

The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042
(920)894-3332

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

If your life is anything like mine, you blinked and June was just about over. As many of you know, high school graduation brings a range of emotions for parents. We couldn't be happier for Kenzie as she begins this new stage of life. However, she's the baby, and it's been just her, and her mom and I since she came home after the accident. Right now it's hard to imagine how that empty nest will feel. Not bad, just different.

Of course as I write this, there's no time for melancholy. We've got a graduation party coming up! There's food and drink to buy, decorations to purchase, garages to clean, and landscaping to spruce up. It's strange how large gatherings like these, prompt you to take on large unwieldy projects that you're not quite sure you're going to finish by the deadline. Will it all get done??

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" – Matthew 6:25-27

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JULY 2023

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AUGUST SPIRIT DEADLINE:

WED. JULY 19th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings continued:

In Matthew, Jesus reminds us that anxiety gets us nothing. He encourages us to pause, take a step back, and recognize that God will take care of us and provide for us, just as the birds are able to find food. Now I recognize that this doesn't mean that God will do my party grocery shopping for me, but it reminds me that in the big scheme of things, if the "to-do list" doesn't quite get completed, well, it doesn't really matter. In other words, I may not get ALL the leaves and weeds out of my flower beds, but that's okay.

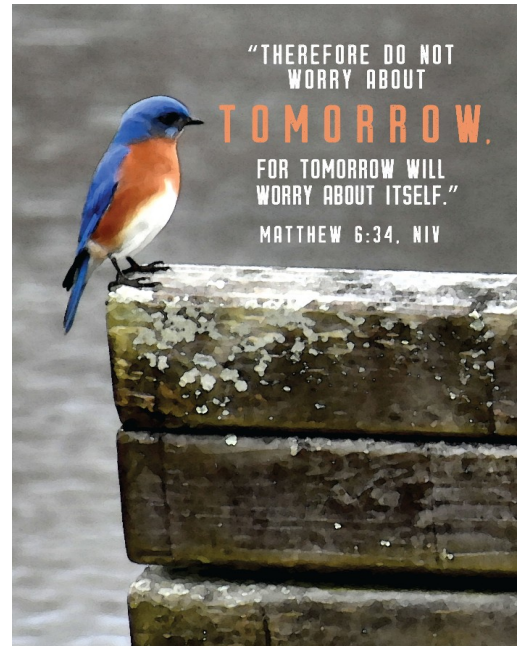
Matthew 6:34 Jesus says, *"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* Jesus encourages us to take things one step at a time, one day at a time. We can worry about tomorrow, tomorrow! This is true whether we're preparing for a graduation party or dealing with a long-term illness. One day at a time.

I hope these busy months don't leave you too anxious. We have a tendency to try and cram so much into our short summers. Pause, take a breath, and focus on today, *for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.*

May God's Peace be with you!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy



From Sea to Shining Sea



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

You can also follow Bethlehem UCC
on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>
or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leader:

Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com



- Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings. Our service begins at 9:30am.
- Tune your car radio to 101.3FM to listen to the service in the church parking lot at 9:30am.
- View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am <http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>
- OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website at a time that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org



Pastoral Care: If you have any pastoral/spiritual care needs please contact Pastor Randy.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steve Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

If you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope to:

Bethlehem UCC
c/o Ruthie Rumpff
11608 Lax Chapel Road,
Kiel, WI 53042



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for details.

Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website

www.bethlehemkiel.org



Click on the Donate button to make a secure online contribution today!

Donate

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The On-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. (The church is charged a 2.89% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add that to your donation.)

Thank you for all your support!

Lectionary Readings for JULY:

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 2, 2023	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 9, 2023	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2023	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 6-13-2023

Present: Randy Koppenhaver, Steven Volland, Kathy Bowe, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe, Ross Westphalen

Call to order: 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – Fulfilling our Calling from “Every Day with the Savior” based on Luke 5:4

Monthly Reports



- **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$6,715.00 (\$1,031.00 below YTD collection)
\$33,917.00 (\$4,813.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Ross)

- **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in May to date are \$6,993.81 bringing the checkbook balance to \$53,007.63

The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Traci)

Building & Grounds checking and Savings – \$13,368.06.

- **Secretary – Kathy**

- Approved by Ross and 2nd by Traci

- **Building & Grounds Updates**

- Parsonage furnace – Replaced with Trane HVAC – complete – Thank you Steve Deignan for donating your time for this project.
- Checking leak in choir room ceiling – will need re-caulking – Westerbarth
- Looking into outside lighting issues – Steve Deignan
- Getting estimate for canister lights replacement – Rick Rabe

- **Pastoral Report**

- Pastor Randy

Worship -

5/14, 5/21

Field of Dreams 5/11

Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: July 16, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, Oct. 15

Confirmation/Youth

-Youth event on May 21, 5-7pm at Bethel. No Bethlehem youth attended. Monthly events will be suspended over the summer and participation in youth volleyball encouraged.

Mission

- Loads of Love on 6/5 - \$20 - one client - Thanks Scott Umland for covering
- Ongoing work on the WISE initiative (Committee: Traci Rabe, Sarah Mueller, Scott Umland, Jane Umland, Nancy Zimmermann, Melissa Koppenhaver, myself) Book study concluded. Guest speaker from NAMI on June 18th.
- Undy 500 - I didn't get a chance to count the items, but it seemed to be successful. Thank you, Jane, for delivering to Milwaukee.
- Period Pack starting

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 4x
- Other electronic communication 0x
- Cards 1x
- Visits 4x
- Hospital visits 1x
- Did emergency on-call pastoral coverage for Rev. Herda June 11-14.

Wider Church/MID process

- COP (communities of practice) meeting on 5/25 was canceled. Next on 6/22
- UMAT meeting on 5/11 @ 2:30
- Placement and Transition - June 1 - Thank you Ruthie, for representing Bethlehem.
- WI Conf annual meeting in Green Lake, June 9-11

Work towards ordination:

- Submitted application for CPE placement
- enrolled in course on UCC history and polity
- Wrote Learning Covenant

Communication and Other

- Weekly Blurbs and monthly newsletter articles
- New member Sunday: Nancy Zimmerman and Sharon Rumpff joined. We will need to schedule another new member day for the two who couldn't attend.
- I was unable to attend the ecumenical meeting on June 1, as I had to pick up my daughters in Milwaukee.
- missionaries on July 16
- Participated in Supportive Ministries: Nurturing the Soul conversation on 6/7
- I met the tech from James Imaging on June 2 so he could service the machine.
- Meeting for the Mueller/Schisel wedding June 12. The wedding is on Sept. 16.
- Garage sale: I have fielded two non-member inquiries about whether we are having our rummage sale. Need to place an announcement on our website.

Member Outreach – 1 get well, 1 sympathy, 4 comfort



OLD BUSINESS

- **Pulpit Supply**
 - July 16th Clements family & Consistory
 - July 23rd - TBA
 - Aug 23rd - TBA
- **Request to change evening services to 6:30 PM**
 - Since there are no guidelines/rules in our constitution. Consistory has approved the time change on a trial basis. A motion was made and seconded “All **Bethlehem** evening services will be changed from 7:00 to 6:30 PM.” (this does not include community joint services)
- **New Member Class**
 - An additional class will be offered in fall
- **Period Pack Project**
 - Collection began June and will run thru August
- Road sign to be up-dated to include Pastor Randy’s name as settled pastor - Steven
- Band Concert Concessions – 8/9/23 Signed up to sell food & drinks in Kiel on 8/9/23. Menu – hot dogs, chips, drinks and baked goods. Watch for sign-up sheets to provide baked goods and/or sell in the park
- Received a letter from the Clements Family who will be doing a mission project for 1 year. Family will be speaking at our church on July 16th. Special collection basket will be available. Possible fellowship time to follow.
- Summer Outdoor Service/Picnic
 - Plans are being made for an outdoor service on 8/6/23 with a picnic to follow.
- Discussed adding the garage sale dates on the website – Randy will handle.
- Sound System – Waiting for a part for the camera. Brian & Tom will continue the install after the part arrives.



NEW BUSINESS

- Inquiry to use our parking lot for a wedding performed at a venue a few miles away. Wedding party would supply a shuttle. Due to insurance issues we cannot accommodate at this time. Further discussion to allow in the future.
- This years’ volleyball tournament will be hosted by Bethlehem on Sunday 7/30/23. Help will be needed to make this a success.
- Discussion on re-instating greeters. Anyone interested in being a greeter? Contact a consistory member.

Motion to adjourn by Traci and 2nd by Ruthie

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Next meeting – July 11, 2023 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Submitted by Consistory Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Ladies:

The Bethlehem Ladies played Bingo at Field of Dreams on Saturday, June 24th.



No meeting in July.

Mark your calendar: Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night, Tuesday, September 19th. The Guest Speaker will be from Harbor House. **Harbor**

House Domestic Abuse Programs provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic abuse in Northeast **Wisconsin**. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Please invite your friends and family to attend. More details to follow.

On to wash communion glasses on July 2nd are Heidi and Barb

Polly Jeanty
Secretary

Reminders:

Just a reminder that the Ladies have a wonderful selection of greeting cards and napkins for sale. The display is located in the Fellowship Hall by the sound room. All cards are marked with a price. Take a look and if you find something you like, simply drop your money in the box found on the display.

+++++

One of the Bethlehem Ladies' mission projects is recycling greeting cards. You can help them out by saving all your old greeting cards throughout the year and placing them in one of the Ladies mailboxes at church or giving them to a Consistory member Sunday morning. The cards are given to Project Angel Hugs (children with cancer) and to four assisted living homes in Kiel and New Holstein. Thank you for your help!

Bethlehem Scrip:

Summer is for fun and family vacations, consider using scrip when going on vacations. We have gas cards available as well as gift cards for restaurants. If there is something special you need, please ask, I can probably order it. Stop at the scrip table and check it out!

Thank you to those of you who faithfully use the scrip program!

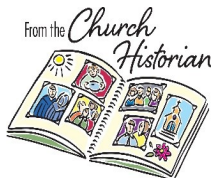
~Linda Rabe

Monthly Scrip Stats:

5/25/23	\$ 2,395.00	\$ 99.75
6/06/23	\$ 3,930.00	\$130.95
6/18/23	\$ 1,880.00	\$ 72.51



From Our Church Historian:



Did you know that Bethlehem UCC has a parsonage? The 118 year old house stands south of the current church in front the cemetery along Lax Chapel Road.

This house for the pastor was built in 1905 at a cost of \$850 for materials with the labor donated by members. Rev. Dahn was the first to occupy. It has been refurbished and remodeled many times; most notably adding running water in 1957.

Upon merger with Bethel in 1944, the pastors lived in the Bethel parsonage and our parsonage was occupied by custodians in exchange for their labor. In later years, pastors chose to live in the Bethlehem parsonage. Since the dissolution of the yoke with Bethel, pastors have chosen a housing allowance making the parsonage available to rent out to others.



Kaye Radder, Historian

Loads of Love: Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem's Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers. With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God's work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the "Laundry Detergent" container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.



Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity!

Bethlehem UCC August Rummage Sale



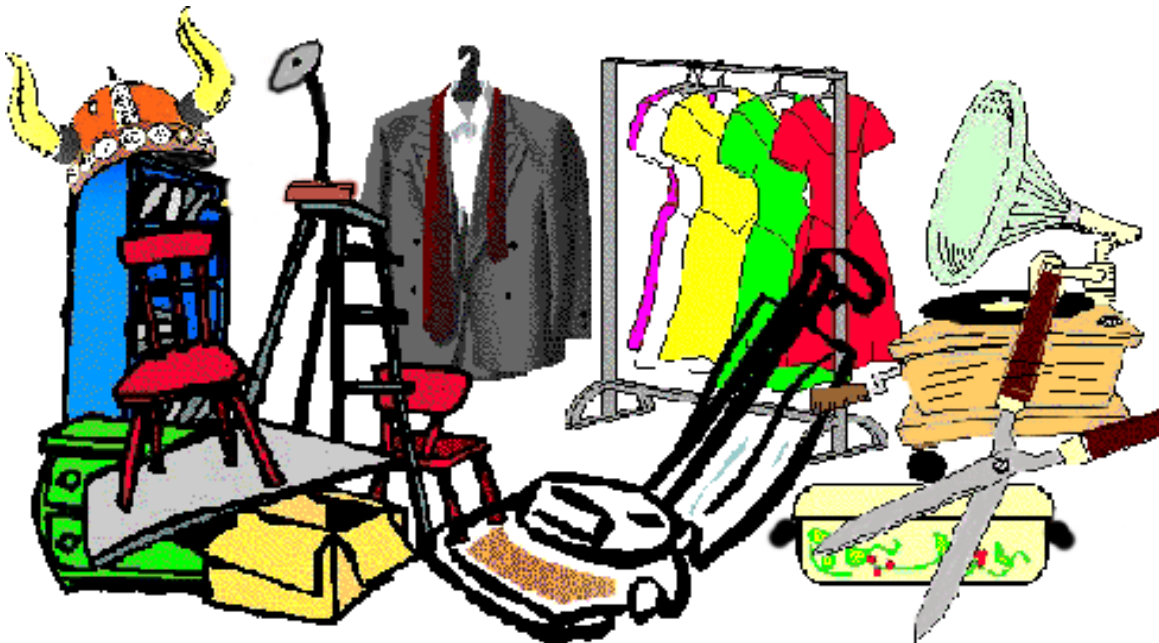
There are plans underway for a church rummage sale in August. If you have items that other households might find useful, please save them for the sale. If you don't have room to store until then, please contact Merry Christians members who can arrange storage.

Your Help will be needed. Keep these dates in mind; they may be subject to change. Sign up sheets will be available in the future.

- Thursday, August 10: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm pricing and set up
- Thursday, August 10: 3:00pm to 7 pm Sales Staff
- Friday, August 11: 8:00am to 5:00 pm Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 12, 8:00am to noon Sales Staff
- Friday, August 18: 8:00am to 5:00 pm Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 19: 8:00am to noon Sales Staff
- Saturday, August 19: 12:00 to 1:00pm Clean Up Crew

If you have items to donate, these can be dropped off in the new garage, next to the church starting Sunday, August 6. If you would like us to pick up your items, do not hesitate to contact members of the Merry Christians. We will be happy to make arrangements.

Please no TVs or other electronics.
These have not been selling and require a disposal fee.



WISE Update!!



This spring a group of Bethlehem members have been exploring the topic of mental health and are working towards a WISE designation. This designation would signify to others that Bethlehem is aware of the issues and needs surrounding mental health, and we openly accept and embrace those who struggle. WISE stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaging.

As a committee we read, Blessed are the Crazy by Rev. Sarah Lund. In the book she tells the story of living in family that has multiple members with significant mental health issues. Soon copies of the books will be available for others in the congregation to read.

On June 18, we had a member of the Manitowoc chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) meet with our group. Not only was Donna knowledgeable about the mental health concerns of our county, but she also gave great testimony of her own struggles with significant mental health issues.

The next step is for the committee to begin educating the congregation. We are in the beginning stages of planning what that's going to look like. The goal is to remove the stigmas associated with mental health issues. Following that, we will explore ways that Bethlehem may be able to be a blessing to those dealing with mental health concerns. We would create a covenant and the congregation would vote on it. A covenant that creates a WISE designation is not a "once and done" mission project. It's a long term commitment to serve those that struggle.

At the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in June, the delegation voted to make the Wisconsin Conference, a WISE conference. We are the 4th conference in the nation to do so. Churches across our state are also looking at ways to serve those with mental illnesses.

Please direct any questions to members of our committee. (Pastor Randy, Melissa Koppenhaver, Nancy Zimmermann, Sarah Mueller, Jane Umland, Scott Umland, Traci Rabe)

You will hear more from us soon!

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

We've had several Bethlehem high school students participating at State athletic competitions this Spring!

Zoe Watson - Track

Lily Watson - Track

Dylan Jeanty - Baseball

Harrison Zorn - Baseball

Kenzie Koppenhaver – Soccer

Kendra Muehlbauer - Soccer

Families who have lost loved ones:

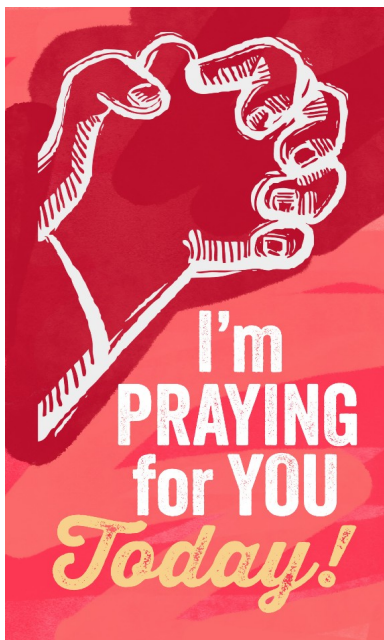
Robert Suttner

Rose Werdeo

Madison Kerber



Those struggling with health issues:



Heidi Konen

John Buchholz

Bob Radder

Daisy Sippel

Darlean Rumpff

Darlene Horneck

Doreen Schmidt

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Hattie Lucille

Jessica Horneck

Sandra Tesch

Dawson Horneck

Gary Steinhardt

Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Those affected by gun violence

Those affected by the war in Ukraine

Those affected by violence and oppression in other places of the world

Those affected by wildfires or other natural disasters

Period Pack – Menstrual Hygiene Kit Collection:



In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty – lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Now you can help women and girls around the world living in period poverty. The CWS (Church World Services) Period Pack gives women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.

During the months of May, June, July, August and September our Bethlehem family will be collecting menstrual hygiene supplies and will then assemble these kits as part of our Mission Fest Sunday. Supplies can be brought to church during these months.

Supplies Needed:

- One 1 gallon Ziploc bag
- Two 2 oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4 – gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- Ten unscented tampons (5 regular, 5 super absorbency)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package (3oz bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count)
- Six laundry detergent sheets (place sheets in small Ziploc bag.)

- *Monetary donations will also be accepted to put towards completing kits and shipping/processing fees*

Save your Christmas Lights:

Do you have Christmas lights that no longer work? DON'T THROW THEM OUT! Please bring them to church and place them in the basket under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.

Save your Aluminum Cans:

Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans. Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.



Community Outreach and Events:

*Looking for a fun way to start your 4th of July weekend?
Come support Sheboygan's own amateur baseball team
while meeting up with area church members!*

**YOU are invited to share in
a local UCC Congregations
evening of fellowship & fun
at the Sheboygan A's
7:30pm game on
Friday, June 30th!**

Ice Cream Social – Wed. July 12 – 4pm-6:30pm – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton – Preorder and Carryout only

The Kiel Area Youth Theatre will be performing



July 13 - 16, 2023

in the **Kiel Performing Arts Center**

Tickets available starting in early June:

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/74830>

Just for Fun:

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.



What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!



Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB L Z D G B O O K
DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT
OKXWJHOB M I Z T I J S D Q K U
E W X B H E Q N I T K I S I Z N Y O U
R P J Z O W B E Q R T O A X C Z T X J

DO NOT _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV




JULY VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS - School Supplies

JULY Jingle Change supports: Bethlehem Ladies



JULY 2023 – BETHLEHEM EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	3 Loads of Love	4 	5	6	7	8
9 8:30am WISE Team mtg. 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	10	11 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship led by Consistory – Clements Family Presentation of their upcoming Missionary Trip in Africa – Refreshments to follow	17	18	19 August Spirit Articles due to Traci by 5pm	20	21	22
23 9:30am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy	31					



BIRTHDAYS

July 4 ~ Doris Rabe

*July 6 ~ Jason Brockway
~ Cody Dalka*

July 11 ~ Brad Hoban

July 15 ~ Dan Wempner

July 18 ~ Helen Henning

July 22 ~ Lynnette Steinhardt

July 24 ~ Tom Rabe

*July 25 ~ Bill Schlegel
~ Gerald Schnell*

July 26 ~ Jeanette Wreidt

*July 27 ~ Tom Brickbauer
~ Bob Markelz
~ Ruthie Rumpff*

*July 29 ~ Allyson Jeanty
~ Mandy Volland
~ Kendra Muehlbauer*

Anniversaries

July 6 ~ Warren & Diane Fidlin (1968)

July 7 ~ Mark & Dawn Wirtz (2007)

*~ Aaron & Rachel Suttner
(2007)*

July 15 ~ Chad & Sara Jeanty (2000)

*July 18 ~ Davin & Jessica Horneck
(2014)*

*July 20 ~ Eric & Dawn Muehlbauer
(1996)*

*July 24 ~ Scott & Jane Umland
(1998)*

July 26 ~ Bruce & Polly Jeanty (1985)



So if the Son
sets you free,
you will be
**free
indeed.**
John 8:36

I N D E P E N D E N C E D A Y