



# A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

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Website: [bethelbeloit.org](http://bethelbeloit.org)

## From the Pastor 2022

A new year brings opportunity and anticipation with it. Looking back over the past two years we are ready for a new year that will be better. As we welcome this new year, we can welcome two new people to the Bethel Council. Brian McKarns has stepped up to answer the call to be our Vice President and Glen Swope will serve as our Apostle. This leaves one position open, that of Deacon my prayer is that there is someone who will feel called to step up and fill this position before our January 11, 2022, meeting.

Looking forward is often difficult as we tend to like comfort and the future can be a very scary and uncertain place. We don't know what the future holds and as we age, we are more and more satisfied with the way things are. We have had to make a lot of changes in the past couple of years that we would have probably never had made before. Many churches had talked about live-streaming their worship service, and some were doing this before March 2020, today almost every church is online in one form or another.

Our food pantry has adapted to a totally different way of serving the people who visit our food giveaway. We now digitally log in our clients, and we put the groceries directly into their car. The Second Harvest Food Bank has a program that allows us to type in the last name of the person and their information appears on the screen. This eliminates the need for the large notebooks that we stored that information in, and since the information is in this database, we no longer have to report to Second Harvest.

As we move into 2022, we have many opportunities to try some new and revisit some of things we are familiar with. Please enjoy the new year and stay safe in the new 365 days you are given. If you feel called to fill the open Deacon position, we encourage your help and service to the church.

Have a wonderful New Year and make your resolutions with God in your heart for 2022.

# “NEW” CAMPP NEWS

It is with GREAT PLEASURE and EXCITEMENT that we announce that Lauren Phillis is our new CAMPP director as of January!! I could not have been more pleased when she told me a few months back that she was willing to do this! YAY!!!

Most likely many of you already know Lauren or are familiar with her. She has been bringing her kids, Nate and Jocelyn, to CAMPP since “day one”. She and her family have been very involved in many aspects of the church for years, including the most recent being her spearheading the CAMPP Kids raffle to raise funds for Bethel’s part of the Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build. As you all know.... it was a HUGE success. Thank you Lauren!

Lauren and her husband, John, have been married for 12 years. Their three children... Lacey – 18, Nate – 10 and Jocelyn – 7.... attend West Branch Schools. For the past 16 years Lauren has worked for the Ohio Department of Transportation as the District 4 Planning Engineer /Administrator overseeing the planning of roadway and bridge projects and the district budgets for six counties. She is also very involved in her kid’s school and sports activities.

Lauren has many exciting new ideas for taking CAMPP into this next year. Allowing time for transition and regrouping, she is tentatively hoping for CAMPP to reconvene in February. (Date TBA.) There is no doubt that the Bethel family will give Lauren all the support, love and prayers that they have given over the past five years. Blessings to you, Lauren, for continuing this children’s program. The CAMPP Kids will be in great hands with YOU!!



## *Thank You!!!*

Thank you to all who helped with the “SURPRISE” in my honor on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, that I “failed” to show up for. Oh my!! That is one for the books for sure. It was definitely a surprise! Ha

But not sure who was more surprised....me or all those at the church waiting for me. One day in a year I didn't go to church and it was THAT DAY!!! I am sure we will all chuckle about this in the coming years whenever a future “surprise” is planned.

But I do want to thank you all so much for the thought and care put into the day. Jackie's beautiful and very yummy cake was very much enjoyed.....even if after the fact. I did watch the service online so was “technically” there.

Thank you so much. Was very much appreciated.

Luanne Sanor



To Luanne

I sure hope you know how much you have given of yourself to us Luanne. You have made it so the kids are having a good time and at the same time learning about our precious Lord and Savior. I feel you have also inspired Lauren and given her the desire to carry on your good works. Your spirit will be carried on with Lauren along with her own spirit.

Monthly approved budget \$17,271.95

17,877.21

|         |            |                    |                |                      |
|---------|------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Income: | (Offering) | \$ 15,622.65       | annual income: | \$ 112,932.03        |
|         | (G.E.M.)   | <u>\$ 5,000.00</u> |                | <u>\$ 79,765.00</u>  |
| total:  |            | \$ 20,622.65       | total:         | <b>\$ 192,697.03</b> |

|          |            |              |                 |                     |
|----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Expense: | (overhead) | \$ 13,662.66 | annual expense: | \$180,247.15        |
|          | (benev.)   | <u>\$ -</u>  |                 | <u>\$ 13,793.70</u> |
| total:   |            | \$ 13,662.66 | total:          | <b>\$194,040.85</b> |

Thanks from the organizations Bethel contributes to.

The Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter shared their gratitude for generous monthly donations given to them by Bethel.

Kyle Zanker and Liz Bergren from the Crossroad organization for children and family services shared that they are deeply grateful for the much needed help that we provide to them each month.

Chaplain John & Daryl Hersh from the Tobin Center in Lisbon never fails to send a letter or card each month of gratitude and he also calls on the phone to share with us how much they appreciate Bethel caring for the at risk youth that our support provides for.

Janice McLaughlin and Evelyn Yaggi sent a card and donation thanking the Car-olers for visiting.

Thank you to Jenna Brown for being our guest pastor while Pastor Allen and Shannon are on Vacation.

# Happy Birthday

Travis Lane

01/01

Marcia Smith

01/27

Brad Korosy

01/12

Robert Brogan

01/28

Sarah Liebhart

01/12

Mary Korosy 0

1/29

Robert Wallace

01/22

David Yaggi

01/30

Joe McKibben

01/22

Katherine Harlan

01/31

## What's Happening at Bethel

The church has spent a lot of time and monies to improve the conditions of the church and make it more efficient and comfortable for your worship and ministries here a Bethel. We will continue in 2022 with your confidence & support.



2021 was an interesting year for our food pantry due to the pandemic which required us to change the method by which we distributed the food to our patrons. We continued to provide the drive thru method for distribution to greatly reduce personal contact and eliminates the need to sanitize the church area which has worked out so well that we might make it a permanent change.



We have received a couple year end reports but we need all reports turned in by January 15th in order for the reports to be put together for the meeting on January 23rd.

There are no further choir or bell choir practices until further notice.

If you have any news of events or anything that needs communicate to the congregation or any group in the church please let me know and also right it on the calendar in the office.

I will soon have the event and flower calendar posted so we can continue to communicate important dates .

**Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!**

# CHOIR NOTES

Where can I even begin? So many things to “THANK” my wonderful choir for.

For your endless dedication and for being so flexible during months of “countless” changes as we worked around so many obstacles. For your smiles and kind words at practice when everyone was tired after a long day. For bearing with the safety measures as we all had to wear masks to sing, which is NOT FUN or EASY! For always being willing to share your talents with Bethel. And last, but certainly not least, for the gift I was presented with from all of you.

Always so thankful for EACH ONE OF YOU!! Thank You!

Now....are you all up for ONE MORE CHANGE??? This will affect the congregation as well as the choir and bell choir. The choir as a whole will be taking some time off during the month of January. I know that I am exhausted and wore out from the past few months and I am sure many (if not all) of the choir members are as well. Was this year harder.....or are we all just getting a little older. Haha Probably a little of both. But it WAS a hard year!!

I had told Pastor Allen that I would like to take one week off in January to catch my breath a little and he and the council responded to my request with this month long “blessing”. We can all use a little rest after the last few months, but in thinking about it further it is even more than that. After all the time we have spent together with friends and family over the holidays it is important to be “extra” cautious right now of the increase of COVID cases in our area and state.

**So..... the choir will sing on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to finish up with our beautiful cantata songs and then we will be taking a little time off to get refreshed, re-charged, rested up and feeling healthy. We will look forward to being back singing and ringing in February.**

Thank you all for your understanding and yep ..... your continued flexibility. We DID make it through a beautiful, albeit different, cantata season. Here’s hoping for a better 2022.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!!!!!

Luanne Sanor

**Bethel United Church of Christ  
25701 Buck Road  
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