



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

E-mail bethelchurchbeloit@gmail.com

April

2021

Website: bethelbeloit.org

From the Pastor

Resurrection Sunday and Springtime are the time of year when we see new life all around us, the grass gets greener, the Spring flowers push through the hard, once frozen earth, and we get outside to enjoy God's creation. We have experienced a long, cold winter and are ready for a change. This year, the isolation, cold, snow and political unrest have us welcoming Spring with open arms and praying that we will be able to be somewhat normal again.

At this point, many of you have already been vaccinated for Covid-19. Shannon and I will be getting vaccinated at the end of April; because we had Covid-19 in February we had to wait 90 days before getting our shots. Your willingness to get vaccinated will certainly expedite our ability to get back to "normal" and we appreciate your willingness to serve others in this way.

Seeing over thirty people worshipping in the front yard of the parsonage on Sunday was wonderful and makes us even more aware of our longing to be together again.

Living Water Association, Ohio North East will be having the Spring Vitality Festival April 24, 2021 from 9AM-12PM online.

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If you go to <http://events.r2o.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehlusc8k5ff05f71&llr=k6ugxcl> ab you can register for this online event and watch it from the comfort of your computer or cell

phone. The Living Water Association O.N.E. (LWAONE) consists of 150 congregations, Bethel is one, each congregation has its unique personality and serves the communities they are a part of.

Throughout the past year the LWAONE has provided resources and support through the pandemic. On most Tuesday mornings I join with other pastor's and Association staff to share resources and we even collaborate on the worship services that you have viewed, most recently the Good Friday service grew out of those Tuesday meetings. Please plan on attending the Spring Vitality Festival April 24, from 9am-12PM. Belonging, Building, Becoming.

We are in the second year of the restructuring of Bethel's governance, it has been hard to launch this new way of being the church. The first ministry team has now met (see Pantry Ministry Team article) and I look forward to more ministry teams meeting to better direct the ministries of Bethel and open up communication for us all.

The month of May marks four years that I have been your pastor, Shannon and I thank you all for your welcome and hospitality especially over this past year. We look forward to many more years here with you all as we continue to listen to the "Still Speaking God" along the way. I pray that we all will continue to listen to God and each other as we minister and worship together.

Peace & Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor

March approved budget \$17,271.95

Income:	(Offering)	\$ 12,178.00	annual income:	\$ 35,760.20
	(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
total:		\$ 17,178.00	total:	\$ 50,760.20

Expense:	(overhead)	\$ 14,864.21	annual expense:	\$ 48,267.58
	(benev.)	<u>\$ 4,723.94</u>		<u>\$ 6,558.67</u>
total:		\$ 19,588.15	total:	\$ 54,826.25



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Ramsey 4/01

Mathew Deckerd 4/08

Dale Stryffeler 4/08

Julie Sell 4/19

Carol Barnett 4/20

Thomas Foos 4/22

Vincent Brunner 4/23

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**George & Deborah Cappa
04/03/1976**

**Paul & Bonnie Finch
04/20/1967**



CAMPP NEWS

Our Easter CAMPP went very well on March 24th. And.... despite the beautiful weather on that evening we still had 9 kids log on for our fun ZOOM Easter craft night. One family even joined us on zoom while sitting outside!! How fun!!

During the gathering we talked about Palm Sunday and the events happening during Holy Week leading up to and including Easter Sunday. The kids did a beautiful job with both of their crafts that helped to tell the story. They made AWE-SOME banners with palm branches, Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the donkey and "HOSANNA" across the top. For Easter they each made a BEAUTIFUL and COLORFUL sunrise with a CROSS in the middle and the words that read...."He is Risen!"

The next CAMPP night will be on April 21 at 6:00 **AT THE CHURCH!!!** Yay!!! The kids are so happy about being back in the church, but they are most excited because it will be our **very popular** and **super fun** GLOW IN THE DARK NIGHT!!!! Need I say more?????!!!!!!! Always perfect for: "JESUS IS THE LIGHT"!!!!

We will still be wearing masks and distancing with families at tables, but it will be so great to be BACK and to be with each other. Reservations must be made by each family so that tables can be prepared accordingly.

CAMPP will meet only once a month in both April and May. We are also planning our second annual Side Walk Chalk/Pizza Party EXTRAVAGANZA in June. LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!!! If you know any kids that would like to attend CAMPP functions just let me know!!! **All are welcome!!!!!!!**

Luanne Sanor/ CAMPP Director

Glow in the Dark
Jesus is the Light of the World



Looking Forward to Summer!!!

That's right!! We are indeed looking forward to SUMMER "MUSIC" again!!! Sure missed that "special" addition to our services last year.

Those taking part this year will have some different options to choose from that were not previously offered. Since our services continue to be streamed LIVE on facebook we realize not everyone may feel comfortable with that.

So.....For those who prefer NOT to do the LIVE stream your musical selection can be easily pre-recorded and played during the service on a designated date. So for any of you who have even the slightest touch of "stage fright"..... THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!!!!! And no longer can you use the phrase "I will be on vacation that week" as an excuse. Haha We would LOVE for YOU to share your God given talents with us to enhance our Sunday Worship Service.

The schedule is already in the making so let me know soon if YOU or someone you know would like be a part of this special lineup. Thanks everyone!!!

Luanne Sanor/Music Director

lusanor@roadrunner.com



The Pantry Ministry Team

On Wednesday April 7, 2021 the Pantry Ministry Team came together for the first time under the leadership of Elder, Allen Deckerd. The team members are Wayne Fieldhouse, Marcia Smith, Mary-Jo Dye, Sam Rice, Lee Kornick; Pastor Allen was also present at this meeting.

This Ministry Team will be working together to continue the ministry of our food pantry and look at ways to improve and expand our service to the community. One of the new developments is the use of FreshTrak, this is a data insights tool created by food banks for food banks and agency partners empowering food banks and pantries across the country to pinpoint opportunities to serve their communities better. We have recently added 2 computer tablets that will be used with this new system during distribution to make the registration and check-in process easier for everyone.

The team also wants to explore the use of students from West Branch High School to help with the setup and delivery of food to the folks we serve. The pantry offered flu shots a couple of years ago, the team would like to see if we can work with the Columbiana Health Department to once again offer flu shots. There is also some exploration of a building outside to serve and store pantry supplies in.

This team is working for you, if you have any questions please talk to any of the members of the team, and if you would like to help, they will welcome your assistance.

Approved by Elder Allen Deckerd

Great Hour of Sharing, Sunday April 25

“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, for the compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs.” Isaiah 49:10

We will celebrate “One Great Hour of Sharing” on Sunday April 25. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you support:

- Farmers participating in educational opportunities and working to establish food security
- Volunteers preparing for a year of Christ-like service
- Pastors, leaders, and members sharing in meaningful conversations and events
- Individuals encouraging people and rebuilding homes affected by disaster

Please generously donate to this cause. We have special collection boxes available inside the church door or mail a check with “One Great Hour” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!



Keeping in our prayers

Elvin & Carol Barnett, Dean Kahler, Harlen & Betty Kestner, June & Bob Wallace, Lorie Wallace, Evelyn Yaggi, and keep our whole congregation and our country in prayer.

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Beloit OH 44609**

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