

November 2023

BETHEL MESSENGER

November



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

Most often we think of November as the month of Thanksgiving. Here in Wisconsin, we usually have our first killing frost in September. Most gardens are cleaned up and hopefully the last mowing of the grass has occurred before Thanksgiving. Those who canned or froze food for the winter have completed their work. Hopefully the hay, silage, corn, apples, and pumpkins have been harvested. We are certainly blessed with a great growing climate and soil, moisture and sunshine. A good crop requires all the right ingredients. Gardening and farming are exact sciences.

I have had trouble with the right ingredients in my cookie baking the last two times I set out to bake up some goodies. The first problem was with a recipe I got on the Internet. I should have known better, it called for 3 ½ cups of flour. The batter was so dry it fell apart and I had to press it into balls for the cookies. The resulting cookies tasted alright, but were hard to bite. The second problem I had was wanting to make multiple batches to bring to church for Children's Sabbath Sunday. After making one batch I needed to open a new bag of flour. The recipe called for the usual 2 ¼ cups of flour. I grabbed the ¼ cup measuring cup. Thinking it was the ½ cup measuring cup I measured out enough for what I thought was a double batch. That batter was super sticky. I should have known something was awry. But I pushed forward and when heated the dough became so runny it ran off the sides of the cookie sheets and the kitchen was filled with smoke. Baking is an exact science.

In both cases a little too much of this or too little of that causes problems. There are a

lot of examples in life.

Parenting, wouldn't it be nice if every child came with an instruction book? Too little encouragement? Too strict? Too supportive? Too generous with gifts? What recipe for raising one child may not do for raising another child. We do our best, hoping our efforts will turn out to be just the right recipe.

The church community is another example. We need time together just like the sugar to remind us of the sweetness of life together, the sweetness of being a child of God. We need forgiveness to help smooth things out just like the butter reminds us not to be too hard. We need friendship to hold us together and lift us up, just like eggs in cookies reminding us that God has brought us together. We need a variety of talents to flavor our time together just like the salt and vanilla flavors the cookies reminding us how diversity in God's creation flavors our lives. We need a leavening agent like baking soda or baking powder to remind us that together we rise higher and we can lift one another up just as the Holy Spirit lifts us.

Flour? Hmmm. The cause of my problems in the last two cookie baking attempts. It is funny, flour often is the ingredient with the largest volume in a recipe. Too much and the dough is stiff or crumbly, too little and the dough is sticky and spreads and flattens out the cookies. It really does not have a pleasant taste on its own. No one would want to grab a handful of raw flour and try to eat it. It is only good when it is mixed with other things. It is only good when it is flavored with other things and transformed as it cooks.

Isn't that the way our life is? Only good when we are mixed with others? Only good when our life is flavored by the diversity of

God's creation? Lifted higher by the presence of others? Held together by friendship and common beliefs, common hobbies, common interests?

The church family is made good and precious when we come together recognizing what is brought by each and every person. Good and precious by the gifts God has given to each and every person. Good and precious because just like a cookie if anything is missed, if anyone is neglected, if there is too much of any one ingredient things just aren't right.

This year I want to let you each know that I am thankful for you. For your presence in this church family. Our church family is a good and precious recipe given to us by God. Amen.

Bell Choir Plays in Worship

November 19th

December 3rd

December 25th

Talent Sunday

November 19th

Worship Committee

Member, Jodi Voss,

Invites you to share your talent on

November 19th. Bell Choir and Sunday School Choir will be sharing their talents.

If you would like to display your

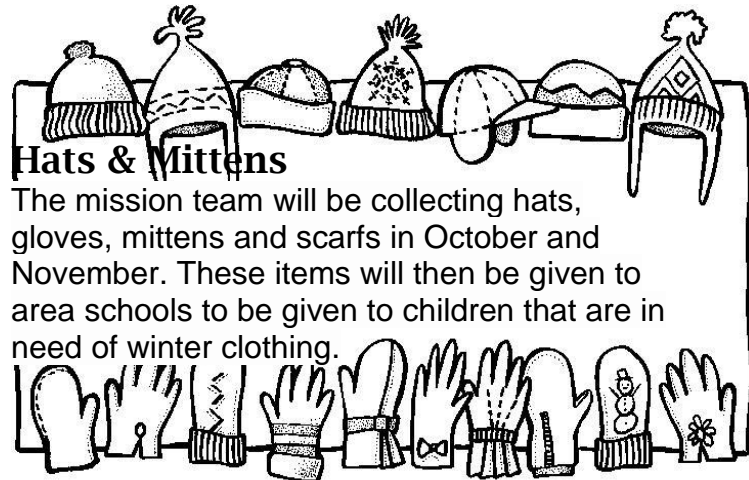
Crafting or Artistic Talent please set up

A display in the Fellowship Hall.



Committee Reports

Committeees are encouraged to turn in their year-end reports to Cindy Meyer by December 31st.



Hats & Mittens

The mission team will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarfs in October and November. These items will then be given to area schools to be given to children that are in need of winter clothing.

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Thank you for your prayers

Thank you to all of you for your prayers for my son Robert Waterman. I have trouble talking about it because it has been very hard and stressful for the past 7 months since Bob was diagnosed with HPV cancer. He first noticed a canker sore on his tongue and a biopsy was done and diagnosed as cancer. He was told he would need 35 treatments of radiation to his tongue area and 7 of chemo. They recommended a stomach feeding tube be put in as it was probable that he would need it for nourishment at some point. As time went by he began to need tube feeding more and more, and then all of his food and liquids had to be taken that way. June 20 was the last of his treatments. But radiation effects on the body continue to work for 2-3 additional months after that. He lost the use of his tongue, therefore swallowing, swishing, tasting, is no longer possible. Talking is difficult to non-existent. At the end of August, Bob started having issues with bleeding in his throat and resulted in ER visits and hospital stays. September 3 the bleeding wouldn't stop and they took him for emergency tracheotomy surgery. He coded 7 times before they could finish and stabilize him. I was waiting in his room alone when I heard the 'code blue' and knew it was him. I prayed and prayed and I

know it was a miracle that he survived. As soon as he was stable he was taken by ambulance to St Lukes in Milwaukee because it would take a specialist to handle the case if he started to bleed again. He was at St Lukes for almost 2 weeks before he was released. We don't know at this point if the trach will need to be a permanent thing. The initial trach put in took away his breathing through his nose and any speaking. The Doctor has now switched to a different trach that allows him to again breathe through his nose and somewhat speak (still no working tongue). It's another small miracle to again hear him say 'I love you Mom'. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Carol Roethel

Thank You

A heartfelt expression of gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Chili Supper! This event wouldn't have been achievable without the commitment and hard work of our dedicated members.



Fall Fare First Congregational UCC

1405 Hwy 67 Plymouth

November 11th, 9a.m. -2p.m.

Craft Sale, Silent Auction,

Soups to Go \$6 Soup, 2 rolls & Cheese,

Baked Goods

Reminder

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on November 5 at 2:00 a.m.



Consistory Minutes October 3rd, 2023

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Randy Henschel, Jamie Weidemann, Dan Huber, Faye Spindler & Pastor Diane Cayemberg
The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Regular Meeting

The secretary's minutes from September and the treasurer reports for September were reviewed. Faye noted that the difference in the income and expense reports was due to the date of the deposit of receipts. There was a motion (Dan/Faye) to approve the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Diane reported that the Meyer/Schroeder wedding will be held at the church on April 20th, 2024. There is concern about the number of people that may attend the ceremony and the size of the sanctuary. Discussion was held on options for seating: balcony, choir loft, upstairs and setting up chairs in the side aisles were suggested. During the Annual Meeting, several options for the future technology upgrades were discussed. At this time, there is no plan to put a screen in the Fellowship Hall to broadcast live from the sanctuary. Pastor Diane will discuss this with the couple.

- Review of upcoming Schedule & Events:

- October 4-11 - Pastor Diane will provide emergency back-up for Rev. Melinda Feller.
- October 4th – Confirmation at Bethel
- October 7th – Apple Pie Preparation
- October 8th – Crop Walk and Joyce Loy will teach crocheting of plastic bag mats.
- October 15 – Rural Church Fellowship at Bethel at 6:30

- October 16th – Community of Practice
 - October 19th – United Church Men & Women Banquet at St. James
 - October 22nd – Ordination of Rev. Dr. David Kohls at St. John's, New Holstein
 - October 29th – Cary Knier Johannes will lead worship.
 - November 2nd & 16th – Bias Training
- 2024 Budget Discussions:
 - Jamie Weidemann prepared a spread sheet of the 2023 Budget and actual amounts spent to date. She used the screen in the meeting room for consistory budget review. She also had past budget information available for viewing. The consistory considered the expenses for the next year and made the following updates:
 - Supply Pastor/Guest Speaker/Education Stipend increased from \$3,124 to \$3,200.
 - Pastor Diane mentioned that the Conference suggest payment of \$175 for a single-service Pulpit Fill. After brief discussion, the group decided to increase the amount paid for Sunday Pulpit Fill to \$200, as recognition of the need for lay leaders and the preparation time involved.
 - Health Insurance per Capita and Liability Insurance/Workman's Comp: The liability

Workman's Comp amount was increased to \$6,000 since the cost has increased each year. The budget item of \$500 was moved from Health Insurance line to the LI/WC line, because the church is no longer assessed the health insurance per capita payment by the Conference.

- Snow removal was increased to \$2,500. John Flesch will continue to perform snow removal and he has been asked to shovel the steps and entrance when the snowfall exceeds 3 inches and to do the salting as needed.
- VBS budget was increased to \$800 because new material will be purchased in 2024.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee will need to meet before year-end for review of the Pastor's salary prior to completion of the budget.

Old Business:

- Church Cancellation: The contact list for reaching members by text or phone was distributed and reviewed.
- Dan will measure the broken light in the Fellowship Hall and purchase a replacement from the Fond Du Lac electric Supply store.
- Faye will follow-up with contractor on repair/inspection of seal around the chimney on roof.


- The concrete repair to the front steps has been completed.

New Business

President Kim Rietbrock, as a member of the Nominating Committee, reviewed the positions to be filled for 2024. In addition, Pastor Daine hopes to recruit members for the Mission and Worship Committees.

- Positions to be filled at Annual Meeting:
 - Consistory:
 - President – Kim Rietbrock
 - Consistory Secretary – Rachel Voss
 - Cemetery Committee:
 - Dan Huber
 - Nominating Committee:
 - Jim Raquet
 - Pastoral Relations:
 - Teri Rietbrock
 - Building and Property Committee
 - Tim Voss

There was a motion (Dan/Randy) to adjourn at 8:15 pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord’s prayer.
Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Rietbrock



Puzzle

Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.

rooted

built

thankfulness

strengthened

continue

faith

overflowing

Lord

received

So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____ ,
 _____ to live your lives in him, _____ and
 _____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
 were taught, and _____ with _____ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, overflowing, faith, strengthened, built, rooted, thankfulness