



VOYAGEUR MAY 2019

Dear Church Family,

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness: These are the commitments one makes when becoming a member of the church. Yet church membership often conveys different meanings for different people. Over the years, I have had many actively engaged people in the church who is not on the official membership roster. I have also had several people in the churches that I have served who are typically not very involved in the church, but wish to remain on the membership roster. Membership is not essential, nor does it necessarily convey the depth of commitment one has to the church. But it is significant for many, and can be a means of expressing one's connection to the community, and by extension, one's connection to God. This is what is communicated in the membership vows each time a new person joins the church.

Periodically, I set aside a time to have a membership conversation with interested parties. I say "conversation" because this can lead to a membership class and/or transfer of membership, depending on who is involved. If you are interested in having a conversation, I invite you to join me for coffee in the chapel after 10:30 worship on Sunday, June 2, 2019.

I am writing to you during the last week of April. We've been blessed with a hopeful Lenten season. Holy week participation in the Maundy Thursday service was greater than any service during the week that I've lead or participated in, and that includes larger churches. We had a joyful Palm Sunday and Easter. I am grateful for who you are as a congregation, and I feel blessed to have served you for nearly four years. I hope we have many more. Thank you for all of the ways you participate in being the church. Our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness are faithful to God's presence not only in our church, but also in our community and world. Thank you, and Thank God!

Blessings,

Pastor Rob

Trustee Update

The first phase of the Sanctuary renovation is done. The two doorways from the Sanctuary into the front storage closets have been closed off. The lower portion of both have been changed to accept speakers. The current subwoofer that has been sitting on the floor in front of kneeler is now installed in the left side as you face the pulpit. The other side has a painted filler in it and is being saved for future expansion of sound system. The old kneelers and lecterns have been removed and disposed of. There now are two temporary lecterns until we replace them with permanent pieces. The light switches in the storage closets have been moved to the remaining doorway. The eternal light has been lowered and hung on a new wooden bracket and the cord has been placed out of sight. Chairs and furniture have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive in early June. We will get an accurate date when we get closer to June so the remainder of that project can be coordinated for completion.

We need to compile a list of names of those of you who want the old pews ends that have carvings on them. A few members have expressed interest in having one for keepsake. Let Tammy in the office know so we can be sure to keep as many as are needed.

Since the Sanctuary project was started, we began to have issues with the Boiler that heats the Sanctuary space. The symptoms are the same as the 2003 problems we had with water leaking from the heating sections of the boiler. There was much discussion at that time to do something different to heat the Sanctuary. After some research we were informed that the most cost-effective way would be to repair what we had. There has been research done from time to time since to try and figure out a way to heat and cool the Sanctuary with forced air type furnaces.

With the facelift we are doing in the Sanctuary and the boiler repair issues, it seems the time has come to further that work and include new two-stage furnaces and heat pumps to heat and cool along with wi-fi thermostats. The heat pumps are capable of heating when outside temperatures are above freezing. The furnaces will be installed in the storage closet spaces on either side of the Sanctuary and will utilize the ductwork already in place from the old boiler system. The installation will be coordinated with the June Sanctuary work. This update will further reduce our carbon footprint, reduce our energy consumption, and utility costs. The second phase in June will include installing the furnaces, carpet, tile, and chairs.

In 2015 UMC Bemidji Trustees along with the congregation made a commitment with guidance from the Conference, to try to reduce the carbon footprint and energy usage of United Methodist Churches. It was decided to change our lighting to LED as much as possible and install programable thermostats wherever possible. That work was completed in 2016 and 2017. Replacing our furnaces will further the commitment we made in 2015. The current boiler was installed in 1991 and probably is about 60% efficient. The new furnaces with the upgrades to two-stage will be 96% efficient.

Funds have been identified to complete the additional work as stated above. I have been asked by congregation members if they can help financially with the work being done. Donations are always welcome and appreciated. If you want to donate, direct your donations to the Building Renovation Fund for future building capital improvement projects.

Along with the first phase of the Sanctuary improvements, a beautiful gift was received. Dr. Robert and Aletta Anderson donated a gorgeous set of four wooden collection plates. They were turned by Bob on his wood lathe. Aletta helped with the finishing work. Bob has turned one of his garages into a wood lathe shop. He has been busy in his spare time making bowls and all sorts of other items. They have been doing some much deserved traveling. They spent part of last winter in Texas to be closer to their son and his family. Thanks Bob and Aletta for the special gift.

Mike Albrecht
Trustees

MAY

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:45 Service at Havenwood 10:45 Service at Neilsen Place 3:30 Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 6:30 Youth Group	2 2:00 Grief & Loss Support group 2:00 Stamping group 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	3 7:30-10:00 Square Dancing	4 9:30 Yoga
5 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	6 5:30 Girl Scout Leaders Mtg. 6:30 Beginning Knitting 6:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	7 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	8 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir 6:30 Youth Group	9 4:00 SPCR 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	10	11 9:30 Yoga 5:30 Game Night for Adults
12 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	13 6:30 Beginning Knitting 6:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	14 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 6:30 Trustees Mtg	15 9:15 BMW Mtg 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir 6:30 Youth Group	16 1:30 Finance Mtg 12-4:00 PEO in the Lounge 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl
19 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation 2-4:30 Square Dancing	20 6:30 Beginning Knitting 6:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	21 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	22 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir 6:30 Youth Group	23 2:00 Stamping Group 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	24	25 9:30 Yoga
26 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	27 6:30 Beginning Knitting 6:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	28 2-3:30 Evergreen Mtg 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Council Mtg	29	30	31	

MAY MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Please celebrate and pray for these people on their birthday and anniversary.

BIRTHDAYS

04 Lorna Sullivan, Larry Young
09 Alec Hess
12 Thomas L D'Albani
14 Richard Parkos
16 Glenn Seibel
21 William Knudson
22 Kendall Dahlberg
24 Charlie Jessen
25 Margaret Skinner
26 Doris Pierce
28 Stacie Parkos
29 Darren Kimble
29 Sherry Noska

ANNIVERSARY

19 Terry & Pat DeChaine
26 Mike & Tricia Jessen



If your birthday or anniversary or the birthday or anniversary of a parishioner is missed here, please call Shelly at the office so it will be included in the Sunday bulletin and future Voyageurs.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE..

... at *Neilson Place*: Jean Slinkman, Marian Blehm, Nelle May
... at *Trillium*: Dick Slinkman, Lois Statton, Judy Comstock,
... at *Windsong*: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Karren Clark, Dotty Naramore
... at *Baker Park*: Kathleen Magsam
... at *Havenwood Care Center*: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner, Grace Daniels,
Vern Ditty, Betty Howard
... at *Goldpine*: Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre, Ruby Hausauer, Dorothy Baxter,
Marjory Beck
... at *Tanbark Assisted Living in Lexington, KY*: Margaret Skinner
... in *Brandon, SD* Doris Pierce



BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Office hours:
9:00am ~ 2:00pm
Monday ~ Friday

Office Phone: 218-751-3503
Pastor Rob Phone: 218-766-8744

If you wish for a pastoral home visit or hospital visit, or know someone who needs or desires a visit, please call the church office.

JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the April Newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Friday, May 17, 2019**. Any announcements you wish to have in the Sunday bulletin must be called in, emailed, or delivered to the office by **9:00am on Thursdays**.



THANK YOU!

Email Addresses: Church Office, Tammy: umcbji@paulbunyan.net
Pastor Rob: revrmkopp@gmail.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619
Street Address: 924 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji MN 56601

Worship Team Volunteers for May 2019

Becky Lueben
Larry & Sue Young
John Herath
Merlyn & Velma Wesloh
Jesse Grant



Ushers
Greeters
Reader
Coffee Servers

The Bemidji Methodist Women

will meet on Wednesday, May 15, 2019
at 9:15 in the Lounge.



Hostesses: Elaine Clark & Jan Miller

Devotions: Ruth Howe

Program: Quilts of Valor-Margaret McNea
Care Quilts Nikki Lemmer

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments.

Grief & Loss Support Group will meet on May 2 at 2:00. This is led by Pastor Rob, and anyone who needs to explore their grief is welcome to attend. The group is free to talk as they wish without judgement and everything is confidential. Please join us.
Thanks, Jan Grimm—444-0209

Unmasking Brain Injury in Minnesota, Tuesday, May 28, 2019 • 2:30-5:30 p.m. **Sanford Bemidji Medical Center, Education Center.**

Few people understand the personal impact brain injury can have. Its effects often are subtle and difficult to express. In March of 2016, the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance began the Unmasking Brain Injury in Minnesota project - a statewide community-based art project that enlisted the participation of over a thousand individuals living with the effects of brain injury. Unmasking allowed individuals affected by brain injury to design masks that communicate their unique perspectives and altered outlooks. It gave survivors and caregivers a voice to illuminate their life with a brain injury; to show others that persons living with a disability due to brain injury are deserving of respect, compassion and the same opportunities afforded all citizens in their respective communities.

Behind each mask is a person that's been touched by brain injury as a survivor, parent, sibling, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or professional. Individual stories of Minnesotans with brain injury were highlighted along with their masks.

The goal of the Veterans Unmasking Brain Injury Project is to bridge the divide between veterans and civilians through art that communicates their unique perspectives about life with brain injury. View creative masks, view the Unmasking movie and participate in a panel discussion.

RSVP required by May 10, 2019, Call (218) 333-5856 to register or register online at sanfordhealth.org. To learn more, visit <https://www.braininjurymn.org/unmasking/>.

History and Origin of May Day

Well, it is a fact that May Day, which the children do enjoy with all vibes, is not an overly prominent holiday in America. Yet, it does have a long and notable history as one of the world's principal festivals. The origin of the May Day as a day for celebration dates back to the days, even before the birth of Christ. And like many ancient festivals it too has a Pagan connection.

For the Druids of the British Isles, May 1 was the second most important holiday of the year. Because, it was when the festival of Beltane held. It was thought that the day divides the year into half. The other half was to be ended with the Samhain on November 1. Those days the May Day custom was the setting of new fire. It was one of those ancient New Year rites performed throughout the world. And the fire itself was thought to lend life to the burgeoning spring-time sun. Cattle were driven through the fire to purify them. Men, with their sweethearts, passed through the smoke for seeing good luck.

Then the Romans came to occupy the British Isles. The beginning of May was a very popular feast time for the Romans. It was devoted primarily to the worship of Flora, the goddess of flowers. It was in her honor a five day celebration, called the Floralia, was held. The five day festival would start from April 28 and end on May 2. The Romans brought in the rituals of the Floralia festival in the British Isles. And gradually the rituals of the Floralia were added to those of the Beltane. And many of today's customs on the May Day bear a stark similarity with those combined traditions.

May day observance was discouraged during the Puritans. Though, it was relived when the Puritans lost power in England, it didn't have the same robust force. Gradually, it came to be regarded more as a day of joy and merriment for the kids, rather than a day of observing the ancient fertility rights.

The tradition of Maypole and greeneries:

By the Middle Ages every English village had its Maypole. The bringing in of the Maypole from the woods was a great occasion and was accompanied by much rejoicing and merrymaking. The Maypoles were of all sizes. And one village would vie with another to show who could produce the tallest Maypole. Maypoles were usually set up for the day in small towns, but in London and the larger towns they were erected permanently.

The Maypole tradition suffered a setback for about a couple of decades since the Puritan Long Parliament stopped it in 1644. However, with the return of the Stuarts, the Maypole reappeared and the festivities of May Day were again enjoyed. One of the great Maypoles, was the changes brought about by the Reformation included attempts to do away with practices that were obviously of pagan origin. But the Maypole, or, May tree, was not issued in practice at the behest of the second Stuart.

Although they succeeded in doing this, Maypole with most of the other traditions, many still survived. And Maypole is one of them. In France it merely changed its name. In Perigord and elsewhere, the May Tree became the "Tree of Liberty" and was the symbol of the French Revolution. Despite the new nomenclature, the peasants treated the tree in the same traditional spirit. And they would dance around it the same way as their forefathers had always done.

Maypoles and trees:

Trees have been linked to a part of celebration, perhaps, to the days ancient New Year rites. The association of trees to this celebration has come riding on the back of the spring festival in ancient Europe. Trees have always been the symbol of the great vitality and fertility of nature and were often used at the spring festivals of antiquity. The anthropologist E. O. James finds a strong relationship between the ancient tree related traditions of the British and the Romans. According to James' description, as a part of the May Day celebration, the youths in old Europe cut down a tree, lopped off the branches leaving a few at the top. They then wrapped it round with violets like the figure of the Attis, the ancient Roman god. At sunrise, they used to take it back to their villages by blowing horns and flutes. In a similar manner, the sacred pine tree representing the god Attis was carried in procession to the temple of Cybele on Rome's Palatine Hill during the Spring Festival of March 22.

Roots of May Day celebration in America:

The Puritans frowned on May Day, so the day has never been celebrated with as much enthusiasm in the United States as in Great Britain. But the tradition of celebrating May Day by dancing and singing around a maypole, tied with colorful streamers or ribbons, survived as a part of the English tradition. The kids celebrating the day by moving back and forth around the pole with the the streamers, choosing of May queen, and hanging of May baskets on the doorknobs of folks -- are all the leftovers of the old European traditions.

**2019-UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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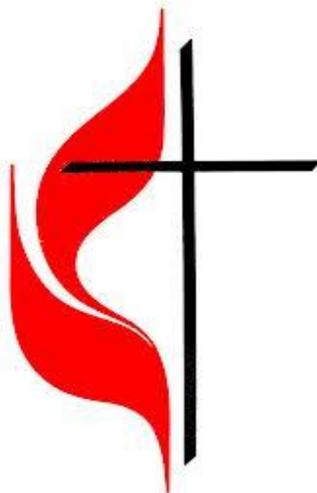
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open hearts
open minds
open doors



The People of the United Methodist Church

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Organist

Linda Wagner
Chancel Choir Director

Grace Pastoor
Volunteer & Events Coord.