



VOYAGEUR September 2020

Dear Church Family,

The months have wound down for what I am hoping will be our only COVID-19 summer. I have no way of knowing. We've had a relatively mild spike in cases in Beltrami County, and we are not over it yet. We will continue to have limited use of the church building for the foreseeable future.

In taking photos for the church directory, I have had a bunch of conversations. As a church family, we seem to be holding up well. But there are so many ways this has been an uncomfortable ordeal. Simple things like going out in public involve a lot more consideration. Mostly people are not feeling isolated, but they feel challenged not to be isolated.

It's been difficult for me as your pastor. Not being able to visit folks in the care centers for worship has me feeling saddened for people there. We've had deaths where I have not been able to be at bedside, or spend much time with families at the time when they are experiencing loss. I've shed more tears over my inability to be present than I have over the actual deaths. It's not an easy time to be elderly and vulnerable, especially in communal settings.

At the same time, I have a growing sense of how much people are becoming aware of their need for God in this great time of uncertainty. When so much seems outside of our control, we draw comfort that God is especially present with us whenever our lives are filled with uncertainty. The certainty of God's love is what we depend on, and the challenging time we are living in creates an opportunity to experience God's love.

In the midst of the sacrifices we have been making, it is also true that new people are receiving the Gospel. More people are experiencing grace and love through our congregation. More people are able to name and claim their identities as beloved children of God. Perhaps God is using the uncertainty of our present circumstances to grow the love we share with each other. Perhaps the love we experience with God will participate in healing our broken world. This is what I pray.

I know you are making sacrifices, as am I. Know that you are being of good faith as the Spirit moves within us, leading towards flowering of God's grace and love.

God's Shalom to you,

Pastor Rob

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

September Birthdays

Sept. 02- Jane Knecht
Sept. 04- Myrna Freborg
Sept. 04- Andrew Thompson
Sept. 04- Laura Thompson
Sept. 08- Donald Bowman
Sept. 09- Anna Halverson
Sept. 10- Gerald Phillips
Sept. 10- De Pickett
Sept. 10- Nancy Swenson
Sept. 11- Betty Howard
Sept. 11- Danielle Kimble
Sept. 13- Pat DeChaine
Sept. 14- Mary Ann Gray
Sept. 17- Elaine Clark
Sept. 18- LaVerne Olson
Sept. 22- Alexandra Lyren
Sept. 24- Judy Comstock
Sept. 24- Jill Parson

Sept. 27- Karen/Bubbles
Thompson



Marie King passed away August 10, 2020 in Florida. Larry and Marie King were members of this congregation many years ago and she loved singing in the choir. You may direct condolences to her husband; **Larry King and sons Tim and Troy Joslin 4949 Bellemede Blvd., New Port Richey, FL 34655.**



JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the October Newsletter are due in to Karen no later than

9:00am on Tuesday, September 15, 2020

You may text, email or call her at
(218) 766-9700

Happy Anniversary

September 02, 1955 ~ Merlyn and Velma Wesloh

September 08, 1972 ~ Lowell and Barb Pommerening

September 12, 1981 ~ Mike and Rita Albrecht

September 12, 1987 ~ Jim and Lee Ann Hess

September 27, 1975 ~ Rod and De Pickett



If an Anniversary was missed on the list,
please contact Karen in the office.



...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman

...at Trillium: Judy Comstock

...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, Ruby
Hausauer, Helen LeClaire

...Noli and family

...The family of Dorothy Baxter, who passed away
recently at the age of 96.

...The family of Nelle May, who passed away August 19,
2020, at the age of 100. She was 7 days shy of her
"101st" birthday.

...Bob Ballard for continued good health

...BUMC members, to get through COVID and
able to worship together soon



Offerings and Misc. Received for August 2020

General Offering.....August 04, 2020	\$3,316.00
August 18, 2020	\$3,457.10

On-line Giving..... \$1,205.00
for August



September 2020

United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			1:00 -Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:00-Virtual Coffee on Zoom 5:00- Community Table		
6 10:15-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30- Worship	7 LABOR DAY	8	9 1:00 -Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table 6:30- Trustees Meeting	10 1:00-Virtual Coffee on Zoom 4:00- SPRC 5:00- Community Table	11	12

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:15-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship			1:00 -Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:00-Virtual Coffee on Zoom 1:30-Finance Meeting 5:00- Community Table		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:15-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship			1:00 -Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:00-Virtual Coffee on Zoom 2-5:30pm- Stamping 5:00- Community Table 6:00- Church Council		
27	28	29	30			
10:15-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship			1:00 -Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table			

Hello from Members and Friends!

What have we been doing? Well, we have been staying home a lot just like most other people!! Bill had surgery on his wrist and is recovering nicely. I thought it would be nice to get a puppy before winter so we had something to do. What I forgot was that we were about 17 years younger when we got our last one. It's been trying at times to try and keep up with her but it has been loads of fun too. Bill is still trying to get his boat in the water, seems like something comes up every time he plans on using it. Hopefully this week! We miss out church family and hope that all is well with everyone.

~~Bill & Kathy Strycker

Marshall and I have been keeping active with yard work, house chores, reading, contacting friends and family, and golf. Spring and Summer are always busy so the days have flown by. Our family and grandchildren visited over the Fourth and that was a happy time for all of us. We have missed going to Canada to visit friends and family there but hope that opportunity will arise before too long. Keep well and safe everyone! jhnstnm@paulbunyan.net.

Barbara and Marshall Johnston

***Merlyn had started writing his "Memoirs" during the winter of 2019, but began writing in earnest in March of 2020. There was no place to go and he started searching for old photos and family history. He enlisted his wife as his typist and set a goal of his 89th birthday on June 17th, as to when the "Memoir" should be completed, printed, and mailed to our families. His goal was met and now you know how we both stayed busy. After that we moved to our lake cabin to be safer and we both have kept very busy catching up on maintenance and cleaning jobs out there. We have not been bored.**

Thank you. Merlyn and Velma

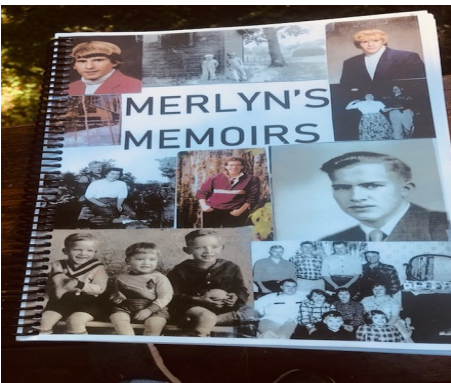
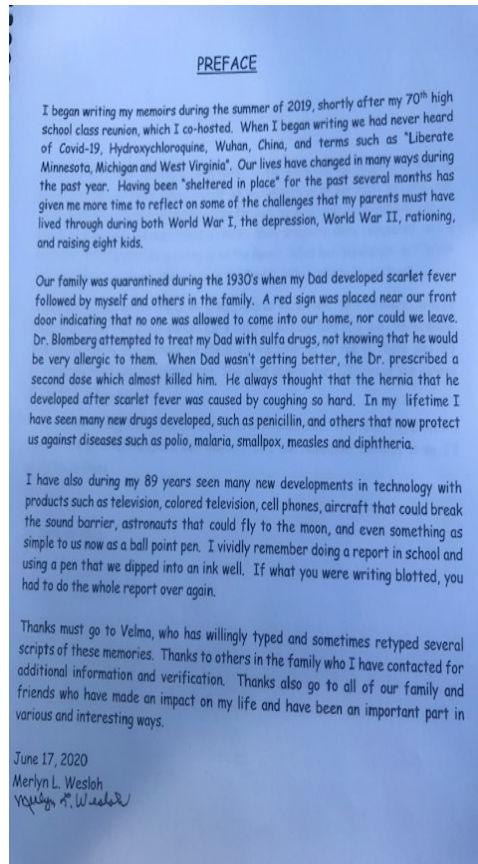


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.....Continued notes from Friends and Family

What I did on my COVID vacation. By Charlene Anderson, Ret. Person.

Our routine hasn't changed that much since we didn't have a job or children to worry about. Our daughter, Lydia, was laid off and was able to come up here and spend 5 weeks with us, which we loved! We've done a lot of canoeing, kayaking, biking and hiking. And, fish fear our name. There have been some unexpected positives that came from the pandemic: Our 6 year old granddaughter was given a messenger app by her mom and we were able to virtually babysit her and her sister while their folks worked from home. While Gen was "home-schooling", she called many times and we were so glad to be able to talk with her and her sister. I put pencil to paper and have been writing to the girls every week. Let me tell you, nothing improves your penmanship quicker than writing to a beginning reader! Next up, driving to Dallas to pack up our daughter and move her back to Delaware, strictly adhering to masks and social distancing, of course. We have really missed our Wednesday bridge group and our Sunday Church group and look forward to everyone being able to get together again.

~~Jeff and Charlene Anderson

Summer update: We have been very busy catching up on years and years of neglected projects! We are both enjoying having time to be in the garden and having some time together. :) Our faith, family, and friends have kept us going through this time of Covid.

~~George and Pam Stowe

Summer has been a great help in staying home, but you still miss everyone. I hope everyone is doing well. I think we all find days that are hard to get through.

My greatest excitement is going to the grocery store. Ha! I have been able to see my sisters once in awhile, but they have COVID where they are too. We have been blessed that no one has gotten sick. I have been working outside in flower gardens or yard work. We have been dealing with 3 bears, 3 fox and rabbits. I'm trying to keep the fox from eating the rabbits. (ha) The rabbits eat flowers and garden so you can't win. We have had neighbors pass away and my sister-in-laws mom. It's so sad you can't attend funerals. Our good friends in Thief River Falls just had their house burn down. It's hard to know what to do. We have had coffee with the neighbors once in awhile. I've also been dealing with a torn Achilles tendon. It takes forever to heal. Can't imagine what Winter will be like with this virus, lots of reading and crocheting. God Bless Everyone!

Ginger Tibbetts



Community Table on Wednesday and Thursday Nights, takes a hard working village. George and Pam Stowe order the food and find volunteers for this great service at BUMC.

Jane Killgore coordinates the food/menu for Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Here are the teams and/or those who have helped over the past few months at Community Table on Thursday nights. The Thursday group feeds about the same number of meals as Wednesday.

- 1. Freeberg and Grund Inc.—Mark Fuller, Wade Martin, Dana Brekke (coordinated the food for several months)**
- 2. Rebecca Hoffman and Brodie Karger, Kids- Calder and Quinn**
- 3. Janna and Mitch Rautio, Kids-Ryan, Nick and Matthew**
- 4. Wade Martin and Amanda Willis-Martin, Kids-Sophia, Ellianna, JoLynn, Liam and Mathison.**

***** Amanda works for Security Insurance and her husband's Engineering Firm Freeberg & Grund Inc. of Bemidji. They offer Civil Engineering consulting and services.**

The in town location of our church permits easy access to Bemidji residents who walk or bike to us for their meals. The families alternate weeks and have been such a blessing.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL OF US AT BUMC!!

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Welcome to September

Web Site: www.bemidjiumc.com

**Have you had your picture taken
for the new BUMC directory?
You may also submit a current photo.
Email Deborah Davis or text and leave
a message.**

msdeborahadavis@yahoo.com

**To leave a message or text:
(218)214-3581**

**Please note that there is an "a" after
Deborah's first name. There are many
"a's" in her email. ☺**



Fair Trade Committee News

We are having a close out sale on all our existing Fair Trade coffee/chocolate products. Please call or email: Terry Thomas, 444-9580, , with your order and we will make arrangements for delivery. We will continue to order from Equal Exchange, but revise our model of delivery to a "buying club" model. This means that our customers would have to buy a case of coffee (6) or chocolate (12). You could arrange to split a case with a fellow church member, or friend. Under the current conditions of our shut down church building, we cannot continue with the current model. Hopefully, sometime in the future, we will be able to have the "coffee cart" set up in the lounge, as before.

We currently have in stock most of our coffee in both ground/whole bean, and chocolate minis, and a limited supply of chocolate bars, olive oil.

We have enjoyed this mission project of our church, and hope to continue it into the future, just in a different format. Thank you for your years of dedicated commitment to this project.

Terry Thomas

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

Trustees
Custodial

Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Chancel Choir Director