

April 2024

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
www.bethelucc-ada.org (920) 565-2977



From the Pastor

Daffodils bring about thoughts of Spring, don't they? In the late 1970's I drove from Philippi, West Virginia, to rural Catawba, North Carolina, for Easter. As I left West Virginia I left a landscape that was still brown, still waiting for the new growth of Spring. Heading South and coming down in elevation the weather warmed. I started noticing daffodils blooming along the side of the interstate. Though they seemed to be in the middle of nowhere, they were reminders of the homes that had once been in the area that was now covered by the concrete of the interstate. Even though the homes, barns, and fences were no longer there the flowers continued to bloom and multiply.

We don't often have daffodils for Easter in Wisconsin. Bulbs seem to be a wonderful metaphor for the Easter season. The leaves disappear, and the bulb is dormant in the darkness of the earth over the winter. When the warmth of Spring arrives, the bulb seems to come back to life sending out leaves and blossoms.

This year many people have mentioned their concern about the fruit trees budding out too early. Many plants have started to sprout or send out buds causing worry over a hard frost damaging the plants or fruit. I look at the wood lots, trees leaning over, branches that have fallen off, trunks standing like skeletons. I worry that if a fire starts and if it is windy it will be hard to control the burning with all the dead, dry wood in our area.

A member of our church family shared his Father's words about a winter without much

snow in January and February. There is something about the kind of faith that is needed to farm. The reality is that there are no guarantees, but in Spring the seed is still planted. We have no control over the weather. We can consider the date of the average last frost occurs. We can prepare the soil and fertilize the land. But as the hymns says, "we scatter the good seed on the land but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."

I don't know about you, but sometimes I need a reminder to stop worrying and have faith. There will be good years, and bad years. There is nothing I can do to make the daffodils bloom. But in good time they will bloom. God sends the warmth and rain, and the beautiful blossoms remind us of the gift of new life we receive from God.

Paul sent words of encouragement to the people of Philippi:

⁴ Rejoice^[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[c] these things.

Friends, may your hearts be filled with thanksgiving and peace. Amen, Pastor Diane



Penny Pail

The Penny Pail project for April is "Break the Silence." It is a project within the United Church of Christ to bring awareness of Abuse to our attention and support the victims of Sexual Abuse in our midst.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will be collecting socks for homeless in the months of April and May.

Things to Do

April 16th: St Peter's Evangelical Church W5375 County FF, Elkhart Lake is having their annual Chili Supper.
4 to 7 Dine-in or Take out.

April 21st: 100 Anniversary Program- A Display of Grace at Grace UCC in Kohler
1:00 Music by the Lakeland Chamber Wind Ensemble, Refreshments to follow.

April 25th Saron UCC Smoked Pork Chop Dinner Drive thru
4-6:30, For a Reservation: Call Barb at 920-980-0748

Church Cleaning

The Annual Church Clean-up is being scheduled for **April 13th at 8:30**, with the rain date being April 27th. As the old saying goes, "many hands make the work light."



Thanking You

Thank you to all the wonderful cooks who made soup for Mid-week Lenten Worship Services. The soup made the meals possible. Thank you to all who set up and cleaned up. Thank you to everyone who made sure we had beverages and bread and butter. Thank you to all who donated to the UCC related missions that were highlighted. And thank you to Ken and Carol Matzdorf who did the power points that made the worship possible. Thank you to Crystal who noticed a leaking window and Timm and Steve who are arranging for it to be fixed. Thank you to Mardell, the Sunday School Teachers, and the Parents and students for all they have added to our worship services this spring. Thank you to Jodi and Janet for providing music for our worship services and the Bell Choir members that spend hours practicing in preparation for playing during worship.CC

Upcoming events

The Bell Choir will be playing May 5th.

May Communion will be May 12th. It is also **Mother's Day**.

Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 29th.

We hope to worship outside August 4th.

Recently I was reading another church's weekly update written by their pastor. This is the very end of the article. Though the question was asked about another church, the pastor asked her congregation to consider the question relating to their congregation. And I am passing on the same question as food for thought. Perhaps this will be a seed for thought, or a seed of a dream one of you have had and been thinking about for some time.

"If our congregation ceased to exist tomorrow, what difference would it make? Would anyone (besides us) notice our absence?"

I think we could name things: other organizations, and people in our community, who might be sad - or at the very least, notice a difference - if we closed our doors. And yet, I cannot help but wonder if there might be more, more we can continue to do to have an ever greater impact on the community around us.

There is much work to be done in our world, to connect people, help them know they are loved, build stronger families and a healthier world. No church can be all things or do all things, and so we must also keep in mind that it is not all our work to do. But we do have a presence here, a real possibility to have a positive impact in Jesus's name. God is at work in the world, in us and through us. And with God as our goal, we can do amazing things."

2024 Spring Raffle

Raffle Prize lists should be available on Easter after worship. The only way this fundraiser is a success is through your support by your generous and wonderful prize donations, and selling & buying tickets. I know you will make this another good year. The drawing will be held after worship on [June 30](#). Thank you.
Carol Roethel

Consistory Minutes March 12, 2024

Members Present: Chuck Grubisic, Jamie Weidemann, Faye Spindler, Randy Henschel, Julie Mueller, Pastor Diane Cayemberg.
The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M.

Regular Meeting

The secretary's minutes from February were reviewed. There was a motion (Randy/Faye) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Pastor's Report:

- April 21-May 9: Vacation

Old Business:

- Review of Upcoming Schedule:
 - April 13th: Spring Cleaning at 8:30 AM (Rain Day: April 27 at 8:30 AM)
 - April 20th: Meyer/Schroeder Wedding
 - May 12th (Mother's Day): Communion Sunday
- Review constitution and restructuring Consistory (adding and/or consolidating positions).
- June 30th Raffle Drawing

New Business

- Review of Youth Room funds and updating plaque board.
- Southwest window in the Fellowship Hall needs to be repaired ASAP.

There was a motion (Randy/Jamie) to adjourn at 8:21 P.M. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully Submitted, Julie Mueller