



Dear Church Family,

This month marks the one year anniversary of suspending in-person worship. It's been a long and challenging year in many ways. Some have lost friends and family to COVID-19. Some have suffered prolonged illness. It's been especially difficult if you are homeless or poor. We have endured much.

Among the losses, we haven't been able to worship in-person. We haven't been able to socialize as a group-- and I believe it has affected our spirit. Online worship has been worthwhile for many. But it has not been the same. I believe your church's financial struggles are related. It's not been the same for you, and it's not been the same for me as your pastor.

We do have some good news. More of us are getting vaccinated. I received both of my Pfizer vaccinations as a volunteer worship leader in the Sanford system. While I follow all of the same masking and distancing protocols as everyone else, I can be less concerned with spreading the virus. It feels like our world is beginning to open up again.

The church council has set a tentative date to begin in-person worship again. On April 25 we will begin having a limited service. Following the protocols established by our bishop and state governor, we are initially planning on hosting 50 or so people. This may open up by the time we have worship.

The first services will be different. Masks will be required-- and double masking recommended and preferred. While we will have music, we will not be singing together--at least not until it is safe to do so. (Singing has been shown to pose greater risk for transmitting COVID 19) The service will be short so we will limit exposure. It will last about half an hour.

Some have expressed that they do not feel safe until after they have been vaccinated. Some have been frustrated we did not resume in-person worship earlier. These have not been easy decisions to make.

Michelle and I will continue to produce an online worship service for the foreseeable future. This service continues to reach new people. Some have discovered it is their preferred form of worship. Until we have all been vaccinated it will continue to be the only completely safe alternative. If technology has been a limiting factor for you, please give me a call. I've been able to help others sort through their options.

What I am most aware of during this Lenten season is spiritual yearning. We yearn to be among people, in church and elsewhere. I am curious about how we will experience the Holy Spirit moving in our lives in this season of anticipation. How will God move with us to more fully realize our connection with God and each other? Will the spirit of our congregation be renewed by the Spirit as we move into another stage of our life together?

We have much to hope for, and less to fear. May it be well with your soul.

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

March Birthdays

- 01- Jim Tibbetts
- 03- Adecia Dauner
- 04- Ruth Howe
- 09- Tessa Richardson
- 09- Gwen Salner
- 13- Jack Israelson
- 15- Dorothy Naramore
- 15- Dennis Noska
- 15- Cynthia White
- 18- Tom Gray
- 18- Tricia Jessen
- 19- Laura Hays
- 20- Hollie Simmerman
- 22- Richard Morehouse
- 23- Carla Nicholson
- 27- Kaia Hess
- 28- Michael Stowe
- 29- Michael Jessen
- 30- Darlene Wilson
- 30- Jonathan Leet




JUST A REMINDER....
 Articles for the April Newsletter are due
 in to Karen no later than
9:00am on Monday, March 15, 2020
 You may text, email or call her at
 (218) 766-9700

March
 anniversaries

March 09- Nick and Kristin Thompson
March 25- Robert and Carol Rieke
March 29- Ben and Cheyenne Stowe

...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman
 ...at Trillium: Judy Comstock
 ...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Dotty Naramore
 and Evan Hazard
 ...at home with her daughter, Kathleen Magsam
 ...at Havenwood Care Center: Patty Boyer, Mary
 Conner, and Betty Howard
 ...at Goldpine: Laura Hays, Ruby Hausauer, Helen LeClaire
 ...at BirchHaven Village: Betty Brooks
 ...Noli and family
 ...For Gay Albers and family on the loss of Gay's father
 ...Continued healing for Verna Lofberg
 ...For Heather Burrell and family concerning daughter Mariah
 ...If you have prayer requests, please email them to the office
 and they'll be read at the next on-line service.
 It is not necessary to provide a lot of detail.
 The first name and first letter of the last
 name would suffice if you are concerned
 about privacy.




Offerings and Misc. Received for February 2021

General Offering....	February 09, 2021	\$3,375.00
	February 23, 2021	\$16,908.00
On-line Giving for February		\$2,424.10





COMMUNITY TABLE

BEMIDJI, MN

Monday and Tuesday

Meals are served at Mt. Zion Church, 414 Lincoln Avenue SE, Bemidji, MN 56601. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Meal is served from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

Wednesday and Thursday

Meals are served at United Methodist Church, 924 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Meal is served from 5:00 to 6:00pm.



Ann Campbell (l) Jane Killgore (r) Wednesday night crew!



Dawn Dahl (l) and Linda Nelson (r) handing out Community Table dinners and loaves of bread!

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

by: Karen "Bubbles" Office Admin BUMC



I decided to have dinner compliments of Community Table on Wednesday February 17, 2021.

What a pleasant surprise. The amount served took me 2 days to eat. Lol

I believe **De Pickett** was volunteering in the kitchen that night cooking. Welcome De to Community Table.

It was delicious and felt healthy.

George and Pam Stowe are still a large part of Community Table as well. George orders and they both have been seen unloading cases of food.

Jane Kilgore has taken over what George did on Wednesday and Thursday servings. To those that work all day and then step up to help Community Table at night, THANK YOU SO MUCH!! We appreciate you!



The Community Table Volunteers would like to give a big overdue thank you to some special BUMC members at Christmas time.

Randy Burg & Carol Nielson along with **Vic Mosser and Sandy Kranz**, personally split the bill and provided \$500 worth of \$5.00 McDonald's gift cards to those community members that attended a meal at Christmas. Community Table serves on average 100 people a night.

Thank you so much!

A big thank you goes out to the BUMC Meals on Wheels volunteers, who during the coldest week of the entire Winter, delivered meals to those in need. Thank you!



Randy Burg & Carol Nielson
Diane & Leroy Morris
Charlene & Jeff Anderson
Sandra Krantz & Vic Mosser
Jerry Pickett and Tony & Carla Nicholson



Now I'm Retired

*I wonder if I
Qualify for
Meals on Wheels
I'm ALWAYS
on the run*

Without our volunteers we could not continue this vital mission project of our community. If you would like to join our team, call Terry Thomas, MOW coordinator: 444-9580



From the desk of Deborah Davis

I have exciting news about several things, making reopening plans, an upcoming summer event, and a new way you, and others who view our websites and videos remotely, can connect with BUMC!

- 1) We are now using Vanco Mobile, a mobile app that will allow our congregation, WHEREVER they may be, to virtually gather and communicate.

The way we come together to worship today is different since we have shifted to, and will continue with, virtual ministries, but we are still a community. Vanco Mobile will help us strengthen and maintain that connection. We will use this app to let you know about upcoming events, share news about our community and speak directly with you. You can use Vanco Mobile to communicate with church staff and fellow members, get involved in our many ministries and express generosity through eGiving.

You know, I've been so moved by the multitude of people viewing our services and special reading, taking part in our Facebook groups and information on our Facebook site. I have personally been in contact, not only with many throughout Minnesota, but also Iowa, Wisconsin, plus our snowbirds in Texas and Arizona, but ALSO, we have a regular viewer from Sweden (who you will see in our online church directory) AND many from various parts of Africa who enjoy our Facebook site, groups and online services. We have certainly expanded. I think Vanco will help them be able to worship God with their finances as we are able to do locally. We have, after all become a push click world.

We encourage you to join our church's app, Vanco Mobile. You can download the app for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, simply open the app and search for our church name.

We are thrilled about this opportunity to maintain our community and congregation despite the distance. Thank you for your continued support of BUMC!

- 2) Also, I am looking for volunteers to make box meals for a June 23rd event for the Annual Conference. We'll be making sandwiches and bagging fruit and veggies. This of course is all dependent on how Covid vaccines play out, etc.
- 3) We are forming a small group to discuss how to go about the reopening. We will certainly follow CDC guidelines, but this planning committee will be specific to our church, entailing how to utilize worship teams, do music, sanctuary seating, physical distancing, masking, etc. Again, we are keeping this group small, but if you have a burning desire to help construct these plans, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Deborah





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"In 2000, VANCO gains industry reputation for meeting needs to faith-based and non-profit organizations."

2021

United Methodist Church

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00- SPRC ** NEW TIME & DAY!	1:00 - Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:30- Virtual Coffee on Zoom 5:00- Community Table	 World Day Of Prayer	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:55- Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30- Worship  Daylight Saving Time Begins		6:30- Trustees Meeting	1:00 - Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:30- Virtual Coffee on Zoom 5:00- Community Table		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:55-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship			1:00 - Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table  St. Patrick's Day	1:30- Virtual Coffee on Zoom 1:30- Finance Meeting 5:00- Community Table		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:55-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship			1:00 - Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	1:30- Virtual Coffee on Zoom 5:00- Community Table 6:00pm- Church Council		
28	29	30	31			
9:55-Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30-Worship  Palm Sunday	HOLY WEEK	HOLY WEEK	HOLY WEEK			

United Methodist Church
924 Beltrami Ave.
PO Box 607
Bemidji, MN 56619-0607

Office number: (218) 751-3503
Karen's Phone- (218) 766-9700
Email: umcbji@paulbunyan.net

Web Site: www.bemidjiumc.com

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Happy St. Patrick's Day 🍀

Did You Know?

The Commission on the General Conference just announced its decision to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until Aug. 29 – Sept. 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the safety of mass gatherings and travel.

General Conference 2020 was originally scheduled to take place in May 2020 in Minneapolis, and the Dakotas-Minnesota Area has been preparing for several years to host this international denominational gathering. But last March, as COVID-19 made its way around the world, it was postponed until late summer 2021. This recent announcement represents a second postponement.



Are you running out of coffee during these "stay at home" cold days of winter? You can look online at <https://equalexchange.coop/> and see what is available to order from Equal Exchange.

Remember you need to buy a full case (6) for coffee, or find someone willing to share a case with you.

I have a "free shipping" coupon that expires in March, so please call Terry Thomas, 444-9580 to place an order. I'd like to place the order by March 12th.



open hearts
open minds
open doors



The People of the United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Rob Kopp
Pastor
revrmkopp@gmail.com

Karen Thompson "Bubbles"
Office Administration
umcbji@paulbunyan.net

Deborah Davis
Volunteer & Events Coordinator
bumccordinator@gmail.com

Maria's Cleaning
Custodial

Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Chancel Choir Director