



Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you on the day before the church council meets on May 27. At this meeting we will be deciding what our next steps are for in-person worship. Many businesses and organizations in our community are beginning to meet without masking and physical distancing. While the vaccination rate has plateaued, the infection, hospitalization, and death rates continue to drop. Many if not most in our church family have been vaccinated. You will be hearing more from the church after our council meeting.

It has been uplifting and hopeful to be celebrating in-person worship in our sanctuary again. As much as one can worship God in any space, the sanctuary has been a holy place for many people over many years. I am especially grateful for the work of Deborah and volunteers for making the worship services feel safe. As a church family, we've been taking careful steps to protect vulnerable members of our congregation. If you have been participating in this effort, God bless you!

If we are, indeed, coming to the time when the pandemic recedes, we will face new questions. : How have we grown, how have we learned, and where have we experienced God's presence during our time of isolation? Have we discovered life patterns to leave behind or new patterns to carry forward in the future? What of our experience this year would be helpful and hopeful to share in our community?

I have learned to value our online worshipping community. In-person church has not been a good fit for many people prior to the pandemic, and we are finally beginning to broaden our outreach to include them. While the connections we make with each other are different than in-person, they are a vitally important means for people to experience God's presence in their lives. We intend to continue this ministry for the foreseeable future.

Michelle and I continue to hone and reshape online worship. We strive to make it especially hospitable towards people with little church experience, while at the same time introducing and re-introducing worship and liturgy as a means of grace in our lives.

As we begin to move into summer and also greater possibilities of outdoor gatherings, it's also a time of relaxation and gratitude for life and love. May this season in your life be blessed by God's love. Having been blessed, may you continue to share love in our community and world.

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

JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the July Newsletter are due in to Karen no later than **9:00am on Monday, June 15, 2021**

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

The office is open! We ask that you follow state mask guidelines. Pastor Rob is in the office Wednesdays and any other weekdays by appointment.

Happy Anniversary

June 04- Glenn and Michelle Seibel
June 12- Dave and Angie Dahlberg
June 16- Rick and Margene Parkos
June 20- Rick and Erin Morehouse
June 21- Tony and Carla Nicholson
June 23- Jack and Sharon Israelson
June 24- Peter and Janice Moberg
June 29- Tom and Judy Dvorak



How close do you read the monthly Voyageur? There is a lot of information in this Newsletter and starting next month, the office staff will be hiding items or having you look for key words.

We have prizes to give away and more info is coming in July.

Now that we are back to in-person worship, keeping up with all the activities in the church will be become very important again. Though emails are helpful, always know that The Voyageur is your contact to the church and it's members. It is the office goal to keep you up to date with UMC events!

June Birthdays

06- Marshall Johnston
06- Carol Rieke
06- Kathleen Magsam
07- Sandy Kranz
07- David Swenson
08- Riley Finnegan
08- Helen LeClaire
10- Arle Hagberg
11- Mateo Porro
12- Sue Young
13- Nicholas Jensen
14- Carol Nielsen
14- Lowell Pommerening
17- Merlyn Wesloh
18- Bob Wagner
19- Gunard Youngdahl
21- LeRoy Morris
22- Michael Dewitt
25- Tiffany Seibel
30- Pam Jorstad
30- Dave Larkin



"Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks."

Philippians 4:6

I have a
Guardian
Angel in
HEAVEN
I call him
DAD

...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman
...at Trillium: Judy Comstock
...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Evan Hazard and Dotty Naramore
...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 Robert Frazey, and Lois Jensen
...at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks
...Noli and family
...For violence and gun fire to cease in Minneapolis
...For our Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMT's and Medical personnel, that they may continue to be safe in helping others
... For residents and staff at Care Centers who are still under the shadow of working with COVID.
... For those who have been sick at home and struggling thru common colds, allergies and strep throat circulating.
... For the city of San Jose, CA

... Please contact Jan Grimm to add a name to the Prayer Chain. Her phone number is:
H- (218) 444-0209 C- (218) 821-7816



Offerings and Misc. Received for May 2021

General Offering.... May 12, 2021.....\$3,835.00
May 25, 2021.....\$2,330.00

On-line Giving for May.....\$1,475.00



June is Pride Month





The church is looking to give away (2) pianos. If you know someone who is interested, contact the office. The brown piano in the lounge is an Acrosonic. The other brown piano in the upstairs chapel is a Wurlitzer. Both are looking for a home and are FREE!!!!!! Please note they could use a tuning. Pass the word around!



The Bemidji Food Shelf has been continuing to provide food to families in need during the pandemic. Volunteers have also continued to serve. In July and going forward, service times will expand and return to normal again! So, we will need more volunteers for the first Monday of the month or any other open days on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please give me a call at (218) 760-1876. Also, the donate grocery cart will be in the church lobby again. Look for more information in this Newsletter about what the food shelf has done for our community during COVID. Thanks! Nancy Manley

Re-Gathering Plan for Churches Current Phase: Blue



We are now in the BLUE PHASE

Churches can open with no capacity limits but social distancing is still highly encouraged and masks are recommended for anyone unvaccinated. We would offer these considerations as you determine your requirements in this new phase:

Remember the essential risk factors of COVID: indoors, proximity, and length of time. A good rule of thumb to keep people safe is to meet two of these three conditions when meeting in a public space, especially when you don't know the vaccination status of participants: outdoors, social distanced, masked.

You might want to encourage those with colds to wear a mask when they come to church to protect others. Continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available as an act of hospitality.

Keep offering people different worship options as we are all emerging from COVID in different phases: outdoor, indoor, online. Make use of all modalities to allow for the fullest participation.

Congregational singing is still considered a high-risk activity. Consider doing congregational singing outdoors, having people masked if there's congregational singing indoors, or having only members of your worship band sing while others hum along.

Be cautious about how you re-introduce coffee fellowship time and potlucks. Eating and mingling indoors creates higher-risk conditions.

Continue to use no-touch alternatives for the passing of the peace and greeting each other (including the pastor at the end of the service).

Serve communion in individual cups and pre-cut the bread.



Rummage & Bake Sale

All proceeds benefit community charities

Masks required inside & outside

Saturday, June 12

9 AM – 3 PM

\$1 Bag Sale 2pm



New Salem Lutheran Church

7491 Island View Drive NE

Located just 10 miles North of Bemidji on Hwy. 71 in Turtle River

NewSalemLutheran.org



thrivent

Community Table is in need of volunteers Thursday nights at our church. Anyone interested or part of other groups that are looking for a volunteer project such as Rotary Club Sunrise Rotary, think of the Thursday Community Table. If hesitant, we will train and help with meal choice or any other aspects of this volunteer opportunity. It is very rewarding and fun as well!

Sincerely, Jane Killgore



Fall Rehearsal for the Bemidji United Methodist church choir begins Wednesday, September 9, 2021 at 7pm.

We rehearse in the balcony for one hour. Even if you are unable to commit to all or most Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, we would love to have you "give us a try"(you might like it!)

(NO AUDITIONS!) ☺

In Memory: Alba R. Thomas, Stoneham, Massachusetts. Mother of Terry Thomas, passed away peacefully on May 5, 2021 at her assisted living home. Terry would like to thank the Prayer Chain and members who have extended prayers, and words of comfort to our family. Thank you.



The 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled to take place June 22-24, 2021 with June 22 and 24 being entirely virtual and June 23 being in small in-person groups at various sites across the state.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 a small group, no more than 50 people will be taking part at United Methodist Church in Bemidji. Our church will be serving a lunch. Deborah Davis will be our host.

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

The theme of the 2021 Annual Conference is "Jesus. Waymaker." The Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus—feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God's compassion and grace.

Bishop David Bard invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as a generous expression of God's wild and extravagant love. If you make a contribution through your local church, please make sure to label it LOVE OFFERING!

Our Love Offering this year is dedicated to feeding the hungry and ministering to migrants. The funds from this year's offering will go to: The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (50 percent), host churches of Ruby's Pantry (20 percent), the Matthew 25 food distribution (20 percent), and Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent).

As you may know, Ruby's Pantry comes in to the Bemidji Community. The Pantry gathers various food overages, surpluses, and bumper crops into generous food bundles for a low \$20 contribution. There is no income eligibility to attend. All are welcome! Bemidji's host is Mount Zion Church in Nymore. They also participate in Community Table with Bemidji United Methodist. Mount Zion serves lunches on Monday and Tuesday. United Methodist Bemidji serves dinners on Wednesday and Thursdays from 4:30-6:00.



The Annual Conference Session will be streamed to the Minnesota Conference Facebook page, and visitors will be able to watch at no cost. A Facebook account is not necessary to access the live stream.



"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."
~ John Wesley

Dearest Church Family,

Please let me know how you would like to serve the church this year. We have openings in:

♥ Worship teams are forming now; this is a twice a year commitment for a month each time, with 5 months in between. We can use reserve people in case others have to suddenly cancel

♥ Volunteers to work on the newsletter and the bulletin

♥ brainstorming sessions about how to take the place of Central School as a neighborhood center; as many as are interested, please let me know. a sad loss for this community, but a potentially exciting opportunity for us.

♥ help with a grant writing project

♥ help to sit in office and answer phones from the Tuesday after Memorial Day to June 7th

♥ on June 23rd, we will be hosting the Annual Conference Break Out session. Those who have volunteered to assemble sandwiches will meet that Monday to do that. Contact me for specific times and spots.

♥ a new Membership Class will be starting soon; let us know if you'd like to become "official."

♥ Book study starting in June on the book White Fragility. This will be particularly good for people of color and those who wish to understand. Please spread the word. We have received a grant for 10 books.

Please let Leisa Bragg know if you'd like to join the choir! You can call and leave a message, or text me at 218-214-3581

In God's Service,
Deborah Davis



CONGRATULATIONS! May God bless you in all your future endeavors!



SIERRA ALTRINGER, daughter of Dave and Dana Danielson

NETTIE KIMBLE, daughter of Darren and Nellie Kimble

ANNIKA KNUDSON, daughter of Seth and Kari Knudson

ADDIE DAUNER, daughter of Jay and Dacia Dauner

NICK JESSEN, son of Mike and Tricia Jessen and grandson of Lois Jessen.



2020: A Year for the Books

Bemidji Community Food Shelf staff and volunteers are proud to have served our community through this remarkable year. Here are some highlights of our 2020 journey:

When the pandemic was declared in March we lost about 70% of our regular volunteers due to health concerns.

Parking lot distribution started March 23, staffed by volunteers from area businesses and some of our regulars. United Way provided a staff to cover for a quarantining employee.

We implemented limited delivery services to home bound customers.

A new roof was installed and at \$79,000, was the largest single expense in our history aside from our building purchase.

A new truck was purchased with a COVID Transportation Grant.

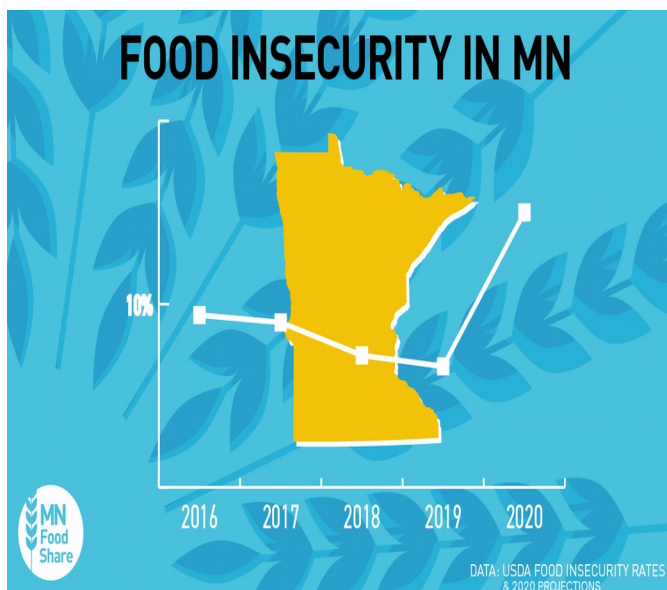
Our office space was updated thanks in part to a donation of carpet tiles from Kraus-Anderson Construction and with help from volunteers Nancy and Mike Mason and Gerry Cardinal.

A new, larger walk-in freezer was installed, funded by a gift from the Howe Thiel Charitable Fund, a COVID grant, Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, and MDU Resources. The Farm at the Food Shelf harvested a record 15,000 pounds of produce for our customers.

We partnered with Community Resource Connections to deliver over 30,000 pounds of food to high-risk seniors in Blackduck.

We moved operations back inside the building in October, with a COVID-safe protocol.

We ended 2020 with a record 12,584 household visits, distributing a total of over 820,000 pounds of food and with senior visits up 30%.



DID YOU KNOW?

The need for food throughout the state and nation has risen dramatically since March 2020. With summer arriving and no relief in sight for many pandemic-affected families, making sure we have the capacity to help our community is ever on my mind.

Even in normal times, hunger is not a seasonal condition (most food shelves are busier in the summer), and support for food shelves tends to be much higher in winter months. During the Campaign, GMCC and its partners team up to offer a partial match, which spurs donations and helps us make it through the busy summer months.

This year, our goal is to collect 35,000 pounds of food and \$100,000 in donations.

I am encouraging families, businesses, fraternal organizations and clubs to get involved this year

through fun, COVID-safe activities and competitions.

"Let the Campaign begin!"

--Mary Mitchell, BCFS Executive Director

FOOD SHELF NEEDS

- Personal care items, including feminine products, combs, brushes
- Cleaning products, like laundry soap
- Gently used plastic shopping bags

**Our Family products UPC bar codes
(must include all the numbers)**



Got garden veggies or local eggs?

Please remember your neighbors! As summer approaches

many of us are planning our gardens. Please keep our customers in mind when you have extra produce. Our Farm cannot meet all of our produce needs and we love to receive your fresh, garden veggies. We can also take local eggs with some requirements. Call us to learn more. You can make a difference in the health and productivity of our community! (218) 444-6580



June 2021

United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KAREN IS ON VACATION June 1-7, 2021 She will be back in the office June 8th		1	2 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	3 5:00- Community Table	4	5
	6 7am- YouTube and Facebook Service 10:30- In Person Worship	7	8 6:30- Trustees Meeting 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	9	10 4:30- SPRC Meeting 5:00- Community Table	11
12	13 7am- YouTube and Facebook Service 10:30- In Person Worship	14 Flag Day	15	16 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	17 1:30- Finance Meeting 5:00- Community Table	18
19	20 7am- YouTube and Facebook Service 10:30- In Person Worship FATHER'S DAY! Summer begins!	21	22 Full Moon	23 9am- ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING AT BUMC - up to 50 people! 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	24 5:00- Community Table 6:00pm- Church Council	25
26	27 7am- YouTube and Facebook Service 10:30- In Person Worship	28	29	30 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table		

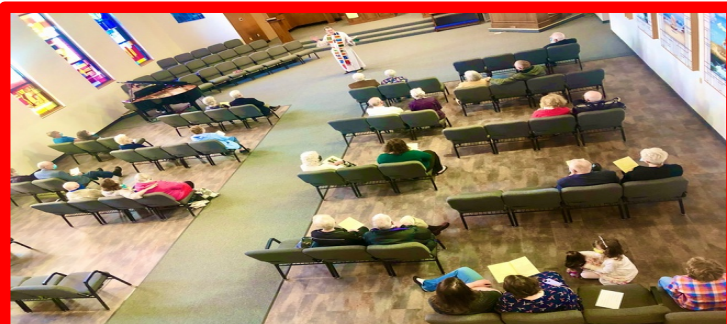
United Methodist Church
924 Beltrami Ave.
PO Box 607
Bemidji, MN 56619-0607

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

Web Site: www.bemidjiumc.com

June 2021 VOYAGEUR
Published Monthly
Happy Father's Day!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



April 25, 2021 ~ Re-opening of Bemidji United Methodist Church

Thank you to all who helped with getting the church ready. **Dave Dahlberg and Bob Ballard** for preparing the sanctuary. **Jan Grimm and Sue Young** have done a beautiful job with the alter and other flowers around the building. Your efforts are noticed. Thank you again!

A Prayer For Fathers

God our Father,
In your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless those fathers who have taken upon
themselves the responsibility of parenting.
Bless those who have lost a spouse to death,
separation, or divorce, and who are parenting
their children alone.
Strengthen all Dads by your love that they may
become the loving, caring persons they are meant
to be.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen!



Thank you Mike Albrecht for taking our little free library in front of the church and cleaning it up. It is back open and could use a few more books if you have any to spare. Simply borrow a book and when you're done, bring it back for someone else to enjoy! Spring makeovers are so fun!

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
BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com

Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Jane Killgore
Community Table Coordinator

Maria's Cleaning
Custodial