

The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Dear Good People of Bethlehem,

By the time you read this, Easter will be very near. I hope that you were able to use the forty days of Lent to reflect on your relationship with Christ, and that you sought ways to draw closer to him. It is now time to celebrate the resurrection and the new life that comes with it.

Speaking of newness, I recently finished reading the book, The Church Cracked Open, by Stephanie Spellers. The primary premise of the book is that we must come to the realization churches cannot, and will not, ever be the same as they were in our parents' and grandparents' generations. We must recognize that in order for "the church" (universal) to survive, we must change not only our practices but also confront some of our beliefs. Speller's book gives a detailed history of how "the church" (again, universal) was complicit in many practices that minimized, even murdered, subordinate groups of people. "The church" was connected to Manifest Destiny, The Doctrine of Discovery, colonialism, imperialism, slavery, and systemic racism, to name a few. In a re-branding of Christianity, we are called to acknowledge the role of "the church" in these atrocities and reflect on how we can intentionally act to correct the wrongs of our religious ancestors.

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APRIL 2024

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MAY SPIRIT DEADLINE:

WED. April 17th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com

Pastor Randy's Ramblings (continued):

Spellers calls this new way of thinking, "Stewardship of Privilege: Using your Power as Jesus used His." She takes thirteen examples of Jesus' behavior and gives us action words that create "opportunities" for us to use our "power" for good. Here are a few examples.

Jesus's example

Jesus loved extravagantly: his friends, his enemies, and God

Jesus risked it all by coming to be among us, loving when he was not loved, being open to correction, and refusing to curse those who hurt him.

Jesus trusted a woman -Mary – to carry the message that he had risen from the dead.

Your Opportunity

LOVE the face and voice of God you see and hear in the presence of others

RISK making the first move, sharing your own story, being wrong, appearing less than perfect, and receiving the anger of people who've been hurt by systems that protect you.

TRUST the perspective and wisdom of people who are the least respected.

Your commitment

You can see, from the blank column on the chart, that we are called as followers of Jesus, to act on his behalf.

Clearly, I can't summarize the entire book in this article, but it's an eye opening account of the work that needs to be done on behalf of the underprivileged and marginalized groups within our society. I recommend it highly if you are interested in this type of reflection and examination. Let me know if you'd like to discuss it sometime.

May the joy and hope that reside in Christ's resurrection be with you.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Randy



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

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 anytime 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 Consistory Members

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/check 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!

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 1.99% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add this charge to your donation.

Thank you for all your support!



Lectionary Readings for APRIL:

Second Sunday of Easter April 7, 2024	*Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024	*Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024	*Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024	*Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

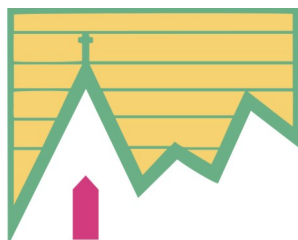


Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 3-12-2024

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

Call to order: 6:39 PM Opening Prayer by Randy: Lenten Devotions and Scripture from Luke

Monthly Reports



Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$8,274.00 (\$90.00 above YTD collection) \$14,101 (\$2,267.00 below YTD requirement)

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

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in Jan. to date are \$8,519.99 bringing the checkbook balance to \$57,362.62

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

Church FINANCES

Building & Grounds checking and Savings

- Checking = \$2,218.71
- Saving = \$11,661.13

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Jan Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Jane and 2nd by Ruthie

Building & Grounds Updates

- 3 burners have been replaced on the kitchen stoves
- Continuing to get quotes on the parsonage roof
- The lawns around the church yard will need to be fixed, due to snow plowing
- Adding water sensors will be addressed at our next meeting. Water sensors need to be added per insurance company

Pastoral Report

Worship -

2/25, 3/3, 3/10

Lenten Worship on 2/21, 3/6, and 3/20

Field of Dreams on 3/14 @10:30am

Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday - 6pm - Working with Pastor Diane of Bethel

Good Friday Community Service at St. Peter's - 6pm

Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: March 17, April 28, May 12, **June 9***, June 23, July 28. August 18, August 25, Sept. 15

****June 9 is a new date to the list. My uncle's "celebration of life" will be taking place that weekend in MN. That means I WON'T be attending the Conference annual meeting in Green Lake. Even with the 9th and my planned day of the 23rd off, I will still be preaching 3 Sunday's in June.***

Planning Community worship service @ Kiel City Park on 8/11

Confirmation/Youth

- Classes held 2/28, 3/13
- Students keeping a Lenten reflection journal and discussing reading assignments with their mentors.
- Confirmation class will be leading worship on April 7
- I need a substitute mentor for the last month due to Nancy's hospitalization and extended recovery time.

Mission

- Loads of Love on March 4 - 3 clients served - \$93.50 expended.
- WISE
 - Book Study, Monthly displays ongoing
 - Working on logo and promotional ideas
 - Monthly update in the Spirit
 - Mental Health Sunday on May 19 – WISE committee will be leading worship

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 5x
- Cards 2x (visitors)
- Visits 1x
- Hospital visits 2x
- Attended presentation: "Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment: The Patient's Perspective" - Froedert Holy Family Hospital, Manitowoc, WI. - February, 21, 2024

Wider Church/MID process

- I have a virtual meeting with the NE Committee on Ministry regarding my license renewal– 11:30am on March 14 - Jane Umland is attending on behalf of Bethlehem.
- COP (communities of practice) on March 7
- MID work towards ordination:
 - Continued work on my Learning Covenant and Matrix
 - Bowen Family Systems for Clergy class ended Feb. 20
 - Racism Training April 29, May 6, May 13 (online)

-NE association meeting on 4/20 at Daycholah - Do we have delegates? Should I register Melissa or does someone else want to attend?

Communication and Other

- Advanced Directives presentation Feb. 27 at 6:30pm (28 attendees)
- New family came on 3/10 - they were referred by Lori Schmitt. They have a 5 year old boy who really wanted to be in Sunday School. They attended Saron in the past, but have been inactive for a while. Feedback was that he really enjoyed it.

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem = 1 Get Well, 2 thinking of you

OLD BUSINESS

- Lent Services
Consistory is reviewing attendance
- Holy week
All up-coming services are set
- Power of Attorney Meeting
Well attended by 28 guests
- RCF Sheepshead Tournament
We collected 6 bags of groceries and cash. Proceeds were divided among 3 area pantries.
- Winter Game Day - March 3rd after 9:30 service
Went well – snacks & goodies were served to 21 participates
- Pizza Party will be held on April 14th...see sign up sheet in fellowship hall
- Coffee hour – May event – Potluck and game day – details to follow
- Confirmation – Sunday April 21st – Ross will supply flowers – thank you Ross & Lisa



NEW BUSINESS

- Defibrillator – Marie Mueller will service/update. Motion made by Ross and 2nd by Ruthie to donate \$200.00 toward battery replacement.
- Kid Bags – We will be again placing a stand with activity bags outside of the sanctuary doors to be used by small children during the service.
- New Tables - There was been an offer to replace our old, heavy tables that are used in the fellowship hall. A motion was made by Lee and 2nd by Ross to accept this offer. More details to follow.
- RCF dues of \$150.00 have been paid
- Pulpit Supply Pay has been raised from \$150.00 to \$175.00 to meet conference guidelines. Motion made by Ross and 2nd by Jane.
- Conference Delegates – We are still in need of delegates for Association meeting on 4/20 and Conference meeting on 6/8 and 6/9
- Insurance – Jane reported that our insurance will be increasing. More discussion to come.
- SAVE, SAVE, SAVE - items we save – watch for a poster in the fellowship hall. Bethlehem saves many items for refunding and recycling.
- Thanks Ross - for the birthday treats

Motion to adjourn by Ross & 2nd by Ruthie
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next meeting – April 12, 2024 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Sunday School:



Thank you, Thank you for your support!

Our 2024 Leprosy birthday money collection was very successful. The jingle change and Sunday School collections came to 334.00 for the month of February. The cost of curing one person is now at \$400.00. With some of our other fund raising monies, we were able to send a check to Leprosy Mission for \$400.00.

We continue to collect aluminum cans, that can be placed in the old garage next to the parsonage. Thank you for your support in this collection.

On April 14, the Merry Christians will be having their annual pizza party. Plan to stay after church for pizza and "build your own" ice cream sundaes.

Also Join us on April 21 for Confirmation Sunday.

Thank you to all who stayed for game day. We had a great game of Candyland. There were several games of tricks, racko, cribbage. And Mia took on the ping-pong champs.

Welcome to Case (kindergarten) who joined in class on 3/10.

See you on Sunday at 8:00 am.

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Pastor Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.



Bethlehem Merry Christians:



The Merry Christians will be hosting a pizza and ice cream sundae party for the Bethlehem family. Everyone is invited to this time of fellowship on Sunday, April 14th following the regular worship.

The Merry Christians will be hosting a Brat Fry at the Piggly Wiggly in Kiel on Saturday, May 18th. Please check your calendar to see if you can volunteer to help that day. Even an hour of help shares the workload for the day.



Kaye Radder

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, March 17th with 4 members present.

This year's \$100 Scholarship recipient is Pastor Randy Koppenhaver.

This year's Easter Lily recipient is Nancy Zimmermann.

We will be playing Bingo with the residents at Field of Dreams on Saturday, June 22nd at 10:00 am.

SAVE THE DATE! Our Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 17th. Our Guest Speaker will be Steve Hamer, President of Wash for Life. Wash for Life is a nonprofit organization that installs wells (boreholes) at schools and villages in Malawi, Africa so they can access clean water. More details to follow.

On to wash Communion glasses for April are:

Sunday, April 7th: Barb Henning

Melissa Koppenhaver (Thanks for volunteering!)

Confirmation Sunday, April 21st: Shirley Henschel

Lisa Westphalen (Thanks for volunteering!)

Melissa Koppenhaver (Thanks for volunteering!)

The Bethlehem Ladies would like to thank all that have volunteered to help wash the Communion Glasses. We are still looking for help for May through the remainder of the year. This is a very easy job and is a fun time of fellowship. There will be one Bethlehem Ladies member scheduled for each washing and we are looking for 1 or 2 more from the congregation to help. A signup sheet with all the dates for the upcoming year is in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping us out. Thank you!!

NO meeting in April.

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.

Please Save Your Kiel Piggly Wiggly Receipts: The Merry Christians have been collecting cash register receipts from the Kiel Piggly Wiggly store. No other area store receipts are of any use to us. We receive a monetary rebate for every dollar that is spent on groceries. Please help us help others by placing your used store receipts in the box under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Bethlehem Merry Christians

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 Scrip:

Spring is upon us! Remember to keep scrip in mind when planning your spring needs. I currently have Fleet Farm, Lowes, Menards and Walmart. I have cash and carry available the first and third Sunday of the month. I have several gas cards and grocery store cards available for you to purchase and use for your weekly shopping.

Thank you for your continued support!

~Linda Rabe

Monthly Scrip Stats:

3/3/2024	\$2,110.00	\$ 70.91
3/17/2024	\$1,370.00	\$ 40.75



From the Historical Records of Bethlehem U.C.C.:

Confirmation at Bethlehem



Throughout the history of Bethlehem 695 people have been confirmed. Many will recall studying and memorizing the Heidelberg Catechism; some in German and some in English. Sometimes the pastor led Saturday morning catechism classes. Other times lay people have held the teacher role with evening classes.

Confirmation has been an important part of the life of the congregation. It is treasured as the celebration of each person's personal acceptance of the promises of the baptismal vows offered by his or her parents. It's at this time that each person becomes a full member of the congregation. He/she then has privilege of voice and vote at congregational meetings, the ability to serve on the Consistory, and for a large part of our history the moment when the person would be invited for the first time to the table of Jesus Christ.

This year, 2024, Tyson and Aliyah Arnold will be confirming their faith on April 21st. They represent the fifth generation of their family to be confirmed at Bethlehem.

4th - Mother: Sarah (Brickbauer) Arnold 1991

3rd - Grandmother: Marilyn (Schreiber) Brickbauer 1963

2nd - Great Grandfather: Melvin Schreiber 1935

1st - Great Great Grandmother: Elfrieda (Reichwaldt) Schreiber 1913

Please see the display of confirmation memorabilia in the Fellowship Hall to see how things have changed, yet remain the same. You will find examples of confirmation certificates and resource materials used throughout the years. Some of these are in German and some are in English.

Kaye Radder, Historian

Annual Pizza Party

Who's Invited: All family & friends of Bethlehem

When: Sunday, April 14th following worship

What: Pizza with a variety of toppings, Veggie Pizza, Fruit Pizza, and Ice Cream Sundaes

Please sign up in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Bethlehem Merry Christians



Feed My Starving Children:

As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

You will hear us say this again and again: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed." We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the "least of these." They will be found, and they will be fed.

With God's help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger.

Hope begins with nutritious food. FMSC exists to provide this hope in the name of Jesus. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential so that they can become productive members of their communities.

MannaPack Rice - As FMSC's first and original food formula, MannaPack Rice is an excellent source of protein, carbohydrates and key nutrients culturally acceptable worldwide for anyone over the age of one.

On March 8th and 9th several members of Bethlehem UCC participated in a food pack event for FMSC. During the Saturday morning session 152 volunteers filled 159 boxes of 36 bags of the nutritious MannaPack Rice. Each of those 36 bags provides 6 meals. This is calculated to the results that this food pack session packed enough to feed 94 children for an entire year.



Those in our thoughts and prayers

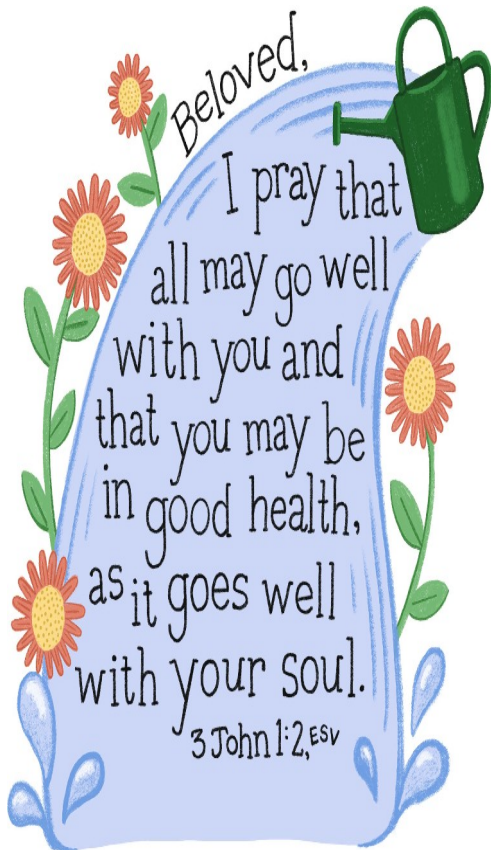
Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

William Baldwin - Randy's Uncle

Ronnie Hickman

Those struggling with health issues:



Brad Westphalen

Nancy Zimmermann

Nancy Henschel

Tom Brickbauer

Sarah Arnold

Heidi Konen

Helen Henning

Darlene Horneck

Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Jaxxen Kane

Mason Kannel

Mary Beth Molitor

Marie Rietbrock

Brenda Volland

Gary Steinhardt

Tom Lefeber

Crystal (Friend of Koppenhavers)

Dana (sister of Melissa K)

Renee

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin & Doris Mae Nimmer

Other concerns:

The loved ones of Elijah Vue

The people of Haiti

Those affected by wars in Israel and Ukraine, and others globally

Prayers for anyone living with mental illness

Snow Removal Volunteers Needed:

We need your help shoveling the church sidewalk and entry. If you are able to lend a hand, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you!



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.

Other Important ANNOUNCEMENTS:

~Can you help? Bethlehem will be assisting at the Immanuel UCC Food Pantry on the 4th Thursday of the month. Times are approximately 8:30 – 11am. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for Thursday, April 25th.

- Bethlehem's Loads of Love Laundry Ministry has seen an increase in clients and cost in recent months. We are currently aiding TWO clients with medical conditions that result in large amounts of soiled laundry. Your financial support of the program is needed to continue providing this important service in our community. The donation jug is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.
- Summer Camp time is Approaching! Daycholah Center and other UCCI camps are booking for campers and ALSO hiring staff for the summer! (Perfect for college students!) Please let Pastor Randy if you'd like more information about summer camp or check out www.ucci.org





APRIL VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -

Bottle of hand soap, dish soap or shampoo

APRIL Jingle Change supports:

One Great Hour of Sharing



APRIL Bethlehem Events:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Loads of Love 5pm	2	3 6pm Confirmation class	4	5	6
7 8am Sunday School 8:30am WISE mtg. 9:30am Communion Service w/Pastor Randy	8	9 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	10	11	12	13
14 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy Pizza & Ice Cream Sundae Party after worship	15	16	17 May Spirit news due to Traci 6pm Confirmation class	18	19	20 NE Association mtg. - Daycholah Center
21 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship & Confirmation Sunday	22	23	24	25 8:30am Immanuel Food Pantry	26	27
28 8am Sunday School 8:30am Book Study 9:30am Worship	29	30				





APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Nicole Watson Tyler Hanson Sheri Wilharms	4 Greg Schultz	5	6 Lily Watson
7 Marie Mueller	8 Will Mathes	9	10	11 Trevor Rabe	12	13
14 Kerry Rumpff Brandon Schmitt Ryan Schmitt Noah Biwan Trevor Muehlbauer Jacob Riesterer	15 Dawson Horneck	16 Blake Holz Bill & Karen Schlegel (1966)	17 Emerson Witkowski	18	19 Dominick Sheets	20
21	22 Amy Wempner	23 Kaye Radder	24	25	26	27 Ryan Rabe Mia Watson
28	29 Louie Bowe	30				

