

October 2023

BETHEL MESSENGER



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talk of hitting the tipping point has become more frequent.

From the Pastor

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121 vs. 1-2)

Many of you know we have just returned from a trip to Iceland. Our niece had brought up the trip last Christmas and so on September 2nd we met in Chicago to fly together for an adventure. There were many wonderful things about the trip, but one special thing for me was getting to spend time with our niece and Tom's brother. Both now live out of state and our time together is limited. When she was little, they lived just a 5 minute walk from our house.

Brenna shared with me that she did not plan to have children. She felt it would not be fair to bring children into the world and have them grow up in the world as it deals with climate change. When Tom and I were newlyweds, we also considered family size. At that time there was the energy crisis and much talk of future food and water shortages. Those were not the only determining factor that led to our decision to just have one child, but it certainly weighed heavily in the decision.

God had promised Abraham descendants like stars in the sky. God gave us free will, and science has given us combustion engines, modern manufacturing, and modern medicine. As long as I can remember there have been ecological concerns. Sometimes environmental issues seem overwhelming and

But an odd thing happened on the trip to Iceland. I felt hope for the planet all because CO2 disposal system. Our trees and our plants. Yes, back to our grade school science. Those trees help turn CO2 into Oxygen for animal life to breathe. I was reminded of that by a gentleman on Wisconsin Public Radio. He was discussing Climate Change and still held out HOPE that things could turn around. Two things he cited as necessary- changes in manufacturing and Planting More Trees. **Hope.**

Many, many years ago I heard a professor from Northland College speak about the Sahara Desert growing. Her suggested solution was planting trees on the perimeter of the desert. Climate change is a complicated thing. She also spoke of the largest lake in Russia drying up because the water had been used, overused, for irrigation. You might be thinking – Diane, look at all the trees dying and being killed in forest fires. That is very true. However, there is **Hope.**

But on another part of the tour we learned that when people first came to Iceland it was forested. Just as had happened in this country, the forests were cut down for lumber and heating. But guess what- people are replanting trees in Iceland. (a sidenote: in the colder portions of Iceland the trees are short and scrubby, thus the joke is: If you get lost in the Forest in Iceland what do you do? Stand Up.) **More hope.**

Here is what I ask you to do: If you can afford it and have the room for it- plant a tree. Plant one for each of your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or young

friends. We can't all manage to plant trees, but if you can it is a gift to the coming generations.

Plant some Hope. Amen.

He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and coming in from this time forth and for evermore. (Psalm 121:3-8)

Community UCC in Elkhart Lake

Is hosting their

Fall Fish Fry

At Anchor Lanes

Friday, October 6th, 2023

4:00-7pm

3 piece Cod, German Potato Salad, bread, Tartar sauce, veggie, coleslaw, and a dessert.

Rural Church Fellowship Crop Walk

Join us for the Crop Walk starting at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove.

Enjoy a hot dog and chips after the walk.

Linger for a time of fellowship.

October 8th, 2023

Register 12

Walk 12:30

Funds raised go to Crop Walk around the World, and Local Food Pantries including United Ministries St. Nazianz and New Holstein Immanuel UCC, Kiel Food Pantry, and Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry.

Please contact Crystal DuCharme for donation Information and Pastor Diane with questions About the Walk.

United Church Men and Women Annual Banquet

St. James UCC Pioneer Road

Smoked Fish Appetizer, Meal,

Entertainment

And Scholarship Presentation.

Please contact Pastor Diane for tickets.

(920)323-2156

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers Needed

Do you enjoy working with young people?

Would you like to share your faith?

Consider volunteering for Teaching or

Helping with Sunday School. We understand

that it is hard to commit to every Sunday, but

can you commit to one or two Sunday's a

month? Please contact Mardell Blohm,

Sunday School Superintendent.

Christmas Band

It's time to dust off your horn. We are gathering to play some Christmas music sometime during the month of December.

Rehearsals will begin in November. *We will decide on rehearsal times and performance dates in October.

Even if you have just begun band lessons or perhaps you have not played in ? years, we will find music for everyone. If you are looking for an opportunity to play in smaller groups, we can find music.

Please let Jodi know if you are interested; need an instrument; need a fingering chart; or need some help getting back into playing form.



Tentative Bell Choir Practices:

Wednesday, Oct. 11th 7 – 8
 Wednesday, Oct. 18th 7 – 8

Wednesday, Nov. 1st 7 - 8
 Wednesday, Nov. 8th 7 - 8
 Wednesday, Nov. 15th 7 - 8
 Wednesday, Nov. 29th 7 - 8

Wednesday, Dec. 6th 7 – 8
 Wednesday, Dec. 13th 7 – 8
 Wednesday, Dec. 20th 7 – 8

Bell Choir will be playing:

Sunday, October 22nd
 Sunday, November 19th
 Sunday, December 3rd
 Monday, December 25th

Scrip

Do you shop on-line? Please consider scrip cards for your next and future on-line purchases. Barnes & Noble give 8% back to Bethel, Best Buy is 4%, Walmart is 2.5% and Amazon is 1.7%, just to name a few.

Check with Ken before your next order to see if scrip cards are available at that store. The easy way for you to donate to church without hurting your pocketbook is to use scrip cards for purchases you would make anyhow.

Thanks for your continued support of the Bethel Scrip program.

Consistory Minutes**September 12, 2023**

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Rachel Voss, Dan Huber, Faye Spindler, Jamie Weidemann and Pastor Diane Cayemberg

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

Regular Meeting

The secretary minutes from August were reviewed. There was a motion (Dan/Faye) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for August. There was a motion (Dan/Faye) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Review

- Cindy Meyer (Secretary) – The group discussed the folding machine issues. The consistory decided in August not to purchase a new machine. Cindy is going to experiment with styles that don't require folding and see what the congregation likes. She welcomes suggestions.
 - Cindy also requested the messenger list be updated to members only needing the messenger sent out.
- Crystal Huber (Custodial Services) – Crystal suggested that the carpeting in the entrance could use cleaning.
 - She said there is no need for us to schedule a fall cleaning of the church.
 - Crystal mentioned she has not seen any mold, moisture, or mouse droppings in the basement since the purchase of the dehumidifier.
- Tim Voss (Building Committee) – Tim received bids for the repair of cracks and raising of the church's front steps. Tim indicated he believes the poly-jacking would be the more effective long-term option. A motion was made to go with Raise-Rite Polyurethane option (Jamie/Dan) for \$1,000.00 & Seam Seal \$600 = Total \$1,600.00
 - Tim is going to get a quote from Heavens Best Carpet Cleaning for the cost of cleaning the entryway and the cost to clean the carpet in the fellowship hall.

- Carpet cleaning in the fellowship hall will be determined after Apple Pie making.
- Gutter extensions will be applied to the northwest side of the building to prevent water from seeping into the basement during heavy rains and to prevent water from backing up.

Pastor's Report:

- August 22nd – All the fire extinguishers at the church were checked and passed inspection.
- September 13th – Confirmation class will start with a bonfire at Our Shephard. Classes will alternate monthly between Bethel UCC and Our Shephard on Wednesday evenings.
- Bible presentation and Sunday School Teachers meeting will be held September 24th.
- Community of Practice will resume September 28th.
- October 8th - Joyce Loy will offer a crocheting class after worship.
- November 2nd & 16th - Pastor Diane will attend Bias Training class with required discussion between sessions.
- Pastor Diane would like to do an Advent Bible study class for adults during the Sunday school session time.
- Pastor Diane brought in a copy of the 2024 Authorized Ministry Compensation Guidelines. The Conference has made a shift to a new approach for determining compensation. She suggested that the new format be used in planning for and determining future pastoral positions.

Old Business:

- 1) Review of upcoming Schedule:
 - October 1st – Worldwide Communion & First Communion of Dahlia Mueller & Makenna Weidemann

- October 4th – Chili Supper
 - October 7th – Apple Pie Project Day
 - October 8th – Crop Walk
 - October 29th – Cary Johannes will lead worship.
 - December 24th – 10am worship service ONLY.
 - December 25th – Christmas Day.
- 2) Measurements needed for broken light in Fellowship Hall, so we can find a replacement.
 - 3) Snow removal – We will continue using John Flesch – he will also provide snow removal services for the steps and sidewalks with snowfall over 3 inches. Moderate salting will also be applied.
 - 4) Pam provided an updated First Aid Kit which is located above the AED case.
 - 5) Basement Refresh – The group approved payment for a dumpster as clean-up begins in the youth room. No church-wide fall cleaning will be scheduled. However, the group discussed ordering a dumpster in spring again, so that congregation members can review and dispose of unused items stored in the church.

New Business

- Payment for Basement Refresh – The group will discuss possible available memorial funds with Randy next month, and in addition, congregation members will be offered opportunity to specifically donate to the Youth Room Refresh project. The remaining expenses will be paid from the fund-raiser savings account.

There was a motion (Dan/Faye) to adjourn at 8:06pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Voss