



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
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January 2023

From the Pastor

Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

For the last few months, I have seen and heard advertisements for sports betting that will be made legal the first of the year in Ohio. I enjoy sports, I even coached youth football in the early 80's for 10- & 11-year-old boys. I also have attended NFL games, and MLB games, and one NBA game.

I remember working in the factory and people would pass around slips of paper with collage and pro football games on them and you could place a \$2.00 wager on teams to win and make a couple bucks if you win. And let's not forget the March Madness brackets. All games meant in good fun for people to take a chance on.

The game will change at the beginning of the year with professional sports betting. I like the fact that from time to time they are advertising the need to be safe and not get in trouble with betting. The Bible doesn't say anything against betting, in fact the disciples cast lots to determine the new disciple to replace Judas, (Acts 1:26). This was seen as letting God choose the Disciple, trusting God.

The opening scripture says it all for me, and I pray for you. If you want to bet on something sure you can only bet on God. Trust God and give all that you have to God. We serve a God that is there in every situation we encounter each day. God will help us as we live our lives. Cheer for your favorite team and trust me every once in a while they will win. Every day that we place our trust in God we win.

Have a happy New Year and trust God.



Choir Notes



A New Year - A New Start

Happy 2023 everyone!!!! Such a full and busy end of the year we had. **Congratulations** to the choir for an AWESOME CANTATA!!! And now we find ourselves once again at the beginning of a brand new year. A year full of new possibilities, new adventures, new dreams and new songs to sing.

God seems to specialize in new beginnings in the Bible. He gives us new chances every single day to do better, to love more, to pray more, to share His Word more, to Sing His Praises more!!!!

Lamentations 3:21-23 "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." In other words, a new beginning awaits us each day as we are willing and wanting to make Jesus Christ the Lord of our life.

Sharing God's messages of encouragement, love, hope and new beginnings is exactly what our Bethel choir and bell choir members will be doing over the next several months. We have so much fun when we get together. Laughing over messed up notes or words, comical comments blurted out. But in the end we share with you our heart-felt message of God's word each Sunday morning.

May you each have a *New Beginning* in this New Year. And remember, God gives us a new chance each day. Grasp yours. It is there for the taking with God's Blessing.

January 4th..... Bell practice 6:00. Choir practice 6:30. See you then!!!



CAMPP NEWS



Sunday December 11th was our **Christmas CAMPP Dinner Night**. We gathered to share spaghetti and meatballs. Also Ms. Molly brought cookies we indulged in with a bowl of ice cream! The children also had their last practice for the Cantata the youth participated in during Sunday Service on Dec 18th.

Seventeen **CAMPP** youth and Ten adults were in attendance for **CAMPP**. We made star and cinnamon stick cross ornaments to rejoice the birth of Christ. We also did a raffle for a \$10 Amazon Gift Card, where the Youth could earn tickets by Attendance, wearing **CAMPP** shirt, Bringing a Friend, and also by giving to the Giving Jar. Our big winner for the night was Parker!!

The children have been giving generously over this past year to our **GIVING JAR!** For our 2022 giving back to our community mission, the **CAMPP** youth gave back in a **BIG** way. At the Dec 14th Food Pantry at Bethel UCC we gave a Christmas Gift Bag to **15** families with Children. Bags included a **\$25** Walmart Gift Card along with Snacks and Candy. Our **CAMPP** youth signed Christmas cards wishing Merry Christmas. They gave back over **\$375** to family in need within our Community.

Our next **CAMPP Night** will be Sunday Jan 22nd at **5:30 pm** and Sing Sunday Jan 29th @ Service 10am. **HOPE TO SEE YOU IN 2023 AT CAMPP!!!**

CAMPP Awards Received:

Oct 2022 - **Addison** & **Devon Finch** received their **CAMPP** Sweatshirts.

Nov 2022 - **Nathan Phillis** received his **Youth Bible**.

Dec 2022 - **Ella Humprey** received her **Notes from Jesus Book**.

Lauren Phillis / **CAMPP** Director



COUNCIL CORNER FOR DECEMBER 2022

Apostle: There is one more set of Altar Paraments left to have cleaned plus the two flags. This should be completed by the end of the year. Counsel agreed that the dry cleaners being used is doing a great job at a reasonable price.

Poinsettia sales are good this year with around 22 being ordered.

Turkey donations for the community Thanksgiving dinners were good this year. We sent a total of 14 turkeys to two different churches in the Alliance area.

We are still looking for someone to step up and take charge of the Apostle duties.

Deacon: The November financial report was presented to the council and approved by unanimous vote.

Hunter bank has already started sending the extra \$7000 per month to help with the bills. Hopefully the money will not be needed until the new year.

Brian McKarns was able to report that at the time the funds will be expended for this project are in the area of \$20,150 plus the new pulpit at approximately \$2200. Funds allotted for the project were \$25,000.

Elder: For the month of November the Food Pantry served 62 families for a total of 129 people. More seniors seem to be the main recipients of the pantry service.

The delivery charges will be increasing significantly in 2023. We will be looking into how to cover those charges.

The CAMPP kids will be handing out gift cards and goodie bags at the 12/14 distribution.

Church business: January 29, 2023 was set as the date for our annual congregational meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Kornick, Council President



Travis Lane 01/01

Joe McKibben 01/22

Robert Wallace 01/22

Marcia Smith 01/27

Robert Brogan 01/28

David Yaggi 01/30

Katherine Harlan 01/31

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