

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



March 2017

A Message from our Pastor

Hello Saints,

Lent is upon us. If you have never really practiced Lent, I encourage you to do so this year. Lent is an incredible time to prepare, reflect, and yes, change our relationship and our walk with Christ.

We just experienced Ash Wednesday and I thank all of you who came out. It is the first leg of the journey of Lent and it begins with us repenting of the things we know we need to change. The covering or placing of ashes upon us is a long standing Jewish tradition.

In many cultures, loud weeping, wailing, and the tearing of clothing are accepted ways of expressing personal sorrow or a great national calamity. I can remember attending a funeral for a person who was from Lebanon, and there in the corner of the funeral home were women who had been hired to wail! They were profession wailers! Not something we are used to but it is indeed biblical.

For the people of Old Testament Israel, similar outward actions expressed deep mourning and repentance for turning away from the Lord. An outward demonstration of repentance can be a powerful process when it comes from our heart. This is really what the season of Lent should be all about. When we have a sincere inward response to God, and not just going through the motions, Lent can be a time of complete renewal or a leap forward in our relationship with the Lord.

After a plague of locusts devastated the land of Judah, God, through the prophet Joel, called the people to sincere repentance to avoid His further judgement. Joel 2:12 states, "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning".

Joel was calling for a response from deep inside; "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity", verse 13. For us to be truly different come Easter morning, we must make changes that come from the heart more than our heads.

So as we move through the coming weeks of Lent, I encourage you to press in, hold on, and spend extra time in prayer and scripture. Whatever you need to tell the Lord today, just say it from the heart!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**APRIL 9TH PALM SUNDAY
8:30AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 13TH HOLY THURSDAY
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 14TH GOOD FRIDAY
12:00 NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS – MEET @ BISHOP CURTIS HOMES
7:30PM GOOD FRIDAY PASSION SERVICE**

**APRIL 15TH THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 16TH EASTER SUNDAY
9:00AM & 11:00AM (FAMILY WORSHIP) SERVICES**



**SUNDAY
NIGHT LIVE**
Worship

We are excited to announce that our new Contemporary style worship service is in full swing. This service is 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!

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 5th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Peter Eckert **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):**, Peter Philip, Kyle Johnston **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Angela Bassett, Uta Robertson **Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer **Greeters:** Marty Bishop **Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 12th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Paul Young **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tom Wolff, Diane Meldon **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** **Counters:** Tracy Brown and Krista Mayer **Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 19th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: David McClain **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Family Worship **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship **Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin **Greeters:** Family Worship **Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 26th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Martha Bishop **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Chris Barnabo, James Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Tracy Brown, Rick Kelly **Counters:** Craig and Kathy Keith

BUMC Wednesday Night Dinner Services

Objective: To bring the congregation together to prepare and celebrate the Lenten season in an informal and relaxing atmosphere.

Format: At 7:00 we gather in the sanctuary and enjoy worship together with 2 hymns or songs. Pastor would welcome all and then have an opening prayer.

After prayer, at approximately, 7:10, the folks would break into small groups. These groups would be facilitated by appointed table leaders marked by the symbols that were presented in fellowship. They will be in different parts of the building to allow each group some space.

The discussions will have a specific theme to them that will include scripture, some reflection and then pointed questions to help folks share their personal journey and how it relates to the topic at hand. The facilitator will help to guide these discussions along giving everyone a fair chance to share so that all may be heard if they choose to do so.

All will be encouraged to share however it is not a requirement for folks to speak or read if they choose not to do so.

By 7:40, Pastor John will circulate to the groups giving the facilitator a five minute wrap up warning. By 7:45 all groups will return to the sanctuary for one final hymn or song. Pastor will close in final prayer. Goal is to be out of the building by 7:50-7:55

Additional Information

Each week groups will be new. The goal is to have the same facilitators lead.

The weekly discussion will have a common theme but will be unique to each week

Folks will be encouraged to bring guests to introduce others to BUMC in a casual setting.

The services will start the week after Ash Wednesday and end the week before Holy Week.

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.

Parish News

During the month of February we welcomed 4 new members into our church family by baptism.

Logan Michael Hessler and Avery Jean Hessler were baptized on February 12th. They are the children of Kristen (Boehn) Hessler and Jason Hessler. Logan's sponsors are Michael and Kassie Boehn. Avery's sponsor is Meghan Kavallines.

Landon James Mulhall was baptized on February 12th. He is the son of Larissa (Dayton) and Michael Mulhall. His older brother is Jace. His sponsors are Stephanie and Michael Nagy.

Ethan Andrew Bordeaux Adams was baptized on February 19th. He is the son of Arthur and Elizabeth Adams

8:30am Worshippers

Are you interested in an Adult Sunday School Class from 9:30-10:15? Please tell the pastor if you are interested.

United Methodist Women News

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.

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 **March 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 **March 11th**. This year the benefits go to Julien Schaad's ASP tuition.



Family Pasta Dinners

Please join us for our Pasta and CORNED BEEF dinner Saturday **March 11th** from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Pasta prices are: 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

Corned Beef prices are: Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$13.00, Veterans \$13.00 Children \$5.00, Family Not Available, Take-Out \$15.00 -No Seconds

Pasta Dinner Volunteers

We are looking for extra help for our Corned Beef and Pasta Dinner. If you can volunteer that day please contact Alan at 203-792-0638.

UMW Tag Sale Time to do some Spring Housecleaning

The UMW Spring Tag Sale is being held March 24th (6-8 PM) and March 25th (9-3:00)

We are accepting the following donations:

- Clean and folded clothes
- Kitchen items
- Jewelry, purses, belts, and scarves
- Books and toys
- Household decorations

We are NOT accepting the following;

- TVs and all electronic equipment
- Household remodeling items
- Christmas items
- Stuffed Animals

Items can be dropped off in Mitchell Hall starting Sunday, March 19th but NOT before that date. The UMW appreciates your contributions. -Thank you!

Paint Event – Rescheduled!

Sunday afternoon, **March 26, 2017**, 2 pm. There is a clipboard hanging by the church office door for sign up.. The cost is \$20 (Discounted from the usual \$35 per person). Lots of fun. No talent required.

Islam 101

Everyone in the Congregation and friends are invited to attend Islam 101, presented by Shazeeda Khan of the Danbury Islamic community. Date: **April 2nd**, Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm. The class will be held at the Majid at 339 Main St, Danbury (next to The News-Times building) Parking is at the back. All those interested in understanding more about the faith of our Muslim neighbors, please save the date!

Vacation Bible School

Looking ahead: Vacation Bible School is **July 31st** through **August 4th, 2017**. Save the Date!!!! Anyone interested in helping out, please leave your name and contact information on the church office desk.

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.

Family & Friends Group – Support Group for Family & Friends who have a loved one suffering from the disease of addiction and/or alcoholism meets Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Additional Support Group: "Over-eaters Anonymous" contact Chris at 203-942-3986 for more information.

Pasta Dinner Sponsorships

We have set a goal this year to have a sponsor for each of the pasta dinners. We currently need 4 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 203-205-5676 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

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

BUMC Outreach Project
We will be supporting the following program:

Simsbury UMC is a registered chapter of Days for Girls (www.daysforgirls.org), an organization that provides quality sustainable feminine hygiene kits and education to girls and women in over 75 countries to help reverse the cycle of poverty.

They continue to make kits for girls in Ghana and Uganda in support of mission teams traveling to these countries in October, November, and February.

They welcome donations of the following:

colorful washcloths
 hotel size bar soap
 boxes of gallon freezer Ziplock (no sliders) plastic bags
 cotton fabric (quilt & flannel)
 sewing & overlocker thread

We will have a box in Mitchell Hall to collect these items.

Thank you
 BUMC Outreach Comm.

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 bmthodistchurch@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!

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.

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

Village Pre School News

The month of March brings a great deal of activity to Village Pre-School. The month begins with our OPEN HOUSE for prospective students! If you are interested in a Nationally accredited, play based preschool for your 3 – 5 year old, please join us on Friday, March 3, 2017 from 12-2pm. Come and enjoy some art activities, explore our beautiful school, and meet our teaching staff. (Snow date is March 17th)

Village Pre-School will be holding its annual Scholastic Book Fair in March! Look for us in Mitchell Hall on March 7-10. The Book Fair will be staffed by some of our wonderful parents at arrival and dismissal each day. On Thursday, March 9th, we will be hosting a pajama party for our families. The children will enjoy milk and cookies along with bed time stories while their parents browse the fair. We may even have a surprise guest! This event is from 6-7:30pm. The Book Fair offers a great opportunity to purchase quality children's books at affordable prices.

We are also happy to announce that we have a new website! If you'd like to learn more about our school, please visit villagepreschool.org.

As always, if you have any questions about our school or any of our events, please don't hesitate to contact us at (203) 743-9497 or via email at villagepre@sbcglobal.net