

BETHEL MESSENGER

April 2021



Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
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From the Pastor

Last month it felt like Happy Spring! Robins and Red Winged Blackbirds had come back. Flocks of Cranes and Swans made their way through our area heading further North for the summer. The leaves of the Daffodils emerged from the soil and snow melted. I think this year the warmth and life reemerging was especially welcome. We endured an especially long attack of the Polar Vortex and months of isolation. So I say to you:

Happy Easter

We have spent Lent reconnecting with God, reaffirming our relationship and thankfulness for the gift of Jesus the Christ. This week, Holy Week, we started with the joy of Palm Sunday that included Confirmation of Addison Faith Johannes.

We marvel at the Servant Christ, who bends to wash the feet of his disciples. He shares a final Passover meal with them, offering up prayers and giving new meaning to the bread and wine that is part of a Seder meal. "This is my body," and "This is my Blood" given to us as a remembrance of our Lord and Savior.

We listen in disbelief as we hear the story of Jesus' arrest, torture and death. How could such a gentle person be treated in such a violent manner? He has wept for a friend who has died and wept looking at the city of Jerusalem knowing the destruction to come. He who has come from heaven for our sake is abandoned. He who has preached love is beaten. He who has preached forgiveness is hung on a cross. There is such sorrow the sun refuses to shine.

We wait in silence, knowing that the story did not end there. We know that the women coming to care for Christ's body will find the tomb empty. We know he will appear to the women, to two disciples leaving Jerusalem and going to Emmaus, and to his disciples as they hide in fear of their own lives. But they need not fear, as we have heard over and over again, "Do not be afraid." It is because of Happy Easter that we do not need to fear death. It is because of Happy Easter that we wait for our own homecoming, knowing that there is an eternal home waiting for us.

Happy Easter because Christ is Risen!



Church Clean Up

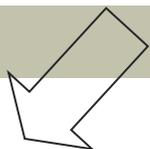
Church Clean-up will be Saturday April 24th. If the weather does not cooperate the make-up date will be [May 1st](#).

The Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

This year's Theme is "Powered by Generosity" has been announced. Dates and Times are: [May 11-15](#) 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and [Saturday May 16th](#) 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held virtually and we are allowed 2 Voting Delegates.

There are no limits on the number of "visitors." Cost is \$20 Reduced Rate \$60 Rate to cover Registration and Meeting Costs \$100 Sponsor rate

Worship Schedule



Each month the Consistory meets to conduct the business of the Church and an important part of that business at this time is determining how to conduct worship and meet the needs of the congregation. We will continue to review and make adjustments to the method of worship keeping the health and well-being of our members as one of our top priorities. For now the schedule is:

April 2nd 6-7 pm Drive Thru Stations of the Cross at Immanuel UCC with Live Rooster and Donkey.

April 2nd Good **Friday** Worship on Zoom 7:00

April 4th - Easter Worship Services will be at 8 and 10 am. Services will be held in the Sanctuary and capped at 30 participants. Please contact Pastor Diane to reserve your preferred Worship time.

Telephone or text: (920)323-2156,
Email 57rocketpapa@att.net or pastordiane@bethelucc-ada.org.

Sunday April 11th: Worship on Zoom

Sunday April 18th: Worship in the Sanctuary led by Cary Johannes

Sunday April 25th: Worship held on Zoom

Future Worship Services:

May 9th will be First Communion for Emmerick Dunton and Julia Ziegler. It will be held in the Sanctuary with priority given to family members.

June 27th will be the Spring Raffle Drawing. We are considering Worship held in the Parking Lot just as we had last year. It was an enjoyable time and we will watch the weather and hope for a beautiful day

160th Anniversary

2022 will be the 160th Anniversary for Bethel. As the isolation of 2020-2021 fades into our memories it would be appropriate to celebrate the 160th Anniversary in a special way. We would also be celebrating the survival of the Church of Jesus Christ as it comes through another devastating event. The church has survived wars and plagues, depressions and reformations. Jesus knew that the life of discipleship would not be easy, but he knew it could prevail against the Gates of Hell.

So I am asking if there would be a few members willing to work on planning a very special year? Already a group is working on preparations for the Church Directory. The Pine Haven Men's Choir may be able to fit us into their 2022 calendar if we contact them soon enough. The Worship Committee, Hospitality Committee, Mission Committee, and Musical talent could become involved. At this time I am just "throwing the idea out there" and would love to hear your thoughts.

Pastor Diane

ARE YOU RELATED?

Next year, 2022, will be the 160 Anniversary of Bethel UCC. I would like to find out how many of the current Bethel members are descendants of our Founding Fathers. I, for instance, am a distant relative of Carl Koeser. Dennis is a distant relative of Martin and George Roethel. Let me know if you are a distant relative of one or more of our Founding Fathers. It would be an interesting part of Bethel's history.

Carol Roethel

Spring Raffle Fundraiser

If all goes as planned, Raffle Prize lists and tickets should be available by Easter [Sunday](#). If you are not going to be at church for Easter worship services, the prize list will be posted on the Bethel UCC website and you can contact me to pick up tickets. Tickets and printed prize lists will always be available at my home (904 College Ave. Howards Grove) as they were last year, but please call first (828-0009) to be sure I am home. I am excited again, as every year, and thank you all for your donations and support for this Bethel UCC fundraiser. If you have any questions, please call me.

Carol Roethel

New Church Directory

Please mark your calendars for [August 9 & 10](#) when we will be doing the photography for our next Bethel UCC church directory. It has been 10 years since the last one. Families have changed and grown and we've all gotten older. Our committee will let you know more details as we get closer. Please plan to be part of this new directory. Thank you.



Northeast Association

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held in two parts.
 1st- Virtual Meeting to elect officers and new Committee Members: [April 10th](#) 9-11
 2nd- In Person Portion- [October 16th](#) 9-11 at Our Savior's UCC Ripon

Registration by [April 4th](#) required. Contact Pastor Diane

Consistory Minutes

March 9th, 2021

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Patte Puetz, Kris Dirks, Mary Johnston, Rachel Voss, Pastor Diane Cayemberg

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. Pastor Diane opened with a prayer.

The secretary minutes from January were reviewed. There was a motion (Kris/Patte) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for February. There was a motion (Kris/Patte) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

- This is the Church's Birthday Month. Since next year will be the church's 160th Anniversary, we will ask for volunteers to join an Anniversary Committee to make celebration plans.
- Valeria Nohl's Funeral will be held at Meiselwitz-Vollstedt Funeral Home on March 13. After public visitation, there will be a private funeral and burial service for family.
- Confirmation will be held on March 28th for Addison Johannes with an in-church service.
- Confirmation Gowns were purchased and will be kept for future use. In the long run it will save both on cost of rental and shipping charges.
- The Conference Annual Meeting this year will be held virtually on May 11th-14th and the morning of Saturday, May 15th. Pastor Diane will submit the information for the Newsletter and a worship service on Sunday, May 16th will live stream at 9 am. The theme this year will be "Powered by Generosity".

Members should contact Pastor Diane if interested in attending.

Old Business:

- We reviewed the schedule for In-church service and are hoping that more members begin signing up to attend. Sixteen members attended on Feb. 28 and only about ½ the allotted number are signed-up to attend other services.
- Schedule for up-coming church services:
 - March 21st – Confirmation-Led Worship in the church with Statement of Faith by confirmand Addison Johannes.
 - March 28th – Palm Sunday – Confirmation Sunday – Paster Diane will lead worship service. Confirmations Family will have attendance priority.
 - April 2nd – Zoom Good Friday worship service.
 - April 4th – Easter – Pastor Diane will lead worship at two services– 8 am & 10 am with a maximum attendance of 30 people at each service.
 - April 11 – Zoom worship.
 - April 18th – Worship in the church led by Cary Knier Johannes (max. 30 people).
 - April 25th – Zoom worship.
- First Communion for Emmerick Dunton and Julia Ziegler will be held on May 9th – which is Mother’s Day.
- Specific plans for church services after April 25th will be reviewed at the next consistory meeting.
- With the hope of returning to regular in-church services and to take advantage of spring/summer weather and possible outdoor services, the group decided to table considerations for upgrading the church technology at this time.

- Kris Dirks obtained a debit card at the bank for the church to eliminate some check writing or advances needed by members for purchases on behalf of the church.

New Business:

- The group discussed Ken Matzdorf’s review of updates needed on the church website, and the group did not find any additional items for Ken to change.
- As requested, the group reviewed the church usage fees, noting that a technology fee seemed appropriate for usage of the screen/power point with a church member required to operate for special services (such as weddings). There was a motion (Kris/Patte) to approve a new technology fee of \$50 for a member and \$100 for a non-member. The motion carried unanimously.
- Kris reported that Huterra is looking at automatic transfers rather than checks to enable payment of funds more quickly and consistently.
- Spring Cleaning Date was set for April 24th, with a make-up date of May 1st if needed. Patte will ask Crystal if she is aware of possible deep-clean projects needed. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex.
- The Spring Raffle deadline is March 28, with the drawing to be held after worship on June 27th.

There was a motion (Mary/Patte) to adjourn at 8:14. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Voss