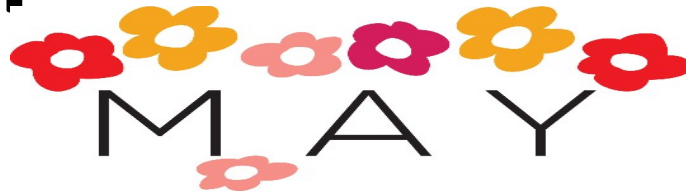


The Spirit of Bethlehem



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

Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

*See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

Spring has sprung and it's a busy time at Bethlehem UCC.

By the time you read this, Bethlehem has held its second "WISE" event in our efforts towards community outreach. On April 25, Dr. Cary Johannes instructed a group of approximately thirty people (most not BUCC members!) on strategies for increasing inner peace. Mediation, mindfulness, journaling and other strategies were explored. Participants also received a copy of Dr. Johannes's book, *The Missing Peace*.

Bethlehem recently joined forces with other area UCC churches and collected both food and cleaning items for flood victims in the Shiocton area. Combined, we collected well over 1000 items.

May is Mental Health Awareness month, with Sunday, May 31st being "Mental Health Sunday." A guest speaker is being planned for that day.

May is also our annual Undy 500 underwear drive for the Guest House men's shelter in Milwaukee. *Continued on page 2*



MAY 2026

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JUNE DEADLINE:

Sunday, May 17th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com



Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

On May 10th, those who traveled to Kentucky on the mission trip in March will be sharing stories and photos from their trip.

May 9 is the Merry Christians Brat fry at the Kiel Piggly Wiggly. Come out and support them!

We hope you can find something to engage you in the coming month. Thank you to all the people who work so hard to make these events happen.

May your May be joyous!

In Christ,

Rev. Randy



May is Undy 500 Month!

Note: All items must be NEW and in the original packaging

- Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY (No "tighty whiteys" please)
 - Men's Undershirts

Please buy a variety of sizes in each item

- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3x, and 4X Undershirts (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL t-shirts**)
- Men's S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X and 4X Underwear (**note: Guest House is currently completely out or low on M, L and XL underwear**)

Please bring items to church on any Sunday in May.

The Merry Christians will have a brat fry on Saturday, May 9th at Piggly Wiggly in Kiel from 9am to 2pm. Please join us!



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: Reverend Randall Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com



- **Sunday School every Sunday September – May at 8am.**
- *Gather in the sanctuary for our worship Sunday mornings 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

2026 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Reverend Randall 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!



Pastoral Care: *Please keep me informed of hospitalizations and other pastoral care needs. If you know of someone from our church family who is sick or in the hospital, ask if they've let me know. If not, offer to contact me on their behalf. I don't want anyone to feel unsupported in a time of need. - Reverend Randy (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com*

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Reverend 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.



Lectionary Readings for MAY:

Sunday, May 3 ~ Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 1Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 10 ~ Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 17 ~ Acts 1:16-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 24 Pentecost ~ Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23 or John 7:7:37-39

Sunday, May 31 Trinity Sunday ~ Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8 2Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting:

Present: Steven Voland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Lee Watson, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe and Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:40 PM

Opening by Randy: Rev Randy led us with a prayer by William Barclay

Monthly Reports

Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$6,835.00 (\$2,018.00 below YTD collection) 21,448.00 (\$5,111.00) below YTD requirement)

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

Jingle Change – month of Mar – OCWM \$149.00

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in Mar to date are \$7,341.70 bringing the checkbook balance to \$30,486.04

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

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

- Checking = \$2,310.49
- Saving = \$8,681.95

CD update (Bank First) (\$5000.00 ea.)

Invested \$20,000 in four separate 7-month & 11-month CDs of \$5,000 each. The maturity dates are staggered throughout the year, with the principal reinvested and interest designated for a special cause.

CD #3584 invested Apr (\$5000.00)

CD #6473 invested May (\$5000.00)

CD #3541 invested Jan (\$5000.00)

CD #7648 invested Mar (\$5000.00)

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Mar Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Ross and 2nd by Lee.

Building & Grounds Updates

- Outside water is turned on
- Committee will be meeting in early May
- Check downspout near Randy's office window

Continued on page 7

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Pastoral Report

Worship

- 3/15, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12
- Field of Dreams on 3/12, Good Friday, Easter Vigil
- Upcoming "OFF" Sundays: May 17, June 7, June 14, July 5

Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

Confirmation:

- Class sessions on 3/11, 3/18 and 4/8
- Confirmands led worship on 4/12
- Last class this week.
- Confirmation service plans

Mission

- Loads of Love - 4/6- 1 client, \$13.50 expended - \$94 collected in March
- WISE - mini retreat set for April 25th from 9a-noon with Dr. Cary Johannes. We are promoting the event through various avenues. About 15 sign ups thus far.
- Mission Trip March 22-28 to Pikeville, KY - team meets Sunday eve and we will plan our presentations for the churches.
- Undy 500?

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 3x
- Cards 2x
- Visits 1x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 1x

Professional Development

- Grief coach certification #2 in process

Conference/Wider Church

- Community of Practice at Peace UCC, FDL on March 18
- Attended annual meeting on April 10

Other

- Dayna Schultz wedding 5/31/2026 (off site) - premarital sessions have begun
- Watson/Meyer Wedding scheduled for 10/3/2026 (off site)
- Conducting off-site non-member wedding on 10/17/26
- Confirmation and Ries Baptism set for April 26

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 2 sympathy cards

Continued on page 8



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

OLD BUSINESS

- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation.
 - o Small TV with VHS capability, DVD player, VHS tapes, Large TV stand, Old projection screen and equipment
 - o Also available is a couch and rocking chair
- Holy Week – All went well – Palm tree was well received
- Flags – tabled until next meeting – flags need to be replaced
- Chili Supper profits – Merry Christians will be handling expenses and dividing the profits
 - o Profits will be divided between Sunday School, Missions, Youth, Merry Christians, Wise and General Fund
- Fund raising ideas-Looking for volunteers for any and all fund raising-ideas are welcome
 - o Egg-roll sale in fall
 - o Kringle sale in fall
 - o Camp/home firewood stand – Bethlehem Bundles/Light a fire for Christ
 - o Ask members to place a stand in their yard and collect the money from a locked box
- Sabbatical
 - o Need more information/guidelines

NEW BUSINESS

- Good Samaritan Fund – Interest from the March CD (115.95) plus Good Friday collection (\$192.00) will be given to the Good Samaritan Fund. Motion made by Traci and 2nd by Ross)
- Undy 500 – there will be a collection again this year for Undy 500. Interest from the April CD will be added to the Jingle change. Motion made by Traci and 2nd by Lee.
- Confirmation – April 26 – fellowship to follow the service
 - o Ross and Lisa will make the flowers
 - o Will ask Kristie to make a cake
 - o Kathy will make punch
- The choir will be dissolving their bank accounts but will still sing on special occasions when possible. Any special music is always welcome.
- Watch for decor changes in the fellowship hall

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 5/9 – Merry Christians brat fry at the Pig
- 5/17 – Last day of Sunday School

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie & Lee
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Next meeting – May 12 2026 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe



“Church camp” can be a very meaningful and fun summertime activity. UCCI has great facilities at both Daycholah (Green Lake) and Moon Beach (St. Germaine) with programs for youth of all ages, including family camps! Scholarships are available too! An offering of Daycholah programs and schedule can be found in the fellowship hall or visit ucci.org for complete details.

Bethlehem Scrip:

Spring is here! Remember to purchase scrip cards when planning your spring needs. I carry Fleet Farm, Menards and Walmart. I can order other cards that might be of interest to you, just takes a bit of pre-planning. Stop at the scrip table and check it out.

Remember Mom on Mother's Day, scrip gift cards make a wonderful gift! I have Amazon gift cards as a cash and carry item.

With all proceeds of scrip sales, 10% is set aside for families in need. We recently purchased \$100 of items for the flood victims in the Black Creek area.

Thank you for your support!

Linda Rabe

SCRIP STATS:

		<u>PROFIT</u>
3/29/26	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 42.47
4/05/26	\$ 3,860.00	\$ 117.81
4/19/26	\$ 1,830.00	\$ 59.60



CAPS AND EGG CARTONS:

Thank you to all who save egg cartons and caps. The egg cartons are used in a food bank, as eggs are re-packaged. The caps are recycled and used to make plastic park benches. **Please make sure that your caps are washed and free of any food or milk, otherwise they tend to mold and they are not passed along.** Thank you!

Get Comfortable!

*Bethlehem has a new “lounge” located in the middle Sunday School room.
Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!
We also have many resources on wellness if you’re interested.
Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.*



Bethlehem Sunday School:



What some strange weather we had in April. Hopefully the snow is finally behind us. Hope you had a great Easter.

Just a few short weeks of Sunday School are left. The last day of Sunday School is May 17.

Looking for some fun this summer. Check out a summer camp at Daycholah Center. See Rev Randy if you are interested in attending a camp. Camps are for children, families and adults.

Coming up - Happy Mother's Day!

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.

See you on Sunday at 8:00 am.

To everyone at Bethlehem UCC:

I want to thank all of you for thinking of me with all your visits, prayers, cards and also for the Easter lily. I really appreciate all of it.

Blessings to you all!

From: Merlin Nimmer and family



Spring House Cleaning ? think trash to treasures



Remember if you are doing some spring housecleaning or downsizing; your trash may be someone else's treasure.

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 summer, please contact Merry Christians members who can arrange storage.

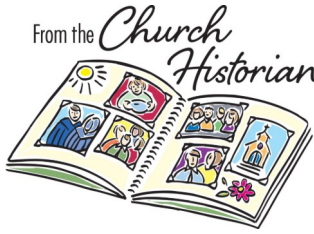
Loads of Love:



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!

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



As we continue the celebration of 160 years at Bethlehem, here is a look at the Bethlehem Ladies Aid Society.

For 112 years the Bethlehem Ladies have faithfully carried out the purpose of the group by helping each member with her spiritual needs, by doing special things for the church, by helping local people in need and by donating to worldwide needs.

These things were accomplished with special worship services at their meeting and other special days throughout the year. This group helped beautify the church, and organized help at special celebrations, such as Mission Fest, Ice Cream Social, Family Day, Friendship Day, and World Day of Prayer.

Throughout the years the Ladies organized themselves into many work groups and committees including: Spring Cleaning Group, Cupboard Cleaning Group, Fall Cleaning Group, Children's Day kitchen workers, Mission Fest kitchen workers, Flower and Gift Committee, Dining Room and Kitchen Chairman, Flower Bed Committee, Ice Cream Social Committee, Communion Ware Cleaning, Christmas Party Committee.

To raise money for their activities, dues were set at fifteen cents way back in 1913. Over the years other means to raise funds included hosting the annual Ice Cream Social with Fish Pond, Bake Sale and Bazaar. They also did refunding, brat fries, plant sales, and more Bake Sales.

The treasury of the Ladies helped the church whenever a special need came up, such as furnace at the parsonage, organs, flooring, plumbing, folding chairs, tables, roof, carpeting, oil furnace, kitchen ware, dishes, and the new church building.

The Ladies supported many missions such as Sunburst, Flood Areas, Deaconess Hospital, Mission House, Fort Wayne Children's Home, The Indian School, Christian Services at Sheboygan Armory, Christian Mission at Kiel, Safe Harbor, Christmas Cheer, Senior Center and Nursing Homes. For many years, they sponsored a child in a foreign country. They have also presented scholarships to seminary students.

Within Bethlehem, the Ladies decorated for Harvest Home. They sent gifts at Christmas time to the military servicemen from the congregation as well as college students. They presented hand embroidered handkerchiefs and roses for the newly baptized. Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias were presented by the Ladies.

November 1913 marked the founding of the Ladies Aid Society of Bethlehem with 13 women joining the group. After 112 years, November, 2025 the 6 members of Bethlehem Ladies decided to disband as an active organization. The work of this group has been invaluable in the history of Bethlehem.

During the month of May, please see the display of Bethlehem Ladies memorabilia in the Fellowship Hall. You may notice the group truly enjoyed celebrating special anniversaries and kept detailed notes of their events.

Kaye Radder, Historian

WISE PAGE

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE

By the time you read this, the WISE Team will have held the next community program, which took place here at Bethlehem UCC on April 25, 2026. The program features Dr. Cary Knier Johannes, who will lead a Mini Retreat from 9 am to noon. Snacks/Fruit & Beverages provided.

Dr. Cary shares information on spirituality & wellness and teaches people a variety of techniques to incorporate into their daily lives that help them connect with God. These include meditation, journaling, breathing techniques, prayer, and sharing her book "*The Missing PEACE*" (Purposeful Everyday Acts to Center and Elevate).

We met on March 29, 2026,

- Finalized the plans for the April 25th community program. We charged \$10 for the program, and this included Dr. Cary Knier Johannes's Autographed Book, *The Missing PEACE*.
- We discussed plans for May as this is Mental Health Awareness Month. We set May 31st, Sunday, for the Mental Health Worship to be led by WISE Team.

We strive to promote understanding and compassion, reduce stigma through education and support activities, and partner with local community agencies that advocate for those living with these challenges.

The WISE Team is Grateful for the support we have received from our family and friends at Bethlehem in continuing our mission.



Newly Confirmed Members of Bethlehem:



Congratulations to this year's Confirmands:

*Kylie Brockway
Blake Holz
Ethan Aschenbach
Evan Aschenbach*

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

JOYS:

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM: Welcome Theodore Gordon Reis to God's family.
Teddy was born on November 12, 2025, to parents, Ben and Abigail Reis.

Those struggling with health issues:

Dayton Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Judy Brockway	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Jackie Volland
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Margaret
Eileen Koppenhaver	Tyler Meyer

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer
Helen Henning

Community Announcements:

Sunday, May 3 @ 1pm – Sheepshead Gathering at St. James UCC, Newton

Friday, May 8 – Fish Fry – 4p-7pm – Dine in or Carry Out – Community UCC, 174 N. East Street, Elkhart Lake

Wed. May 13 – 4p-7p – Brat Fry at St. James UCC, Newton

Sat. May 30 – Treasures in the Trunk Sale – 9am-2pm @ Salem UCC, Plymouth – Vendor spots still available too!

More details about these events can be viewed in the Fellowship Hall on the Community Events Board.



May/June Kiel Community Food Pantry Items Needed: Cereal



Your May Jingle Change supports ~ Strengthen the Church

MAY BETHLEHEM EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Communion	4 Loads of Love 4pm	5 Building & Grounds mtg.6:30pm	6	7	8	9 Merry Christians Brat Fry 10-2 at Kiel Piggly Wiggly
10 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 	11	12 6:30PM Consistory mtg.	13	14	15	16
17 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship 5PM MAY Spirit articles due to Traci	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30am Worship <hr/> 31 9:30am Worship led by WISE Team = Mental Health Sunday		26	27	28 9am Bethlehem @ Immanuel Food Pantry	29	30

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rick & Linda Rabe Kerry & Sharon Rumpff	2 Elizabeth Deignan Barb Henning
3 Sara Jeanty Garrett & Ginny Schultz Kevin & Mandy Voland	4	5 Grant & Christa Taylor	6	7 Dayna Schultz Jenna Rumpff	8 Nick Hanson Merri Wempner	9 Jennifer Brockway Tim Mueller
10 Bryan Jeanty	11 Pam Bowe	12 Jennifer Stroschine	13	14 Sarah Arnold Brenda Riesterer Brian & Ashley Radder	15	16
17	18 Brenda Pike	19 Melanie Voland Ben & Cassie Jeanty	20 Charly Deignan	21 Allyson Wirtz	22	23 Owen Ingraham
24 Bill & Kelly Biwan	25	26	27 Noah Watson Amber Hoeffner	28 Davin Horneck David & Ann Moore	29 Armond Wempner	30
31 Lloyd Rumpff						

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of an American flag. The top portion shows the blue field with white stars, while the bottom portion shows the red and white stripes. The flag is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, patriotic atmosphere.

MEMORIAL DAY

**PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD
IS THE DEATH OF HIS FAITHFUL ONES.**

PSALM 116:15, NRSV



