



## **VOYAGEUR December 2018**

Dear church family,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Michelle and I were especially grateful to be able to spend Thanksgiving with her mom (Nancy) and family. Nancy suffered a heart attack last month, so we were especially glad to have her with us. It could have turned out differently.

Experiencing gratitude during difficult times can seem impossible, yet I have witnessed incredible expressions of gratitude among people who are experiencing incredible difficulty. I've also witnessed people who seem to be incredibly blessed, yet seldom express gratitude. How are these disparities possible? There may be many reasons, but one is core to living our lives as disciples of Jesus. Gratitude must be cultivated. Without cultivation it is easy to slip in to our human tendency to worry and anxiety about the future. Cultivation may come more easily for some, but all of us need to tend to our own gardens. Gratitude is a spiritual discipline. We can develop this discipline in many ways, some of which I have shared in prior newsletters. Some time ago I suggested keeping a daily gratitude journal. From feedback, I heard that this worked for some of you. However there is another way.

You may have noticed some set patterns in how I offer prayer. There is no single right way to pray, but I have found my pattern to be hopeful. I have a habit of beginning and ending my prayers with gratitude. Like the Psalmists, I sandwich whatever I (or we) are struggling with in gratitude. This metaphorical envelop can enclose and heal our pains and sorrows. When we do this as community, we are able to bear each other's suffering, following in the pattern of how Christ bears our suffering.

Expressing gratitude doesn't end with Thanksgiving day. As we enter the season of Advent, our experience of gratitude leads us to a new and living hope. In this way, Christ is born in us again. Through God's love, we have been given the capacity for grateful hearts.

In this season of promise, I am especially grateful for you. May God bless and keep you in hopeful anticipation of Christ's love born anew in your hearts and minds.

Pastor Rob



# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 Yoga
2 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	3 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 5:30-8:30 Girl Scout Leader mtg in Lounge 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	4 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	5 9:45 Service at Havenwood 10:45 Service at Neilson Place 3:30 Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	6 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	7 7:30pm-10:00pm Square Dancing	8 9:30 Yoga 1:00-4:00 Bake sale set-up 5:30-8:00 Game Night in the Upper Room
9 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Christmas Pageant Worship 11:45 Confirmation <i>Faith &amp; Fellowship</i> <i>Bake Sale</i>	10 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	11 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 6:30 Trustees Mtg	12 3:30 Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	13 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation NO SPRC	14 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	15 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl Meeting
16 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Santa & Treats No Confirmation 2:00-4:30 Square Dancing 7:00 L'Ambizioso	17 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	18 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Finance Mtg	19 9:30 BMW Meeting 3:30 Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	20 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	21	22 9:30 Yoga
23 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship No Confirmation	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26 NO Bible Study NO Community Table NO Youth Group	27 NO Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	28	29 9:30 Yoga
30 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	31 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall					

# 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 January Newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Friday, December 14, 2018**. 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](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

Pastor Rob: [revrmkopp@gmail.com](mailto:revrmkopp@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

**Street Address:** 924 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji MN 56601

## Worship Service Volunteers December 2018

**USHERS:** *Coordinators Mike & Rita Albrecht*

**December 2:** Jerry Pickett & Bunny Howe

**December 9:** Roy & Jan Miller

**December 16:** Dave & Alice Larkin

**December 23:** George & Pam Stowe

**December 24:** Mike & Rita Albrecht

**December 30:** Merril Thiel & Ruth Howe

**GREETERS:** *Coordinators Mike & Rita Albrecht*

**December 2:** Jim & Ginger Tibbetts

**December 9:** Vince & Betty Freborg

**December 16:** Sue Cuperus & Elaine Clark

**December 23:** LeRoy & Diane Morris

**December 30:** Mike & Rita Albrecht

**READERS:** *Coordinator Becky Lueben*

**December 2:** Fulton Gallagher

**December 9:** Tony Nicholson

**December 16:** Randy Burg

**December 23:** Grace & Cheyenne Stowe

**December 30:** Lori Welle

**COFFEE SERVERS:** *Coordinator Lorne Lofberg*

**December 2:** Jim & Ginger Tibbetts

**December 9:** Tom & Mary Ann Gray

**December 16:** Randy & Carol Burg

**December 23:** Lorne & Verna Lofberg

**December 30:** Tony & Carla Nicholson

# DECEMBER MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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

## BIRTHDAYS

- 02 John McRae, Jenny Pirkl
- 03 Fulton Gallagher
- 05 Aaron Frenzel, Michael Johnson
- 07 Nolan Coyle
- 10 Robert Anderson
- 11 Jacob Bellefy
- 13 Margene Parkos
- 15 Gerald Pickett
- 16 Kristin Thompson
- 17 Wyatt Mattfield, Linda Phillips, Jean Slinkman
- 19 Delayna Dauner
- 20 Pat Baird, Carson Danielson, Dannette Kimble
- 22 Bill Pirkl
- 23 Amanda Cullifer
- 26 Julia Pirkl

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Lorne & Verna Lofberg
- 21 Leroy & Diane Morris



- 27 Tyler Hough, Lorraine Sorensen
- 28 Morgan Douglas
- 30 Melanie Hough, Elizabeth Thompson
- 31 Elizabeth McRae, William Weis

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

### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE . . .**

... at **Neilson Place:** Bill Britton, Marian Blehm, Nelle May

... at **Trillium:** Dick Slinkman, Lois Statton,  
Judy Comstock, Lorraine Sorensen

... at **Windsong:** Wag Collins, Jean Slinkman,  
Bert Clark, Karren Clark

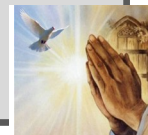
...at **Baker Park:** Kathleen Magsam

... 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

... at **May Creek in Walker, MN:** Ruth Weis,

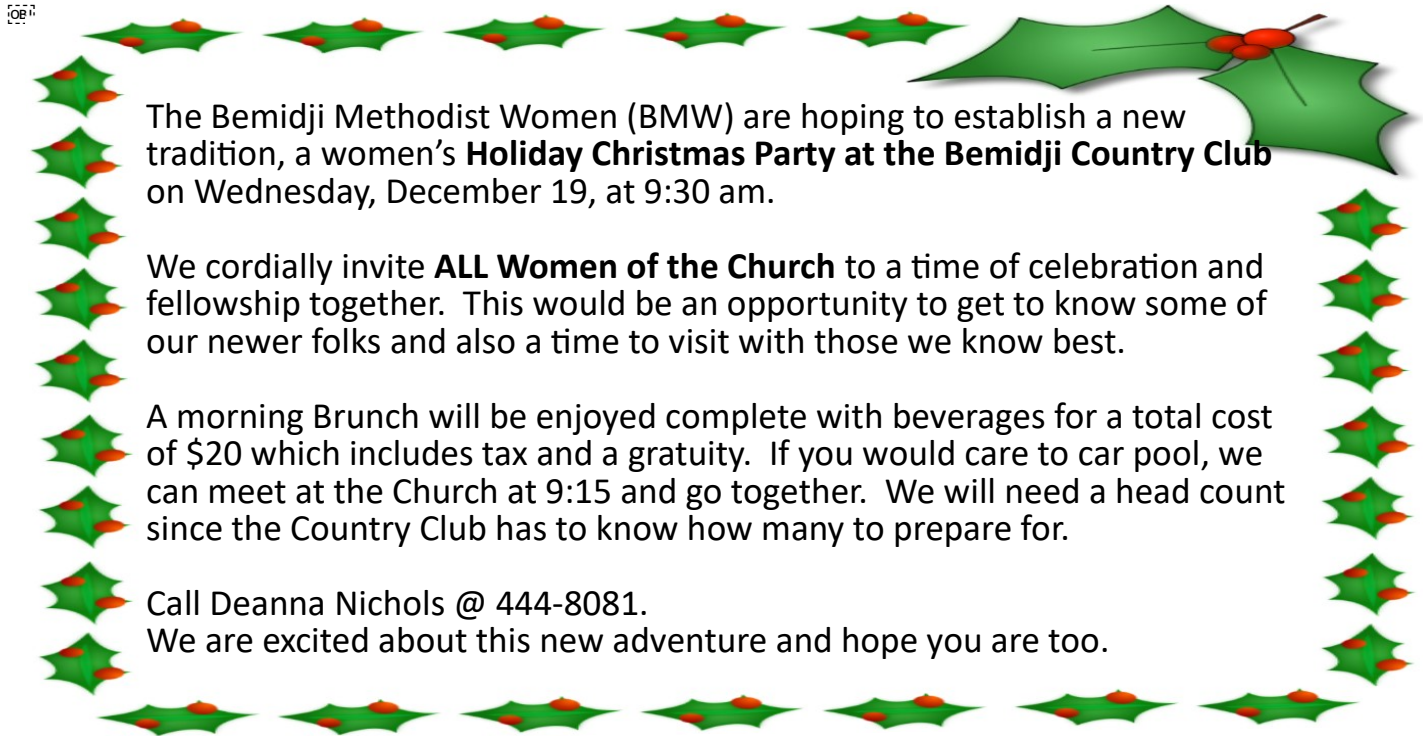


*The Bemidji Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday,  
December 19 at 9:15am in the lounge with refreshments being served.*

**HOSTESSES: Executive Committee**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*Please plan to attend and enjoy our Christmas party and refreshments.  
Everyone is welcome to join us!*



The Bemidji Methodist Women (BMW) are hoping to establish a new tradition, a women's **Holiday Christmas Party at the Bemidji Country Club** on Wednesday, December 19, at 9:30 am.

We cordially invite **ALL Women of the Church** to a time of celebration and fellowship together. This would be an opportunity to get to know some of our newer folks and also a time to visit with those we know best.

A morning Brunch will be enjoyed complete with beverages for a total cost of \$20 which includes tax and a gratuity. If you would care to car pool, we can meet at the Church at 9:15 and go together. We will need a head count since the Country Club has to know how many to prepare for.

Call Deanna Nichols @ 444-8081.  
We are excited about this new adventure and hope you are too.

The Bemidji Methodist Women are happy to announce we once again are selling fresh, Georgia pecans and other nuts as our annual fundraiser.

We have 7 varieties this year with the same prices as before.

Pecans \$10, Chocolate Amaretto Pecans \$10, Mixed Nuts \$9, Cashews \$9, Walnuts \$9, Chocolate Almonds \$8, Double Dipped Chocolate Peanuts \$6.50.

They are all #1 packages with a zip lock top. Use them in baking, salads, oatmeal or as gifts. Any teacher, postman or paperboy would be happy to receive them. Nuts are healthy and nutritious as a snack in moderation. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile project. As you know, all profit is used as Mission money and donated back to our church and





### **Sunday, December 9**

Faith and Fellowship gals will once again host the annual All-Church Christmas Bake sale. Baked items may be brought to the church on Saturday, December 8 from 2-4 p.m. We will be marking and displaying for selling on Sunday. The Bake Sale will be open for purchasing on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30. Closed for worship and open once again after worship. All proceeds will go to the renovation of pews/chairs in the sanctuary.

### **L'Ambizioso Concert**

Sunday, December 16 at 7:00pm, a concert by the L'Ambizioso Duo to celebrate the Holiday Season. The Duo, comprised of two brothers native to northern Minnesota will perform at the Bemidji United Methodist Church. The Concert is open to the public—attendees can contribute a freewill offering and everyone is welcome!



### **Calling all Musicians!**

We are looking for volunteers to enhance our 5pm Christmas Eve Service. We have a tradition of involving special musicians. If you are willing to share your talent, Please contact Linda Wagner @ 218-760-4467 or the Church Office @ 218-751-3503



**2018-UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Return Service Requested

December 2018 VOYAGEUR  
Published Monthly

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors

*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**Church Staff**

Reverend Rob Kopp  
*Pastor*

Tammy Freye  
*Secretary/Bookkeeper*

*Custodian*

Cynthia White  
*Organist*

Linda Wagner  
*Chancel Choir Director*

Grace Pastoor  
**Volunteer & Events  
Coord.**