



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

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January 2021

Website: bethelbeloit.org

From the Pastor

The New Year, 2021 is here. This is the year we have been looking forward to since March of 2020. We have been looking forward with great expectation to this new year and a return to the life we have been missing. So many things have been postponed and eventually canceled in the past year and it is time to make plans to return to something more normal.

As I look forward, I would like to say that we are going to be able to do things on specific dates in the future. Our limited gatherings have been great during the last year but there has been so much lacking in those gatherings. Easter Sunday is April 2, 2021, and I think we will be able to be in the sanctuary by then, but it will be different. We should be able to safely gather with masks, minus the singing, and without doing many of the things that we normally do on Easter Sunday morning, but we will be together.

October 3, 2021 is World Communion Sunday, my prayer is that this will be a Sunday we can celebrate in a new and familiar way.

I am thankful to the Church Council for their leadership during this difficult year.

The approved remodeling projects are being completed while we are apart; the stained-glass windows have been updated, lights have been changed to LED's, the air-conditioning project is underway, and updates are being made to the sound

Continued on page 2

room to increase the size to accommodate the camera and computer needed for Facebook live worship services.

My office and hallway are much brighter, and we will all see much better in the rest of the church. Thank you to Brian, Lee, and Wayne for the work alongside the contractors that are making changes. We have had some other changes in the past couple of months; Patty Crooks volunteered to run our sound and visual equipment and she could use some volunteers to assist with this in the future as we work to add more audio and visual to our worship service. We also have Chris Kaake volunteering to run the Facebook Livestream, and this is another area where we can use some more volunteers to work with her. The basics of running of these systems is rather simple, but it will take some extra time and commitment to learn the basic functions. If you would like to volunteer, please let Patty or Chris know.

I am working with Deb Cappa to get the Beacon published on the 15th of every month. Please help us to collect information for the Beacon in a timely manner, we should have all of your articles and information in by the 7th of each month to make our deadline. This is your newsletter and it need to have your news in it!

Shannon and I would like to thank the people of Bethel for their love and support over the Christmas season and during the past year, we are looking forward to many more years with you as we minister together in the future.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



Updates from the Executive Council

Greetings from your Executive Council bringing you a few updates to keep you up to speed on things happening at the church.

First we are happy to inform you that we are going to open the church on Sunday February 7th for indoor worship again for the first time since late last year. We will be following the same Covid restrictions and guidelines as we did previously including the wearing of masks, seating restrictions, social distancing and sanitation. We ask that you follow these guidelines so that we can reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible and enjoy seeing each other and worshipping together again.

Also immediately after the service we will have our annual congregational meeting to review the events of 2020 via the reports of our ministries and leaders of the church. Printed copies of the annual reports will be available via Email and at the church so that you can review them before the meeting. This will help to shorten the meeting and eliminate reviewing them at the meeting itself.

At the annual meeting, the Property & Grounds team will present an explanation of the remodeling of the sound room and will be asking the congregation to approve the spending up to \$16,000 to cover the project. Our intention is that after this pandemic is under control that we continue to live stream broadcast our services on Facebook as well as over our FM station 90.7. In order to do this, we need to update and expand the sound room to accommodate the video equipment and open up the viewing area in the room as well. We will take a vote from among the attendees at the meeting and will also be accepting phone in votes for the approval at the church office on Monday 2/13 & Tuesday 2/14. The votes will then be tallied and reported back to everyone.

Please mark Sunday February 7th on your calendars and plan to come worship indoors again and attend the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Kornick – Council Vice President

November Financial

Monthly approved budget \$17,271.95

Income:	(Offering)	\$ 10,416.76	annual income:	\$ 145,399.76
	(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		<u>\$ 55,000.00</u>
total:		\$ 15,416.76	total:	\$ 200,399.76
Expense:	(overhead)	\$ 17,430.33	annual expense:	\$ 1 86,412.40
	(benev.)	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>15,576.98</u>
total:		\$ 17,430.33	total:	\$ 201,989.38

CAMPP News

CAMPP continues to flourish despite the craziness of 2020 and the uncertainty of the NEW YEAR. We have had great fun and success with our ZOOOM CAMPP nights the last several months thanks to all the kids and CAMPP families making the effort to join in.

Our December ZOOOM CAMPP gathered 18 kids and 13 adults. Such a GREAT GROUP!!! Each person shared ways that we could prepare for Christmas during the season of Advent. We watched a short musical video of that First Christmas night when Baby Jesus was born. Kids and adults took part in a Christmas craft which ALL turned out BEAUTIFUL. We even had our final five kids do their “talents” that were unable to participate in November. Such TALENT we have!!! And not a shy one in the bunch!!! FUN!!!

Awards were given out “virtually” to Addison and Devon Finch who both earned their \$10.00 gift cards. They both chose Dunkin Donut. Fun choice!! Several more children are VERY CLOSE to their next awards!! Stay tuned for more announcements on that over the next few months. SO EXCITING!!!

Our next ZOOOM CAMPP will be held on Wednesday, **January 20th**, at 6:00 p.m. We will talk about how well we think we follow God’s guidance. Do we always follow HIM the best we can? We will also do some fun activities to demonstrate how hard it can sometimes be to follow the right path.

ZOOOM CAMPP has no limits for numbers or miles so if any of you have friends or family that would like to join us please let me know so the link can be shared with them. It is a safe way to still gather together to learn about God, to have a fun time with friends and family and to simply enjoy that Christian Fellowship that is so important in all our lives.....especially at this time. See you all at CAMPP. Luanne



Happy Birthday

Travis Lane	1/01
Brad Korosy	1/12
Sarah Liebhart	1/13
Joe McKibben	1/22
Robert Wallace	1/22
Marcia Smith	1/27
Robert Brogan	1/28
Mary Korosy	1/29
David Yaggi	1/30
Katherine Harlan	1/31



Prayers for our congregation and our world.

Harlan & Betty Kestner, Ron & Nancy Sanor, Don & Betty Schumaker, Doris Stryffeler, June Wallace, Lorie Wallace, Cricket Yaggi and Evelyn Yaggi. Prayers for safe travel for our snow birds.

We would like to send out prayers to our neighbors on Knox school road who's lost their mother when their home was hit by a car and also to Aberegg's who had a house fire.

The Pantry served 57 households for a total of 138 people in December. In January the pantry will be open on the 13th and 27th then again on February 10th.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February. 7th if all goes well and we are back in the sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday is scheduled for February 17th

Council Members please have your yearly reports for your specific areas in by January 20th.

February 7th we will be accepting four new members

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**Bethel United Church of Christ
25701 Buck Road
Beloit OH 44609**

Mid-January 2021

News Letter