

# The Spirit of Bethlehem

October 2018

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

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem UCC:

I normally don't like to write about things in the past, but I had such nice conversations with folks after the mission fest I wanted to share some impressions from the day. One of our shut-ins commented on what a nice surprise it was to have folks come and play games with them. Several of the youth commented on how they liked going out and helping people and some of them learned that BINGO is very serious business! Confirmation students said they felt like they accomplished something and it was nice to see their finished project.

We tried something different this year for the mission fest and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. One parent told me their youth spent the night at a friend's house, but called to have her Dad pick her up because she wanted to be part of the mission fest. Research has found, over and over, that the youth of today want to DO something. They won't join an organization just because their parents did, but they will join because the organization does something they think is important.

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## **Let's Save Paper!**

In order to help Bethlehem UCC reduce the amount of paper being used, please consider receiving your Spirit electronically. All you need to do is sign up in the fellowship hall or email Traci Rabe at [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com). **This is purely voluntary** – if you don't sign up your monthly Spirit will be in your church mailbox. Do you have someone who is away at college, in the military or away from home who would like to hear about the events at Bethlehem? If you do sign them up and a copy will be emailed to them monthly.

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 Road  
Kiel WI 53042

## **Bethlehem UCC 2018 Consistory Members:**

Bob Radder: Elder/President  
Traci Rabe: Elder  
Ross Westphalen: Deacon  
Natasha Verhulst: Deacon/ Secretary  
Ruthie Rumpff: Financial Secretary  
Rick Rabe: Treasurer

## **Bethlehem UCC 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 United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road  
Kiel WI 53042  
Phone: 920.894.3332

### Worship Times:

Sunday School begins at 8:00am Sunday mornings  
Sunday morning worship time is 9:30am

Reverend Rebecca A. Johnston, Pastor

Phone: 920.918.3654 or email: [revbecky1124@gmail.com](mailto:revbecky1124@gmail.com)

Rev. Becky's office hours: Tuesdays 9:00am – Noon & Wednesdays 9:00am – 3:00pm  
AND

Randy Koppenhaver, Licensed Lay Minister

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

### Bethlehem UCC's Website is LIVE!!!

Go to [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org) and check out our webpage!

You can also submit Bethlehem information, photos, and more by using the following

email address [bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemucckiel@gmail.com)

You can also follow Bethlehem UCC on facebook

<http://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.*

*Continued from page 1...*

Every time I have taken youth on Urban Immersion trips they have said it was the most meaningful thing we did in

Confirmation. They like hearing people's stories and finding

ways they can help to make a difference in the world. I hope this isn't the last time we do something like this. Some of the confirmands even suggested that we go to the Assisted Living facilities every month to play games and visit with the residents.

It was great to end the day with the burning of the mortgage. Another of our shut-ins when I went to visit greeted me with, "Well, the building is paid off, now we can give back a little and help out another church".

I have to commend the consistory for having the idea of putting the mission fest and burning of the mortgage together on the same day. What better way to celebrate the accomplishment of paying off our building than by BEING the church through mission all afternoon? Indeed, it was a great day.

On Sunday, September 9, I was very tired when I got home, but I was also very pleased with the day and grateful for everyone who participated. When we gather together we do amazing work together. I hope we can build on this experience and continue to build community while making a difference in our world.

In gratitude for the journey,

Rev. Becky

+++++

**Consistory:**

September 11, 2018 6:30pm

Those present: Rev. Rebecca Johnston, Randy Koppenhaver, Bob Radder, Rick Rabe, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe, and Natasha Verhulst Unable to attend: Ross Westphalen

Others present: Louis Bowe and Bruce Jeanty

**Call to Order**

**Buildings and Grounds Report**

- Bruce Jeanty and Louie Bowe joined for the meeting
- Discussion on repairs that need to be done at the parsonage

Creating a Healthier Church discussion - Birth Order

**Monthly Reports**

- Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff

- The report is approved as presented

...Continued on page 5

Consistory minutes continued from page 4...

- Treasurer- Rick
  - The report is approved as presented
- Secretary Report- Natasha
  - The report is approved as presented
- Rebecca Johnston
  - Rural Church Fellowship (meeting September 22nd)
    - Want to talk about doing a shrimp boil
    - Back Bay Mission for 2020 in Mississippi
  - Neighbors in Need offering - take in October
- Randy Koppenhaver
  - Sent request to Kwik Trip for Crop Walk
    - Second Sunday in October (October 14th)
    - Crop Walk: Meeting in Howards Grove at Memorial Park and ending at Memorial Park
  - Confirmation
    - Starts 9/12/18
  - August 10th, 2019 Ryan Rabe and Molly Hetzner wedding on the calendar

#### Old Business

- Review Mission Fest and Mortgage Burning
  - Meal was well received
  - Attendance was good
  - Timing was the hardest part of the planning, but it worked
  - Listen for feedback in the upcoming weeks about Mission Fest
- Discussion about the calendar and pulpit supply for the rest of the year

#### New Business

- The consistory accepted the resignation of Amy Wempner as Elder on 9/11/2018

Rick makes a motion to adjourn. Natasha 2<sup>nd</sup>.

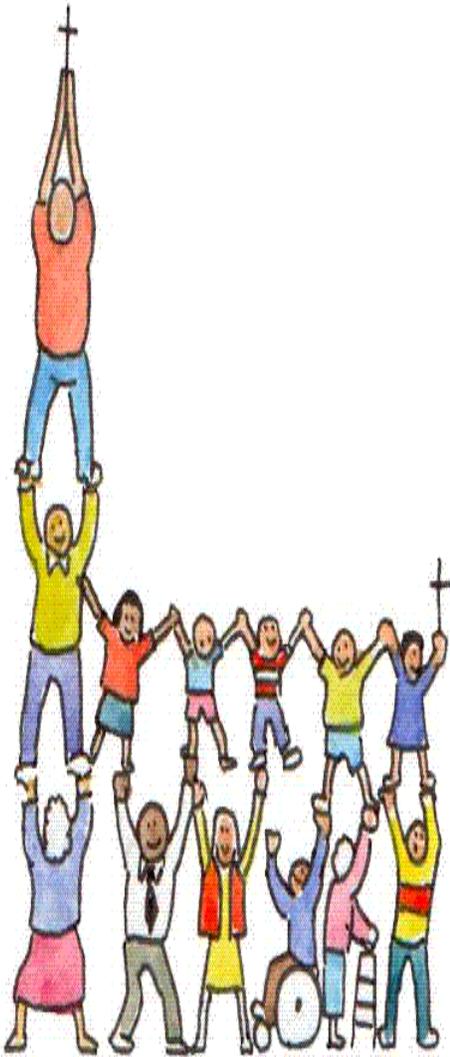
Meeting adjourned with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natasha Verhulst,

Deacon/Secretary

## Mission Sunday/Mortgage Burning – September 9, 2018



On Sunday, September 9th, Bethlehem United Church of Christ celebrated its annual Mission Fest. This has traditionally been a time to listen to guest speakers tell about the great things their organization does to make our world a better place to live. This year, Bethlehem made a difference in our community. After worship and lunch, members got involved in various community service projects. These included Adopt-A-Highway Trash Clean-up, Cleaning up storm damaged trees at the Schleswig Cemetery, staining the gazebo in Kiel, filling Comfort Bags for Foster Children, tying Fleece Blankets and spending time with Senior Citizens at two local assisted living facilities.

Later in the day, Bethlehem celebrated paying off the mortgage of the church building with a special service at 3:30 pm. Special guest, Rev. Kathryn Kuhn, former pastor at Bethlehem from 2003 to 2007 reminded congregation members of the struggles and challenges to make the tough decision whether to remodel or build. Kuhn celebrated the spirit displayed as the decision to move forward emerged. She praised the dedication of Marilyn Brickbauer who tirelessly served as building fund treasurer.

Former pastor (2009 – 2016), Rev. Ashley Nolte remembered how a special financial gift from another church lifted the spirits and gave new spark to the efforts to pay off the mortgage. She reminded the congregation of a dream of being able to pay this generosity forward. She too spoke of the spirit and enthusiasm of Marilyn Brickbauer.

Bob Radder, President of the congregation expressed his gratitude to Marilyn Brickbauer, acknowledging her dedication to getting the construction bills paid, collecting the contributions, and making the monthly mortgage payments. Bob also thanked Gene Radder who as Building Committee Chairperson dealt with contractors, subcontractors, weekly meeting, sub committees; and saw the project through to the end.

A moment of silence was observed to honor and remember those who were here as the project began but are no longer with us.

Then the mortgage was burnt.

The pastoral group read litany for Being the Church. Reminding us that the building is not a place to go in to be the church, but rather a place from which to go forth into the community.

*(This article will be placed in the church history records along with pictures from the events of the day)*

## Sunday School

Happy Fall from the Sunday School!

Dates to remember:

- October 7, 2018: Older classes (3rd-6th grades) perform during the 9:30 am church service
- October 16th, 2018: Sunday School Teachers meeting at 6:30 pm
- November 4, 2018: Younger classes (4K-2nd grades) sing during the 9:30 am church service

## Choir



**Choir Notes:** It was great to be singing again. The choir will continue singing the second Sunday of the month and we look forward to providing music during the service.

The Choir will also perform a Christmas Choral Cantata on December 9th. We will be joining with 3 other churches for this event. The churches that we will be joining are: Salem United Church of Christ-Plymouth, First Congregational United-Plymouth, and St. Peters UCC-Kiel. Natasha has been very involved in the planning of this event. More details on the event will follow in future newsletter reports and bulletins. With this in mind, the choir will be practicing Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in preparation for the performance. If you would like to join the choir for this please let us know so that music can be gathered and a binder can be made. All are welcome!

Smile while Singing,  
Ross Westphalen  
Choir President

## More information about the joint Christmas Choral Cantata

The choir of Bethlehem United Church of Christ will be participating in a joint Christmas concert this year with First Congregational UCC, Salem UCC, and St. Peter's UCC. We are looking forward to hopefully starting a new tradition. Please join us at St. Peter's UCC on December 9th at 4:00pm for a concert full of beautiful music that will put you in the Christmas spirit.

BUCC choir is looking for voices to add for Sundays and for the Joint Christmas Concert! If you are interested in singing with us for the Christmas Concert, we will hold rehearsals at BUCC at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights starting September 19th. One joint rehearsal will be held at St. Peter's UCC on Wednesday December 5th at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions please contact Natasha Verhulst, BUCC choir director at (920)286-0517, or by email at [nbehnke17@gmail.com](mailto:nbehnke17@gmail.com).

## **Bethlehem Ladies**

The Bethlehem Ladies held their annual Guest Night on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. We had 39 people in attendance. After lunch was served, our Guest Speaker, Darla Otto, talked about her business and all the services they offer. Topics discussed were trauma, homeless youth, sex trafficking, substance abuse and mental health in Manitowoc County. She pointed out the warning signs to watch for in children and also to be aware of your surroundings at all times. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. Our next meeting is Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am. On to wash Communion glasses October 7<sup>th</sup> is Shirley, Barb and Darlene.

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

## **Bethlehem Scrip**

Fall is here and Christmas is within sight. Please keep scrip in mind for any fall projects or for early Christmas shopping. We have many retailers available on a cash and carry basis. If we do not carry them, I can always order them for you and I will have them by the next Sunday.

If you have any questions about the scrip program, please ask. Thank you for supporting the scrip program.

We also set aside 10% of the profits for the "neighbors in need" program.

Thank you,

Linda Rabe

### **SCRIP STATS:**

	SALES	PROFIT
8/28/18	\$1,790.00	\$69.63
9/02/18	\$1,065.00	\$46.50
9/09/18	\$1,340.00	\$67.76
9/16/17	\$1,240.00	\$50.83

## **Confirmation**

The Confirmation class will be meeting the following Wednesdays in October: W. Oct. 3, W. Oct. 17, W. Oct. 24 and W. Oct. 31. Confirmation class begins at 6:30pm. NO CONFIRMATION on W. October 10.

Reminder: The Crop Walk is Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Merry Christians



### Sunday, Oct 28th - Heifer Project International Auction

**A Cow, Not a Cup** Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough. And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow? That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires our work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

**Passing On The Gift** The core of our model is [Passing on the Gift](#). This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities. The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. We do this by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves, and it's thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

More than 30 years ago Ron Schreiber and his wife Joyce introduced Bethlehem UCC to their passion for the mission work of Heifer International. Over the years they initiated various fund raisers including sale of wooden animal ornaments and of course the Heifer Project Auction. As a tribute to Ron and Joyce, the Merry Christians would like to make this our best auction ever. We can only do so with your help.

Following the worship service you are invited participate in the annual Heifer Project auction in the fellowship hall. The proceeds from this auction will provide livestock to needy families throughout the world. You are encouraged to donate baked goods, crafts, children's items, garden produce, services, etc. And then, you are asked to bid with your heart.

Questions – ask the Merry Christians. Refreshments will be served.

## Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Family, friends and neighbors we hold close to our hearts...

Louis Bowe - Skin Cancer treatment

Dale Horneck - recovering

Eric Muehlbauer family - Eric's grandfather passed away

Nikki Watson: Recent surgery

Helen Henning - Recovering from surgery

Lori Behnke: Cancer recovery

Ken Behnke: continued treatments

Doris Mae Nimmer - Field of Dreams

Ken Henschel - Oak Creek

Carol Meiselwitz- Waterford

Those impacted by Hurricane Florence

Those affected by heavy rains and flooding



## Bethlehem News

- CROP Walk: October 14 at Howards Grove Memorial Park. This year Bethlehem is hosting. We are providing water (generously donated by Kiktrip) and cheese. We could use a few volunteers to help set things up and clean up afterwards. Please see Rev. Becky. *Donation envelopes are available from Rev. Becky and you can donate through any member of the confirmation class.*
- Book Study: I'd like to start a new book study. The book I have in mind is "The Book of Joy" by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. I would like to meet on Monday evenings at 6:00 and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. If you are interested, please let Rev. Becky know by October 8 we will begin on October 15 and 17. The cost of the book is \$14.

- The United Churchmen and women banquet is October 25 at 6:30 pm at Lakeland University. Tickets are \$16. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please see Rev. Becky. Reservations need to be made by October. 15.

## Lectionary

October 7, 2018	<u>Job 1:1, 2:1-10</u> Psalm 26	<u>Genesis 2:18-24</u>  Psalm 8	<u>Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12</u>	<u>Mark 10:2-16</u>
October 8, 2018	<u>Joel 2:21-27</u>  Psalm 126		<u>1 Timothy 2:1-7</u>	<u>Matthew 6:25-33</u>
October 14, 2018	<u>Job 23:1-9, 16-17</u> <u>Psalm 22:1-15</u>	<u>Amos 5:6-7, 10-15</u> <u>Psalm 90:12-17</u>	<u>Hebrews 4:12-16</u>	<u>Mark 10:17-31</u>
October 21, 2018	<u>Job 38:1-7, (34-41)</u> Psalm <u>104:1-9, 24, 35c</u>	<u>Isaiah 53:4-12</u> <u>Psalm 91:9-16</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:1-10</u>	<u>Mark 10:35-45</u>
October 28, 2018	<u>Job 42:1-6, 10-17</u> <u>Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)</u>	<u>Jeremiah 31:7-9</u> <u>Psalm 126</u>	<u>Hebrews 7:23-28</u>	<u>Mark 10:46-52</u>

Articles for the November Spirit are due on Wed. October 17<sup>th</sup>. Email your article to Traci Rabe at [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com) or you can place your article in the mailbox in the church office.  
Thank you.  
~Traci

## October Jingle Change: Neighbors in Need

The 1st & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month will go to our families in need program

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00 S. School 8:15 Adult Study 9:30 Worship w/Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 Consistory	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00 S. School 8:15 Adult Study 9:30 Worship CROP WALK @ Howards Grove Memorial Park	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> *Spirit News Due* 6:30 Confirmation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00 S. School 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies 8:15 Adult Study 9:30 Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 S. School 8:15 Adult Study 9:30 Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 Confirmation	<b>PANTRY ITEM: cleaning Supplies</b>		

## ~ October Birthdays & Anniversaries ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Jack Meunier Andrew & Natasha Verhulst (2016)	<b>2</b> Cheri Vogel Jennifer Meiselwitz	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Kerry Henning	<b>5</b> Mike Nimmer	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Joshua Thiry	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Lloyd & Darlean Rumpff (1954)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Dale Horneck Abby Wilharms	<b>13</b> John Meunier
<b>14</b> Rick Rabe	<b>15</b> Mark Jr. & Brenda Riesterer (2005)	<b>16</b> Darla Otto Lisa Westphalen Tom & Marie Mueller (1992)	<b>17</b> Cameron Wempner Joey & Sallie Rabe (2015)	<b>18</b> Steve Vogel Todd Brickbauer Bryan Westphalen	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Joe & Mary-Beth Molitor (1990)
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Harold Shaver	<b>23</b> Steve & Ruthie Rumpff (1976)	<b>24</b> Randy & Melissa Koppenhaver (1998)	<b>25</b> Bob & Kaye Radder (1975)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Aliya Arnold Tyson Arnold Steve Deignan
<b>28</b> Heather Thiry Dale & Darlene Horneck (1961) Tony & Sandy Tesch (2006)	<b>29</b> Ken Behnke Hudson Hoban	<b>30</b> Nikki Meunier	<b>31</b> Laura Mueller Joel Schuler			