

BETHEL MESSENGER

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From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

October is a transitional month. In the beginning it is still possible to sit outside, maybe with a campfire, spend time on a lake, mow the lawn, and take a walk outside. You can do summer things with a twist, but still enjoy the things you enjoyed in the summer. By the end of the month these things are almost impossible with the cool night air, the chill of the day, maybe even snowflakes flying in the howling wind. October ends with the thought that winter is not far away.

Yet to me October is also one of the best times of the year. It is filled with remembrances of the past summer, the excitement of new things taking shape, the wonder of what God has given us. It is punctuated by the beauty of the colored leaves. October is a month to behold and wonder what the future will bring. October is beautiful.

Transitions can be like October, filled with remembrance of the past and beaconing toward the excitement of the future that has yet to unfold. Though many look at change and become fearful about the uncertainty, if guided right they can be transformed and come to look with beauty at what God has in store for all of us. Yes, transitions can be hard, but they can also be filled with wonder. Transitions can be times of beauty.

I hope that Bethel, and all who are a part of it, can join together in this month of transition and grab hold of the wonder, the awe, the beauty that is at hand as we move toward that new future, guided by the hand of God.

Bethel has much to celebrate with Sunday School, the Chili Supper, the pie sales, crop walk and other opportunities to help others and be seen in a new light in this community. Bethel has much to celebrate as we talk about our future taking hold and going in new directions with more light to share. Bethel is poised to celebrate God's guiding hand as God walks with us into an unknown future, a future that only God can see.

So I look forward to being with you on your journey through this beautiful month and more. I look forward to walking hand in hand with you, and I promise that God's hand is with us as well.

God's blessing and peace.

Rev Tom Schroeder

October Worship Schedule

October 7 - Pastor Tom
October 14 - Pastor Tom
October 21 - Fred Meyer
October 28 - Pastor Tom

From Pastor Tom

Who am I? people are starting to ask. I grew up in Sheboygan, the son of Dr Irvin and Loretta Schroeder. I have a brother in California and two sisters in Wisconsin. I graduated from Sheboygan North High and from what is now Carroll University. I went to seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School, part of Vanderbilt University.

In 1979 I was ordained and called to Christ UCC in Orrville, Ohio as the Assistant Minister. Later that year I married my wife, Beverly. While in Orrville, our daughter, Nicole, was born.

In 1985 I accepted a call to serve Irondequoit UCC as the Associate. Irondequoit is just north of Rochester, NY. While we were in Rochester our son, Robert, was born.

In 1989 I accepted the call to serve as Pastor and Teacher at Grace UCC in Kohler and the family moved back to Wisconsin, a place we always vacationed to in order to visit family. I remained at Grace until I retired in 2017.

Now I spend my time planning my next trip, often going to California, where both of our children live. Beside travelling I also spend time learning and improving any skills that I have involving photography and birding. I enjoy any reason to be outside, and especially on the water. I enjoy hiking, biking, swimming, boating, sailing, canoeing, and even just sitting, any way possible to be outside.

I look forward to getting to know you as I share myself with you over these coming months.

God bless.

Fall Harvest

We will be decorating the sanctuary with our harvest. Please bring fruits, vegetables, grains, leaves, etc. Saturday, October 13th through the 21st.

President's Column

Fall is always a busy time for our church. Hopefully by the end of September everyone has had a chance to meet our new Interim Minister, Pastor Tom Schroeder. Pastor Tom will be preaching 3 Sundays a month and our lay people will help us out for the 4th Sunday.

Our council will meet with Rev. Jane Anderson, from the Conference, in October to help guide us with what a shared ministry is all about. I'm sure we will discuss whether we find a minister first or a congregation to share with first. The Search Committee continues to look at profiles that are sent to us by the Conference and will continue looking at profiles because you never know when someone may come along that would be a good fit for Bethel UCC. With that said, I look forward to working with Pastor Tom and Bethel Church as we continue to search for what will be a good fit for Bethel UCC. God's Blessings to all of you.

Dennis Roethel

Kiel Food Pantry

Kiel Food Pantry is especially in need of the following items: napkins, saran wrap, paper toweling, toilet paper, shampoo, or soap. If you can help out, please place items in the labeled tub found in the narthex.

Harvest Blessings Sunday

October 21st

We will be celebrating the blessings of fall harvest with a homemade fall vegetable soup. Please bring about 2 cups of cut up vegetables such as carrots, celery, potatoes, peas, corn, tomatoes, etc. We will combine all vegetables BEFORE church and let it simmer during the worship service. Following church enjoy a bowl of soup and fellowship.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who is turning in receipts for HuTerra! A few updates and reminders:

- Receipts submitted more than 45 days after the purchase date are NOT accepted, so turn in or submit your receipts as soon as you can.
- HuTerra is once again accepting receipts from Festival Foods! (However, HuTerra is not accepting receipts from any Piggly Wiggly and Pick n' Save stores in the cities of Sheboygan and Manitowoc. You still can submit receipts from all other Piggly Wiggly and Pick n' Save locations.)
- We cannot submit receipts to HuTerra that were paid by gift cards.

You can submit receipts yourself using the app, or there is a box in the narthex.

Please see Lisa Grubisic if you have any questions.

Reformation Sunday

October 28th

To commemorate when Martin Luther proposed his 95 Theses to the church in 1517, please wear red to church on October 28th.

Veterans Day

Sunday, November 11th

Do you have a current or past member of your family who you would like to thank for their service? Please bring or send a digital photo (with name) of someone who served and give to a member of the worship team by Sunday, November 4th. [Karen Lisowe, Joyce Loy, Patti Puetz and Jodi Voss]



Mark your calendars

Warm-up the vocal cords. Put a little time in practicing your instrument, poetry or stories. Create a new work of art. Talent Sunday is Sunday, November 18th. More details will follow...

Plea for HELP!

Manitowoc Backpack Buddies for foster children have reached out to us again this year. They were overwhelmed with our generosity last year and again want to say Thank You, but their shelves are empty. Over 30 children were placed in foster care in the last few months and the need for items for children age 0-18 is great. Many of the children that have been removed from their home have little personal items and are brought to foster homes with a garbage bag of items. Backpack Buddies is a stop between their placement so they have personal items and items so the foster family can take care of them, especially when placed with short notice. A wish list of items can be found in the narthex and on the church website. They have requested new items, no food please. The donation drive will be through October, until November 18. If you have any questions you can contact Karen Lisowe, 920-418-2947.

Backpack Buddies Wish List

Backpacks	Socks
Diaper bags	Underwear
Diapers/pull-ups	Pajamas
Teethers/pacifiers	Journals/Pen
Bottles/sippy cups	Art Supplies
Baby wipes	Onesies
Baby Lotions/shampoos	
Receiving blankets/throw blankets/afghans/quilts (homemade is ok)	
Shampoo/conditions	Combs/brushes
Deodorant/body spray	Feminine Product
Coloring books/ crayons/colored pencils	
Toys/stuffed animal/ Nurf or other balls	

Backpack Buddies have packed over 100 packs for Manitowoc and surrounding areas. They are reaching out for new items, please no food items.

Consistory Minutes

September 11, 2018

Members Present: Dennis Roethel, Mark Zimmerman, Beverly Voss, Rich Lange, Tom Birschbach, Lenora Stuckmann

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm led by a prayer from Dennis.

There was a motion (Rich/Mark) to approve the minutes from last month's consistory meeting as well as the special meeting minutes. It carried unanimously.

There was a motion (Tom/Mark) to approve all the treasurers' reports from last month. It carried unanimously.

Dennis said that he had heard from the lawyer on the Natalie Stauss account, they needed our tax-exempt number.

Pastor Report

- Pastor Tom could not attend the meeting this month, so his report was submitted to Dennis via email.
- He will be preaching on October 7th, 14th, and 28th.
- He plans to be in the office on Mondays from 9 to 5 and Thursdays 9 to noon, and will be doing visits on behalf of the church Thursday afternoons. (Call the church to be sure he's available.)
- He needed some forms signed for the pension board; we need further clarification from him before signing.
- Pastor Tom will be gone over Christmas; Dennis is working to line up people to help with Christmas time.

Old Business

- There are no updates on the Crop Walk.

New Business

- The new tables are getting scratched, so we are looking into purchasing chair racks to hold the chairs when they are not in use.
- There was a motion (Tom/Rich) to buy two 35 chair cart racks and Dennis will be asking to use some memorial funds.
- Search committee update-Jim talked with Jane and she wants to meet with the consistory. She will explain what a shared ministry entails. We will be meeting with her on October 10th.
- We looked back in our records, we spent \$2400 on power washing the church in 2016. Rich is going to call the same people that came out then to see if they can come out and provide us with another quote for power washing the church.
- The conference wants a pledge amount for OCWM, they are asking for \$4000. Last year we pledged \$2000 and we decided to do the same again this year.
- Next month we will start working on the budget for next year. Rich will put a proposal together for our October meeting.
- Janet talked with Pastor Tom, he had a New Century Hymnal that he lent to someone and he no longer had one, he was wondering if there was one he could use. Dennis said he would show him where the extra one we have is so that he can use it to pick hymns if he chooses.

There was a motion (Bev/Tom) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Stuckmann