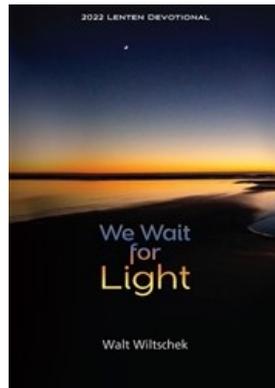




A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
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February 2022



From the pastor

We Wait for Light, this is the title of the devotional booklet we will be using for the season of Lent through Easter. Walt Wiltschek, a Church of the Brethren pastor has written this devotional and I look forward to sharing this experience with all of you. We have a copy for each household including some large print copies for those that need them. Camp Ministry has been a vital part of Walt's ministry and that is my connection to him. He writes in the introduction: I visited a camp in the Sierra Nevada mountains at an elevation of 6,000 feet. I hadn't fully considered the ramifications of what that meant for the climate. The days were dry and comfortable enough, but the nights – I quickly learned – are usually rather chilly.

So that first night, after all the campers we ensconced in their bunks, I settled into mine and pulled my sheet over me. As the days heat evaporated into the clear night sky, the temperature began its downward march. I fell asleep for a while, but around 2:30 or 3 a.m. I woke up and realized that July had disappeared, and I was cold. Before long I was shivering a bit. I put on my sweatshirt, pulled my sheet as tightly around me as I could, and balled myself up in the corner...

As I stiffly made my way down the hill to the main lodge and its roaring morning fire, the sun peeked out from the eastern ridge. Never was I so happy to see it.

Life is sometimes like that. The darkness seems to last forever. We scan the horizon for any gleams of light, the promise of a figurative new day and rays of hope. As our country has wrestled already this decade with issues of racial justice, health crisis, economic disparity, polarized divisions, and other global concerns, we might find such glimpse hard to find...

That is the nature of Lent, a season on the church calendar given to wilderness wandering and discernment, prayer and preparation. In the weeks ahead, we will journey the sometimes-hard road of Isaiah, interspersed at times with other texts, as we gaze toward the first hints of Easter brilliance. Embrace the journey but keep an eye on the horizon. The light is coming. –Walt Wiltschek

I would invite you to join me on this journey through Lent using this devotional to guide our steps along this way. On Thursday morning I invite you to come to the church at 10:30 for a time of prayer and reflection on the text from the previous week. We will start on March 10 at 10:30 and look at the devotional from March 2-10. I will have coffee and water for tea and some light pastries for your enjoyment.

Valentine's Day is the celebration of the life of Saint Valentine, the only problem is that there are a couple Saints named Valentine. One was put to death for performing weddings in the late 200's. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Because of his martyrdom, and his passion for the Sacrament of Marriage he was honored with Valentine's Day. The other Valentine was in prison and wrote notes of love to his love.

The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the tower of London. American's Valentines were hand drawn notes and greetings through the 1700's and in 1840 Esther A. Howland, the Mother of the Valentine, made the first printed valentine in the 1840's. Know there is a lot of history around that little valentine card that you send to your Love this Valentine's Day.

A recognition to History.com for the information in this article and may you have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



Choir Notes

A much needed break for the choir is coming to an end and we look forward to a fresh new start for the 2022 season. Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, February 2nd, and we will be back singing for the service on the 6th. YAY!!!!!!

I am so excited about our lineup of anthems which will include some old favorites, some new songs and some great songs we just haven't done for a while. If anyone would like to join the fun you know YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!!

We are also seeking a few extra bell players to join our "crazy" fun group. Would **LOVE** to get a few new ringers onboard to help out. Hoping to start bell practice up before too long so will keep you posted. Anyone interested in giving it a try just let me know. It really is quite easy.....and so much fun!!!!!!

Music Director/ Luanne Sanor



Monthly approved budget

\$17,271.95

17,877.21

Income:	(Offering)	\$ 13,446.70	annual income:	\$ 126,378.73
	(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		<u>\$ 84,765.00</u>
total:		\$ 18,446.70	total:	\$ 211,143.73



Expense:	(overhead)	\$ 19,052.72	annual expense:	\$199,299.87
	(benev.)	<u>\$ 4,288.01</u>		<u>\$ 18,081.71</u>
total:		\$ 23,340.73	total:	\$217,381.58

Year End: We spent \$6,237.85 more than we took in for the year.



Happy Birthday

Wayne Fieldhouse	2/4	Wilda Bandy	2/20
Linda Harris	2/4	Kathy Stryffeler	2/22
Allison Harris	2/5	Walter Smith	2/22
Helen McBride	2/10	Ella Humphrey	2/25
Betty Schumaker	2/10	David Liebhart	2/26
Mary Jo Dye	2/16	Destiny Cappa	2/27
Gloria Kurena	2/17	Chelsea Cappa	2/29



CAMPP News



What is **CAMPP**??? **CAMPP** is a **SUPER FUN**, faith-based opportunity for children to express themselves through different types of music and arts, a fun way to explore and learn more about a faith-based life, and a great way to make new friends!!! There are many different opportunities for the kids to earn points for which they can receive **CAMPP** rewards such as **CAMPP** t-shirts, backpacks, bibles, and more!!!

Wednesday February 9th at 6:00 will be our first **2022 CAMPP** filled with LOVE and LAUGHTER! We will have a Valentine's day lesson on filling Our Hearts with God's LOVE and how we can share His LOVE. Also using our Math skills, we will add up and see God's LOVE for Us. Children will be practicing the hand bells in preparation for Service on Sunday Feb. 13th and also making Valentine's to share! We will also Give our Hearts to Jesus while playing our balloon pop game and of course we will have a Snack to close the night!

It is strongly suggested to wear masks so we have the opportunity to continue in-person. Feel free even if you don't have a little one to come and see what we are all about. I would just ask that you please contact me if you plan to attend before hand to make sure we have enough space, as we tend to get a full-house of children with parents/ grandparents.....HOPE TO SEE YOU AT **CAMPP!!!**

Lauren Phillis / **CAMPP** Director

Growing stronger families through adult ministries,
kids clubs, multigenerational choral groups, and community
support; all are welcome here!



What's Happening at Bethel

Choir will resume practice on Wednesday Feb. 2nd.

Choir will be singing on Feb 6th.

Communion will be on February 6th

CAMPP will have their first meeting of 2022 on Feb 9.

CAMPP kids will be singing "Jesus Loves Me" in church on Feb. 13th.

Bible study began Sunday January 30, 7P.M. via Zoom and again on Monday January 31st evening at 7:00 P.M. If you want to participate let Pastor Allen know and he will need your e-mail to get you an invitation.

Bethel United Church of Christ
25701 Buck Road
Beloit OH 44609

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