

The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 3:13-14

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The verses above are about anticipation and new beginnings. I know we say it every year at this time, but **"I can't believe summer is winding down and September is here!"** However, this doesn't have to be a source of consternation for us. It can also be a celebration! Every year at this time, we look to new beginnings: Sunday School, Confirmation, Mission Fest, and other church activities. If we've allowed ourselves to become disengaged from the church (and God!) over the summer, now is the time to re-engage, and re-energize your relationship with God and your church.

We'd love to be the church that DOES things, but we need your involvement. It would be great to return to serving meals at the shelter and other "mission" events, but we need your commitment and presence. Research has shown the younger generations would rather ACT on behalf of their faith as opposed to attending worship. That's great! Let's connect and get something going!

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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OCTOBER SPIRIT DEADLINE:

SUNDAY, Sept. 17th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings continued:

In other news, I want you to know that I have been very busy working on the required processes as I pursue ordination. Over the summer I completed a course on UCC history and theology. This fall I will be participating in Clinical Pastoral Education. For lack of a better explanation, CPE is like student teaching for pastors. I am assigned to a chaplain at a local hospital with whom I will work and collaborate for 20 hours/week. I also have 10 hours of "class" each week. It'll be a busy fall, but a great learning opportunity for me.

And so together, we continue "straining forward to what lies ahead." May we all do it in joyful service to God.

In Christ,

Pastor Randy



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



- Sunday School begins at 8:00am. All children 4 years – 6th grade welcome!
- 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

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

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

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 SEPTEMBER:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023 | Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b | Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 | Romans 12:9-21 | Matthew 16:21-28 |
| Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023 | Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 | Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20 |
| Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023 | Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 <i>Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21</i> | Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 | Romans 14:1-12 | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023 | Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 | Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 | Philippians 1:21-30 | Matthew 20:1-16 |

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 8-8-2023

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

Call to order: 6:32 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – Love is the Way from “The Church Cracked Open” book

Monthly Reports

- **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$7,853.00 (\$107.00 above YTD collection)
\$48,426.00 (\$5,796.00 below YTD requirement)

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

- **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in July to date are \$8,018.87 bringing the checkbook balance to \$48,627.52

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

Building & Grounds checking and Savings

- Checking = \$1,006.93
- Saving = \$9,656.73



- **Secretary – Kathy**
- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the July Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Correction was made to the financial report- motion by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross
- Approved by Ruthie and 2nd by Ross
- **Building & Grounds Updates**
- Leak in choir room – tiles will be replaced with new ones
- Looking into outside lighting issues – Steve D. – pending
- Getting estimate for canister light replacement – Rick R. – pending
- Clean up saw chips from stump removal and plant grass – complete – thank you Louie
- Getting 2 estimates for gutter guards on parsonage and garage – clogged several times – quote received and approved by consistory
- Suggestion to put up a “house style” mailbox – mailbox has been purchased and will be mounted
- **Pastoral Report**

Worship -

7/23, 7/30, 8/6 (outdoor worship)

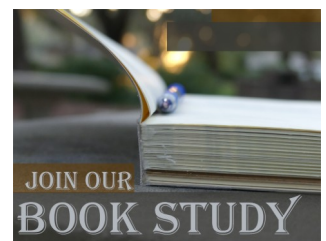
Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: Aug. 27, Sept. 3, Oct. 15

Confirmation/Youth

- I have had dialogue with parents and other pastors about the confirmation program and schedule for this coming year. Will be Wednesdays in the fall, possibly switching to Sundays in January.
- I am switching books this year. My Confirmation
- What are your thoughts of returning to “faith mentors? – Consistory says “yes”
- Met on 7/26 with area UCC clergy on combined activities. Brainstormed ideas. Possible retreat at Daycholah in Jan./ Feb.
- Confirmation event on 9/20 7:00 at Lakeland. Jacob Nault and speakers from Mental Health America.
- Crop Walk on Oct. 8
- It is Bethlehem's turn to host RCF youth. (Oct 29th)

Mission

- Loads of Love on 8/7 (Thanks Jane for covering)
- Period Pack ongoing - Mission Committee will pay for detergent sheets
- WISE mtg on 8/13
 - We are ready to begin educating the congregation, The first thing: WISE will be starting a book study on Blessed are the Crazy. The group will begin meeting on Sunday, Sept.10 before church. Traci R will lead the discussions,
 - Melissa and Randy attended the NAMI wellness group on 8/7 as observers.



Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 8x
- Other electronic communication 1x
- Cards 0x
- Visits 5x
- Hospital visits 0x
- I am on-call for Pastor Herda Aug. 14-19

- Pastor Herda is covering for me Aug. 23-27

Wider Church/MID process

- COP (communities of practice) no meeting in July
- Registered for Fall COP - \$250 (may possibly be waived like last year)
- MID work towards ordination:
 - interviewed and accepted for CPE (clinical pastoral education) placement on 7/20 - Still working on details.
 - finished course on UCC history and polity
 - Learning Covenant in process (approved 7/20)

Communication and Other

- Weekly Blurbs and monthly newsletter articles
- Wedding 9/16 - Sarah Mueller and John Schisel
- Baptism 9/17 - Carter Dean Schisel (son of Stephanie Nenahlo)
- Attended Youth Volleyball tournament and offered opening prayer
- Would we consider YouTube live vs. Facebook? We could still post the YT video

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem = 1 praying for you

OLD BUSINESS

- **Pulpit Supply for July**
 - Consistory members and Clements family – well received
 - 8/27 – Lou Norsetter
 - Sept TBD
- **Summer Church Picnic – Sunday, August 6th**
 - Well received
 - Positive comments on Communion
 - Games – Sarah M. was the “WINNER” of Jenga
- **Youth Volleyball Tournament** – Thank you to all who helped with the frying, serving and providing baked goods – all went well.
- **Summer Concert Concessions** – Wednesday, August 9th
 - Bethlehem UCC provided concessions for the Kiel Concert in the Park. The menu includes hotdogs, chips, and a drink.
 - Rain shortened the concert and Bethlehem members returned to church.



NEW BUSINESS

- **Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8th**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8th as we celebrate Mission Fest.

- This year's outreach activities will include:
- Assembling Period Packs
- Making sandwiches for Mission House
- Highway clean-up
- Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility
- Lunch will be provided for everyone participating.

HHT A-Cappella

- Special music will be provided during our church service on Sunday, August 20th. Our very own Ross Westphalen is a member of this local barbershop group. Fellowship to follow.

- **Sound System is near to be completed.**

- Bethlehem has been invited to participate in a mission trip with St Peter's UCC Kiel. A planning meeting will be held on 9/11/23 at 6PM. Watch for more details in the future.
- Sunday School/Confirmation
 - Sunday School will begin 9/10

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie and 2nd by Jane
Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Next meeting – Sept 12, 2023 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Thank you Traci for taking notes for me last month.
Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, August 20th at 8:30am. Five members were present.

A thank you card was read from the Clements Family for our donation.

We received a check for the jingle change that was collected in the month of July.

Thank you to all for your generous donations!

Our upcoming guest night is Tuesday, September 19th. Our Guest Speaker will be Alia Swingle who is the Coordinator for Calumet County Engagement & Education. She will be speaking on *Harbor House* Domestic Abuse Programs which provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic abuse in Northeast *Wisconsin*. The evening will begin at 5:30 with lunch and speaker to follow. Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, rolls, salads and dessert. The congregation and the community are invited to join us. Please invite your family and friends!! All are welcome! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

On to wash Communion Glasses on September 3rd are Barb and Shirley.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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 Sunday School:



We are looking forward to having our students back in Sunday School this fall. Sunday School will resume September 10 at 8:00-9:15 am.

Bethlehem Rummage Sale Recap 2023:

Many thanks to all those who made the church rummage sale a success. Thanks to those who donated items, those who set up and staged the sale, who worked the sale, and those who bought items.

Results of the rummage sale include the good feelings people have after they've cleaned out their house of unused items, knowing that someone else may have use of the items.

Results of the rummage sale also include the spirit of working together to accomplish a goal.

Results of the rummage sale of 2023 include a profit of over \$450 which will go towards projects and mission of the church.

And, a final result is the stories we can tell: Two women came to our sale. They looked at everything, selecting a huge pile of “educational” and “learning” toys. The total cost for them was not very much. We learned that this treasure would be packed and shipped to Uganda for children in need.

So thank you to anyone who helped make this possible.



Confirmation:

Confirmation Class



Sept. 13 - 6pm - Class/meeting for confirmands, parents and mentors

Sept. 20 - 7pm - Lakeland Confirmation event (all invited). Mental health is the topic.

Bethlehem Scrip:

Fall is fast approaching! Consider buying scrip cards for all your fall projects. I carry Menards, Fleet Farm, Walmart cards and many more. Scrip cards work the same as cash, but they benefit the churches as I buy them at a discounted price. Our profit comes from the percentage that is discounted.

10% is set aside for the families in need program. Your support is appreciated.

~Linda Rabe

Scrip Details:

| | | <i>Profit</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 8/1/2023 | \$5,685.00 | \$ 160.70 |
| 8/20/23 | \$2,710.00 | \$ 86.80 |



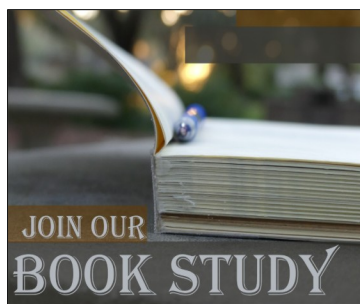
PLEASE NOTE: I am still collecting caps (example, milk jug caps, water and soda bottles, etc.)

I am also collecting EGG CARTONS, you can put them under the mailboxes by the cap container. Thank you!!

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!



The WISE Committee has been studying the topic of mental health since February. Now it's time to get the congregation involved! The first activity is going to be a book study of Blessed are the Crazy by Rev. Sarah Lund. (The WISE team studied this book in the spring.) The book study will be led by Traci Rabe and will begin on Sept. 10 before church (8:30am). At that time the group will decide the schedule going forward. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. The book will be provided for you.

SEEKING FAITH MENTORS!!!

We would like to re-implement the “faith mentors” program for our confirmation students. Are you willing to accept the challenge? We need three mentors for our students this year.

What is required: Willingness to meet one time per month with a student to discuss various aspects of faith. Have an open mind – be a good listener... be supportive.

What is NOT required: extensive knowledge of the bible, faith, etc. There are no correct answers and your job will not be to “correct” the student or say the right things. Just listen and be supportive.



Please let Pastor Randy know if you are willing to consider this challenge. It will be beneficial to YOU, as well as the student.



MISSION TRIP!!!

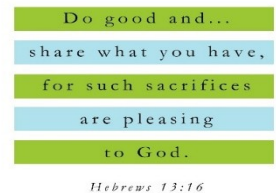
We have been invited to participate in a mission trip next summer with St. Peter's UCC and other area churches. The trip is open to 9th graders and older and will be part of ASP: Appalachia Service project. (www.asphome.org)

There will be a planning meeting on Sept. 11 at 6pm at St. Peters. Dates will be decided at that meeting. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in taking part in this trip.

Bethlehem Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8th

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8th as we celebrate Mission Fest. This year's greater community outreach activities will include:

1. Assembling Period Packs
2. Making sandwiches for Mission House
3. Highway clean-up
4. Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility



As always, a yummy lunch and fellowship will be provided!



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

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

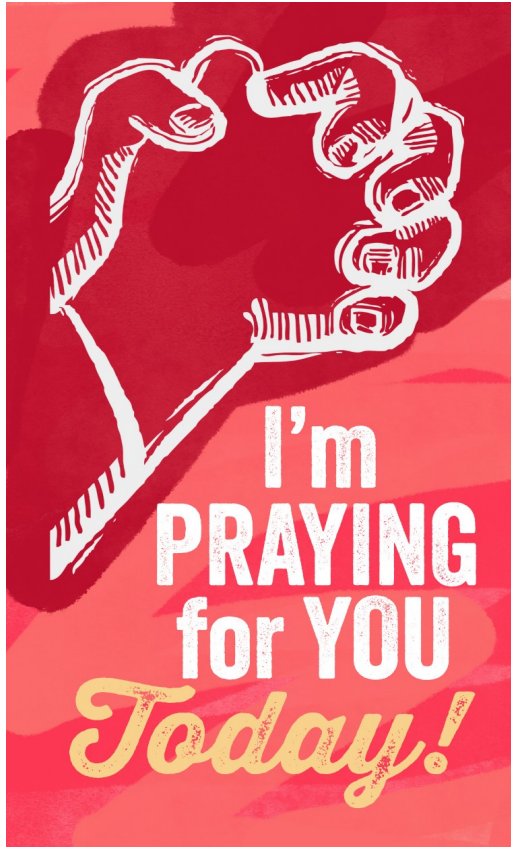
Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Gaiden Schultz (Garrett's sister)



Those struggling with health issues:



Mary Beth Molitor

Marie Rietbrock

Brenda Volland

Heidi Konen

Gary Steinhardt

Sandra Tesch

Bob Radder

Doreen Schmidt

Tom Lefeber

Helen Henning

Hattie Lucille

Darlene Horneck

Daisy Sippel

Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Crystal (Friend of Koppenhavers)

Molly (Friend of Koppenhavers)

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Ninmer

Other concerns:

Those affected by Hawaiian wildfires

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

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:

Faith in the Fall Music Festival at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove

Sunday, October 1st 10am – 2pm

Join us for our annual music festival with live music, food, 50/50 raffle (benefit for Sheboygan County Food Bank), raffle baskets, children's activities, and fellowship.

Rain or shine. Please bring lawn chairs.

**Menu: Pulled Pork and Turkey, Homemade Beans, Mac & Cheese, Potato Salad, and
Homemade Tortes**

10 ~ Worship Service with Hannah Rose Reyes

11:15 ~ Praiseworthy

12:15 ~ Messengers of the Way Quartet

1:15 ~ Straight Street





SEPTEMBER VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -
Please bring a package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling



SEPTEMBER Jingle Change supports: CROP

SEPTEMBER 2023 – BETHLEHEM EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|----------|--------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:30am Communion Service w/Rev. Roy | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8am Sunday School 8:30am Book Study 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy  | 11  | 12 6:30pm Consistory mtg. | 13 6pm Confirmation | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy <i>October Spirit articles due to Traci by 5pm</i> | 18 | 19 5:30pm Bethlehem Ladies Guest Speaker Night | 20 7pm Confirmation at Lakeland (everyone invited) | 21 | 22 | 23  |
| 24 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/ Pastor Randy | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

September 2 – Tony Tesch

September 3 – Brian Witkowski

September 3 – Wyatt Snyder

September 9 – Lori Schmitt

September 11 – Addison Salm

September 11 – Kelly Ryba

September 12 – Molly Rabe

September 12 – Traci Rabe

September 14 – Ben Jeanty

September 17 – Courtney Riesterer

September 20 – Bonnie Hoban

September 25 – Robert Schnell

September 30 – Chad Jeanty

Anniversaries

September 15 – Louie & Kathy Bowe (1973)

September 24 – Ross & Lisa Westphalen (2005)

September 30 – Dan & Amy Wempner (1995)

