

The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 LAX CHAPEL RD. KIEL, WI 53042
(920) 894-3332

June 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem UCC,

“I’M BUSY”!! How often do we hear ourselves saying this in the course of a day? A week? What does it mean to be busy? Certainly we all have those things that are put upon us that we must do that fill up our days, but how often is our busyness more of a choice than we care to admit? How often is our busyness a way to escape being present to what should really occupy our time and energy in life? How often is our answer to the question, “How are you”, “busy” more of code language for, “I don’t really want to engage in meaningful conversation with you right now”?

We live in a fairly frenetic society with our lives being filled with a lot of activity, but how much of that activity is life giving? Easter week was a wakeup call for me and I share this here so we all can learn from my mistakes. Before going to bed Easter night I learned of the death of a friend. 48 years old. Too young, too soon, and what did I do? I arranged my life so I could be present with her family and guide them through the early stages of their mourning process...and to begin the work of dealing with my own grief. What’s wrong with that? For past 15 years I’ve been too busy to make the trip to Wichita to visit. They were too busy to come here, I was too busy to go there, but when it was too late to visit with her, I had time, I made time.

Who are the people we mean to catch up with, but just don’t have the time? Where are the places we’ve been meaning to go, but there just isn’t enough time? What are the things we’ve been meaning to do, but, you got it, there just isn’t enough time, because, after all, we’re all so darn busy. One of the things I’ve learned through my Doctoral work is that I’m really not too busy, I just need to be more cognizant of how I use my time. Sometimes we fill our schedules with things that really don’t feed our souls and just make our schedules crazy. What can you let go of that will make your life less crazy?

I learned a long time ago when I focus my life, make prayer and contemplation a priority, life gets less crazy and more centered. However, when I allow my life to get too busy for such quietude life gets away on me. Are you looking for ways to bring your life back to order? Are you looking for guidance in honing your own spiritual practices? That is one of the things you called me to do and no, I’m not too busy, I’m available.

Join me as we continue to journey through this life, prioritizing our faith and our relationships so we don’t feel like we have to rush off when it’s too late.

Blessings for this journey,
Rev. Becky

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Articles for the July 2018 edition of the Spirit are due on Wed, June 20th. Articles can be emailed directly to me at bryanjeanty@gmail.com or leave articles in the mailbox in the church office.
Thank You
~Bryan

LET'S SAVE PAPER!

In order to help the church reduce the amount of paper we go through – please sign up to receive the Spirit electronically. You can do it by signing up in the fellowship hall or emailing Bryan Jeanty at bryanjeanty@gmail.com. This is **purely voluntary** – if you don't sign up you will still keep getting the printed copy of Spirit. Do you have someone in college or the military or away from home who would like to hear about the events of Bethlehem – sign them up so they can receive the spirit electronically.

If you are not able to worship with us on Sunday, you can send your giving envelope/check to the following address:

**Bethlehem UCC
c/o Ruthie Rumpff
11608 Lax Chapel Rd.
Kiel, WI 53042**

2018 Consistory:

Elder /President: Bob Radder

Elder: Traci Rabe

Elder: Amy Wempner

Deacon: Ross Westphalen

Deacon/Secretary: Natasha Verhulst

Financial Secretary: Ruthie Rumpff

Treasurer : Rick Rabe

Mission Statement

As Disciples of Christ, we are a loving, caring community of faith, called to witness to God's grace and glory.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to love, nurture, respect, encourage and challenge each other. Rooted in the tradition of our Christian ancestors, we live our faith through worship, fellowship, teaching and service to others.

Bethlehem UCC's Website is LIVE!!!
The website is www.bethlehemkiel.org.

Check it out!!!!

Please use the email address below to submit information, photos, etc. for the church website:

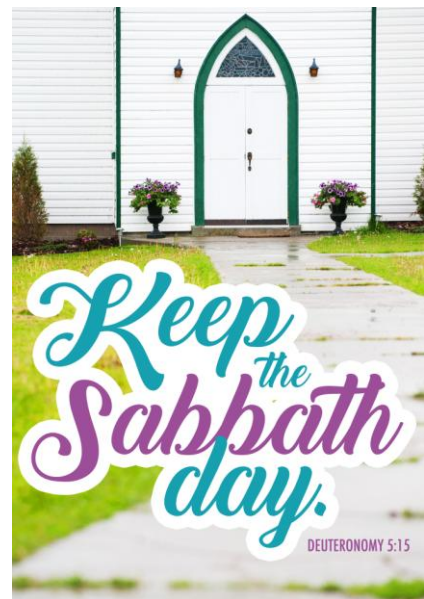
bethlehemucckiel @gmail.com

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
11608 Lax Chapel Rd – Kiel WI 53042
Phone: 920-894-3332

Worship Times:
Sunday School begins at 8:00 a.m.
Worship time is 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor
(920-918-3654 - revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister
(920-286-2531 - randynmel5@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Consistory

Consistory Minutes
May Consistory Meeting
5-8-18

The May consistory meeting was called to order by Traci Rabe at 6:35 pm. Consistory members present were: Amy Wempner, Rick Rabe, Traci Rabe, Ruthie Rumpff, Ross Westphalen, and Pastor Becky Johnston. Pastor opened the meeting in prayer.

Monthly Reports:

April Collections totaled: \$ 9,961.00

-Motion was made and approved to accept the report

April Expenses totaled: \$12,257.76

-Motion was made and approved to accept the report

It was asked that for next month we have a clearer report on where we stand financially.

Secretary's report was approved as printed in the Spirit.

Buildings and Grounds: Bids are being taken on painting or siding the old garage. Will have more updates next meeting.

Pastoral Report:

- A lot of energy is being put into the upcoming mission trip.
- Plans are being made for once a month evening church service at the fire pit. Possibly mid-week service. Watch the spirit and bulletin for updates
- Sunday morning Bible Study group is going good and well attended
- A few coffee hours have been held and looking to expand with organizations to host
- Looking to start a Book Study in Fall. To be held during the day.
- Trying to organize "tailgate events" at home Volleyball games to build stewardship in congregation.
- Confirmation as a whole was a rough year with three grades of students. Good discussion on how this will change as we get back into it being a two-year program.

Old business:

Building Use Policy: The consistory has had to turn down 2 requests for building use in the past 2 months because we do not have a building use policy in place. Receiving one from another area church has given us some guidelines to work off of. After discussion it was decided to put a committee together to write one. It was also agreed that not just consistory members should be on it. Volunteering from the consistory are Amy, Traci, and Rick and they will be asking for 2 or 3 more from the membership. A deadline of 6 months was put on this to complete and bring to annual meeting.

Travel expenses were discussed. After some careful consideration it has been resolved.

Sound System options are being looked into by Rick

Other old business items involved collections. The item was that givers need to put their names on envelopes that are provided in the pew. If not, it will not show up on giving statement and be entered as general collection.

New Business:

With the issue of mileage, it was also brought to our attention that Randy doesn't have a contract and we need to work on this. We also realized that Pastor Becky's contract hasn't been updated or if it has we don't have a copy back from the association. We are looking into both situations and will have them resolved shortly.

Building fund transition is complete. All funds are at Bank First and separate line item will be kept in the general ledger. Currently there is about \$3,000 designated building fund.

Along with this a Mortgage Burning Party was discussed. It was decided to hold this off till September 9th and do a "Welcome Back" Party with a daylong event with Sunday School. More details to follow.

Pastor Becky asked about Church Windows, Rick is going to let her use his version of Church Windows. This way she can do an attendance register within it and contact members who have missed for some time. She is also going to be updating the calling tree and emailing consistory it when finished. During this discussion it was also brought up that we send cards to shut-ins, hospital/surgery members. Amy volunteered to do this if people get her the names to do. She will get homemade cards from Lisa Westphalen to do this.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted
Ross Westphalen
Deacon

Sunday School

Thank you to all of the families for another great year of Sunday School! It has been a joy to see how all of the children grow in their faith over a year. The Sunday School wishes everyone a wonderful summer and will resume on September 9, 2018.

There will be no Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. Please contact Rev. Becky if you are interested in attending another local church's VBS, as she will have information.

Youth Fellowship



Rural Church Fellowship
Summer Volleyball Schedule

All games begin at 6:30pm

June 10, 2018

St. Marks/St. James @
Immanuel/Bethel
Saron @ Bethlehem

June 17, 2018

Bethlehem @ St. Marks/St. James
Immanuel/Bethel @ Saron

June 24, 2018

Saron @ St. Marks/St. James
Immanuel/Bethel @ Bethlehem

JULY 1st – BYE WEEK FOR
ALL TEAMS

July 8, 2018

Immanuel/Bethel @ St. Marks/St.
James
Bethlehem @ Saron

July 15, 2018

St. Marks/St. James @ Bethlehem
Saron @ Immanuel/Bethel

July 22, 2018

St. Marks/St. James @ Saron
Bethlehem @ Immanuel/Bethel

Bethlehem Ladies

Seven members and one guest met at Riverview Restaurant on Tuesday, May 15th at 5:30 pm. for a short meeting and then enjoyed a meal together. Our \$100 scholarship went to David Friend. Our guest night will be September 18th at 6:00pm with a light supper and speaker to follow. Bethlehem's own Darla Otto will be our guest speaker. We discussed the possibility of having a bake sale for the annual garage sale coming in August. We will talk to the Merry Christians as they are in charge of the event. There are no meetings in June and July. On to wash Communion glasses on June 3rd are Jeanette, Barb and Polly and July 1st are Shirley, Ginny and Darlene.

Secretary,
Polly Jeanty

Merry Christians

A huge thank you to all who made our annual brat fry a success. Thanks to those extra volunteers who lightened the work load for our group. Thanks to those who purchased brats, burgers, and steaks. And thank you to those who made donations. The Merry Christians especially enjoy the time to get into the community and visit with people who stop in at our event.

Secretary,

Kaye Radder

Bethlehem's Annual Garage Sale & Bake Sale

For many years Marilyn & Tom Brickbauer hosted Bethlehem's garage sale at their home in Kiel. We are excited to announce that Tom has agreed to again let Bethlehem use his garage for this event during Kiel Picnic Weekend of August 10 & 11.

Donate - If you have household items, clothing, toys, seasonal decorations, etc which you can no longer use, consider donating these for the garage sale. If you do not a place to store such items until August, please contact a member of the Merry Christians so that we can make arrangements .

Bake – Plan to bake some items for the bake sale table that weekend.

Volunteer – People will be needed to set-up, sell, and cleanup. Times are flexible; sign up sheets will be available in July.



Scrip

Graduation and Father's Day is fast approaching! Please keep in mind that we have gift cards for the grads and dads in your life. Stop at the scrip table and check it out. We have several restaurant cards in case you chose to take dad out for Father's Day. We are setup on a table in the gathering space. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Remember 10% of the profit is set aside for "neighbors in need" program. If you know of someone in need, please let Rev. Becky or Randy know.

Thank you for your continued support!

Linda Rabe



MONTHLY SCRIP STATS:

		PROFIT
4/22/18	\$1,580.00	\$ 56.20
4/29/18	\$1,565.00	\$ 58.00
5/06/18	\$1,305.00	\$ 45.15
5/14/18	\$2,845.00	\$100.27

Prayer Concerns

Those in our thoughts and prayers (Please check weekly Bethlehem Blurb for updated prayer concerns)



Lori Behnke: Cancer diagnosis
Helen Henning: Surgery
Ken Behnke: continued treatments
Nikki Watson: Cancer
Abraham Mulberry (Pastor Becky's son): Malaria
Doris Mae Ninmer – recuperating at Willowdale
Matthew Moioffer Family – death of Father
Steve Vogel: surgery
Joe Schmidt – death of sister
Em Albrecht: Lori Behnke's sister also has breast cancer
People in Hawaii living under the threat of the volcano
People in Northeast recovering from storms
New friends from Puerto Rico as they settle in

AND A PRAYER JOY

Ben and Cassie Jeanty as they begin their new life together



Lectionary

Proper 4 (9) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 3, 2018 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10	2 Corinthians 4:5- 12	Mark 2:23-3:6
Proper 5 (10) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 10, 2018 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138	Genesis 3:8-15 Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Proper 6 (11) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 17, 2018 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 Psalm 20	Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12- 15	2 Corinthians 5:6- 10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
Proper 7 (12) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 24, 2018 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32- 49 Psalm 9:9-20			

Bethlehem News

- **Opportunities for mission:** There is a group in Kiel working with Johnsonville to bring people from Puerto Rico to our area to work. We've all seen all of the "help wanted" signs just about everywhere we go and Puerto Rico still hasn't recovered from the Hurricanes. These folks are coming with NOTHING. A needs list will be put together and we will be sharing that with the congregation. We're in the early stages of trying to figure out how to get the list out there without being inundated with donations. One couch might be needed 15 would become a burden. Please keep your eye out for the blurb and local newspapers for ways you can help. Housing is also going to be a need. If you are aware of a place that can offer short term housing we would appreciate it. This is going to be a long slow process, so please join us so we can welcome our new neighbors.
- Speaking of Puerto Rico: The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is looking for volunteers to go to Puerto Rico to help in the rebuilding process. If you are interested see Rev. Becky or Pastor Randy and we can send you in the right direction.
- **Another Opportunity to serve...**
 Like the idea of a Mission trip, but this year's didn't work in your calendar. The Rural Church Fellowship is participating at a workcamp at Pilgrim Center June 10-14. You can sign up at ucci.org. There is no set cost. Donations are welcome
- Traveling to a mission trip not your thing? Let us do the traveling for you. Join us in our trip to Kentucky by being a Shareholder. We have four levels for you to join us. Any of the levels gives you admission to our dinner on August 5 where we will feed you and take you on the journey of our experience. Levels are:

Bronze \$25
Silver \$50
Gold \$75
Platinum \$100

Your donation will also get you a star on our bulletin board where we are displaying “The Real Stars of our Mission Trip”.

Thank you to those of you who have already joined us. Your generosity has deeply touched us.

➤ **Stewardship Committee**

The stewardship committee is focusing on being stewards of our relationships here at Bethlehem. Our first “project” is to get us meeting and talking together after church by offering coffee hour. We would like for others to take turns hosting these gatherings. What do you really need to do? Make a pot of coffee and hot water (some of us drink tea). Maybe have some juice and a very light snack. This is not meant to be brunch, just enough to get our attention and something to hold in our hand while we mingle. If you would like to host, contact one of your pastors.

ALSO we will be hosting a tailgate when we have a home volleyball game. Bring something to grill and a dish to pass and join us as we root for our team.

➤ **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

YES!! We have paid off our mortgage. On **Sunday, September 9** we are making plans for a mortgage burning celebration. We have several things in the works so plan to be with us all day. The service of burning the mortgage will be in the evening so we can include Rev. Kathryn Kuhn and Rev. Ashley Nolte as they lead us through the largest portion of this project. Look for details as we get closer to the date.

➤ **Volleyball** is starting: watch the bulletins and blurb for practice information.

➤ **SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

We want to try something new this summer. On June 24, after the volleyball game we would like to invite you to join us for worship around the campfire pit. Bring a chair. This will be rather informal so come prepared to be moved by the spirit as we enjoy our beautiful setting.

➤ **Communion for Everyone!**

We have purchased gluten free wafers for communion. We want to make sure everyone is included in the Sacrament. We will have a 5th usher who will distribute the wafers. If you have other food allergies that prevent you from taking communion, please let Rev. Becky know. Thank you!

➤ **Sunday Morning Adult Study**

Join us for Adult study at 8:15am in the library. We will discuss the lectionary text for the week. No homework or prior knowledge required. All you need to bring is your morning coffee or tea

➤ Rev. Becky’s office hours will be Tuesdays 9am –Noon and Wednesdays 9 am -3 pm. If you need to contact her outside of those hours feel free to use her cell phone 920-918-3654. Randy is going to continue with us at his current status preaching once per month and co-leading in some of the programming.

➤ Aluminum Cans – please place **ONLY aluminum cans** into your bags – keep aluminum pans and other items separate. Please continue to save your aluminum cans and place them in the old garage next to the parsonage. If you remove the can tabs and place in a separate bag - these can go help support The Ronald McDonald House.

➤ Take time to introduce yourself to someone you don’t know – help them to get to know you and other people in the church.

➤ Please wear your name tags at church to help one another get to know you better

June Calendars

PANTRY ITEM: Tube of Toothpaste, Tooth Brush, Deodorant or Lotion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship w/Communion	4	5	6	7	8 June 8-10 Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting (Jennifer and David Friend are our delegates this year)	9
10 9:30 Worship 6:00 - Tailgate 6:30 - Volleyball @ Bethlehem Vs Saron	11	12 6:30 Consistory	13	14	15	16 June 16-23 Mission Trip
17 9:30 Worship 6:30 - Volleyball @ St. Marks/St. James	18	19	20 **Spirit News Due**	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 6:00 - Tailgate 6:30 - Volleyball @ Bethlehem Vs Immanuel/Bethel	25	26	27	28	29	30

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Tim & Judy Mueller (2000)	2
3 Brian Radder Brenna Koppenhaver Dylan Dessart Kylie Brockway	4 Brooke Muehlbauer	5 Caroline JohaneK	6 Gene Radder Keatyn Suttner Jesse & Jenna Rumpff (2015)	7 Logan Moioffer	8 Ginny Schultz Joel Schuler & Rev. Becky Johnston (2002)	9
10	11 Melissa Koppenhaver	12 Matt Moioffer	13 Julie Mueller Kate Wilharms	14 Will & Lora Mathes (1975)	15 Kevin Voland	16 Zoe Watson
17 Jason & Jennifer Brockway (2006)	18 Mike Brockway	19 Eric Meunier Ryan & Sarah Arnold (1999)	20 Maria Hoban Jaxon Fliss Bonnie Zorn Eric Muehlbauer	21	22	23 Lee & Nicole Watson (2001)
24 Craig & Amanda Lieftring (2011)	25 Trent Hanson McKenna Mueller Marissa Molitor	26 Jerry Wehrmann	27 Warren Fidlin Kayla Hanson Brad & Maria Hoban (2015)	28	29	30 Vanessa Westphalen Jeremy & Kami JohaneK (2001)