

The Capsule



A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Bethel United Methodist Church

141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, Connecticut 06801
Office: 203-743-6835 Pastor's phone: 203-312-6789

Church email – bmethodistchurch@snet.net

Pastor's email – pastorjohnparille@gmail.com

Website – www.bethelmethodist.net

Pastor – The Rev. John Parille

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Choir Director – Jessica Bardelli

Praise Team Leader – Erin Volpintesta

Administrative Assistant – Cheryl DePoi

January 2017

A Message from our Pastor

Hello Saints, Happy New Year to all! As many of you are aware, we had planned to kick off our new Sunday Night Live Contemporary worship service this past Sunday, January 8. With the nasty flu, head cold and stomach bug season in full force, one by one, our new praise team kept getting sick. When it fell upon Erin, our Praise Team leader, we knew it was time to pull the plug and postpone it for a week. But we know that life takes unexpected turns. Sometimes they are welcomed, many times they are not. Sometimes they make life better, sometimes they can make our plans crumble before our eyes. As followers of Jesus, we must recognize that there are things in life that are the uncontrollable. A piece of scripture found in the book of James 4 offers this piece of insight: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. . . . Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'". James reminds us that our plans must have space for Gods Will to enter in. The church and the team was very excited to begin and we were ready to kick off this new service. But our plans were squashed like a bug on a windshield. Disappointed? Yes! But we all know that ultimately, all that happens is for the best—even when it's hard to see. Even when at the moment it was hard to understand. Of course, the predicted snow for Saturday was supposed to be about 2 inches and instead turned into 6- 7, and the weather was even too cold for the Eskimos, and then to top it all off, at 4:30 in the afternoon this past Sunday the 8th, 30 minutes before our new service was supposed to being, it snowed! We all knew we actually avoided disaster. I think the point of the story here is that we must trust Him and His plans for our future. I know that God did not make the praise team members sick, that was from the enemy, but in the end God turned it around for good. If we had gone forth, the service would have been close to empty due to poor road conditions. As we go forth in the New Year let us remember this; We may not know what the future holds, but we can trust the One who holds the future. Have a blessed 2017 Pastor John Parille

SUNDAY
NIGHT LIVE
Worship

We are excited to announce that on January 15, 2017, we will be starting a new Contemporary style worship service. This service will be held on Sunday evenings from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We believe that there are many folks in our community that are not able to attend a Sunday morning service because of other family or work commitments. This service is intended to reach those folks! Come join us in January!

Facebook

If you are on Facebook and have not liked our page, please do so. Here you will find links to our sermons and also get a sneak preview of the upcoming sermon. If you are a member of our Facebook page we would ask that you "share" links with your community of friends.

Sunday Morning Ministries for 11:00am January 1st

Readers & Communion Stewards 11:00am (set up & serve): James Wolff & Tracy Brown

Communion Stewards (serve and clean up): Julien Schaad & Peter Philip

Counters: Tracy Brown & Krista Mayer

Greeters: Betty Lepus & Linda Bruce

Ushers: Team B: Alan Brown, Linda Bruce, Tammy Esposito

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 8th**Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Peter Eckert**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Kyle Johnston, Tom Wolff**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Angela Bassett, Uta Robertson**Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin**Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin**Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 15th****Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Paul Young**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Family Worship**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship**Counters:** Craig & Kathy Keith**Greeters:** Family Worship**Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 22nd****Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** David McClain**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tom Wolff, Diane Meldon**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Doug Williams, Wendy Williams**Counters:** Linda Bruce & Betty Lepus**Greeters:** Alan and Debbie Brown**Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 29th****Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am:** Marty Bishop**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Chris Barnabo, Tracy Brown**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Rick Kelly, James Wolff**Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer**Greeters:** Marty Bishop**Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Linda Bruce, Tammy Esposito**2017 Isaiah 54:2 Stakeholder Pledge envelopes now available**

For those church members who stretched and "put a stake in our church" by pledging a 2017 stewardship commitment, pledge envelopes are available in the church narthex and labelled by name. For anyone who feels moved to pledge a commitment, please speak with Pastor John. Thank you all for your faithfulness to our Lord, to each other and to our wonderful church.

United Methodist Women NewsUMW Leaders meeting at Plain Jane's **January 14th** at noon.

Regular UMW meeting Monday **January 23rd**. Program to be put on by Jessica Bardelli and Sarah DeShan. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

Watch for an upcoming Sunday afternoon Paint event to be announced soon.

* The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. 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.

Sunday School News

The Nursery is being Updated! Claudia Schaefer deserves the credit for her vision!. We could use a little help from our friends! If you are able, you could designate enough \$ for us to buy one new toy or part of a half crib. That would be wonderful. We do not want the actual toy donated, as the size of toys matters, and it is better for us to pick them out, then to have to turn down a donation. Wait until you see the new Nursery!!!

Heifer Project begins January 22nd through February 26. This year we will be raising money to send cows to Rwanda.

"Because agriculture is the primary means of support for 80 percent of the population in Rwanda, livestock is the most beneficial asset a family can own. Nutritious milk, along with the fertilizing benefits of livestock, will improve the diets of children and parents alike. Organizing farmers into cooperatives will give them the means to jointly store and market extra milk through well-equipped chilling hubs."

Stay tuned to more information on how you can help the Sunday School raise money for COWS!

Outreach News

"Spare Change Sunday" will be **January 29th**. All the spare change will go directly to anyone in our community needing some help in the form of gift cards and other ways to help someone get through a tough time... Thank you!

Off the Streets

Off The Streets is all all-volunteer run organization which works to get homeless people into housing. If a homeless person has a source of income, Off The Streets will provide a security deposit and basic furniture and household goods. Off the Streets collects furniture and household goods from 10am to 12noon on the first Saturday of each month behind the Bethel United Methodist Church. Items most in demand are dressers, small kitchen tables with chairs, end tables, nightstands and lamps. The next drop off date is **February 4th**. For more information, go to www.offthestreetsnow.com or call 203-733-5880.

Fundraiser – Bottle/Can Drive

Please consider saving your nickel deposit bottles and cans for our bottle/can drive the 2nd Saturday of every month. Our next drive is **February 11th**. This year the benefits go to Julien Schaad's ASP tuition.

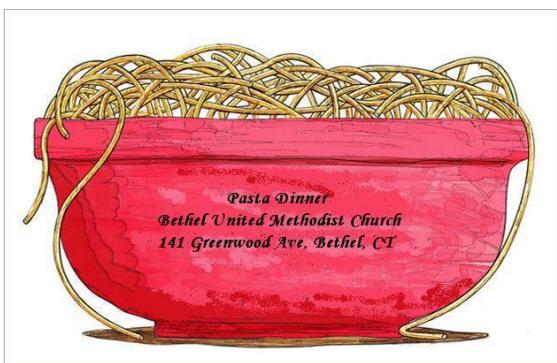
**Please join us for our monthly
Family Pasta Dinners
Bethel United Methodist Church
141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT**

January 14, 2017 March 11, 2017 April 8, 2017
February 11, 2017 May 13, 2017 June 10, 2017

Serving 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Adults \$10 Seniors & Students with College ID \$8 Kids \$5 (under 5 eat free)
Family max price \$25 (parents & kids)

Dinners also available to go! Call BUMC 203.743.6835 the day of dinner to place your order



Dinner includes:
Salad with homemade dressings
Pasta with marinara or meat sauce
Homemade meatballs .50 ea
Homemade desserts

SAVE THE DATE

Next Bloodmobile Sat. 2/25 9:00-2:00

You can make an appt. @ redcrossblood.org

Pasta Dinner Sponsorships

We have set a goal this year to have a sponsor for each of the pasta dinners. We currently need 5 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 203-797-0841 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!

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

BUMC "Giving Gifts for Christ" List Items Needed

The Giving Gifts for Christ program is a program where you can make a donation of an item needed by the church in honor or memory of someone. Below is a sample of some of the items needed at this time:

General Needs of Church

Donations to the painting fund
 New steam mop
 Water for the cooler
 Replacement chairs for Mitchell hall
 (Costco, # 253029 Samsonite)
 Costco gift cards

Pasta Dinner Needs

Sponsor a Pasta Dinner - \$200.00
 White Plastic Tablecloths 52" x 108"
 Roll of white plastic for tables
 1 case of sterno for dinners (Costco)
 Bethel Food Market gift cards

Sunday School Needs

Sanitizer wipes or hand sanitizer
 3 first aid kits
 Small item for the Incentive Store (Religious theme items preferred.)

Music Program

Donate to a new organ

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.

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