



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
E-mail bethelchurchbeloit@gmail.com
Website: bethelbeloit.org

August 2023

From the Pastor

As the church gets ready for next year, we take time to look at stewardship and in looking at that our Deacon, Jim Buttermore is calling on people to speak about the agencies and projects they are passionate about. There are 12 projects that the church gives money to straight from our budget. We do not have emphasis on these and you are not asked to donate to them, they are paid out of our budget. Now we might ask for additional support, like this year we are in an Apostle Build for Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity, that is an additional amount we give. That is why we are having fundraisers for that this year. These benevolences total \$23,550.00 a year that comes from our budget. We do other fundraising efforts throughout the year like One Great Hour of Sharing and the Christmas Fund, these are special offerings that we support, and the amount that you place in the envelope marked with these names goes to that offering.

How should we give? Is often a question I get asked, and I like to turn to scripture when those questions are asked.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8: Generosity Encouraged

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

These words from Paul to the church at Corinth ring true for us today. As we look at giving and the budget of the church, we all need to look at our giving in the way that Paul directs us. Give cheerfully, sharing the abundance we have received from God is how we need to

approach giving our offering. When we talk about benevolences that word does not get us wanting to donate cash to the anything called benevolence, but when we hear about women needing safe places to live, we are ready to help.

When we helped the Bethel Hofer Clinic the church gave in a great way, when we support the Apostle build for Habitat we give with joy in our hearts. When we know what we are giving to we are ready to help and do what we can. Putting a face on things helps us see what is happening and where our money is going.

The hard thing that we face is when we must pay the bill for the copy machine, or the trash dumpster that sits in the parking lot. Most have watched home improvement shows and people are ready to spend thousands of dollars on the furniture in the house, but if they need to pay \$500.00 to fix the foundation that is leaking in the basement, that is a hard thing to do. Keep that all in mind as we move into the budget that will contain those causes we all love to support, and the phone bill that we don't always think about. God Loves a cheerful giver.

Peace & Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



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TEEN TIME

When: September 24, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

**Where: Bethel United Church of Christ —
Youth Room upstairs**

Who's Invited: 6th grade - 12th grade.

Questions: Anne McKarns anneblc@yahoo.com

COUNCIL CORNER FOR JULY 2023

Apostle – Luanne Sanor: A “Thank You” note was received from the West Branch School District for the \$1000 donation sent by Bethel to help with outstanding school lunch debts.

A new informational flyer was introduced and reviewed that will be available to all guests and members.

Deacon – Jim Buttermore: The June financial report was presented to the council and approved by unanimous vote.

We are looking to put together a 2024 budget team to work on the 2024 church budget.

The benevolence informational talks are going well, and we look forward to more talks for the rest of the summer.

On August 13th, Jim will speak to the congregation about picking their top three benevolences and will also explain more about how the budget works.

Elder - Allen Deckerd: Continues to work with the area Ruritans to seek financial assistance with the food pantry delivery charges. They will discuss it at their meetings and get back to Allen asap.

The number of families and people we serve at our food pantry continues to go up and we will likely have a record year for the needs and services at our food pantry.

Church business: Brian stated that he has begun the long process of the possibility of drilling a new well for the church and parsonage.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Kornick

Happy Birthdays

Dave Scott	8/01	Janice McLaughlin	8/18
Darlene Lane	8/02	Evelyn Yaggi	8/20
Richard Rice	8/03	Dennis Lane	8/24
Marvin Dye	8/06	Sherry Brunner	8/24
Ryan Foos	8/09	Devon Finch	8/24
Ty Johnson	8/09	Patricia Crooks	8/25
Amelia Mercer	8/12	Natalie Yaggi	8/30

Please submit articles for the Beacon by the 20th of each month. When submitting article please do them in word or excel not pdf.

Please check your mailbox in the hall by the office.

Help Spread the Good News!!

Bethel now has an information flyer available for guests, friends or anyone who would like to know what is happening at Bethel at a quick glance.

Please help to share the Blessings and Opportunities that Bethel has to offer.

Grab a couple and share them!
They will be updated monthly with new and additional blessings as they arise.

Share the Good News!!



On the reverse side of these Blessing and Opportunity flyers you will find a different inspirational message or scripture each month. If you have a favorite uplifting scripture that you would like to have included on one of the monthly flyers, please contact the church office or see Luanne.

Together let's share God's Good News!!

Summer Music

- Aug.** 6 - Marie Miller
 13 - Michal Cope & Kay DeTray
 20 - Rev. David Long-Higgins
 27 - Bethel Trio (Missy, Linda, Michal)
- Sept.** 3 - Allen Deckerd
 10 - *Choir is Back!!*



Choir Notes

We are coming down the home stretch with our wonderful summer music!! The summer months are flying by. Just a quick note to **all** wishing to sing in the choir: **Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30.** The choir will sing for the service on September 10th. **Bell practice will resume October 4th.** Enjoy the rest of your summer everyone!!!!!!

What's happening at Bethel?

We will be continuing our 10:30 Tuesday Devotional Bible Study.

Special Music continues through Sept. 3rd.

The Adult Choir will begin practice at 6:30 September 6th.

The choir is back Sept. 10th.

Next Council Meeting will be August 8th at 1:00 P.M.

The Staff Meeting is on August 15, 1: 00P.M

On Aug 20th we will be worshiping at 1st Immanuel UCC in Alliance. After worship we will have a meal together. They have asked for Bethel to provide the Desserts.

August 20th David Long Higgins will be the speaker and provide music.

On the 2nd and 4th, Wednesday Evening of August, (9th and 23rd) the Pantry will be serving food to our local community.

Bethel United Church of Christ

25701 Buck Road

Beloit OH 44609

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