



The Capsule

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

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Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

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January 2018

A Message from our Pastor

Happy New Year! As the new year begins, it brings with it the anticipation and excitement of 12 months of new beginnings, new adventures, and maybe even getting rid of some bad habits and starting some better ones. I also wonder if 2018 will be the year that Jesus returns and comes back for His followers. With that being said, it also makes me wonder if Jesus did return this year, would I be ready?

For almost our entire lives we are told to be ready. As a child it was make sure your hands are cleaned to be ready for dinner or be sure your homework is done for school. When we are adults, it is an ongoing list of things to do to be ready for things; too numerous to count.

No matter what is keeping us busy in this life, if we stop and think about it, nothing is more important than being ready for the day when we are united with Christ. Matthew 24:44 tells us “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

This is a great piece of scripture for us to keep in our thoughts as the New Year approaches. We should be ready and looking forward to Jesus' return. This is not a wish-list kind of hope, but more of a concrete expectation we should have every day. This hope can motivate us to keep our hearts from the distractions of the world and directs our attention on becoming more like Jesus.

As we consider the possibility that Jesus could return this year, let us make an effort to be sure that we are ready. Let us arise each morning anticipating the new day the Lord has made. Let us also strive to be pure in thought and word, being an encourager where ever we go. Imagine if we had this attitude in the New Year. Even if Jesus does not return this year, if we put this practices into place we will find ourselves to be more Christ centered and Christ-like than ever before.

May God bless you and keep you in the coming year. See you in church!

Rev. John Parille

Senior Pastor

Facebook

If you are on Facebook and have not liked our page, please do so. Here you will find links to our sermons and 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

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 7th

Readers & Communion Steward 8:30am: Dave McClain

Readers & Communion Stewards 11:00am (set up & serve): Steve Temple & Tracy Brown

Communion Stewards (serve and clean up): Angela Bassett & Rick Kelly

Counters: Tracy Brown & Krista Mayer

Greeters: Deb and Dave Albin

Ushers: Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

Coffee Hosts: Martha Bishop

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 14th

Readers & Communion Steward 8:30am: Paul Young

Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Tracy Brown & James Wolff

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Julien Schaad & Tom Wolff

Counters: Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin

Greeters: Alan and Debbie Brown

Ushers: Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi

Coffee Hosts: Sandy and Ken Bardelli

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 21st

Readers & Communion Steward 8:30am: David McClain

Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): Family Worship

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Family Worship

Counters: Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus

Greeters: Family Worship

Ushers: Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

Coffee Hosts: Uta Robertson

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am January 28th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Martha Bishop

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

Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up): Steve Temple & Angela Bassett

Counters: Bill Struth & Tom Wolff

Greeters: Marty Bishop & Dawn Tomaino

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

Coffee Hosts: Dawn Tomaino

Off the Streets

Off the Streets is 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 **January 6th**. For more information, go to www.offthestreetsnow.com or call 203-733-5880.

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.

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 **January 13th**. You can bring them to the parking lot between the hours of 11:00am – 1:00pm. 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

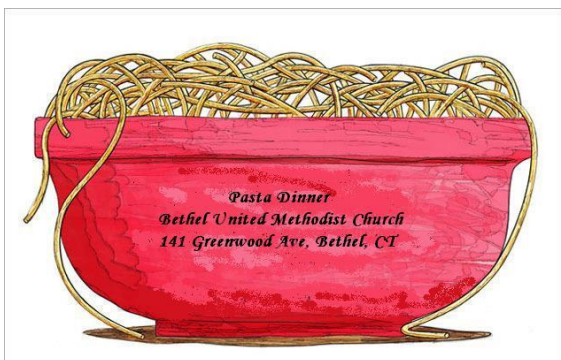
January 13th

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

Village Pre-School News

The Brookfield Lions Club is coming to the school on the mornings of January 25th and 26th to do vision screenings on our students. VPS has permission slips if anyone in the Church community would like to take advantage of this free service. Please contact the Pre School at villagepre@sbcglobal.net

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!

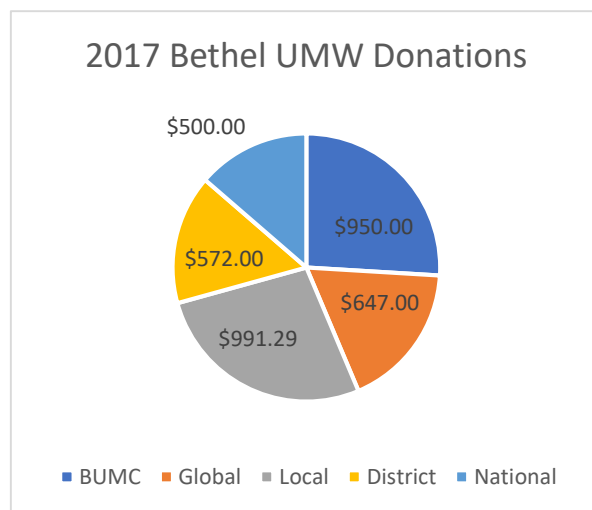
The bricks will line the walk way to our front door. The bricks may be personalized with names, dates, and special messages, and can include one of five artwork designs if you choose. Bricks will be 4" x 8", red, and are offered at \$50 per brick (same price if artwork is used or not). Includes up to 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!

United Methodist Women Donations to Missions 2017

BUMC UMW raises monies during the year and gives the majority of that money to various charitable causes. This year we gave out over \$3500. The UMW carries over on \$500 into the next year.



Locally we donated to Adopt a Family, ARC, Fill a Van for Veterans, Covenant to Care, Bethel Food Pantry, United Methodist Homes and Off the Streets. Within the church we donated to ASP, Vacation Bible School, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Handicapped Access Fund (a UMW priority) as well as sponsoring a pasta dinner and providing the Christmas Eve luminaries. We fulfilled all of our 5-star contributions to the Connecticut District UMW. Globally we gave to Heifer International through the Sunday School., supported the Days for Girls Program, shipped boxes of clothing to the island of Dominica and sent a sizable donation to UMCOR for hurricane relief.

In addition to monetary contributions, we provided approximately 120 items (pairs of socks, hats and gloves) to Dorothy Day, sent Box Tops for Education to the Red Bird Mission (UM), two shipments of sewn Days for Girls Kits and the Prayer Shawl group continues to create the prayer shawls given out to those in need of comfort.

We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm. All women are invited to join us!

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!!!



Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group meets at 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. All who like or want to learn crochet or knitting are welcome. See Linda Bruce for information.

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

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.

Food Pantry

Please remember the basket (located in our Information Center) for food donations for the Bethel Community Food Pantry located right here @ our church. The Bethel Food Pantry is open the first and third Tuesdays of the month 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 will be a box in Mitchell Hall to drop these books off. You can also make a monetary donation so our Library Coordinator can purchase a book or two. Any questions please leave a note in the box or contact Uta Robertson.

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.

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!