



## *VOYAGEUR November 2019*

November is upon us. It's a season for celebrating harvest and a season for giving thanks. God has blessed me and blessed us with much to be thankful for. This year, I am especially thankful for this church family and for the many years of faithfulness which are bearing fruit for the harvest of our desire to live abundantly with God and neighbors.

When this congregation was invited to begin the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) process of renewal by our bishop, I had anxiety about the likely financial implications. Most HCI churches were being asked to vote on making building renovations. If this happened for us, how were we going to pay for it? As a lay person in the church I had been a member of, I experienced a capitol campaign for building and ministry enhancements as a place of division and anxiety. It took several years for that church to recover emotionally.

How would this work for our church? Upon my arrival, I hoped to lead us into a place of confidence about what God was doing with the church. It seemed as if the confidence of the church leadership had been shaken in recent years, and so I was focused on rebuilding the confidence the church had in itself. We have great people in our church family. It's our greatest asset. The invitation to church renewal involved risk. Were we up for it? These were questions I was bringing to God in my thoughts and prayers.

As a church family, you overwhelmingly voted to support the plan for renewing our church. The plan included improving and renewing our sanctuary. How were we going to pay for it?

We received a bequest for \$40,000 from a former member of our church. This was a complete surprise. We also had a significant financial asset from selling the parsonage many years ago. Thanks to the work of Mike Albrecht and the trustees, we were able to pay for renewing our sanctuary using these funds without a capitol campaign. Phew, what a sigh of relief!

Since that time we have had a constant stream of people participating in our worship services for the first time. Some of these folks have been people who are new to Bemidji, but many have been part of our neighborhood for a long time.

Yet we have also experienced the deaths of many long-time members of the church who have supported the church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We have many older members of the congregation that also make up a substantial part of the financial support of the church. Again, I've been turning to God with my thoughts and prayers and asking, "How are we going to pay for it?"

Day by day, week by week, season by season I see your church family making a difference in people's lives. Together we communicate God's grace and love to a world in need. While I feel some anxiety about our future, I'm also prepared to be surprised by God. Isn't that at the heart of gratitude and thanksgiving in the first place? Here we are, traveling on the third rock from a star which just happens to have conditions for life as we experience it to be possible. Perhaps we take it for granted. Maybe we could be more surprised.

May God grant us all joyful surprises and grateful hearts,  
Pastor Rob

# November 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30pm-10:00pm Square Dancing
						2 9:30 Yoga
3 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Charge Conference with a Potluck Meal No Confirmation	4 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 6-8:30 MBSR Mtg in Upper RM	5 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 6:30 Trustees	6 9:45 Service at Havenwood 10:45 Service at Neilson Place 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	7 2:00 Grief & Loss Support Group 12-3:30 PEO lounge 5:00 Community Table 5:00 Reconciliation Meeting 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	8	9 9:30 Yoga Fall Craft Show 5:30-8:00 Game Night
10 9:00 Adult Sunday School  10:30 Worship	11 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall 6-8:30 MBSR Mtg in Upper RM	12 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 6:30 Trustees Mtg 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	13  5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	14 2:00 Stewardship meeting 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation 4:00 SPRC	15 9 am Faith & Fellowship, Upper Room <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl Meeting
17 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship Mini Charge Conference after service 12:00 Evan's birthday party 2:00-4:30 Square Dancing	18 6:30 Beginning Knitting/Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall 6-8:30 MBSR Mtg in Upper RM	19 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Finance Mtg 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	20 9:30 BMW Meeting  5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	21 1:30 Finance meets 2:00 Stamping in Lounge 5:00 Community Table 5:00 HCI Steering Committee Mtg 5:00 Reconciliation Meeting 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	22	23 9:30 Yoga
24 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	25 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall 6-8:30 MBSR Mtg in Upper RM	26 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge 5:30 Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	27 5:00 Community Table 6:30 Youth Group	28 2:00-5:30 Stamping Group in Lounge 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	29	30 9:30 Yoga

# **BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Church Office hours:**

**9:00am ~ 2:00pm**

**Tuesday ~ 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 December Newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Friday, November 15, 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: [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 November 2019**

◆Becky Lueben ◆John Herath

◆Larry Young ◆Sue Young

◆LeRoy Morris ◆Diane Morris

◆Jesse Grant

“Anything you did for even the least of My people,  
you also did for Me.” Matthew 25:40

Remember the Listening Posts  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each  
month after the service



Charge Conference Notice: On Sunday, November 17 we will have a charge conference with one agenda item. We will be setting Pastor Rob's compensation package for 2020. The meeting will convene immediately after worship



Remember the Listening Posts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month after the service

How will being a welcoming and reconciling church change us? As a welcoming and reconciling church, we will love people, invited them to participate, cry with them, hug them, hold their hand, laugh with them, sit with them in their dark moments, sing loudly and off key with them, listen to their story, smile and shake their hand, pray for them, grow in faith with them, give thanks for them, offer a safe space, show God's grace, sprinkle kindness like glitter, provide hope, make goofy faces at their kids when we're supposed to be listening to the sermon, share in Holy Communion, be inspired by the presence in our lives, invite them to coffee fellowship, be a little annoyed that they are sitting in our favorite spot... We will change... Just like we have for the last 121 years. Lord, Open my heart to new love. Open my mind to new experiences, and fling open the doors to my soul so that I may be Your light to the world. Amen

# NOVEMBER MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4** George Stowe  
**8** Tom Dvorak
- 9** Kara Lee
- 11** Seth Knudson
- 14** Graig Gilbertson  
Donald Leet
- 17** Dave Dahlberg, Evan Hazard, Shirley Simmerman
- 18** Joyce Holmstrom, Lois Jessen
- 20** Ruth Larson
- 26** Dorothy Sathre
- 27** Lauren Jones

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

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

at *Neilson Place*: Marian Blehm, Nelle May, Jean Slinkman  
at *Trillium*: Lois Statton, Judy Comstock, Lorne Sullivan  
at *Windsong*: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Dotty Naramore  
at *Baker Park*: Kathleen Magsam  
at *Havenwood Care Center*: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner,  
Vern Ditty, Betty Howard  
at *Goldpine*: Marjory Beck, Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre,  
Ruby Hausauer, Dorothy Baxter, Helen LeClaire  
at *Tanbark Assisted Living in Lexington,  
KY*: Margaret Skinner  
Bjorn Peterson, age 3, pray for continued healing  
Noli and family



**“We have spoken frankly to you, Corinthians.**

**Our hearts are wide open.” 2 Corinthians 6:11**

**Grief & Loss Support Group** to the calendar for November 7<sup>th</sup> 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 judgment and everything is confidential. Please join us.

**Bemidji Methodist Women** will meet November 20 at 9:15 am. Joyce Homstrom and Pat Rice will host, with Carol Ricke doing devotions. “OFF THE WALL” is the theme! Bring an item to share, with a story behind it, joyous, serious or newsworthy. **AND CAMARADERIE**



**Fair Trade** is not a charity or handout; it is simply a process of giving a fair exchange. Equal Exchange provides 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.

### **Help Support Fair Trade.**

The easiest way to support authentic Fair Trade is to purchase fairly traded products from small farmers. Your actions as a consumer can support small farmers to make a sustainable living.

**Our congregation supports Fair Trade** with the coffee it serves and the Fair Trade Coffee/Chocolate Sales cart in the Mission Market corner of the Lounge every Sunday. Please stop by and see our selection of ground/whole bean coffee, both regular and decaf, single serve coffee cups, various flavors of chocolate bars, chocolate minis, chocolate chips, and olive oil.

With Christmas coming, remember to give FAIR TRADE products



**Deborah Davis** gets a chuckle over calling herself a “has been;” she has been a homeschooling mom, a farmwife, an editor of a small-town newspaper, a kindergarten teacher, a pastor, and a caregiver. She also served as assistant caretaker at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji for 20 years. She paints, writes and now serves as BUMC’s Volunteer and Events Coordinator.

Deborah grew up Methodist to a father who, when he retired, took her and her mom, on numerous political adventures to Washington DC and much of the east coast. As a girl she enjoyed rubbing elbows with the gentle Hubert Humphrey and listening to the bristly Lyndon Baines Johnson. Her mother preferred the simple life of growing flowers and unique indoor plants. Because of her mom, Deborah was able to pass down her great grandfather’s 45-year-old Prayer Plant and Moses in the Bulrushes to her daughter, who shares her grandmother’s green thumb.

Her life is much less adventurous now, as she is settled messily into a funny little home on Lake Movil, with her 3 dogs where she raises herbs and veggies and bakes bread for herself, family, and friends. She has 1 amazing daughter who has graced her with 2 precious grandsons, 10-year-old Zarek and 3 year old Bjorn who is winning his fight against ATRT cancer.

**“Whatever you do, do it from the heart,  
as something done for the Lord and not for people.”**

### **Colossians 3:23**

**Leisa Bragg** is a retired music teacher with 31 years of experience in the public schools teaching choral, general, and instrumental music at all levels, K-12. Leisa’s high school choirs consistently earned the highest ratings at state festivals and were invited to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association’s annual conference. Additionally, Leisa taught private lessons to piano, voice, and clarinet students.

Leisa is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado College of Performing and Visual Arts where she earned a Bachelor of Music Education, Instrumental Emphasis, in 1987. A third-generation graduate of UNC, Leisa attended school along with her brother and sister. All three Braggs were members of Vocal Jazz I and sang on the 1984 Grammy-nominated *Hot IV* album. In 1985, Vocal Jazz I was selected to perform at the inaugural Epcot Center Jazz Festival in Orlando, Florida.

Church music has long been an important part of Leisa’s life. She grew up in the United Methodist church and has been a church musician for over twenty years, both accompanying services and directing a choir.

Leisa comes from a family of musicians. Her father, three aunts, and two siblings all have music degrees. Currently two of her nephews are studying music at college. There is nothing she enjoys more than an evening of making music with her family.

Leisa recently relocated to Bemidji from Denver, CO and is continuing her lifelong pursuit of being a working musician. In addition to accompanying services at BUMC, she is employed as a music teacher at Headwaters Music & Arts.



**2019-UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Return Service Requested

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open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**Church Staff**

Reverend Rob Kopp  
*Pastor*

Deborah Davis  
*Volunteer & Events  
Coordinator*

Samantha McAllister  
*Custodial*

Leisa Bragg  
*Accompanist*

Linda Wagner  
*Chancel Choir Director*