



*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 26, 2017

### Church Person(s) of the Week

As Craig and Kathy Keith leave our church and travel to their new home down South we want to thank them for their many years of service to our church in so many different aspects. Kathy and Craig have been instrumental in running UMW tag sales as well as volunteering with our Pasta Dinners. They also have been counters for years. We wish them well but they will surely be missed.

### Today's Worship Assistants:

**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

**Nursery:** Elizabeth and Arthur Adams

**Flowers** The flowers on the altar today are in memory of our friend Jerry Shike (7/26/42-3/26/14)

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.

### Quote for the week:

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Mark Twain

In order to keep our services flowing, Council is asking that no **unscheduled** announcements be made from the floor during service. Pastor John will no longer be asking for additional announcements. If you need to have something announced to the congregation, you must give it to Pastor John **before** service and then he will call upon you. Council is also asking that only church related items are announced in service. You are free to send any announcements to the office for publication in the Heartbeat.

### Reminder

Do not take or throw out anything from the church or Mitchell Hall that is NOT yours. If you leave anything in Mitchell Hall please put your name on it or what it is to be used for.

### Paint Event

Our paint event is set for today at 2 pm. The cost is \$20 (Discounted from the usual \$35 per person). Lots of fun. No talent required. It's not too late to join! See Ann McLellan for details.

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](mailto:arstejskal@aol.com)**

**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	03/26	8:30am & 10:00am Worship Sunday School 12pm-1:00pm Confirmation Class 2:00pm Paint Event 4:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Sunday Night Live Worship
Monday	03/27	7:30pm UMW
Tuesday	03/28	
Wednesday	03/29	7:00pm Lenten Study-MH
Thursday	03/30	6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir
Friday	03/31	
Saturday	04/01	
Sunday	04/02	8:30am & 10:00am Worship Sunday School UMW Soup Sale 12pm-1:00pm Confirmation Class Islam 101 5:00pm Sunday Night Live Worship

### **Coming Events:**

Easter Flower order deadline 4/3  
 Blood Drive 10/12

## UMW News

The UMW is collecting forks, spoons and knives (not necessary that they match) for Off The Streets this week. We will have a box in Mitchell Hall all week through next Sunday. Those coming to our Monday night meeting at 7:30 should bring a manual can opener or fork/spoon/knife to the meeting. The speaker this Monday is ARC Program Assistant and dear friend, Jo Gabriele: *A Diverse religious community provides light in the darkness: A Journey of Faith*

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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!

## Outreach update:

We told the congregation about a family who has 5 children and they are sleeping on air mattresses. We collected \$286 to put toward bunk beds and mattresses from Walmart that will be delivered to this family.

We also contributed some new towels and washcloths as well as gently used towels and sheets.

Also for the "Days for Girls" project we collected: 13 boxes of ziplock bags, 32 hotel soaps, 73 washcloths,

32 material pieces and 1 large thread. Thanks to all who helped with both these requests.

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> PALM SUNDAY  
8:30AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> HOLY THURSDAY  
7:30PM WORSHIP**

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

**APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL  
7:30PM WORSHIP**

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

## Heifer Update

We have exceeded our goal of 2 cows, we are approximately \$160 away from an additional cow! If you will be willing to donate please see Ann!!

## 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.

## 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.

### **Vacation Bible School**

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

### **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](mailto: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