



# A Beacon of Hope

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ  
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July 2023

## **From the Pastor**

The theme for the 34<sup>th</sup> General Synod is based on Isaiah 43:18-19, "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

I will be attending the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 1-4 in Indianapolis, Indiana. I am looking forward to seeing how different the UCC does business compared to the Church of the Brethren, my guess is that it will be very similar. And most of the business will not have a profound effect on the people here at Bethel. It will be good to meet people that I have heard about and worked with on Zoom. Shannon and I are looking forward to the three days that we can spend together in Indianapolis.

Conference/Synod is always an extraordinary time in the life of the church, delegates, and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. The Keynote speaker will offer illumination and insight into the challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, and worship together. I look forward to reporting all that happens.

I do thank Jim Buttermore for getting a stewardship plan in order, "Because of You Our Church Changes Lives" will be our theme for the next four months as we work on being better stewards of the resources that God has blessed us with. Please listen to the information that will be shared and pray that God will make clear your commitment to Bethel.

My annual week at camp had focused on the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**. Against such things there is no law. It was great to work with over 40 Jr. High campers and the staff one more time. The lessons we learn are not always from the curriculum, we learn from living together in community. Thank you for the time to spend with these young people at camp.

A big thank you to our people who helped with your Habitat build day, now remember there is a schedule on the bulletin board for other days when you can help build the house for the Williams family.

Peace and Love

Allen R. Kahler, Pastor



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## COUNCIL CORNER FOR JUNE 2023

**Apostle – Glen Swope:** Reports that he has the gifts for Father’s Day ready for Sunday.

**Deacon – Jim Buttermore:** The May financial report was presented to the council and approved by unanimous vote. States that the monthly budget for the Food Pantry is no longer sufficient with the delivery cost increasing and food prices rising. It was moved and seconded to increase the Food Pantry budget to \$700 per month thru the rest of the year and will be adjusted at the 2024 budget meeting.

Went over several ideas and options for the Stewardship Campaign. More info to follow in “Additional Church Business”

**Elder - Allen Deckerd:** Continues to work with the area Ruritans to seek financial assistance with the food pantry delivery expenses

Allen has been making visitations each month and is enjoying visiting with longtime friends. Allen suggested that it would be nice to have a pamphlet of church info and activities to hand out to the folks since most do not make it to church themselves.

**Church business:** Jim Buttermore gave a brief rundown of info regarding the “Basic Stewardship Campaign”.

More information is needed on all benevolences that we support.

It was agreed to have another council meeting Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> to further discuss this in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted by Lee



Abraham Yeagley	07/01	Joe & Janette McKibben 07/02/2005
James Buttermore	07/07	James & Linda Buttermore 07/17/1976
Jocelyn Phillis	07/16	
Delora Anthony	07/17	
Estella Smith	07/21	<b>Please submit articles for the Beacon by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.</b>
Ben Cappa	07/23	
Allen Deckerd	07/31	When submitting article please do them in word or excel not pdf.

# SUMMER MUSIC

- July**
- 2 - † Messenger Concert 🇺🇸
  - 9 - Adam Deeter
  - 16 - John Reese
  - 23 - Michal & Missy
  - 30 - *Outdoor Service...no music*
- Aug.**
- 6 - Marie Miller
  - 13 - Michal & Kay
  - 20 - Rev. David Long-Higgins
  - 27 - Bethel Trio (Missy, Linda, Michal)
- Sept.**
- 3 - Allen Deckerd



## **What's happening at Bethel?**

We will be continuing our 10:30 Tuesday Devotional Bible Study.

You can sign up to be a greeter on the board by the office.

The Church office will be closed July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Communion will be offered July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Next Council Meeting will be July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Evening of July, (12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) the Pantry will be serving food to our local community.

**Bethel United Church of Christ**  
**25701 Buck Road**  
**Beloit OH 44609**

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