

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

Director of Music – Todd Gorski

Administrative Assistant – Cheryl DePoi



September 2016

A Message from our Pastor

Hello Saints,

It is hard to believe that summer is pretty much coming to a close and even harder to believe that I'm already beginning my third month here as Pastor at our wonderful church here in Bethel.

It has been a wonderful experience for my wife Maria and I to begin to really see how this church body works together on many levels. The leadership team in place here is dedicated and hardworking which is a pastor's dream! My wife and I have also enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of you at weekly services, meet and greets and of course fellowship time after service each week.

One of my goals as your pastor has been to enhance our fellowship coffee hour. I wanted to take a few moments and share with you why this has been a very high priority for me.

The dictionary defines fellowship as, "The condition of being together or of sharing similar interests or experiences." With a broad definition like this, some might think that fellowship is nothing more than hanging out or belonging to the same club. However, fellowship, in its truest form, is so much more than several people getting together in the same place for the same reason.

Fellowship is one of God's principle purposes for human beings. That is why we all feel the need for companionship, love, and belongingness. God created us to be social beings, this is why folks join clubs and organizations such as Rotary or the Lions. The shortfall there is that these types of fellowship are very temporary, once the meeting is over, everyone goes on their way and you have no contact until the next meeting.

This is not the fellowship that our souls are searching for. God created the perfect "organization" for fellowship, and that is the family. Now I also realize that none of us have perfect families and many have no families at all. But the family unit was intended by God to provide us with daily fellowship so that we can learn to develop deep loving relationships and discover what it means to sacrifice for others.

And this is where the time of fellowship can really shine. When we have a place to connect at a much deeper level with folks who are "like minded" in the things of God, amazing friendships can be formed. Sitting around a warm cup of coffee and breaking bread together forges deeper relationships and adds a whole new meaning to the term "church family".

Our Nurture Committee is spearheading this effort under the tremendous leadership of Jackie Penyak. Each week we will have coffee, cold beverages and various snacks to enjoy. There are always opportunities to bake or provide something so please see Jackie if you would like to assist.

I encourage you to plan on joining your brothers and sisters in Christ after service. I'm confident that you will sense the positive energy in the room and of course feel the love and companionship that we all seek in this life.

I'll close with the quote from the Chinese philosopher Mencius I thought was appropriate: "Friends are the siblings God never gave us."

In Christ, Pastor John

New Website

We have a new website! Log on at www.bethelmethodist.net and discover our church calendar, download and listen to our weekly sermons, as for prayer requests and so much more!

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 9:30am September 4th**Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Julien Schaad, Bill Struth**Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Diane Meldon, Pat Deuschle**Counters:** Linda Bruce and Betty Lepus**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 September 11th****8:30am Reader & Communion Steward:** Peter Eckert**10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Tom Wolff, Chris Barnabo**10:00am Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** James Wolff, Tracy Brown**Counters:** Craig and Kathy Keith**Greeters:** Deb and Dave Albin**Ushers:** Team B: Alan Brown, Linda Bruce, Tammy Esposito**Sunday Morning Ministries for 10:00am September 18th****10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Family Worship**10:00am Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Family Worship**Counters:** Bill Struth & Claudia Schaefer**Greeters:****Ushers:** Team F: Family Worship plus Alan Brown and Tammy Esposito**Sunday Morning Ministries for 8:30am & 10:00am September 25th****8:30am Reader & Communion Steward:** Paul Young**10:00am Readers & Communion Stewards (set-up and serve):** Jessica Bardelli, Sarah DeShan**10:00am Communion Stewards (serve and clean-up):** Uta Robertson, Julien Schaad**Counters:** Tracy Brown and Krista Mayer**Greeters:** Marty Bishop**Ushers:** Team D: Tracy Brown, Fran Bartholomew, Paul McHugh, Lee Griswold**The People's Corner**

Keeping up with the news of our congregation:

Please keep **Rev. Johnson in your prayers**. He is registered Caring Bridge.com. You visit the site, create a password and then read and send greetings.

Leadership

Have you ever thought of being in church leadership? This is a wonderful opportunity for your faith to grow and to serve your local church. In the coming months, the nominating committee will be meeting to fill positions for our church leadership. Will you consider becoming part of the team? See Pastor John for more details.

News from the United Methodist Women

* The Prayer Shawl group continues to meet at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month, even during the summer months. 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.

* The first UMW meeting of the Fall will again be at the Comida Pantry, sponsored by the Association of Religious Communities. We will be sorting beans this time, as the need is great. Save the date: Saturday, September 17, 2016, from 9 am until noon.

* UMW meetings are usually the 4th Monday of the month. Upcoming programs include, 'Wicked Women of the Bible' in October, and our memorial "Service of Light" in November. Please join us.

* We will be scheduling Paint Events, definitely, during the first quarter of 2017.

First Soup Sale scheduled for October 2nd!

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 **September 3rd**. For more information, go to www.offthestreetsnow.com or call 203-733-5880.

Financial Peace

Does "Financial Peace" sound like a contradiction to you? If it does, then you need Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.

Financial Peace University is a proven, biblically-based program that teaches you how to manage God's money God's way. Using entertaining video lessons and powerful small group accountability, FPU empowers you to make better decisions about money, eliminate debt, build wealth, and it will enable you to give like never before.

This program will give you the tools to bring your finances under control and bring you true financial peace. It will meet here at BUMC starting on Wednesday, September 21 and it ends November 16 – a week before Thanksgiving. The course consists of 9 weekly sessions of about 1 ½ hours each, from 7:30 to 9 PM. Class materials cost \$93 per family.

The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days!

This is a small group study, so there are a limited number of slots available. If you're interested in learning more about FPU or want to sign up, please e-mail Dave Morey at damorey@comcast.net by Tuesday, September 6, so class materials can be ordered for you.

Fall Sunday School

All Teachers, assistants, subs and anyone interested in working with the Sunday School in any capacity, please put 7 pm on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 on your calendar. This is a Start Up Teacher's Meeting with Pastor John. Pizza is being served. Please do your very best to be there!! RSVP

Please contact Ann McLellan (203-744-2421 or ann_mc_ellan@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in being a part of the teaching team.

Dates to remember:

September 07, 2016 - Start up Teacher's meeting

September 11, 2106 – Teacher Dedication and Sunday Registration Day, 10:00am service

September 18, 2016 - Worship in the Park

September 25, 2016 - Full classes begin at 10:00am service

October 16, 2016 - 3rd grade Bibles are presented at the 10:00am service

December 11, 2016 - Rehearsal after church for Christmas Pageant

December 18, 2016 - Christmas Pageant at 10:00am service

January 22nd through February 26, 2017 Heifer Project

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 **September 10th**. 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

September 10, 2016 October 08, 2016 November 12, 2016

December 10, 2016 January 14, 2017

February 11, 2017 March 11, 2017 April 9, 2015

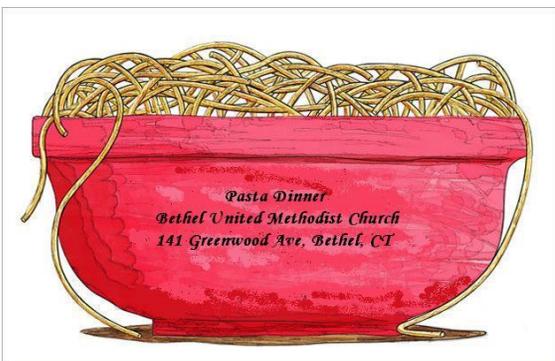
May 14, 2015 June 11, 2015

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



One of our favorite events of the church year is close upon us.... **Worship and Picnic at Bennett Park. 14 Shelter Rock Rd, Bethel. Sunday, Sept 18th, 10 a.m. to 12:30. Service at 10, picnic at 11. There will be no 8:30 service on this day.**

There will be a kids program during Service and games for the kids. If you plan to join us for the potluck, plan on bringing a beverage and dish to pass.

If your last name begins with **A-L** please bring a salad or side dish. If your last name begins with **M-Z** please bring an appetizer or dessert. Hamburgers, hot dogs

will be provided. by the Nurture Committee Everyone is welcome but please let us know in advance if you will be attending the picnic and what you're bringing so we can get a head count in advance and have enough food for all. Please drop slip in the offering on Sunday or e-mail me. Thanks Nurture Committee.

If anyone could help us out with preparing the grill and cooking, please let Jackie know!

Worship in the Park Sept 18th 10am to 12:30

Please drop this form in the offering plate or contact **Jackie Penyak** if you will be attending to give us a head count on how much food nurture needs to purchase at jackiepenyak@me.com

If you plan to join us for the potluck, plan on bringing a beverage and dish to pass. If your last name begins with A-L, bring an appetizer or dessert. If your last begin with M-Z, please bring a salad or side dish. Hope to see you there.

Yes we will attend _____.

We will bring _____.

No we will not be able to attend _____.

Ridgefield's Community Bible Study Evening Class

CBS is an international, interdenominational ministry. CBS classes meet in local host churches throughout the world, and Ridgefield Baptist Church (325 Danbury Road) has graciously welcomed the Ridgefield evening class to use its facility. Approximately sixty men and women attend the class on Monday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:00, September through April. Anyone interested in looking into the Bible in a friendly, caring atmosphere is invited to visit or become a member of the class. Beginners, as well as more experienced Bible students, are always welcome.

This year's 30- week course covers the book of Matthew and will explore the life of Jesus beginning with His miraculous birth and spanning His ministry years, death, and resurrection. The lessons will invite students to journey with those who encountered Jesus personally: the religious leaders of the day; the intimate group of twelve disciples; and the multitudes of seekers and followers, including the sick, the hurting, the misunderstood, and the needy. Jesus brings good news to a hurting world, a world like ours today, filled with people who have real questions, fears, and hopes. The study of Matthew will reveal how we can receive true forgiveness and enjoy everlasting life in God's kingdom, by believing in who Jesus is, and what he has said and done.

For more information about CBS go to <http://RidgefieldEve.cbsclass.org> or call (203) 431-9491. **If anyone has any questions about this Bible Study opportunity, please also feel free to call Peter Eckert of BUMC who has been involved with CBS for 15 years.**

Save the date

47th Annual holiday bazaar
November 18 & 19

Backpack Ministry and Covenant to Care Victories

With your generous and phenomenal help we met the needs of 12 Bethel students and helped 2 Covenant to Care families who were experiencing severe distress in their lives. We worked together and gathered all the items on those lengthy grade level supply lists. We gave gift cards so that the Bethel students could purchase a fresh, new outfit for the first day of school. You dug deep and produced \$467 to buy the the same backpacks, supplies, and gift cards for the Covenant kids. Each of the 4 students needed \$100- \$125 to pay for their supplies and clothing. You gave the PERFECT AMOUNT! [I hope you get goose bumps when you read this because I do every time I think about it!] Thank you for caring and sharing your hearts!

With gratitude, Carol Morey and the Nurture Committee

Perennials

Forms to order perennials are located on the table in the narthex.

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

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

Update on the Wood Ministry

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. – 1 Peter 5:1-4(NIV)



Our firewood ministry needs your help. It has grown to the point that a hand full of people can't keep up with anymore. We are looking for some folks that are interested in looking after this ministry.

You would only have to spend a couple of hours one day during one month out of the year. Your duties would include – keeping the firewood area clean and organized, and also cutting, splitting, and stacking any wood that has been dropped off. This will be much easier for us to handle if it's done on a monthly rotation.

This ministry has been not only a wonderful service to our church community, but to also to our whole Bethel community as well. This ministry is God breathed and we should be honored and blessed that the Lord chose us to provide it. *The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.* – Proverbs 11:25(NLT)

In the past eight years this ministry has helped many people. But now it's at the point where it has become to large and overwhelming and we either have to come together and make it better and workable or end it. And I don't want to see it end.

Ideally it would be great to have a firewood committee that's has a chair and consists of 12 teams of three or more people.

If you are interested in helping with firewood ministry and being in the rotation please contact John Esposito at jtespos@att.net – Thank you!

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40(NIV)