



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

September 11, 2016

Church Person(s) of the Week:

Thank you to Peter Philip for his ongoing dedication to our church on so many levels!

Today's Worship Assistants:

8:30am Reader & Communion Steward: Peter Eckert

10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):

Tom Wolff, Chris Barnabo

10:00am Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): James Woff, Tracy Brown

Counters: Craig and Kathy Keith

Greeters: Deb and Dave Albin

Ushers: Team B: Alan Brown, Linda Bruce, 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

Quote for the week:

"It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, and a day to love them, but takes an entire lifetime to forget them"- anonymous

Our Prayers Local Concerns: Rev. Robert Johnson, **Prayers for the world:** All the families of Sandy Hook, Newtown and surrounding communities as they continue to heal. All the men and women who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces. **Conference prayers:** Bishop Jane Allen Middleton as she prepares to leave and go back into retirement. Prayers for our new NYAC Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton .

The flowers on the Lords Table today are for sale after the service. They are \$7.00 or \$10.00 w/ the vase. Please see Alice Mayer if you wish to purchase. If you need a flower arrangement during the week for a special occasion you can order flowers from Alice @ 203-748-2774. They are \$13.00 w/ the vase, delivered. This year's flower/plant funds will go for access.

Leadership

Have you ever thought of being in church leadership? This is a wonderful opportunity for your faith to grow and to serve your local church. In the coming months, the nominating committee will be meeting to fill positions for our church leadership. Will you consider becoming part of the team? See Pastor John for more details.

The 47th Annual Church Bazaar 11/18 & 19

There will be a meeting of booth chair people at 10:00 AM Saturday September 10th in Mitchell Hall for round table discussion, organization, plans, hopes, and wishes.

The church bazaar will be here before you know it. This is our biggest single fundraiser of the year and last year we made over \$10,000. It is a line item in our budget.

Chair: Peter Philip

Here are this year's booth chairs so far:

Theme baskets: Nancy O'Halloran

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.

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	9/11	8:30am & 10:00am Worship Teacher Dedication and Sunday School registration
Monday	9/12	7:30pm Worship Committee- Rm 206
Tuesday	9/13	7:30pm Trustees
Wednesday	9/14	
Thursday	9/15	6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Choir
Friday	9/16	
Saturday	9/17	UMW @ Comida Pantry
Sunday	9/18	Worship in the Park

Coming Events:

9/21 Financial Peace University session 1
10/02 UMW Soup Sale

These are baskets of items made up with a theme in mind and tickets are sold at \$1.00 each to win a basket. A candy is given with each sale.

Holly Hearth: Jackie Penyak & Tamara Wachnuik

This booth features handmade Christmas items.

Plants And....: Dawn Tamaino

This green thumb booth sells house plants, jewelry and other unique/antique items.

Calico Corner: Alice Mayer

Handmade crafts other than Christmas items are sold at this booth.

Country Store: Sandy & Ken Bardelli

Baked goods, Cookies, Jams, Cheese, candy and anything yummy can be bought here.

The Book Nook: Ann McLellan

Used books, CD's or video treasures will await you here.

Taste of BUMC:

Your favorite recipe is made by you in our certified kitchen, frozen and sold at this booth.

Pictures with Santa: Santa & Mrs. Claus, Pat Deuschle

Even some adults sit on Santa's knee!!

The Kiss Tree: Sandy Bonagura & Maddy Wachnuik

The Christmas Tree shaped board holds Hersey kisses that have a # of a prize you can win.

Silent Bid: Krista Mayer

Goods and services are available for you to bid on. Of course highest bid wins.

The Lunch Room:

Kitchen:

Dining Room:

A delicious lunch sandwich & soup is served for our guests.

Kids Craft Room: Audrey Stejskal

Kids can make a craft for a nominal fee.

And other chairs:

Publicity: Marty Stejskal

Makes sure the whole world knows about the bazaar.

Business Solicitation:

Collects items donated for our silent bid/ kiss tree by our local businesses.

Finances: Finance committee

Manage the money and credit card during the bazaar.

Please see Peter Philip or Alice Mayer if you can help.

Sunday Morning Ministries for 10:00am September 18th

10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Family Worship **10:00am Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship **Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer **Greeters:** Family Worship **Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

A Message from our Pastor

Hello Saints,

It is hard to believe that summer is pretty much coming to a close and even harder to believe that I'm already beginning my third month here as Pastor at our wonderful church here in Bethel.

It has been a wonderful experience for my wife Maria and I to begin to really see how this church body works together on many levels. The leadership team in place here is dedicated and hardworking which is a pastor's dream! My wife and I have also enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of you at weekly services, meet and greets and of course fellowship time after service each week.

One of my goals as your pastor has been to enhance our fellowship coffee hour. I wanted to take a few moments and share with you why this has been a very high priority for me.

The dictionary defines fellowship as, "The condition of being together or of sharing similar interests or experiences." With a broad definition like this, some might think that fellowship is nothing more than hanging out or belonging to the same club. However, fellowship, in its truest form, is so much more than several people getting together in the same place for the same reason.

Fellowship is one of God's principle purposes for human beings. That is why we all feel the need for companionship, love, and belongingness. God created us to be social beings, this is why folks join clubs and organizations such as Rotary or the Lions. The shortfall there is that these types of fellowship are very temporary, once the meeting is over, everyone goes on their way and you have no contact until the next meeting.

This is not the fellowship that our souls are searching for. God created the perfect "organization" for fellowship, and that is the family. Now I also realize that none of us have perfect families and many have no families at all. But the family unit was intended by God to provide us with daily fellowship so that we can learn to develop deep loving relationships and discover what it means to sacrifice for others.

And this is where the time of fellowship can really shine. When we have a place to connect at a much deeper level with folks who are "like minded" in the things of God, amazing friendships can be formed. Sitting around a warm cup of coffee and breaking bread together forges deeper relationships and adds a whole new meaning to the term "church family".

Our Nurture Committee is spearheading this effort under the tremendous leadership of Jackie Penyak. Each week we will have coffee, cold beverages and various snacks to enjoy. There are always opportunities to bake or provide something so please see Jackie if you would like to assist.

I encourage you to plan on joining your brothers and sisters in Christ after service. I'm confident that you will sense the positive energy in the room and of course feel the love and companionship that we all seek in this life.

I'll close with the quote from the Chinese philosopher Mencius I thought was appropriate: "Friends are the siblings God never gave us."

In Christ, Pastor John

United Way: Ready, Set, Read Program

The United Way Ready, Set, Read program is holding a training session on **September 15th** for anyone interested in reading to preschool children. Readers are needed!!! You only need to read once a week for one hour, anytime between 10:00-5:30pm. Please contact Casey Levene at Casey.Levine@uwwesternct.org For more information see Ann McLellan.

News from the United Methodist Women

* The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month, even during the summer months. 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.

* The first UMW meeting of the Fall will again be at the Comida Pantry, sponsored by the Association of Religious Communities. We will be sorting beans this time, as the need is great. Save the date: Saturday, **September 17, 2016**, from 9 am until noon.

* UMW meetings are usually the 4th Monday of the month. Upcoming programs include, 'Wicked Women of the Bible' in October, and our memorial "Service of Light" in November. Please join us.

* We will be scheduling Paint Events, definitely, during the first quarter of 2017.

ASP Opportunity

Do you like to socialize? Do you like pets and/or children? Do you know how to do housework? Do you know or want to know how to use a hammer? Do you want to share the word of God? Do you want to be the hands and feet of God?

If you answered yes to any of these then I have the perfect opportunity for you. ASP (Appalachia Service Project) is a christian based ministry that for the past 47 years have made homes warmer safer and drier. We visit Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina to help fix up homes of people that are less fortunate than us. They need our help, some of them desperately. This year is your year to take a step out of our small towns and jump on the chance to join us on our ASP mission trip.

On Sunday **September 25th** at 12:00 at the Bethel United Methodist Church we will be having our official ASP sign up. We will meet promptly in the sanctuary.

I am trying to reach out to the congregation to give everyone a chance to participate (congregation, past ASPers, and people outside the congregation) in ASP. I will be having 30 slots open so it will be first come first serve.

At the meeting on the 25th everyone will be asked to pay a non refundable \$100 deposit. This deposit will get your name on the ASP list, or the waiting list with nonpayment. I will give each of you a list of fundraisers, payments, and a copy of flyers that I have made for each fundraiser. Your part will be to take note of each fundraiser and attend the ones you can. For those that you attend your name will be written down including the participating time and you will have compensation in the form of those profits being divided among those who are on the list and taken off their final payment amount.

The total cost of the trip is going to be the \$600. You will have your first \$100 deposit, two more \$100 payments, and a final \$300 payment minus whatever was taken off from your participation in fundraising.

We will have an ASP day that is mandatory for you to attend. During this time we will go over power tools, rules and regulations, questions and comments, a game that will put ASP into perspective, hear a story from a past ASPer, do some work for the church, and end with a prayer walk. It is important for this to be mandatory so that way we can all get to know one another before the trip.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase a shirt and to come up with your own fundraisers to reduce the cost of the trip. This is easy as you can have a car wash, bring bottles back, babysit, anything you can think of.

If you have any question comments or concerns please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you,
Tracy Brown

ttangelkissestt@comcast.net

Save the date

Our first church sponsored blood drive will be held on Tuesday **November 29**. The Red Cross has asked us for this date since there is such a shortage of blood after Holidays. It will run from 1:00-6:00 p.m. We need 2 volunteers (one each for registration and canteen) for the duration of the drive. If you can help with a shift (1-2 hours) please see Alice Mayer.

Ridgefield's Community Bible Study Evening Class

CBS is an international, interdenominational ministry. CBS classes meet in local host churches throughout the world, and Ridgefield Baptist Church (325 Danbury Road) has graciously welcomed the Ridgefield evening class to use its facility. Approximately sixty men and women attend the class on Monday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:00, September through April. Anyone interested in looking into the Bible in a friendly, caring atmosphere is invited to visit or become a member of the class. Beginners, as well as more experienced Bible students, are always welcome.

This year's 30- week course covers the book of Matthew and will explore the life of Jesus beginning with His miraculous birth and spanning His ministry years, death, and resurrection. The lessons will invite students to journey with those who encountered Jesus personally: the religious leaders of the day; the intimate group of twelve disciples; and the multitudes of seekers and followers, including the sick, the hurting, the misunderstood, and the needy. Jesus brings good news to a hurting world, a world like ours today, filled with people who have real questions, fears, and hopes. The study of Matthew will reveal how we can receive true forgiveness and enjoy everlasting life in God's kingdom, by believing in who Jesus is, and what he has said and done.

For more information about CBS go to <http://RidgefieldEve.cbsclass.org> or call (203) 431-9491. **If anyone has any questions about this Bible Study opportunity, please also feel free to contact Peter Eckert of BUMC at peter@architectsguild.net who has been involved with CBS for 15 years.**

Perennials

Forms to order perennials are located on the table in the narthex.

Free Piano and bench

Upright Fisher piano, currently located in the Classroom. If interested, please contact Todd Gorski, Director of Music, at music.bumc@gmail.com or 203.743.6835. First come, first serve.

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.

Update on the Wood Ministry

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. – 1 Peter 5:1-4(NIV)



Our firewood ministry needs your help. It has grown to the point that a hand full of people can't keep up with anymore. We are looking for some folks that are interested in looking after this ministry.

You would only have to spend a couple of hours one day during one month out of the year. Your duties would include – keeping the firewood area clean and organized, and also cutting, splitting, and stacking any wood that has been dropped off. This will be much easier for us to handle if it's done on a monthly rotation.

This ministry has been not only a wonderful service to our church community, but to also to our whole Bethel community as well. This ministry is God breathed and we should be honored and blessed that the Lord chose us to provide it. *The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.* – Proverbs 11:25(NLT)

In the past eight years this ministry has helped many people. But now it's at the point where it has become to large and overwhelming and we either have to come together and make it better and workable or end it. And I don't want to see it end.

Ideally it would be great to have a firewood committee that's has a chair and consists of 12 teams of three or more people.

If you are interested in helping with firewood ministry and being in the rotation please contact John Esposito at jtespos@att.net – Thank you!

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40(NIV)

Peonies & Iris

It's time to order peonies and iris if you want any. I only dig up and split the peonies once so please order by September 16th. The colors are double pink or white with magenta center. (\$3.00/larger tuber) – Please call Alice at 203-748-2774

The Old Fashioned Iris colors are:
Light Purple with Medium Purple tip
Gold with Burgundy tip (yellow beard)
Medium Violet with Dark Violet tip (yellow beard)
Pale Yellow (yellow beard)
Medium Yellow (yellow beard)
Pale Pink (yellow beard)
Pale Purple (yellow beard)
Yellow with purple tip (yellow beard)
(\$1.00/tuber)

Giant Special Iris (limit of 1 each)
White and purple
Baby Blue
Rose with orange beard
(\$3.00/tuber)
limited quantities

Purple Siberian
\$3.00/5" clump

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

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