



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

E-mail bethelchurchbeloit@gmail.com

June 2020

Website: bethelbeloit.org

The protocols that we will be following at Bethel UCC as we move toward opening the church follows on page 2/3. We have been away from “Normal” worship for over 10 week, and we all miss the community of Bethel. I would love to open the doors and just go back to the way things were on March 8, 2020 but there is a virus, Covid-19, and it is very contagious and deadly to many. Our congregation is made up of mostly high-risk people, and I do not want to put anyone in a compromising situation. This virus is not going away and there is no vaccine for it at this time, so we will be taking precautions to protect you in this time. The church building will look different, and the worship service will be a bit different when we gather together.

As the church worships over the next year we will be discovering as we go. I see this as an opportunity to re-discover what it means to be the church in this time. In the past 10 weeks we have been able to reach out too many folks that we would not have been able to reach when we had our worship in the sanctuary with us sitting in our places in the pews. As we move forward our work is not just getting back to normal but moving to a New Normal not only for Bethel, but for all churches here and around the world.

We will be gathering at the ballpark on June 7th weather permitting. This will be a gathering of the church so we can see each other and spend a little time together in the same space. We will be broadcasting through Facebook as we have but we would love to see you all again. Please bring your lawn chair with you and we can gather 6 feet apart and enjoy the company of our Bethel family. We will have face masks if you need one, as well as hand sanitizer.

Suggested Protocol for In Person Gatherings during COVID 19

Guidelines Adopted by Bethel UCC Council Beloit, OH

Matthew 7:12 – “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.”

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- ☐ Enter the building through side doors only. All other entrances will be locked.
- ☐ Temperature checks when we enter the church with infrared thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home
- ☐ Hymnals and Bibles along with Cushions have been removed from pews, if you need a cushion for your backside please bring one from home
- ☐ For younger children, packets of coloring pages of Bible lessons will be available for them, and they can take them home, the nursery will be closed
- ☐ We will sit in pews with two pews separating us in the sanctuary. The balcony, and overflow room will be closed. We ask you to keep physical distance of 6 feet from anyone outside of your own household
- ☐ Observe one-way traffic into the Sanctuary. Enter the pews through center aisle. There will be no seating on the very back Pew
- ☐ At the end of the service exit one row at a time, leave via side aisles starting with the back pews
- ☐ The offering basket will be positioned at the entrance and will not be passed during worship
- ☐ Worship Bulletins will not be passed out, we will have everything on the screen
- ☐ No passing of the peace during worship
- ☐ If communion is served - elements are displayed on table and picked up by each person
- ☐ Choir is suspended during summer months. We are looking at how we will sing during the service
- ☐ Pews will be sanitizes following each gathering.
- ☐ We ask all to wear face masks. Masks will be available at the entryway if you need one. If you have a condition that prohibits you from wearing a face mask, please let us know
- ☐ The Caffe will be closed, coffee hour can be held in open space, such as parking lot using you own cup of coffee
- ☐ Anyone unwilling to comply to help keep everyone safe will receive a blessing and asked not to enter the building.

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DURING THE WEEK: ☐

- ☐ No large gatherings will be held in Fellowship Hall
 - ☐ Bible study will be online until further notice.
 - ☐ Small Groups – The conference room will be available for small groups to meet, please call Deb to schedule, other rooms are off limits.
 - ☐ Each room must be sanitized following each meeting
 - ☐ Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance
 - ☐ All restrooms will be cleaned after every event, and on Saturday before Worship
 - ☐ We will continue to live streaming worship
 - ☐ People who are sick and immune-compromised should stay home .
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Worship service on June 7th we will be at the Ruritan park worship online

Pantry will be serving on June 10th and 24th

We will be starting a new Bible Study a Kingdom Bible study. We will be looking at the Kingdom of God from Genesis through the New Testament. This will be an online study conducted on Zoom, we need your Email address so we can contact you and we will be starting on June 1 at 7:00PM. Some hints to make the Zoom a better experience: do not back light yourself, make sure the light is in front of you so we can see your face, and the sign-in process asks the you ALLOW your video and audio to be shared, please say yes, and if you need help please give me a call and we can get you set up. Looking forward to getting this started.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor

330.621.4281 Call or text

While I was walking down a nearby tractor trail, I enjoyed that the air was fresh, the sky blue and the birds were in abundance. Animals are more freely among us. These last few weeks have been trying at times. The quarantine has had additional benefits besides our health. I thought while I was walking it was like God was doing a Spring cleaning. Teaching us by example, that by changing our ways, that if we are good stewards the earth is a joyful place to be. He is showing us the way to care for His creation.

Take care,

Rich & Sam Rice



CAMPP News

CONGRATULATIONS to TWO of our CAMPP Kids...Nate Phillis and Addison Finch!!!! Nate and Addison are the WINNERS of our recent WORD CONTEST!! The older kids were given the phrase "Bethel United Church of Christ" with the winners being the ones to find the most words using only the letters in that phrase. They were also given the option to work together as a family "or" to do it on their own. Nate had fun doing it with his family and they came up with a whopping 236 words!!! Addison had the most words working on her own and filled the page with 30 words!!! They both did an AMAZING JOB and each received a \$5.00 gift card from Dunkin' Donut, 3 extra stickers, plus a fun surprise!!!! Great Job kids and thanks to all who took part!!!

Also.... we have 2 Super Kids that have earned their next award by doing FUN CAMPP papers/activities at home. Jocelyn Phillis has earned her "Notes From JESUS" book and Delaney Sell received her CAMPP Bag. YAY!!! CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!!!! Great Job!!!!

CAMPP Kids have been receiving a series of "CLUES" in the mail over the past few weeks leading them to find a REALLY BIG BAG FULL OF FUN !!!!! The EXCITEMENT mounts as they should FIND their bags very soon!!! YAY!!

A reminder to all of you as well to check out the church website..... now and over the summer.... at bethelbeloit.org....as more and more pictures of the kids will be posted. It is GREAT to see their smiling faces!! We sure miss being with them all!!!

WINNERS of the WORD CONTEST..... NATE AND ADDISON!!!!

Looking forward...with HOPE! As our country slowly starts to open back up...are WE ready? Of course we all have our own feelings on this depending on where we are in our own life and health situations. Some say it is too much, too soon while others feel it's not going fast enough. Still others go with the flow. My thoughts are that we each have to do what feels right for us ...what we are comfortable with.... and while still following CDC guidelines to keep us all safe.

I think the biggest thing is that no matter where we are in our thought process we need to remain hopeful. We need to hold on to the HOPE that life WILL ABSOLUTELY BE OK again and will, in many ways, probably be even better than before once this is all over.

The other day while driving I turned on a Christian radio station I enjoy listening to. The person speaking was telling a story. It was a message of HOPE and I would like to share it with you.

A young girl had asked her grandmother how she always stayed so hopeful when life had often brought sadness and discouraging times to her. The grandmother took the little girl by the hand into her bedroom and from underneath the bed she pulled out a shoe box. The grandmother shook the box and it rattled and clanged. She then removed the lid and as the young girl looked inside she was surprised to see it was nearly half full of little stones. Puzzled, the girl asked her grandmother why she kept a "box of rocks" under her bed.

The grandmother smiled warmly and said, "Every time something good or hopeful has happened in my life I have placed a stone in my Blessing Box. Whenever I start to feel discouraged or hopeless I pull the box out and shake it. The sound of the clanging stones helps me to remember how very BLESSED my life truly is."

Wouldn't it be fun if we each had our own BLESSING BOX...to shake it and be reminded of how God has blessed us and to help us stay HOPEFUL during difficult times. I, like most all of you, am so very blessed by my children and grandchildren. I am also blessed that they live near by and I see them often. I would have many, many stones in my box just from them.

One of my summer plans of HOPE and fun.....with my kids front and center.....involves re-vamping my flower beds to make them easier to care for. Lots of work for them...tons of enjoyment for me ...as we "look forward" together and we see things taking shape. Summer projects can be fun as you plan and anticipate. Having HOPE is a part of that. We need HOPE in our lives in order to go forward and God's love and promises provide us with that HOPE.

Another summer plan of HOPE is looking forward to slowly getting back to my church family. Again... it takes planning, anticipation and folks going forward at their own pace. Pastor Allen and the church council are doing a GREAT job in preparing for this and we THANK them all!! My church family would add MANY more stones to my BLESSING BOX!!

Submitted by Luanne Sanor

Members of Bethel Church:

For some time now the Property & Grounds team have been thinking about some projects that have long been necessary and needed at the church to improve our energy efficiency, update & repair long needed areas of the building and air condition parts of the church to make it more comfortable for our services and for the office staff.

Brian McKarns has taken the time to secure bids for these improvements and the P&G team has submitted and received the approval of the General Council to move forward with these projects. However, since the total project costs exceed the General Councils limits set forth in the bylaws, we need congregational approval to continue.

During this pandemic, while physical services at the church are not taking place, we need to find a new way to get this information out to you so that you can give us your approval to proceed with these projects. Right now since the church is empty it is an excellent time to get some of these projects completed before winter sets in.

The following is a list of the projects we are proposing and their costs. The funding for these projects will be paid from our GEMS funds. The following are those projects:

Windows: Replacing all the windows on the main level of the church. This includes the removal and replacement windows and for the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the cleaning and repair of those windows and the removal/cleaning of the plexiglass exterior coverings. Total cost: \$42990.00

Lighting: Upgrading of all lighting in the church from old incandescent bulbs to energy efficient LED bulbs. In some instances, a number of older fixtures will need to be replaced. This project will increase the churches energy efficiency along with improve the quality of lighting provided throughout the church building. Total cost: \$4953.00

A/C for the sanctuary: Installation of an independent air conditioning unit to cool the worship areas of the church. Ductwork would be installed in the ceiling which would cool the sanctuary, balcony and sound room areas. Total cost: \$6750.00

A/C for the offices/meeting rooms: Installation of Mini-Split Heat Pump units that would cool the Pastor/church office rooms and for the nursery/meeting rooms. Total cost: \$2200.00 x 2 = \$4400.00


Dehumidifier: Installation of a commercial grade dehumidifier in lower level of the church to take the moisture out of fellowship hall, kitchen and food pantry areas. This would also help keep those areas cooler and provide better air quality and environment for the fellowship hall when used for CAMPP. Total cost: 1750.00

There are a couple of bids that would need to be added for the exterior wiring for the AC projects. Total cost of all the projects would be \$60,843.00. The request of your vote would be the approval to spend up to \$100,000.00 to cover the project, additional electrical bids and any overages that might come up. The money for these projects will be paid out of the GEMS fund.

Since we do not have conditions to conduct a normal congregational meeting, the General Council is working on alternate plans for voting on these issues. As soon as we can work out a viable plan, we will let you know how the vote will take place. As stated before, we would like to get some of these project started as soon as possible to take advantage of the weather and church building being empty so keep looking for further communications very soon.

Blessings

Thank You

I would like to thank EVERYONE for the support and the MANY prayers that have been going up for my son in law Bill (STEW) Stewart and my daughter, Terri. God heard these prayers and we have had a true MIRACLE!! As of yesterday morning (Wednesday) there was little change. By noon he was AWAKE and by 4:00 he was off the ventilator and face timing with my daughter!!!
~~PRAISE GOD!!!!~~ Nothing major showing up yet as to why all of this happened, but doctors continue to search for answers. We are so very thankful for this HUGE BLESSING which is largely due to your many prayers. Thank you also for “ongoing” prayers as we look forward to getting him back home. - Luanne 

Beacon Financials for April 2020

Monthly approved budget \$17,271.95

Income:	(Offering)	\$ 18,920.52	annual income:	\$ 52,674.36
	(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
total:		\$ 23,920.52	total:	\$ 72,674.36
Expense:	(overhead)	\$ 14,994.01	annual expense:	\$72,944.50
	(benev.)	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ 7,546.57</u>
total:		\$ 14,994.01	total:	\$80,491.07

New sound and computer systems project donations: \$200.00

One Great Hour of Sharing donations to date: \$152.20
(note historically this is around \$500.00)

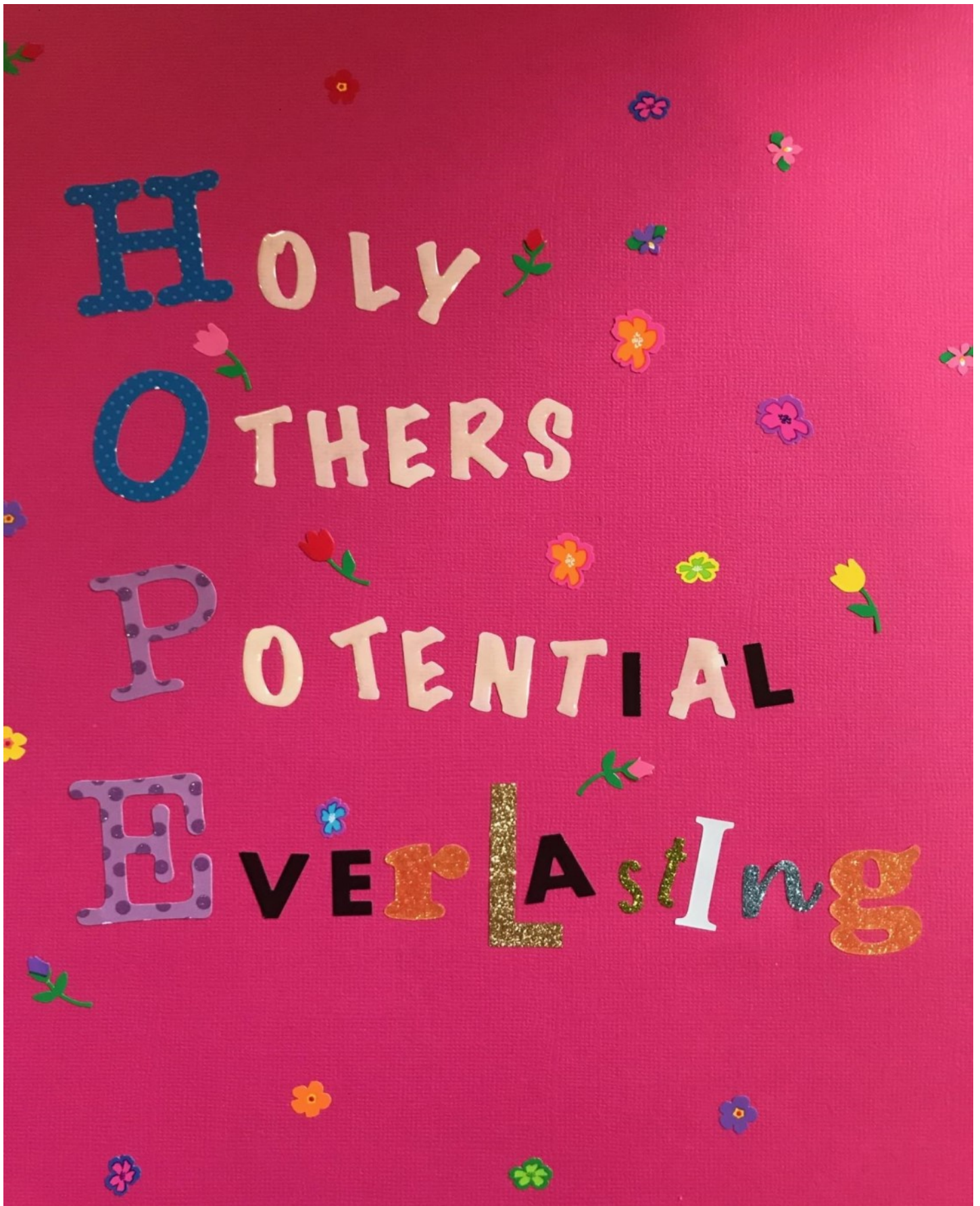


Congratulations to Shelby Caruso, class of 2020 at Central Valley High School in Pennsylvania. She'll be attending her freshman year at Community College of Beaver County for general studies. Shelby is the granddaughter of Lee and Dee Kornick.





If "you" miss your church family, call them, send them a card - text - or Email. And above all, pray for each other!



Sent by Dalaney and Emery



Deborah Scott 6/2

Kylie Dillon 6/2

John Robert Yaggi 6/3

Harlan Kestner 6/5

Phil Harlan 6/5

Austin Deckerd 6/8

Sandy Fieldhouse 6/11

Avon Mehaffey 6/12

Frank McBride 6/15

Joanne Meier 6/16

Jackie Sanor 6/21

Linda Buttermore 6/24

Dylan Garlock 6/26

Janette McKibben 6/26

Laura Scott 6/28

330/525-7330

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

Pastor Allen Kahler
Minister

Deborah Cappa
Ministry Assistant

Anne McKarns
Treasurer

Wayne Fieldhouse
Building Maintenance

Luanne Sanor
Music Director
CAMPP Director

Peggy Christie
Pianist/Organist

Happy Anniversary

Ken & Linda Harris

6/3/1989

Donald & Betty Schumaker

6/8/1958

Dennis & Darlene Lane

6/14/1975

Robert & June Wallace

6/19/1971

Thomas & Vicki Foos

6/24/2000

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Beloit OH 44609**



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