



*VOYAGEUR*

*July 2021*

**Dear Church Family,**

**Last week I had the opportunity to serve as conference preacher for Annual Conference. This is the yearly gathering of United Methodists in Minnesota. Each year, the name of a full elder in the conference is drawn from a hat to be conference preacher for the following year. My name was drawn last year.**

**If you haven't already experienced this worship service, you will have an opportunity to do so for one of our future online worship services. Much of the worship services of this year's conference will be available on the Minnesota Annual Conference website.**

**My sermon incorporates reflections on my years of serving people most often referred to as disabled. If you want to know more about why I chose these words in describing the people I served you can find out by watching the sermon**

**In the course of preparing for this worship service, I have been reflecting on why the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church is so important to me. When I began my transition from nursing to parish ministry, I changed denominations. The church I was a member of was actually part of two denominations: Presbyterian and UCC. My reasons for changing were not theological. The church I was a member of was not far theologically from your church.**

**What I still find attractive about our denomination is its outward focus. We started as a movement to share the Gospel. Our missional focus is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our strategy is to reach new people and participate in healing a broken world. While this is difficult to do in our era, it is still our commitment.**

**Compared to other expressions of Christianity, we place greater emphasis on reaching new people. Why might this be important for you, especially if you have been a member of the church for a long time? Well, perhaps my answer for why it is important to me is theological. In reaching and being in relationship with new people, I have experienced my experience of redemption and the fullness of God's love to be interwoven with the faith journey of other people. When I meet and relate to new people, I experience more of God. This has been transformative in my life, and I believe it is transformative of our shared lives.**

**This is the start of my seventh year as your pastor. I believe the next six months will be a pivotal time for making disciples. Our world is in need and the pandemic has opened many people to our need for God and each other. I am praying we will be able to keep our hearts laser focused on being the church we set out to be with the Healthy Church Initiative. I ask you to pray for existing participants in the life of our congregation and pray for people whom we have not yet met. May our doing so open our hearts, minds, and doors to God's grace.**

**Blessings,**

**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 Thursday, July 15, 2021**

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

Pastor Rob is in the office Wednesdays and any other weekdays by appointment.

## Happy Anniversary

July 08- Marshall and Barbara Johnston

July 08- John and Verda Murray

July 12- Seth and Kari Knudson

July 12- Bob and Linda Wagner

July 29- Vince and Betty Freborg

July 31- Tom and Mary Ann Gray



Starting in this month's Newsletter, you will be able to look for a hidden item and win a prize. Once you find what we've hidden in the Newsletter, call the church and if no one answers, leave the day and the time you're calling. Also, tell us where you found it. The item you will be looking for is this American Star. We have a wonderful prize waiting for you! Good Luck!



### July Birthdays

July 02- Kari Knudson

July 05- Teresa Thomas

July 08- Hazel Geiger

July 11- Robert Rieke

July 13- Caitlin Pickett

July 15- Lorne Lofberg

July 16- Sue Cuperus

July 17- Torea Conner

July 22- Carol Gilbertson

July 22- Ruby Hausauer

July 22- Linda Wagner

July 24- Vera Kavanagh

July 24- Nicholas D'Albani

July 24- Kristi St. Pierre

July 27- Mike Albrecht

July 27- Vince Freborg

July 27- Mya Nicholson

July 31- Aletta Anderson

July 31- Romaine Wilson



"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

...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 Jessen

...at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks

...Noli and family

...For more vaccinations to prevent the Delta variant from spreading

...For the family of Shirley Simmerman who passed away June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Services are pending at a later date

...For Carol Larson recovering from car accident that happened around Mother's Day.

...For those getting results from their doctor so that they may remain strong when hearing the results

...For Angie Dahlberg's father

...For all involved with recovery in Surfside tower collapse near Miami

... 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 June 2021

General Offering.... June 08, 2021.....\$3,224.31  
June 22, 2021.....\$3,739.20

On-line Giving for June.....\$1,640.00





## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Recital Series

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**  
**12:00 - 12:30pm**

**First Baptist Church 1555 Paul Bunyan Drive NW**

This recital will be In-person featuring the Bemidji Brass Quintet: Kyle Reiss, trumpet, Craig Swartz, trumpet, Eve Sumsky, horn, Ryan Webber, trombone, Brennan Paulson, tuba. The concert will be live streamed and archived for later viewing. Luncheon will be served following the concert. Price will be announced.

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021**

**Evangelical Covenant Church 5405 Hwy 2 W (across from Bemidji Theater)**

In-person recital featuring Lois Simonson, piano, Kari Miller, flute, Sanna Gustafson, saxophone, Janet Pederaon, violin. Luncheon will be served following the concert.

**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

**Trinity Lutheran Church 123 29th St NW, Bemidji**

Bemidji Area Church Musicians recital featuring musicians from Trinity Lutheran Church including Bronze Bell Choir, Debbie Nordick, handbell solo, Deon Wentzel, flute. Luncheon will follow.

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

**United Methodist Church Bemidji 924 Beltrami Ave. (see ad below)**

The talents of Glenn Seibel are presented with the Euphonium. Wayne Hoff will accompany on piano. Luncheon to follow in the lounge. Price will be announced

**Free will offering will be received at the door. This will support Music Scholarships!  
Price for the luncheon will be announced.**

# BUMC

## SUMMER MUSICAL RECITAL

at  
United Methodist Church

Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

Featuring

Glenn Seibel on the Euphonium and Wayne Hoff on the Piano

# BUMC



Glenn and Wayne will again present an excellent summer recital at our church. We will have a little bit of a twist, in that we will be serving brunch foods following their recital. Tickets for the brunch are purchased the day of the recital. We expect to be calling on church members for help before, during and after the brunch. If you have wanting to make a monetary donation to help defray costs should give Sandy or Verna a call. Hope to see you on July 28<sup>th</sup> for fine music and fine brunching!!!!

Sandy Sterr  
751- 6178

Verna Lofberg  
759-4946

Deanna Nichols  
444-8081



article and picture from Bemidji Pioneer Newspaper

TikTok is an app that lets users share 15 seconds of video. A lot of tricks are repeated and shared, but music and dance videos are a hit too.



### Bemidji Artist Makes It Big on TikTok

Jex Nwalor almost certainly has more TikTok followers than you. In fact, he has more followers than the population of the state of Kansas, the city of Rome or the country of Albania — a whopping 2.9 million. This sudden fame and attention stemmed from a love of music for the freshman business management major and basketball player at Oak Hills Christian College.

Born and raised in Brampton, Ont., Canada, just outside of Toronto, Nwalor moved to the United States to attend high school in Gilbert, Ariz. A few years later, he ended up in the area after coming to Bemidji to play basketball for Oak Hills Christian College.

Nwalor has been surrounded by music his whole life but said he never took it very seriously, just singing casually in informal choirs or at church.

“A lot of my friends back in Canada didn’t even know I could sing. Because I didn’t even know I could sing either,” he said.

Why the ukulele? Nwalor also plays the piano and the guitar, but said he likes that the ukulele sounds like an “at home” kind of instrument.

A few years ago, all of his cousins got ukuleles for Christmas. That’s when it clicked. Along with the fame came opportunities to capitalize on it.

As the ukulele is a relatively niche instrument, Nwalor has received a lot of attention from major ukulele manufacturers. Right now, he is partnering with Uku Ukuleles to sell his own ukulele, which is called “The Jex” and is available for preorder.

Currently, he is stepping back from his education and basketball career to focus more on music and marketing himself. Within the next five years, Nwalor hopes to have released many original songs and moved back to the West Coast.

Nwalor is new to the songwriting aspect of music, but thanks to his internet success, has a contact at a major record label who has helped connect him with R&B songwriters and lyricists when he hits a writing block. He hopes to inspire others to discover their own hidden talents as he did. “There are a lot of people out there that have hidden talents they don’t know about, and that they should keep exploring,” he said. “You should show your talents for sure, just express yourself. Don’t let anybody tell you anything different. Be yourself.”

For Nwalor, family remains his biggest inspiration. “I’m trying to do this for my mom. She gave her best for me and my two other brothers,” Nwalor said. “My dad passed away in September 2010, and she’s been super strong, raising the three of us on her own. I just want to give back to her, for what she’s done for us.”



Water Carnival Button design this year by Kevin Johnson owner of myBemidji. His store front is on Beltrami Ave. across from Brigid's Pub.

### 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Bemidji Jaycees Water Carnival

**July 1-5, 2021**

**\*\* FIREWORKS ON SUNDAY, JULY 4TH AT DUSK**

**\*\* GRAND PARADE, SUNDAY JULY 4TH AT 1PM (STARTS AT 15TH AND BELTRAMI AVE. THEN WEST ON 5TH STREET ON BLOCK, TURNING NORTH ON MINNESOTA AVE. BACK TO 15TH STREET.**

**\$3.00**



During the Grand Parade Sunday, BMW will be serving Root beer floats out front of the church. Cost is \$3.00. Come support the Bemidji Methodist Women.

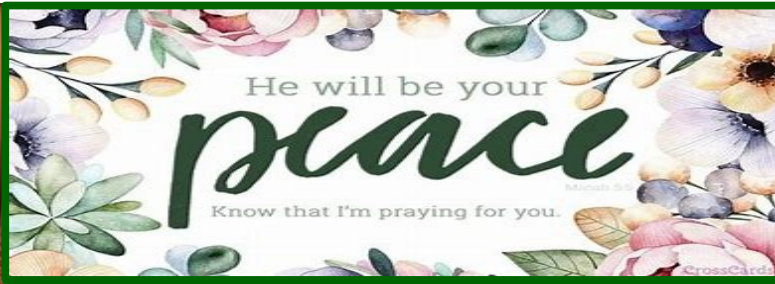
#### OTHER EVENTS OVER THE FOURTH

- \*\* Double Your Fun Color Run, Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am (Rotary Pavilion)**  
No on site registration. Go to [www.BemidjiJaycees.com](http://www.BemidjiJaycees.com) to register
- \*\* Kiddie Parade Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12noon**
- \*\* Bald Eagle Water Show Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm**



Shirley Simmerman became a member of United Methodist Church on **February 04, 1967**. She passed away at the age of 93, June 23, 2021. For those that aren't familiar with her life, there was a recent article in March of this year by The Bemidji Pioneer. Attached is the link if you didn't get a chance to see it.

<https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/community/6965653-Bemidji-women-knit-thousands-of-slippers-for-veterans-troop-s-overseas#.YNYEJXCDD0k.link>



Shirley Simmerman, 93, of Bemidji, MN died Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in her home surrounded by her loving family.  
Private family services will be held later.

Shirley Jean Allen was born November 17, 1927, to Leonard and Nellie Allen of Northome, MN where she was raised and graduated from Northome High School in 1945. She graduated from Rogers & Benner Beauty School in Minneapolis in 1946. After graduation she worked at the Looking Glass Beauty Salon and O'Meara's. After her apprenticeship, Shirley received her manager's license. She returned to Minneapolis and worked for N.W. National Bank at its main office in the transit department. Shirley then moved back to Northome and worked at 1st State Bank of Northome for 6 years as bookkeeper and teller. She served two terms as village treasurer of Northome. She married Vernon Simmerman on February 12, 1953, in Bovey, MN. They lived in Northome for six years then moved to Bemidji in 1960, where Vernon worked for MnDOT. They began building their home in 1960 and Vernon died in 1967. They had four children at the time. Shirley completed the home building and educated the children in Bemidji- two graduating from Bemidji State University and the other two graduating from NTC Bemidji. After the children were educated, she went back to work as an AVON representative for eight years, worked for ISD 31 in the bakery and then went to work for Pan O' Gold Bakery Company in the Holsum Thrift in Bemidji for 26 plus years from which she retired at the age of 80. Shirley held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for 60+ years, serving as president and in VFW Auxiliary, Order of the Eastern Star serving as Worthy Matron. She was also a member of the United Methodist Church in Bemidji. Shirley enjoyed knitting, for the troops, crocheting, tatting, arts, and crafts. She also loved playing piano.

She is survived by her daughters, Vickie Simmerman, Terri (Douglas) Simons and Hollie Simmerman; son, Michael (Jean) Simmerman; 5 grandchildren, Samantha & Luke Simmerman, Nicholas & Zachary Simons, and Morgan Simmerman; 2 great-grandchildren, Hailie & Payton Simmerman; sister, Ruth Jourdan; five nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Vernon Simmerman; stepson, Larry Mills; mother & father-in-law; sister-in-law; 3 brothers-in-law; a niece.

Memorials preferred to United Methodist Church, American Auxiliary, or donor's choice.  
[www.OlsonSchwartzFuneralHome.com](http://www.OlsonSchwartzFuneralHome.com)

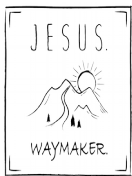


Thank you **George Stowe** for your years of service with The Bemidji Community Table. We appreciate all that you have done. Good Luck in your new venture. Jane Killgore has agreed to take over with the help of Ann Campbell at her side. Community Table meals every Wednesday and Thursday night here at the church servesh. The serving starts around 4:30pm and goes until 6pm. Mount Zion Church in Nymore serves Monday and Tuesday nights. (same time) The two churches work in collaboration with the Food Shelf, and donations from various businesses. We manage our volunteer needs using the website [volunteerbemidji.org](http://volunteerbemidji.org). To claim a volunteer spot you'll need to create a user name and password on this site. If you are looking to coordinate a monthly or quarterly volunteer opportunity for your business, social, civic or religious organization, please e-mail us at: [bemidjisoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:bemidjisoupkitchen@gmail.com), we'd be happy to help coordinate those dates with you.



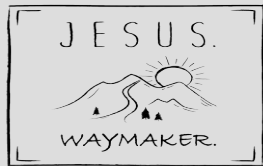
**Deborah Davis will be on vacation July 10-17, 2021**





# Minnesota Annual Conference Highlights

**June 22, 23, 24, 2021**



O God, tender touch, gentle wind, fierce fire, incessant grace, wild hope, piercing stare, creative love, known in Jesus: We long to know you more deeply. We long to live more faithfully—by doing justice, loving kindness, sharing good news, offering healing grace, building beloved community. Empower us by your Holy Spirit. Enlarge our hearts. Enliven our minds. Make gentle and generous our spirits. Strengthen our resolve. When the way forward seems shrouded in dense fog, the path ahead overgrown with thickets, the road strewn with potholes; when the pain and hurt of the world overwhelms and the pain and anxiety in our own lives immobilizes: Remind us that you, O Jesus, make a way—that you, O Jesus, are the way. And so we move forward, breath by breath, step by step, prayer by prayer, grace upon grace, hearing your voice, “I am with you always.” Amen.

**Minnesota Annual Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

**Bishop David A. Bard**



Bemidji United Methodist Pastor Rob Kopp was asked to preach during this years 2021 Minnesota Annual Conference at The Grove in Woodbury, MN. The Conference passed along these great photos to share with the congregation.

**Please feel free to cut out the prayer to the left that Bishop David Bard is asking all members to pray for the next year.**



On the final day of the 2021 Minnesota Annual Conference Session, nearly 400 members in attendance approved by a vote of 313-28 a resolution that all congregations in the Minnesota Annual Conference join in the national denominational agency work of the General Commission on Race and Religion (GCORR) and the General Board of Church and Society, the denominational work of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the ongoing efforts of ecumenical partners in dismantling racism, opposing white supremacy, and advocating for racial justice.



Bemidji Methodist Women will be holding a special Recognition Sunday Service on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Join us as the women recognize someone in the congregation who has gone above and beyond with the church and community.



**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](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

Web Site: [www.bemidjiumc.com](http://www.bemidjiumc.com)

July 2021 VOYAGEUR  
Published Monthly  
Happy Fourth of July!

# HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY AMERICA!



**Art in the Park will return for its 53rd year next month. Organizers say the event has historically drawn thousands of visitors to Library Park.**

**Nearly 100 artists will be featured for the two-day festival beginning July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the vendors, there will be food options, music, and an art space for kids.**

**Art vendors sell items such as ceramics, clothing, jewelry, soaps, stained glass, and more.**

**There is no admission charge for the event.**



"Bearing fruit that remains"  
CALL US: 218-751-1751

**Heartland Christian Academy has an opening for a full time Principal and an Elementary Teacher. Reduced or free tuition for qualifying children. Please send a cover letter and resume to: [office@heartlandbemidj.org](mailto:office@heartlandbemidj.org).**

**If you know of someone needing a job, please share this info per The Academy in Bemidji.**

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



*The People of the United Methodist Church*

## Church Staff

**Reverend Rob Kopp~ Pastor**  
[revrmkopp@gmail.com](mailto:revrmkopp@gmail.com)

Karen Thompson "Bubbles"  
Office Administration  
[umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

Deborah Davis  
Volunteer & Events Coordinator  
[BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com)

Leisa Bragg  
Accompanist

Jane Killgore  
Community Table Coordinator

Maria's Cleaning  
Custodial



# July 2021

## United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pastor Rob will be out of the office after a wedding July 10<sup>th</sup>. He will be back in the office on Wednesday, July 21, 2021</b>				<b>1</b> 5:00- Community Table	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>7am-</b> YouTube and Facebook Service <b>10:30am- In Person Worship</b>  <b>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Office Closed for Staff Holiday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:45 Neilsen Service 2:30- Goldpine Service 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	<b>8</b> <b>4:30pm- SPRC Meeting</b> 5:00- Community Table	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pastor Rob-wedding at fairgrounds then will start renewal time for 2 weeks. 
<b>11</b> <b>7am-</b> YouTube and Facebook Service <b>10:30am- In Person Worship</b>  PASTOR ROB ON VACATION- Jon Rundquist Preaching!	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>6:30pm- Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>14</b> 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	<b>15</b> 12:30- Staff Meeting <b>1:30pm- Finance Meeting</b> 5:00- Community Table	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>7am-</b> YouTube and Facebook Service <b>10:30am- In Person Worship</b>  RECOGNITION SUNDAY- BMW- Deborah Davis preaching!	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table  Pastor Rob back	<b>22</b> 5:00- Community Table <b>6:00pm- Church Council</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>7am-</b> YouTube and Facebook Service <b>10:30am- In Person Worship</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12:00 Noon- Glenn Seibel Recital &amp; Lunch</b> 2:00- Graveside service Dorothy Sathre 5:00- Community Table	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>