



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

141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06-801 Office phone 203-743-6835
 website www.bethelmethodist.net

Rev. John Parille – Senior Pastor

Pastor John Esposito -Assistant Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Pastor's email: pastorjohnparille@gmail.com Pastor's Phone: 203-312-6789

Assist. Pastor's email: pastorjohnesposito@gmail.com

Admin Assist email: bmethodistchurch@snet.net Minister of Music's email: jessicabardelli@gmail.com

Weekly Illuminations and Inspirations

December 24, 2017

Church Person(s) of the Week:

Thank you to Jess Bardelli for all of her dedication to our music program!

Today's Worship Assistants:

8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward: David McClain

Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): James Wolff & Ann McLellan

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):

Stacie McLaughlin & Angela Bassett

Counters: Betty Lepus **Greeters:** **Ushers:** Tammy Esposito, Krista Mayer

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

Nursery Care: The nursery (for ages 2 and under) is located in the Education wing just before the bathrooms on the right!

This Week's BUMC Calendar:

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|-----------|-------|--|
| Sunday | 12/24 | 8:30am & 10:00am Worship 5:00pm & 9:00pm Christmas Eve Services |
| Monday | 12/25 | Christmas Day |
| Tuesday | 12/26 | |
| Wednesday | 12/27 | 7:00pm Sisterhood of Christ |
| Thursday | 12/28 | 6:30 Handbells 7:30pm Choir |
| Friday | 12/29 | |
| Saturday | 12/30 | |
| Sunday | 12/31 | 8:30am & 10:00am worship 5:00pm New Year's Eve Service & Pot luck dinner |

Coming Events:

Charge Conference 1/14 @12:30pm

Quote for the week:

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Norman Vincent Peale



Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:30am & 10:00 am Morning Services

Family Worship at 5:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Worship at 9:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons with Holy Communion

Sunday Night Live New Year's Eve Service

SNL New Year's Eve Service with Potluck Dinner. What better way to end the year than being in the House of the Lord! Come join us at 5:00 pm!

Christmas Eve Ministries for 5:00pm December 24th

Advent Reading: Tracy Brown **Lessons:** Peter Eckert, Kevin McCloskey, Kayleigh Wood, Stacie McLaughlin, Bill Struth **Counters:** Betty Lepus **Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown **Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

Sunday Morning Ministries for 9:00pm December 24th

Lessons: Peter Philip, Chris Barnabo, Steve Temple, Ann McLellan, Kristi Parille **Greeters:** Dawn Tomaino **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi

Charge Conference

Our charge conference on Sunday January 14 at 12:30pm. Please save the date!

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!!!



Food Pantry

Please remember the basket for food donations for the Bethel Community Food Pantry located right here @ our church. The basket has been relocated to our Communications area downstairs outside the kitchen. The Pantry is open every other Tuesday from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Their phone number is 203-947-1754

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 is a box in Mitchell Hall to drop them off. You can make a monetary donation so our Coordinator can purchase books. Any questions contact Uta Robertson.

Ushers

We currently need ushers to help during our 10:00am service. You would be added to a team that would serve approximately once a month. If you could help please see Alan Brown.

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.

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: pledging members \$15.50 hr, non-pledging members \$25.00 per hour

Small Groups

Brotherhood of Christ meet Mondays at 7:00 pm. Sisterhood of Christ meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. This is not a Bible study but more of a time to discuss matters that effect our lives today. We start with a core piece of scripture, some devotional time that speaks to our topic and then look at some pointed questions that will help us go deeper in our faith and get to know one another a bit better at each meeting. You can talk or you can just listen. You can come every week or once in a while! We start on time and end by 8:15pm.

Questions? Men, see Pastor Esposito or Pastor John. Ladies see Maria Parille or Pastor John.

Announcements

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

CBS

Community Bible Study has started and continues to study the book of the prophet Isaiah. While Isaiah contains some sobering judgments against the nations of the world, it also holds glorious promises and comfort for God's people! Though written centuries ago, much of what was happening in Isaiah's time might be surprisingly applicable to the situations of today. Human nature with its needs, desires, attitudes, and weaknesses remains the same, but we have a God who is in control. Isaiah highlights God's power, sovereignty, holiness, trustworthiness, and salvation. Classes are Mondays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Ridgefield Baptist Church 325 Danbury Road in Ridgefield, CT. Feel free to invite a friend or two to come along! Call Peter Eckert ((203)-733-8917) for information. To register, please contact our class coordinator, Linda Tilton at 203-431-9491 or LTilton@prodigy.net. May this study of Isaiah awaken us to hear God's voice.

"They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31