



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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Rev. John Parille – Senior Pastor

Pastor John Esposito -Assistant Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

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Weekly Illuminations and Inspirations

December 31, 2017

Church Person(s) of the Week:

Thank you to Betty Lepus for counting all of the donations on Christmas Eve

Today's Worship Assistants:

8:30am: Reader & Communion Steward: Marty Bishop

Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Tom Wolff & Bill Struth

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Diane Meldon & Stacie McLaughlin

Counters: Bill Struth and Tom Wolff

Greeters: Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus

Ushers: Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Benner, Tammy Esposito

Coffee Host(s):

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](#)

Quote for the week:

A quote for the New Year: God specializes in giving people a fresh start. Rick Warren

The rose on the altar honors 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.

Presentation of Special Mission Recognition Pins

The UMW is proud to present, today, Special Mission Recognition Pins to two deserving people.

Jackie Penyak – for spearheading the campaign for the beautiful chimes dedicated to those individuals who are struggling with addiction or who lost their lives to addiction.

Don Olson- founder of the Hero Project (Heroin Education to Resist Opiates) a community group determined to bring awareness to the heroin and opiates addiction problem plaguing young people, and to save lives.

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!

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:

Sunday	12/31	8:30am & 10:00am worship Presentation of Mission Pins 5:00pm New Year's Eve Service & Pot luck dinner
Monday	01/01	7:00pm Brotherhood of Christ
Tuesday	01/02	7:30pm Finance
Wednesday	01/03	7:00pm Sisterhood of Christ
Thursday	01/04	6:30 Handbells 7:30pm Choir
Friday	01/05	
Saturday	01/06	8:00am-10:00am Off the Streets 10:30 Bazaar Meeting - WL
Sunday	01/07	8:30am & 10:00am worship UMW Soup Sale 11:30am Nurture Committee Meeting 5:00pm Saturday Night Live

Coming Events:

Charge Conference 1/14 @12:30pm

Bazaar Review Meeting

We will be having a review of our 2017 Bazaar on Saturday, **January 6th**, at 10:30 in the Wesley lounge. All are invited to attend.

Nurture Committee Meeting

There is a meeting of the Nurture Committee on Sunday **January 7th** after the 10:00am service. We will be discussing the year ahead. Anyone interested in joining is welcome. Any questions contact Jackie Penyak at jackiepenyak@me.com or 203-994-9717.

Charge Conference

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

Holly Hearth Crafters Meeting

There is a meeting of the Holly Hearth Crafters on Tuesday evening **January 9th** at 7:00pm. All are welcome! Please bring your ideas and pictures. We will all be brainstorming and discussing crafts to work on throughout the year for our next Bazaar.

Mid-Winter Social

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. Please start getting the word out. The date will be announced soon.

Bloodmobile

Our next Bloodmobile is February 3rd from 9:00am-2:00pm.

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!

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.

Outreach

Between Bethel social services and Wellmore [our Covenant to Care social service agency] we delivered 70 gift bags . The gifts spanned all ages of youth from an unborn baby to a 16 year old. Each of you shopped for a very particular need of a child...a wished for toy, warm clothes & shoes, or gift cards for the teenagers. Your gift bags were beautiful and we loaded them up also with prayers for hope and change in the New Year. We could not meet all the needs of these youth without your willingness to shop and share with them. You made a difference and we are so grateful!

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