



A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ
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March 2023

Rend Our Hearts: 2023 Lenten

*Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.*

*Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment.*

(Joel 2:12-13 NRSVUE)

Joel challenges us to be sincere this Lenten season. We can fast, not eat lunch and spent that time in prayer, and use the money we would have spent on lunch for good in our community or family. Rend your hearts, not your clothing. Joel tells us, and this Lenten season I pray we can follow this example. If you are intending to give up something, make it more meaningful than just sacrificing an old shirt or coat that you were intending to throw a way this coming summer.

Christian rituals, for the most part, reflect our inward beliefs being manifested in outward actions. We celebrate Holy Communion by physically taking a piece of bread and chewing it and taking a cup of juice and drinking it. The internalization of physical elements blessed are symbolic of the sacrifice Jesus gave on the cross. This Lent, take time to seriously consider your commitment to God as you spend time in devotion seeking God's direction in your life.

Repentance, reconciliation, and repair require a change of mind, body, and spirit. This change is complex and requires those inward and outward transformations. Allowing the internal changes in our lives are difficult. The pandemic forced us to think about both changes in our lives. That is the reason we saw so much confusion and distress: wear a mask, don't wear a mask, take a vaccine, take various medications and you will not need a vaccine. Three years later we have made the internal and external changes in our lives to deal with the virus. Many have been vaccinated and a lot have achieved immunity through exposure. Many died but we are learning those internal and external lessons as we live with the Covid-19 virus.

We start Lent with the external marking of ashes on our forehead and we will end with the internal consumption of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus our Savior. Let us follow this external and internal path that Joel has inspired us to take this Lenten season. Credit to Rev. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Peace & Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



Monthly approved budget from January 2023 19,334.81

Income: (Offering)	\$ 14,584.99	annual income:	annual income:	\$ 14,584.99
(G.E.M.)	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>			<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>
total:	\$ 21,584.99	total:		\$ 21,584.99

Expense: (overhead)	\$ 19,097.88	annual expense:	annual expense:	\$ 19,097.88
(benev.)	<u>\$ -</u>			<u>\$ -</u>
total:	\$ 19,097.88	total:		\$19,097.88



Choir Notes

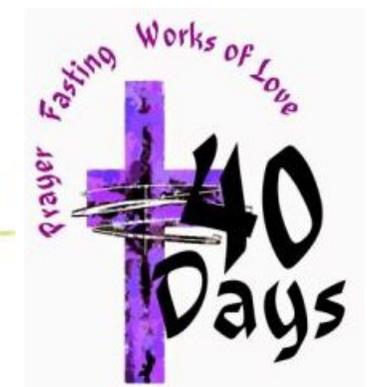
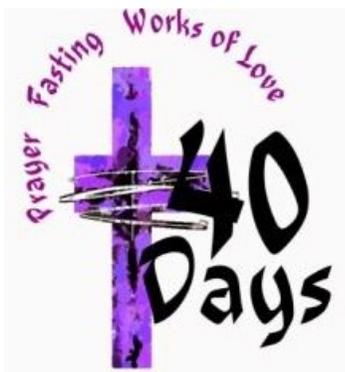
We have now entered the Season of Lent and our choir music for the next several weeks will, of course, reflect the scriptures of this special time. A time of stepping back and “reflecting” on the journey that Jesus took to the Cross.

First we will travel with Him “To the Wilderness” as He is tempted by the devil for 40 days and nights. The Kids will also add to this journey with their own version of the Wilderness. Next, we will witness as He is called “Teacher”, “Healer” and “Lord” during His ministry. He speaks with tenderness and compassion as He answers our questions and “Comes to us with Love”.

We will continue the journey as Jesus speaks with the woman at the well. He tells her of the “Living Water”..... that all who drink of it will never thirst again and will have eternal life. Next we move on to witness Jesus healing the blind man. Through this scripture, of one of Jesus’ many miracles, may it be a time that we all “Open Our Eyes” to the Lord’s healing powers and compassion for those who believe and want to see.

At the end of March we take a slight detour in our journey as we go through the valley of “Dry Bones” with Ezekiel 37:1-14. DO NOT miss this special song! It promises to be a SUPER and ENJOYABLE side trip in our journey.

We hope that you will come along with the Bethel Choir during this Lenten Journey. We pray that you will each be blessed by the scriptures and music of this Season of Reflection.



Mardi Gras

A Huge Success!!

Such a FUN and EXCITING night!!!! A little on the tricky side trying to count with so many people and many constantly moving around, but we estimate there were 75 to 80 in attendance for this WONDERFUL NIGHT of CELEBRATION!!!

Bethel UCC Mardi Gras!!!

Pancakes, sausage, locally made maple syrup, live music, masks, kids crafts of making their own masks, beads, laughter, full bellies, smiles galore and loads of Fellowship!!! **It doesn't get much better than that!!!!**

So many to say "Thank You" to!! The wonderful **Rock Salt & Nails** band who provided a GREAT festive atmosphere. Super job and THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! To the **Sweetwater's Maple Products** on Knox School Road for donating the VERY TASTY maple syrup and some of their delicious maple popcorn as well. A HUGE HIT.....THANK YOU!!!

(Now.....I know he won't like this, but I am going to do it anyway.....) A very special THANK YOU to Glenn Swope for spearheading this event!! This special night would not have happened without his vision, his enthusiasm and his direction. Thanks Glenn!!!!!!!!!!

And to so many others who "helped" make this celebration happen and to those who came out and joined in the fun.....THANK YOU ALL!!!!

Side note: A donation jar was also displayed for any who wished to help support the funds needed for this project. Thank you **ALL** for your support!!

Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build. We are so thrilled to be off to a great start in raising the funds needed for this project. Thank you **ALL** for your support!!

Mardi Gras FUN!!!!





Bethel Welcomes Spring!

**A NIGHT OF
SINGING!**

Old Favs & New Tunes!

Mon., March 20th 6 p.m.



COUNCIL CORNER FOR JANUARY 2023

Apostle: Glen provided a detailed outline for the upcoming Mardi Gras celebration.

Deacon: The January 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.

Our treasurer Patty was given council approval to use the “dial in” option for Quick Books to give her access to accounts at home when needed.

Elder: For the month of January the Food Pantry served 104 families for a total of 162 people. More seniors seem to be the main recipients of the pantry service.

The pantry is working with the local area Ruritan clubs to get financial support for the pantry since our pantry serves the entire area.

The pantry was able to obtain an accordion style roller system to help with our food deliveries in the pantry storage area.

Church business: The area’s Habitat for Humanity build for 2023 will begin in April. It was voted and approved to increase the church support to \$7000 since this is our 7th build we are involved in.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Kornick, Council Vice President

"Age is merely the
number of years the
world has been
enjoying you."

Unknown



Ben Humphrey 3/1

David & Garnet (Cricket) Yaggi

Jerry Vogelhuber 3/4

3/12/1977

Abby Johnson 3/7

David & Deborah Scott

Brian Bandy 3/12

3/31/1978

Patricia Brogan 3/13

Anthony Cappa 3/18

Morgan Miller 3/19

Edward Miller 3/19





Easter Flowers

Help us celebrate Christ's rebirth

By filling the Sanctuary with the Colors of Spring!

Deadline for Orders Is Thursday, April 6th

Plants are \$12.00 each for 6 in. a foil wrapped pots You can mark your choice of color but florist cannot guarantee your preference.

Name _____

Dedication: _____

Lilies (white) _____

Tulips) _____

Daffodils (yellow) _____

Hyacinth _____

Flowers Quantity Total _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Flowers will be ordered from AJP Floral

What's happening at Bethel

We are entering into our Lent season so we will be preparing for that.

March 6th begins our One Great Hour of Sharing promotion.

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

We will be continuing our Tuesday Devotional Bible Study

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday Evening of March the Pantry will be serving food to our local community.

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

**Bethel United Church of Christ
25701 Buck Road
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