who wish to cleanse their hands after exchanging signs of peace and before handling the communion elements, there are alcohol gel pumps available.

Lost and Found: please check the rack near the side entry, or the small basket on the shelf in the church office.

Restrooms: The restrooms are located through the side door on the right of the sanctuary, go through both doors and make a left then a quick right. They are towards the end of the hallway on the right. Each restroom is equipped with a commode.

Prayer List: If you would like to receive the [prayer list](#), or add someone, please contact **Audrey Stejskal** at arstejskal@aol.com

Quote for the week:

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." – Albert Einstein

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

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Martha Bishop **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Chris Barnabo, James Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Tracy Brown, Rick Kelly

Counters: Craig & Kathy Keith **Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin **Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Brenner, Tammy Esposito

Note to Congregation

Dear Pastor John and BUMC Congregation,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for the support you have given us during the past few challenging months. We appreciate every card, gift, prayer and hug.-God Bless You All. – Bob and Pat O'Neil

Reminder

Do not take or throw out anything from the church or Mitchell Hall that is NOT yours.

Nursery Care: The nursery (for ages 3 and under) is located in the Education wing just before the bathrooms on the right!

This Week's BUMC Calendar:

Sunday	03/19	8:30am & 10:00am Worship ASP St. Patrick's Day Pancake Breakfast 12pm-1:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Sunday Night Live Worship
Monday	03/20	
Tuesday	03/21	7:30pm Church Council
Wednesday	03/22	7:00pm Lenten Study-MH
Thursday	03/23	6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir Tag Sale Setup
Friday	03/24	6:00pm-8:00pm Tag Sale Articles for Capsule due
Saturday	03/25	9:00am-3:00pm Tag Sale
Sunday	03/26	8:30am & 10:00am Worship Sunday School 12pm-1:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Sunday Night Live Worship 2:00pm Paint Event

Coming Events:

Islam 101	4/2
Easter Flower order deadline	4/3
Blood Drive	10/12

Time to do some Spring Housecleaning.

The UMW Spring Tag Sale is being held March 24th (6-8 PM) and March 25th (9-3:00)

We are accepting the following donations:

Clean and folded clothes
Kitchen items
Jewelry, purses, belts, and scarves
Books and toys
Household decorations

We are NOT accepting the following;
TVs and all electronic equipment
Household remodeling items
Christmas items
Stuffed Animals

Items can be dropped off in Mitchell Hall starting Sunday, March 19th but NOT before that date.

The UMW appreciates your contributions. -Thank you!

Paint Event – Rescheduled!

Sunday afternoon, **March 26, 2017**, 2 pm. There is a clipboard hanging by the church office door for sign up.. The cost is \$20 (Discounted from the usual \$35 per person). Lots of fun. No talent required.

UMW News

Our next meeting will be March 27th at 7:30pm. Our speaker is Jo Gabriele from ARC who was recently published in *The News Times*. Her topic is "A Diverse religious community provides light in the darkness: A Journey of Faith". She will share her journey with all who attend.

Islam 101

Everyone in the Congregation and friends are invited to attend Islam 101, presented by Shazeeda Khan of the Danbury Islamic community. Date: **April 2nd**, Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm. The class will be held at the Majid at 339 Main St, Danbury (next to The News-Times building) Parking is at the back. All those interested in understanding more about the faith of our Muslim neighbors, please save the date!

BUMC Outreach Project 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.

Vacation Bible School

Looking ahead: Vacation Bible School is **July 31st through August 4th, 2017**. Save the Date!!!! Anyone interested in helping out, please leave your name and contact information on the church office desk.

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.

Family & Friends Group – Support Group for Family & Friends who have a loved one suffering from the disease of addiction and/or alcoholism meets Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Additional Support Group: "Over-eaters Anonymous" contact Chris at 203-942-3986 for more information.

From the Red Cross President

When you made the commitment to sponsor a blood drive you helped save lives. Your efforts have helped to boost the community blood supply and ensure that hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need --- YOU make a difference!

Your blood drive registered 33 donors and collected 30 pints of blood. We are looking forward to our next partnership!

Sincerely, The American Red Cross

A Public Service Announcement to our Church Family Opiate Overdoses On The Rise

The number of individuals in the state of Connecticut who died from opiate related overdoses rose to 917 in 2016, a 25 percent increase from 2015 (729). This significant increase is related to the introduction of synthetic opiates, most notably Fentanyl that is 50 times more potent than morphine. It is important to note that these numbers only represent those who died from a drug overdose and does not include other fatalities due to being under the influence of an opiate substance. When those numbers are combined, there was estimated to be over 2,000 fatalities relating to opiate related deaths in 2016.

The impact that these overdose and drug related deaths go far beyond the addicted individual themselves. Each one of the individuals was a son / daughter, father / mother, brother / sister and/or friend. Their loss has far reaching effects on potentially ten's of thousands of people throughout this state and in our immediate community.

Addiction is a disease, that does not discriminate and is very active right here in the church's town of Bethel, CT. It is up to all of us to get educated about the disease and how to approach a loved one, colleague or friend who may be struggling outwardly or in silence. Alcoholism and drug addiction remains the number one preventable cause of death in people under the age of 50.

For more information or if you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Pastor John or Joe Benner at 203-313-3681.

Next Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be Oct 12 1:00-6:00.

8:30am Worshippers

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

Pasta Dinner Sponsorships

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 203-205-5676 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!

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.

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

Church News

We are honored to announce that we have a new Assistant Pastor! John Esposito is the new Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism. Pastor Espo will assist Pastor John in worship service, hospital visits, outreach to the community and of course evangelizing to those who need to come to know Jesus Christ. Offer your congratulations and well wishes to him and be one of the first to call him Pastor!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**APRIL 9TH PALM SUNDAY
8:30AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 13TH HOLY THURSDAY
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 14TH GOOD FRIDAY
12:00 NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS – MEET @ BISHOP CURTIS HOMES
7:30PM GOOD FRIDAY PASSION SERVICE**

**APRIL 15TH THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 16TH EASTER SUNDAY
9:00AM & 11:00AM (FAMILY WORSHIP) SERVICES**