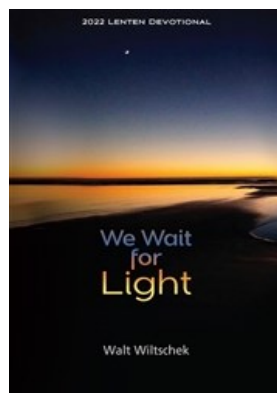




A Beacon of Hope

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

March 2022



From the pastor

We Waite 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.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



CHOIR NOTES



The Lenten / Easter season is upon us. The most important liturgical season of eastern Christianity: The death and resurrection of Christ. Preparations are underway for our choir and rehearsals have begun. It is our hope that the special music we provide will enhance our services during this time of reflection and remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

During our devotion time prior to choir practice, we have been discussing the important responsibility that the choir has in sharing our music ministry. Through our songs we have been charged with sharing scripture, messages of love, encouragement, praises for God, the reminder that Jesus died on the cross for us and so much more.

“Let Christ’s teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs, singing God’s praises with joyful hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col. 3:16–17).

We do not take this responsibility lightly. We strive to share and reach out to others....touching the hearts of God’s people with our music.

In addition to the choral music, our wonderful organist/pianist, Peggy Christy, is also working on some beautiful special music for this season of reflection. Her thoughtful selections continually add so much to our worship and touch many hearts as well.

Our Bethel music ministry looks forward to sharing their beautiful songs with all of you over the next 40 days and beyond. May this Lenten season be a special blessing to each of you as you reflect and prepare your minds, hearts and souls for the remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Music Director/ Luanne Sanor

Jan-2022

Monthly approved budget 19,334.81

Income: (Offering)	\$ 13,596.00	annual income:	\$ 13,596.00
(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>		<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
total:	\$ 18,596.00	total:	\$ 18,596.00

Expense: (overhead)	\$ 16,489.12	annual expense:	\$16,489.12
(benev.)	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
total:	\$ 16,489.12	total:	\$16,489.12



Ben Humphrey 3/01
Jerry Vogelhuber 3/04
Abby Johnson 3/07
Brian Bandy 3/12
Patricia Brogan 3/13
Anthony Cappa 3/18
Edward Miller 3/19

David & Garnet Yaggi
3/12/1977

David & Deborah Scott
3/31/1978

CAMPP News

February 9th was our first **2022 CAMPP** filled with LOVE and LAUGHTER! Twenty-Two Kids and Twelve adults were in attendance for this fun-filled hour. We filled Our Hearts with God's LOVE and how we can share His LOVE. The children rang the hand bells and learned the words to an old song with a new twist in preparation for Service on **Sunday Feb. 27th**. We had 14 Children at Service to ring/sing and pass out Valentine's to the congregation!

Our next **CAMPP Night** will be **March 9th** at 6:00 and sing at Service the following **Sunday March 13th**. We are entering Lent and the Children will be thoughtful of what Jesus sacrificed for us. This is the season for reflection and prayer to prepare our hearts and minds. **HOPE TO SEE YOU AT CAMPP!!!**

Coming Up.....Still in need of volunteers for Snack Team in April & May for CAMPP Night.

April – CAMPP Wed 4/6 ; Children Sing @ Service 4/10 (Palm Sunday)

May – CAMPP Wed 5/4 ; Children Sing @ Service 5/8

Lauren Phillis / **CAMPP** Director



Council Corner

Apostle Glenn Swope reported that he has been and will continue to talk with folks in the church regarding tasks that need done.

Elder Allen Deckerd reported:

- that for January the food pantry served 37 families for a total of 101 people
- we are still working with Second Harvest for alternate pickups and deliveries.

Deacon's report: Financial report was presented by the treasurer and was approved by council.

Pastor Allen reported

- that due to the Covid and the weather he is making more phone contacts than visits.
- He will be using material from the Lenten work shop that he attended for Bethel's Lenten season
- Allen is now sitting on the selection board for the Alliance Habitat for Humanity
- Church Business: Discussion continued regarding dedicating 2022 as a year of giving for the church and congregation using both the GEM's fund and also congregational gifts. Decision made to set up a team consisting of 2 council members and 2 congregants to set procedures, dollar amounts and recipients. It was agreed that this needs to get moving asap.

Next meeting will be March 8th at 7:00 P.M.

Submitted by Lee Kornick

What's Happening at Bethel

March 2nd	Ash Wednesday 6:30-7:00 P.M. Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.
March 6th	Communion
March 8th	Council Meeting 7:00P.M.
March 9th	Pantry 4-5:30 P.M. CAMPP 6:00 P.M. Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.
March 10th	Devotional and prayer through Lent 10:30A.M. at the church
March 9th	Pantry delivery
March 13th	CAMPP Kids sing
March 15th	Staff Meeting 10:00A.M.
March 16th	Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.
March 23rd	Pantry 4-5:30 P.M. Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.
March 30th	Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.

Bethel United Church of Christ
25701 Buck Road
Beloit OH 44609

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