



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

E-mail bethelchurchbeloit@gmail.com

August 2020

Website: bethelbeloit.org

From the Pastor

Five months! We are entering the fifth month of an all-consuming pandemic. We enter into this with the blessing and curse of social media. The blessing is that we are able to stay in touch through Facebook Live on Sunday and throughout the week. The curse comes in when it is used as a platform for unfiltered thoughts, ideas, and anger. I pray that we can use this tool as a blessing and stay away from the stress, fear and uncertainty.

In the middle of March, we shut things down and thought that in a few weeks maybe a month we would be back to normal. Now, five months later, we are still unsure of what to do, where to go, and how to get there. The church leadership has been hard at work behind the scenes, praying, researching, and planning for the return to in-person worship and this is what we have come up with.

On September 6, we are tentatively going to open up the sanctuary for limited worship. The council is working on getting things disinfected and putting in place the protocols that were in the Beacon a few months ago. They have also drafted a waiver for all of us to sign before entering the church. All of this is in place so that we can use the church building with limited risk to you.

Once you have signed the waiver, we will also ask everyone some questions and take your temperature. If you have a temperature over 100.4F you will be prayed for and sent home to recuperate. As further precaution against spreading harmful germs, we will all wear facemasks anytime we are anywhere in the building. Opening the sanctuary for worship will allow those who have not been able to connect over social media to worship with us. With this said, all of this depends on how the virus is spreading through our area in late August, state and local mandates, and our ability to keep you safe.

Back in April I spoke often about the pandemic in correlation to a sprained ankle. Over the past few weeks I have been reading a book by Gil Rendle, "*Quietly Courageous*". The author looks at the church in a changing world and one of the ideas presented speaks to the struggles we face and facing them with different leadership styles. In linear leadership we find a problem and we fix it, problem solved. However, non-linear leadership is needed when the thing we are trying to address is a chronic condition that we have to live with, not a temporary problem. He uses the example of a broken leg and compares that to Multiple Sclerosis. You put a cast on a broken leg and in 6-8 weeks the problem is fixed. With MS there is treatment and no cure. The person with an MS diagnosis has to make adjustments to their lifestyle and learn how to live with the condition.

We cannot fix the pandemic; we have to learn how to live with it. We know that washing your hands, wearing a mask, and keeping your distance will help to slow it down. The church counsel has been working in a non-linear way to live with this virus; we have been online and keeping in contact with everyone, we have been getting food to the people we serve through our food pantry and we have been reaching out to the children of the church. I am thankful for all of the help of the church council and staff as we work to lead in a new way a very changing church and world.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor

Silent Women and Black Lives Matter

On Sunday July 26th in the call to worship and confession of sin, women were silent throughout. This was an attempt to show how life was in the day when Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel; these women had no voice in their future. When you read the story, it is Jacob and Laban who make all the decisions. There were some who felt like they had no choice during this exercise of silence, and it was very uncomfortable. What we can learn from that experience?

A few months ago, George Floyd was killed during an altercation over a counterfeit \$20.00 bill and a cultural movement began. The “Black Lives Matter” movement formed in 2013 to give a voice to people who felt like they had no voice in our society. They wanted to call attention to police violence toward black people and to advocate for policy changes related to minorities.

There is a direct connection to the voiceless women in Genesis and the minorities among us today that feel they are not being heard. When people are not able to speak or are not heard, they feel that their lives are meaningless. Everyone should have the ability to speak and be heard, we have the ability to listen. Much like the pandemic, this social movement will be with us for a very long time, it might even cause our normal to be very different in the years ahead of us.



Dr. Taylor Baum Pharm-D

Taylor graduated from Northeast Ohio Medical University.

She was Valedictorian of her class. She is now doing her residency at University Hospital at the Geauga Medical center. Taylor is the Daughter of Kim and David Baum and the granddaughter of Patsy Harlan and the late Wayne Harlan



Brandon Baum graduated from Y.S.U. with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He Graduated Summa Cum Laude in the top 5 of his class. He has accepted a position with Muller Electric in Akron. He is the Son of Kim and David Baum and the grandson of Patsy Harlan and the late Wayne Harlan

CAMPP NEWS



CAMPP continues to be on break for the summer months as usual. But rest assured that plans are coming together for some fun and “different” CAMPP nights this fall and winter.

Our CAMPP families will be doing some **FUN ZOOOOOOOM CAMPP NIGHTS** which I am sure will prove to be *QUITE* interesting and eventful with *LOTS* of kiddos. Wouldn't you like to be a fly on the wall?? We will have bible stories, games and even a **SPECIAL SURPRISE** that I am working on.

Other “fun times” in the planning stages include actually “getting together” in the fellowship hall for **CAMPP FAMILY CRAFT NIGHTS!!** Each family will have their own table with art supplies. And.... snacks will be brought right to the tables allowing families to stay in their own area during these times of distancing.

Watch for more info in the September Beacon, but we may start CAMPP in October rather than September this year. I may be wrong, but I am anticipating that the beginning of this school year could be a little “different” as school districts are still facing a lot of unknowns and uncertainties. I want to give kids (and parents) a chance to get settled into their new routines before adding even more change through CAMPP. Hope to know more by next month.

And **KIDS!!!!** Don't forget!!! You can still earn points if you have any papers from April or May; or projects from your goodie bags that you haven't sent pictures of yet. Get those pics to me!!!! **EARN THOSE POINTS!!!!**

Enjoy the rest of your summer. It is going fast!! Watch for more CAMPP NEWS next months and can't wait to see you all again soon.

Luanne Sanor/ CAMPP Director

June Financial Report

<u>Monthly approved budget</u>	<u>Monthly approved budget</u>	<u>Monthly approved budget</u>
<u>\$17,271.95</u>	<u>\$17,271.95</u>	<u>\$17,271.95</u>

Income:	(Offering)	\$	annual	annual income:	\$	77,565.64
	(G.E.M.)	\$			\$	<u>30,000.00</u>
total:		\$	total:		\$	107,565.64
Expense:			annual expense:			\$110,694.65
					\$	<u>11,161.57</u>
total:			total:			\$121,856.22
New sound and computer systems project donations:			\$	200.00		

CHOIR, BELLS, CANTATA AND COVID 19 ?????

August is normally the time of year I am busy working to put the fall / winter choir and bell schedules together. It is also a time of finalizing cantata plans so that we are ready to hit the ground running in September and October. Well, as we all know...this is not a “normal” year. Not by a long shot. So what **WILL** our choir and bell choir look like as we move closer to September?

Pastor Allen and I have talked in great depth regarding this subject. We have both done extensive research into the studies and recommendations of singing and choirs. The heartbreaking truth of the matter is that it just doesn’t look good at this time for indoor singing. Every bit of information we have looked at states without question that it is neither safe nor responsible to bring groups together in smaller enclosed areas (such as our church building) to sing. Of course outside singing can be much safer as long as distancing is observed and while the weather holds out. The act of exerting ones voice for singing is equivalent to coughing without covering your mouth. So if done in an enclosed area and just ONE person in the group was “asymptotically positive” with COVID 19 while singing they could unknowingly put all those around them at risk.

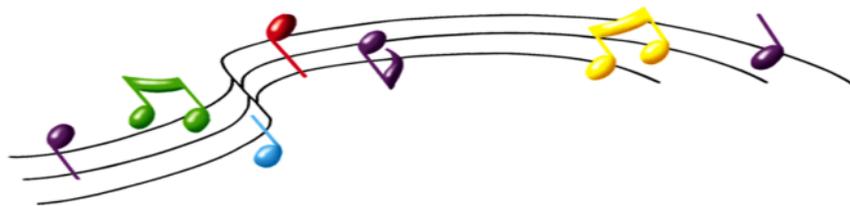
And if even one other person in the group contracted the virus from that person and was not lucky enough to be asymptomatic and possibly ended up very ill or worse....how could I....how could weever live with that? No life is worth the risk. And we have many folks already at high risk.

So what is the plan?? The choir (and anyone who loves to sing) will meet in the church **parking lot** for practice on **Wed., Sept. 2 and 9 at 7:00** depending on weather. We will review a few of our fun songs that will come together quickly and easily. Due to the online broadcasting issues on Sunday mornings (a work in progress) and the **service recordings currently being moved back indoors** we are looking into recording the choir songs “outside” during practices. That way they can be played at later times for the services.

And as for the rest of the fall and winter.....I am so sad to say that our Bethel music ministry will be taking a brief hiatus during that time. The bell choir is included due to the close proximity necessary to practice and play that music. This is very hard for me as I know it is for many of you, but the lives of our church family are very precious and I cannot / will not be selfish or reckless by taking unnecessary risks with any of our lives.

Pastor Allen and I will be re-assessing this situation after the first of the year and into the spring. **AS SOON AS SAFELY AND HUMANLY POSSIBLE** we will get our **AWE-SOME** music ministry back up and running!! (Or should I say “singing”!) In the meantime.....Keep music in your hearts and see you all at church. God Bless!!!!

In Christian Love,
Luanne





Sabbath

- From Nayiri Karjian, General Minister, Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, UCC July 30, 2020

I've been thinking a lot about Sabbath because our current world of COVID is reminding me of its importance. COVID has changed the rhythm and flow of my days. I suspect it has changed yours as well. The concept of Sabbath first appears in Genesis 2, the second story of creation, when God rests on the seventh day after "finishing" the creation of "heavens and the earth." We hear about Sabbath also in Exodus 16, when God gives the Hebrews bread and meat in the wilderness, food from heaven, and on the sixth day twice as much, so on the Sabbath they will take a break from collecting and cooking the food. Rest and freedom from work are at the core of Sabbath. Delving deeper into history we discover that Sabbath originally was not associated with a day of the week, but with the monthly celebration of the new moon. The festival was about a change of pace, withdrawal and rest. Eventually adapted by the Hebrews it turned into a weekly observance as well as a sign of their identity. The verb Sabbath in Hebrew means to rest. Two things need to happen on the Sabbath: 1. People must rest from work because God did. So rest is holy work. 2. Locals and aliens, women and men, servants and bosses, humans and animals as well as the earth need to take a break.

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Accordingly, Sabbath is not only about personal rest, but also about social and environmental rest, hence about social and eco-justice. This need for a break, for rest, for a change of pace, rhythm and flow as well as a day to think of something else besides the “troubles of the day” is real for us humans, and for all creation. How else would we remember the sacredness of time, the holiness of our days and the One who gifts us with them? During this time of COVID I find myself needing to make Sabbath happen.

Working from home, attending a string of zoom meetings daily, hearing the news and feeling the restlessness it generates, grieving the state of the world, can be overwhelming. Committing to a time of rest and Sabbath becomes a spiritual practice not only as a time of just BEING, but also as a time for God and what is essential, meaningful and Holy. A day apart, or even an hour, 15 or 30 minutes set apart when one does not deal with work, obligations, emails, and taking a break to breathe and refocus can shift one’s attention from the “troubles of the day” to the One who gives meaning to our days. Especially during traumatic times our inner spirit needs special attention. A moment of Sabbath can tend to its nurture through a time of silence and prayer, through letting go and trusting, through acknowledging grace and expressing gratitude, through recognizing the sadness of the times, through stillness and openness of heart to the Spirit and toward the unknown. During these summer months, as I find myself needing Sabbath in the midst of an unordinary time, aware that Sabbath might be a luxury in an unjust world, I am mindful also of Sabbath for “the least” among us, the land, and the earth our home. I realize that Sabbath is holy rest and holy work. Sabbath is justice work for body and soul, for society and environment, for humanity and all creation.

Prayers For : Evelyn Yaggi for Health issues, MaryJo and Marvin Dye 's family, and the whole Dye family for their tragic loss of Doug Dye. We pray that the Lord keep us all out of harms way of all the sickness and harm in this world today and every day.

Pantry service days in August:

The next pantry service will be August 12th 4-5:30 P.M.

Then again on August 27th.

In anticipation of having our in-person service in September go to our website: bethelbeloit.org to see the protocol for inside services.

Communion will be served this Sunday (Aug.2)

**We are in this together,
Stay Safe**



330/525-7330

**THE CHURCH'S E-MAIL IS :
BETHELCHURCHBELOIT@GMAIL.COM**

David Scott 8/1

Darlene Lane 8/2

Marvin Dye 8/6

Ryan Foos 8/9

Ty Johnson 8/9

Amelia Mercer 8/12

Janice McLaughlin 8/18

Evelyn Yaggi 8/20

Devon Finch 8/24

Dennis Lane 8/24

Sherry Brunner 8/24

Andrew Finch 8/27

Natalie Yaggi 8/30

Pastor Allen Kahler
Minister

Deborah Cappa
Ministry Assistant

Anne McKarns
Treasurer

Wayne Fieldhouse
Building Maintenance

Luanne Sanor
Music Director
CAMPP Director

Peggy Christy
Pianist/Organist

Happy Anniversary

Brad & Mary Korosy
8/1/2014

Larry & Lori Wallace
8/18/1956

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

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