



The Capsule

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

141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, Connecticut 06801

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Website – www.bethelmethodist.net

Pastor – The Rev. John Parille

Pastor Emeritus – The Rev. Robert T. Johnson

Choir Director – Jessica Bardelli email: jessicabardelli@gmail.com

Praise Team Leader – Erin Volpintesta

Administrative Assistant – Cheryl DePoi

March 2018

A Message from our Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ!

As many of you are aware, a small group from our church made the trip to Israel and Palestine to visit the Holy Land. Many folks were a bit worried about us visiting there with all of the negative news headlines. I can assure you, we all felt completely safe the entire trip.

So, why travel so far? The Holy Land is where it all started; the lands into which Abraham first walked and of course the land which God promised to Abraham and his descendants. This is where heroes of the Bible lived. People like Moses, Joshua, Isaac, Jacob, Sara and Joseph. This is the land many armies and nations have, for generations, aspired to conquer and control, the land where David triumphed over Goliath, and where Solomon built his temple.

But above all, for Christians, this is holy ground because this is where Jesus was born, crucified and resurrected. Only in the Holy Land are you be able to walk where Jesus walked, to follow in His footsteps, to see and feel the places where the disciples walked with the Lord. To see firsthand where Jesus preformed his miracles and then the place where he was nailed to the cross to forgive the sins of all Christians.

It is one thing to study the Bible when you are home in America some 6000 miles away, but it is a completely different, life-changing experience doing it while in the Holy Land. The scriptures truly come to life when you read the Sermon on the Mount while standing on the Mount of Beatitudes; likewise, it is one thing to read about the Empty Tomb, but a whole different experience when you get to enter and see the tomb with your own eyes. To hear about the famous Sea of Galilee but then touch it with your own hands and ride on a boat hearing about how Jesus calmed the storm.

However in the end, it is all about Jesus and the cornerstone of our faith, the resurrection. As Easter approaches, I pray that all of us will take the time to truly contemplate what has been done for us. Since the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, people were destined to be separated from God because of their sin. God's Spirit rested on the Patriarchs of our faith like those I mentioned earlier, but it was not poured out on all of the people.

As we walked the streets of Old Jerusalem, I thought about The Holy of Holies, the innermost and most sacred part of the tabernacle. Ordinary people of faith would never get to have access to this place where God's Presence could be found. We were still hopeless in our sins and distanced from God. And then comes Jesus!

As we stood by the Jordan River, I could just hear John the Baptist shouting, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" How true! Jesus came and took away our sins so that we could be reconciled with the Father! That is what Easter is truly all about!

I encourage you to be part of our Holy Weeks services and then of course join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection. You may never visit the Holy Land, however, you can experience the Savior right here in our church, in the heart of Bethel. May you be blessed this Easter season!

In Christ,
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.

New Address

Rev. Robert and Sandy Johnson have a new address. 14 Lake Place North Danbury CT 06810

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**MARCH 25TH PALM SUNDAY
8:30AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP**

**MARCH 29TH HOLY THURSDAY
7:30PM WORSHIP**

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

**MARCH 31ST THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL
7:30PM WORSHIP**

**APRIL 1ST EASTER SUNDAY
9:00AM & 11:00AM (FAMILY WORSHIP) SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 4th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Peter Eckert **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Julian Schaad & Tom Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Diane Meldon & Angela Bassett **Counters:** Tracy Brown & Krista Mayer **Greeters:** Marty Bishop & Dawn Tomaino **Ushers:** Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino **Coffee Hosts:** Marty Bishop

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 11th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Paul Young **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Stacie McLaughlin & Steve Temple **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Chris Barnabo & Rick Kelly **Counters:** Janette Blackstock & Dave Albin **Greeters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus **Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi **Coffee Hosts:** Mary Jane Strasser

Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am March 18th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: David McClain
Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve): **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):**
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 March 25th

Readers & Communion Stewards 8:30am: Martha Bishop **Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tracy Brown & James Wolff **Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Julien Schaad & Tom Wolff **Counters:** Bill Struth & Tom Wolff **Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin **Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Benner, Tammy Esposito **Coffee Hosts:** Deb Albin

Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm March 29th

Ushers: 2 from Team C: Debbie Albin, Krista Mayer, Frank Tomaino

Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm March 30th

Ushers: 2 from Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Art Langer, Andrew Serfilippi

Sunday Morning Ministries for 7:30pm March 31st

Ushers: 2 from Team B: Alan Brown, Joe Brenner, Tammy Esposito

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 10th**. 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.

Pasta Dinner Dessert Donations

Each month for our Pasta Dinners we need donations of desserts. Please contact Ann McLellan at ann_mc_ellan@sbcglobal.net if you can help out. All donations are greatly appreciated!!!!



Family Pasta and Corned Beef Dinner

Please join us for our Pasta and CORNED BEEF dinner Saturday **March 10th** from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Pasta prices are: Adults \$10, Seniors & Students with College ID \$8, Kids \$5 (under 5 eat free), Veterans eat free Family max price \$25 (parents & kids) Dinners also available to go! (\$10.00) 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

Holly Hearth Crafters Meeting

Holly Hearth Crafters meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00pm. All are welcome! We will be sharing Christian fellowship and crafting for next year's Bazaar. Our next meeting is **March 13th**.



Bethel United Methodist Church

Coffee House

Saturday, March 17th, 2017

Mitchell Hall

Doors open at 6:30; Entertainment 7:00-9:00

Refreshments will be served

Free will donations support the BUMC music program

Bring your family! Bring your Friends!



When: Sunday March 18TH

At: After Church (11:00)

Where: 141 Greenwood Ave. Bethel CT 06801

Price: DONATIONS

Please help support to support our ASP teams who strive to make homes Warmer, Safer, Drier.



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 **April 7th**. For more information, go to www.offthestreetsnow.com or call 203-733-5880.

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 News

Note: UMW has a new time and new place. We meet the 4th Monday of each month. Starting in March, we will be meeting at 7 pm in Room 201, upstairs in Randall-Wright Hall. We have access to the stair lift so anyone having difficulty with the stairs, please let Cheryl DePoi (Church office) know by the day of the meeting. It is an easy ride.

Our annual tag sale date has been set for **April 20th and 21st**. Please start saving tag sale items.

Thank you's Received by the UMW for monies donated. Here is a few organizations the UMW has supported over the last few months.

December 20th: Thank you so much for your gift of \$50.00 to ARC's breakfast for "A Peaceable Home".

December 31st: Thank you so much for your gift of \$200 to the Bethel Community Food Pantry.

January 2nd: Thank you for your support of children in Bethel by "adopting" a child for the holidays.

January 17th : Thank you for the donation of \$150 to the Comida Food Pantry.

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. We meet in the Johnson Alcove. See Linda Bruce for information.

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

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!!!



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.

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.

ASP

ASP has a few spots available for this summer's trip. We will be spending the week in Virginia, leaving on Saturday June 30th and coming home on Saturday July 7th. If you are interested in joining us and/or learning more about the trip please contact Tracy Brown at tracybrown1085@gmail.com

From the Red Cross

Thank you for helping to save lives with the American Red Cross. When you made the commitment to sponsor a blood drive, you helped save lives. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

Your blood drive registered 33 donors and collected 28 pints of blood. You and your team also registered 3 first time donors.

Thank you for your gifts of time and support. We truly appreciate your generosity. The patients who have benefited from the blood collected at your blood drive are beyond grateful.

Letter Received by the BUMC

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift received on 12/18/2017 of \$884.00 to the General Board of Global Ministries through the Advance, the designated mission giving channel of the United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100 percent of your contribution will support the missionary community In honor of Disaster Response, United States Advance #901670. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

United Methodist missionaries serve in more than 60 countries around the world. With your gift and prayers, you have initiated a partnership with missionaries planting churches and developing congregations, providing health care in remote areas, and working in sustainable agriculture and community development. Your gift allows Global Ministries missionaries to be The United Methodist Church's embodiment of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work.

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 404-460-7489. Information on Advance projects and missionaries can be accessed online at www.umcmmission.org. We also invite you to sign up on our website to receive our electronic newsletter, ConnectNMission. This monthly publication will keep you informed about Global Ministries' work.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace – Roland Fernandes General Treasurer and Russell Pierce – Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising.

Musical Celebration

Are you ready to think spring? Mark your calendar now to join the Connecticut Choral Society for a musical celebration that is dedicated to the cause of world peace. *The French Connection* features works by Faure, Rutter and more in a program that remembers, honors, and celebrates the past and educates both young and old alike about the legacy surrounding the centenary of the Great War.

Concerts will be held Saturday, April 28th at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 29th at 3:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown, CT.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS 2018

The time is here to order your Easter Flowers for our altar. Please **circle** the flower and size you prefer and fill out your name and your remembrance as you wish it to appear in the Easter bulletin. Return the form and money to the church office. Orders cannot be processed unless the money is with the order and the form is **COMPLETELY** filled out. Please make checks payable to BUMC. **ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 16TH!** (FLOWERS ORDERED AFTER MARCH 17TH PAY HIGHER PRICE. ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN TILL MARCH 26TH)



Lilies	6"pot 5-6 \$ 10.50 (\$12.99)	8" pot \$26.50 (\$32.99)
Tulips	6" pot triple \$ 7.99 (\$9.99)	8"pot \$13.50 (\$16.99)
Hyacinths	6" pot \$ 7.99 (\$9.99)	8"pot \$ 14.50 (\$19.99)
Daffodils	4" (mini) \$4.99	6" pot \$7.99 (\$9.99) 8" pot \$ 14.50 (\$17.99)
Osteos	6" pot \$10.50 (\$12.99)	Rieger Begonia 6"pot \$9.75 (\$11.99)
Hydrangeas	6" pot \$15.99 (\$19.99)	Asiatic Lily 6"pot \$10.50 (\$12.99)
Mona Lisa Lily	6" pot \$11.50 (\$13.99)	8" pot \$19.50 (\$23.99)

Name of Person placing order.....

Given By.....

In Memory of/In Honor of.....

(circle one)