



VOYAGEUR February 2020

Dear Church family,

I'm just back from two weeks of vacation. It has provided some space for me to be apart from Bemidji and the church. Vacations like this have often been a way to experience a shift in perspective as I have been able to step away from the day-to-day detail of serving as a pastor.

I've come to love living in Bemidji, and for reasons that are probably somewhat different than usually advertised. I love the diversity and messiness of our community. For a relatively small town we have cultural diversity, people with differing life experiences, and people with differing socioeconomic status. In the midst of polarizing politics, we have political diversity on many levels. All of this diversity leads to a kind of messiness in how people relate to each other. It isn't always kind and respectful. Conflicts arise because people with differences are in relationship with each other and need to share the same space. We have to find civil ways of living with one another that are not based on exclusion, even from those who differ radically from ourselves.

You might ask why I like this messiness, when it can be so unpleasant? I've lived in other places where people have assumed that everyone in the community has the same opinion. I've lived in places where people make statements about "those other people" without being in a community with each other. For me, real community exists in the mess of relating to people with whom you have differences. We aren't in some Utopian society where people don't have to struggle with each other. This doesn't make life simple, but it does make it rich. It also can lead us to work for, and look forward to, "God's Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven." It means we haven't finished with the work God gives us and it means God isn't finished with us yet.

As a Christian, I sometimes struggle with uncivil thoughts towards people with whom I have significant differences, especially when it is my perception that they are causing harm to others. For the most part, I have improved over the years in having civil responses despite having uncivil thoughts. Living in diverse community requires ongoing development of this skill, and I believe it is the direction that Jesus leads us by example. While he expressed frustration with people who misunderstood him, he also preached "love your enemies and bless those who curse you." It is perhaps the most challenging part of being a disciple, and we live in an ample playing field to follow Jesus in this practice.

I'm also especially grateful for the forests and lakes where we live. God has given us places of beauty to experience community differently. We share in the abundance of God's creation in ways we can experience directly in nature. Like Native Americans who lived in this land before us, we can be grateful for and value the land and its creatures.

I hope this letter finds you well in your journey while following Jesus. I pray that we all may grow in loving our enemies and blessing those who curse us. As it is in Heaven, may it be so for us on Earth; may we all play the part for which we have been called!

Pastor Rob

United Methodist Church

Bemidji



February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 - Yoga
2 9:00 - Adult SS 10:30 - Worship 2:00 - Square Dancers	3 10:00 -Office Open 4:30 - Girl Scouts	4 5:30 - Yoga, Ruby Singers and AA	5 Havenwood - 9:45 Neilson Place -10:45 1:30 - Staff Meeting 5:00 - Comm. Table 5:30 - Choir Practice	6 2:00 - Grief & Loss 5:00 - Comm. Table 6:15 - Lotus Zen	7	8 9:30 - Yoga
9 9:00 - Adult SS 10:00 - Choir 10:30 - Worship 2:00 - Square Dancers	10 10:00 -Office Open 4:30 - Girl Scouts	11 5:30 - Yoga, Ruby Singers and AA 6:30 - Trustees Meeting	12 1:30 - Staff Meeting 5:00 - Comm. Table 5:30 - Choir Practice	13 4:00 - *SPRC 5:00 - Comm. Table 6:15 - Lotus Zen	14 Happy Valentines Day! ♥	15 9:30 - Yoga Flag Day
16 9:00 - Adult SS 10:00 - Choir 10:30 - Worship 2:00 - Square Dancers ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE	17 10:00 -Office Open 4:30 - Girl Scouts Presidents' Day	18 5:30 - Yoga, Ruby Singers and AA	19 9:15 BMW 1:30 - Staff Meeting 5:00 - Comm. Table 5:30 - Choir Practice	20 1:30 - Finance Mtg. 5:00 - Comm. Table 6:15 - Lotus Zen	21	22 9:30 - Yoga
23 9:00 - Adult SS 10:00 - Choir 10:30 - Worship 2:00 - Square Dancers	24 10:00 -Office Open 4:30 - Girl Scouts	25 2:00 - 3:30 Evergreen House 5:30 - Church Council 5:30 - Yoga, Ruby Singers and AA	26 1:30 - Staff Meeting 5:00 - Comm. Table Ash Wednesday	27 2:00 -Stamp Club 5:00 - Comm. Table 6:15 - Lotus Zen	28	29 9:30 - Yoga

Bemidji Methodist Women

The Bemidji Methodist Women (BMW) invite you to join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We meet in the church lounge at 9:15am for brunch, a speaker, devotions and a short business meeting. Below is the list of programs for the rest of this year.

We invite you to join us as we learn more about our church and community.

2020 Programs

February 19, 2020 - "Park Place Community" Nicki Miller, Site Director

March 18, 2020 - "Military Language Education" at Concordia Language Village
Martin Grafe, Director

April 15, 2020 - "Human Trafficking" Eva Lorrenz

May 20, 2020 - "Raising Alpaca's and Spinning the Fiber" Sara Kavarko

September 16, 2020 - "Farmer's Market Then and Now" Jeff Molnar

October 21, 2020 - "The Beltrami Connection to Our Italian Sister City" Gary Rozman

November 18, 2020 - "Egypt in Words and Pictures" Deanna and Ken Nichols

December 16, 2020 - Christmas Brunch, Bemidji Town and Country Club, 9:30am

For questions, call Pat Rice, BMW President at (218) 751-0137

Worship Servants Volunteers February 2020

† Jane Kilgore
† Jan Grimm
† Becky Lueben

† Bob and Carolyn Ballard

† Angie and Dave Dahlberg



The first Soup and Pie Social is set for Saturday, March 21, 2020. Look for more information coming soon. Food is served at 12:30 and there will be arts and crafts set up from 11a-4p.

Come join the fun and Yum!

BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM – 2:00PM (M – F)

Office Phone: 218-751-3503

Pastor Rob Cell: 218-766-8744

Email Addresses: Church Office: umcbji@paulbunyan.net

Pastor Rob: revrmkopp@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

Street Address: 924 Beltrami Ave. NW Bemidji, MN
56601



JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the February Newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Monday, February 17, 2020**. Any announcements you wish to have in the Sunday bulletin must be called in, emailed, or delivered to the office by **9:00am the previous Thursday**.
THANK YOU!

Glenn Seibel and Linda Wagner are co-chairing the project to purchase a baby grand piano for United Methodist Church.

An account has already been set up. If you mail or bring a donation to worship, please note on the check or envelope that it is for the piano account. Projected total needed is \$15,000. Thank-you! 🎵



February Birthdays

01 – Arlys Frazey
03 – Jenny Frenzel
04 – Henry Bellefy
04 – Beverly Leet
05 – Shaaron Israelson
08 – Maurice Sullivan
09 – Wag Collins
10 – Rita Albrecht
10 – Sharon Ruberg
12 – Marjory Beck
12 – Angie Dahlberg
14 – Ian Hess
15 – Barb Pommerening
15 – Bruno Porro
16 – John Herath
17 – Velma Wesloh
18 – Beverly Bryant
18 – Betty Brooks
23 – Lee Ann Hess
23 – Verna Lofberg
23 – Becky Lueben
25 – Justin St. Pierre

...at Neilson Place: Marian Blehm, Nelle May and Jean Slinkman
...at Trillium: Lois Statton, Judy Comstock, Lorna Sullivan
...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Dotty Naramore.
...at Baker Park: Kathleen Magsam
...at Havenwood Care Center: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner, Vern Ditty and Betty Howard
...at Goldpine: Marjory Beck, Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre, Ruby Hausauer, Dorothy Baxter and Helen LeClaire
...at Tanbark Assisted Living in Lexington, KY: Margaret Skinner
...Bjorn Peterson, age 3, pray for miraculous healing
...Noli and family
...George Stowe for healing and strength
...Bert Clark
...Elaine Clark for continued healing from eye surgery
...Fulton Gallagher
...Family of Wanda Arenz
...Family of Buelah Rose Hutchins (Mother of Pastor Marva Jean Hutchins)
...Rob and Michelle Kopp for the passing of her brothers Fiance'.

With Valentine's Day close, have you thought about a special gift from **Fair Trade**? Our congregation supports **Fair Trade** with the coffee it serves after worship and the **Fair Trade** Coffee Chocolate Sales Cart in the Mission Market corner of the Lounge every Sunday.

Stop by and see the selection of ground whole bean coffee, both regular and decaf, and single serve K-cups.

What goes good with coffee? Why, CHOCOLATE of course.

You'll find various flavors of organic chocolate bars like:

(Milk Chocolate, Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt in Both Milk and Dark Chocolate, Ginger Black Pepper, Dark Chocolate Orange, Mint or Extra Dark Panama.

Milk and Dark Chocolate Mini Bars,

Chocolate Chips and Olive Oil.

FAIR TRADE IS NOT A CHARITY OR HANDOUT; IT IS SIMPLY A PROCESS OF GIVING FAIR EXCHANGE OF HIGH-QUALITY FOODS AT A FAIR PRICE TO YOU, BY CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLEMEN. EQUAL EXCHANGE PAYS THE FARMERS MORE AND GIVES YOU A BETTER VALUE.

With Valentines Day coming, remember to give FAIR TRADE products.

Thank you for supporting the UMCOR Coffee Project.



myEoffering

About Us

United Methodist Church

Bemidji

Q: WHAT IS myEoffering?

A: It is a Christian family-owned company who has been providing services for churches like ours for nearly 100 years.

We have teamed up with them to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. Their service is solid, secure and easy.

Q: HOW DOES IT HELP?

A: Online giving allows you the freedom to prayerfully give at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or mobile device. You can stop writing checks and our church can eliminate the fees that come with processing them. It allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs, and helps engage young stewards.

Q: HOW DO I GET STARTED?

A: Signing up is simple! Just go to our church website and look for the button to donate online. Clicking that button will take you to our myEoffering site where you can create a new account and give your first offering in just minutes!

One-time or recurring offerings with a credit or debit card. Safe and simple!

The UMC Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, February 16, 2020

The primary responsibilities of the charge/church conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist churches.

Charge Conference will start after worship about 11:30am.

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February 2020 VOYAGEUR
Published Monthly
♥ Happy Valentines Day! ♥

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The People of the United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Rob Kopp
Pastor

Karen Thompson "Bubbles"
Office Administration

Deborah Davis
Volunteer & Events
Coordinator

Samantha McAllister
Custodial

Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Linda Wagner
Chancel Choir Director