



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
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April 2023

From the Pastor

I was reading an article in the March 16, 2023, Steams of Connection, a weekly newsletter from the Living Water Association, and the General Minister, Nayiri Karjian wrote about “Cultural Sensitivity” She relayed her story of coming to America, from her home in Armenia and all the differences she experienced and continues to see. She reminded me that we are a part of a larger community the Living Water Association has 146 congregations, urban, suburban and rural, congregations of European and African descent; the Association has 340 authorized ministers comprised of European, African and Asian descent, all have covenanted to do the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ together in this world, at this time, and to live together in the Living Water Association.

We can get caught up in our own lives and the people around us. And things like this remind me that when we move our focus out even a little bit there are a lot more people around us. I grew up 26 miles from this church and my life revolved around family, school, church and the neighborhood. As life goes on we make choices and move in directions that our lives lead us.

I say all of this because the Spring Vitality Festival 2023 will be held on April 1, from 9:00—11:30AM on Zoom. This is a chance for us to come together here at the church and be a part of the Living Water Association and connect with some of those 146 congregations. The theme will be Nurturing Health and Vitality, in our post pandemic world we need to look at our health and wellbeing. Please see the flyer in this Beacon or visit the website <https://livingwaterone.org/> and you can subscribe to the streams of Connection and other events that are happening in the Living Water Association.

I would like to have a few people from the church join me at the church to experience this Zoom gathering on April 1, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. I will have hot tea and coffee, please check your calendar.

Peace & Love

Allen R. Kahler

Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023 at 7:00PM, Bethel will gather in the Sanctuary for a time of confession and personal examination. We will then move to a simple meal with time for fellowship. Then we will celebrate Holy Communion together. Come and celebrate this Holy evening.

Good Friday April 7, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. the West Branch community will gather at the Damascus Methodist Church on Valley Road. The West Branch Ministerial will be leading us through the 7 last words of Jesus. Please come and share in this Worship and stay for a time of fellowship after.

Quick Kitchen Update

The church now has a group of three ladies that will be coordinating the use of the kitchen for events such as: (funeral luncheons, family gatherings, etc.). Marcia Smith, Shannon Kahler and Sam Rice have formed a team to be responsible for the use of the church kitchen and upkeep of supplies and utensils so that our kitchen can meet the needs of the congregation and run as efficiently as possible.

Important... If you want to request the use of the kitchen or reserve the kitchen for an event, you still need to contact Deb in the office to fill out the necessary reservation form, make sure of the availability of the date.

requested and give her the information needed for your event. She will give the information to the coordinators, and they will make sure of the proper set up and the necessary number of people are gathered to prepare the food and beverages etc.

Please refrain from approaching these folks on Sunday mornings with any requests or questions as they are here to worship on Sundays just as the rest of us are. Thanks for your cooperation on this.

Blessings, Lee

COUNCIL CORNER FOR MARCH 2023

Apostle: Glen reports that the Mardi Gras event was a big success and that he would like to see more events like that take place.

All paraments and flags have been cleaned. Suggested that we purchase a new Christian flag as our old one is falling apart due to age.

Summer camp information has been given to Lauren to forward to CAMPP families. Families will be asked to pay a small registration fee with the church paying the remainder of the cost.

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

A printout of all monthly expenses was presented to help council members get a better idea of all that is paid out each month.

Elder: A real need continues to be shown for our food pantry ministry. The need has been strong with the 65-84 age range. We continue to sign up new families each time there is a distribution.

With such a strong need in our community the church is challenged to find additional ways to step up even more.

Allen D. is challenging the congregation to attend the Good Friday service at Damascus Methodist church and fill two (2) pews with Bethel people.

Church business: The church is purchasing some new ladders to replace our old and outdated ones.

The installation has begun with the new sanctuary sound system and wiring, and equipment is being completed by Anthony Cappa.

A dessert auction has been approved for Sunday April 23rd after service. The proceeds will benefit our Apostle Build for Habitat for Humanity.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Kornick, Council Vice President



James Ramsey 04/01

Mathew Deckerd 04/08

Dale Stryffeler 04/08

Olivia Humphrey 04/11

Julia Beck 04/13

Julie Sell 04/19

Tom Foos 04/22

Vincent Brunner 04/23

Deborah & George Cappa

04/03/1976

Please submit articles
for the Beacon by the
20th of each month.

When submitting
article please do them
in word or excel not
pdf.

DESSERT AUCTION TO BENEFIT



HABITAT for HUMANITY
APOSTLE BUILD

SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2023 IMMEDIATELY AFTER
WORSHIP (11:00 a.m.)

We have committed to donating \$7,000. The hope of council is that we raise at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of that amount through donations.

PUT YOUR BAKING HAT ON!! Or... for those of you that are non-bakers.....bring LOTS of money!!

COME JOIN THE FUN!!

What's happening at Bethel

2023 Spring Vitality Festival April 1, 9-11 Via zoom.

Bethel will be participating in our 7th year with Habitat for Humanity beginning in April.

Palm Sunday Celebration is Sunday Morning, April 2 in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday will be on April 6th, 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday, April 7th will be at Damascus UMC 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday April 9

We will be continuing our Tuesday Devotional Bible Study

The 2nd and 4th (April 12th and 26th) Wednesday Evening of April, the Pantry will be serving food to our local community.

The Choir will be practicing every Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.

Next CAMPP will be on the 16th of April, they will be singing in church on the 23rd of April.

These are the causes Bethel gives to each quarter.

Please prayerfully consider donating to their cause.

Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity		250.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
Alliance Domestic Violence Center		250.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
Alliance Pregnancy Center		187.50	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
Crossroad.		250.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
CRU		250.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
CUE		200.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		
Living Water Association		2,125.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable			
SARA/Bethel Hofer Clinic		250.00	✓
20000 · Accounts Payable	4th qtr		

Tobin Center

187.50

2023
Spring Vitality Festival

LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
Nurturing Health and Vitality

Featuring:

Rev. Dr. Chris S. Davies

*Executive Minister for Programs and Initiatives
Southern New England Conference, UCC*

Sat • April 1 • 9 - 11:30 AM • Via Zoom

Register for free at: livingwaterone.org/event



Bethel United Church of Christ
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