

BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM – 2:00PM (T,W,Th)

Office Phone: 218-751-3503

Pastor Rob Cell: 218-766-8744

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JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the December Newsletter are due in to the office no later than **2:00pm December 10, 2021.** You may text, email or call the office. If you catch Deborah on Sunday, PLEASE tell her it's information for the newsletter and have it written down. Thank you
Pastor Rob is in the office Wednesdays and any other weekdays by appointment.

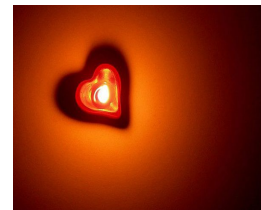
Blue Christmas Service
is December 14th, at 3:00 pm
Blue Christmas or Longest Night
service is modern, western Christian
tradition held around the winter
solstice. The event is intended for
those who are stressed, lonely or
grieving

December Birthdays
Fulton Gallagher 12/3
Margene Parkos 12/13
Carson Danielson 12/20
Melanie Hough 12/30
Bill Weis 12/31



PRAYERS

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
at Goldpine: Laura Hays, Ruby Hausauer, Helen LeClaire Robert Frazey
at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks
The family of Lois Jesson as they mourn her, and her daughter Laura's passing
Jean Slinkman and family as she is in hospice
The family of Kathleen Magsam as they mourn her passing.
☉
Please contact Jan Grimm to add a name to the Prayer Chain. Her phone number is:
H- (218) 444-0209 C- (218) 821-7816
we are
LOOKING FOR PRAYER CHAIN VOLUNTEERS. If you are looking for a great and important ministry, please consider this. Contact Jan to talk it over with her.



Bemidji Chorale

Sunday, December 12, 3:00 pm

Patricia Mason, Conductor
Wayne Hoff, Accompanist

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED**

Free Will Offering



Summary of Church Council Meeting of November 18, 2021

We continue to explore options for improving building utilization. Businesses are concerned with having private access to the building. The United Way do not know of any agencies at this time that need space but will continue to be looking for possible fits. We are still awaiting word from Beltrami County Social Services about Day Care possibilities. We are planning to contact the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to see if there are any fits with that organization.

We are awaiting feedback from the MN Council of Churches as to how we could help with Afghan refugee relocation. County Commissioner Craig Gaasvig was contacted to see if commissioners opposed to refugees in Beltrami County would consider our Afghan allies under a different light. No answer from Mr. Gaasvig has been received to date. The website "Welcome.US" was shared that has a wealth of information as to how individuals and organizations can help the refugees.

Concern over the growing number of Covid 19 cases in our area led us to cancel the Potluck Dinner on Nov 28th. The mini charge conference scheduled for that date, as well as the "Hanging of the Greens", will continue as planned. With the exception of November 28, we will continue Coffee Fellowship after church.

Ben Stowe will replace Vic Mosser as our Lay Member Representative at the Annual Conference.

Trustee report: We may delay servicing of the organ as a cost saving measure.

SPRC report: Our Annual Charge conference will occur on Jan 9th 2022. The proposed salary increase of paid staff was discussed in view of other financial obligations of the church.

Finance report: We have a shortage of approximately \$25000 for monies received vs expenditures for the year to date. Our Apportionment Liability (currently unpaid) will be discussed at the next charge conference

Pastor Rob advised us to pledge to our churches general operating expenses rather than to specific building repair needs. Pledging to specific needs reduces our ability to deal with the everyday financial needs of the church.

Jeff Anderson
Council Chair

**OFFICE OPEN
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
FROM 10AM - 2PM
OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS**



If everything seems to be going well, you've probably overlooked something

**The annual
BUMC Charge Conference
will be held January 9th
after worship**



We will be having a feature every now and then where people volunteer to report on a book they've read from the library. Today we feature Deborah, reporting on "The Shack"



I really hesitated to read *The Shack*, tending to shy away from things too popular. I figure popular books sappy at the best, sophomoric at worst. Well, this was neither. While this does occasionally fall into proselytizing, I think the story holds up well enough for most anyone to not be distracted by that. It's obviously a story about God anyway.

It waxed a little schmalzy here and there, but I was quickly and deeply pulled into the story. Frankly it started in a way I didn't expect, and without giving out too much detail, the buzz words and summaries you've read don't hold a candle to the immediate drama, the shock that takes your breath away.

I will say, this is not a book beginning for the faint of heart and it will rip you, heart, guts and soul, especially if you're a parent. Honestly had I known the subject, I might not have chosen to read it, BUT... I did, and I'm glad. We've all gone through the impossible, at some point in our life, and this is a journey through an impossible. I do recommend it; it's a quick and gratifying read.

Edit: I found out the movie was made! Wow! I loved that too, really good actors. Some of my favorites. And there is a scene in it that mirrors exactly a drawing my daughter did as very young child, she said it was Jesus, her and other children playing in a field before they came down to earth.

**BEMIDJI METHODIST WOMEN
(NUTS HAVE ARRIVED)**

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Walnuts-\$9.00

Pecans-\$10.00

Cashews-\$9.00

Mixed Nuts-\$9.00

Chocolate Amaretto-\$10.00

Chocolate Peanuts-\$6.50

Chocolate Almonds-\$8.00





VOYAGEUR

December 2021

Dear Church Family,

This year, December is our stewardship month. It's a time we year we ask you to renew and extend your financial support of the church. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a financial report and a description of how your offering supports the ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church through apportionments. In the midst of all of the changes in our world and community—the need for your financial support is real.

While this is an important reason for supporting your church, I do not believe it is the main one. We come together as a community because we share in an experience of God's love. We come together because our lives are shaped by grace. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we experience God's grace as the most lively and alive source of redemption in our lives. Despite all we experience as wrong in our world, we experience God's love as central to our lives. An appropriate response, and the one in which the Holy Spirit moves, is gratitude. We support the church because we are grateful to God.

May your experience of God's grace overflow in your life. May the Spirit shape your expressions of gratitude. May our shared gratitude for God's love power God's mission of which we are a part. Within our church and within our annual conference, may God bless and multiply our gratitude to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May our lives be healed in this transformation. May the Spirit of Emmanuel "God with Us" be at work in our celebrations of Advent and Jesus' birth. May you be blessed.

Pastor Rob

**The Disciplines are
now available in
the office
for purchase at
\$15 ea**

THE UPPER ROOM

Disciplines
A BOOK OF SPIRITUAL DEVOTION FOR 2022

Philippians 4:4-9

NCV

**Be full of joy in the Lord always. I
will say again, be full of joy.**

**Let everyone see that you are gentle
and kind. The Lord is coming soon.
Do not worry about anything, but
pray and ask God for everything you
need, always giving thanks. And
God's peace, which is so great we
cannot understand it, will keep your
hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Brothers and sisters, think about the
things that are good and worthy of
praise. Think about the things that
are true and honorable and right and
pure and beautiful and respected.
Do what you learned and received
from me, what I told you, and what
you saw me do. And the God who
gives peace will be with you.**

"All tenth-part gifts from the land, whether of seed from the ground or fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord; they are holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30 (CEB)

BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2021 Expenses (including payroll) \$16,717.15

October 2021 Total Revenue \$11,476.26

October Net Revenue -5,240.89

We were fortunate to receive a FORGIVABLE PPP Loan for approximately \$22,000. The Finance Committee and Finance Chair will be putting together a budget soon for 2022.

Recently, you should have seen a new pledge form to fill out for 2022. There are several at the Information Desk.

There was one in the last newsletter and this one as well. Filing them out ASAP helps the committee plan accordingly for the new year ahead.

* Thank you to those that have contributed to the Building Fund. We've had some expenses with replacing the skylight upstairs. Major heat/electrical work was done in the basement Fellowship Hall so the downstairs will be warmer for activities in the Winter. The church will also need new shingles in the Spring.

** The Minnesota Annual Conference has forgiven last year's apportionments if we pay what is due for 2021. The balance due is approximately \$22,000.00.

November 2021 Giving (as of 11-22-21) - \$8,647.80

**If you would like to
continue receiving the
newsletter by mail, please
let us know in the office.
We are trying to be more
environmentally friendly
and to save on postage.
We'd love to send it out on
email. Thank you**

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 2022

I pledge to honor my commitment to the Bemidji United Methodist Church through my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

**My/Our pledge to the BUMC for 2022 is: \$_____ per Month
(This pledge may be revised or canceled any time at my request.)**

Name _____

Signature _____

~Please return this card to the church by December 23, 2021

THE CHURCH MOUSE

-a wee rhyme by Deborah Davis

There is a little church mouse. Of course, we don't have mice here!
But I hear they do exist you see, in the old church over there.

He is so prim and proper, a funny little mouse,
preferring dusty hymnals to the crumbs found in a house.
He loves to hear the story; you know the tale is told
of Jesus and His Mother in Christmas' of old.

Each Holy Night in season he sits upon the pipes
of the now defunct church organ and listens though the night.
He waits to hear the voice, that he hopes he will deserve,
the one the people talk about, the Jesus that they serve.
He hopes he is found worthy, his meager soul and mite,
to be taken into paradise in Jesus' pure sight.

He's heard animals don't get to heaven, but he also knows that love,
love never ends but continues up above.

And he's loved so very many - little Annie from whom he ate
the tiny goldfish crackers she'd collect upon her plate,
and elder Eleanor, the lady in the hat,

she'd let him sit and meditate on her hat, imagine that!
"Oh, if love does last forever, surely I have a tiny chance,
to live among the heavenlies with Eleanor, and dance:"
for dancing was his favorite thing to do beneath the chairs,
he'd dance on the banister and dance upon the stairs.

And when his favorite hymn was sung by congregation all,
he'd dance a forward march against the sanctuary walls.
If you see the tiny mouse, not that we've ever had them here,
remember to smile and wink and say, "see you in heaven dear."
(Eleanor in the hat, and the mouse, live in the office, by the way.)



APPORTIONMENTS

By Barbara Carroll

June 29, 2012

When church members ask this of pastors, district superintendents, and conference staff, they may be hoping for an answer in a dollar amount. Then they could compare that to the church's apportionment payments. I sometimes wish I could give that type of answer because it is what I'm trained to do—measure and account for financial transactions. But participation in paying apportionments is not just a quid-pro-quo financial transaction. It is an element of a connectional polity that that was established by John Wesley in the very early days of Methodism. Since Wesley's time, giving has been both local and connectional (beyond each local church), and was understood as a corporate or community responsibility that allowed every member of whatever means to participate. This joint stewardship has always been understood as a way of undergirding organizational needs in ministry, church expansion, and, later, in pension support for clergy. Nevertheless, the connectional system—including apportionments—provides to churches many benefits, even those that can't be measured in dollars and cents. Since I am almost as fond of making lists as I am of working with columns of numbers, here is a list of answers to, "What does my church get from paying apportionments?" Training, credentialing, appointing, and supervising clergy in education through the conference board of ordained ministry, the district superintendency, and Ministerial Education Funds. Moving expenses for pastors changing appointments and retiring local pastors and elders. Information, resources, and training for clergy and lay leadership. Administration of a health-insurance plan plus 10 percent of active clergy health insurance premium. Administration of pension plans plus a significant portion of pension benefits for retired clergy are covered from the earnings from long-term management of funds resulting from a capital campaign. Grants for projects that help churches reach neighbors and increase spiritual vitality. A conduit and system that enables churches to pool their resources toward mission projects around the world and at home—projects that no single church could do alone. Infrastructure that ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays and many others benefits the desired mission or ministry. Almost every church was started with financial and other support from the annual conference and/or "mother churches." The Ministerial Education Fund assists seminary students during their schooling and active clergy with continuing education. Support for the Resource Center for Churches, which makes available curricula, small-group study books and videos, stewardship training tools, Bible studies, Christian education resources, and much more. Support for the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation, which advises churches on planned giving, stewardship, and investment management of church assets. Partial support for the conference Christian camping ministry, which helps young and old meet Christ in creation and among supportive community. Staff and other support for youth events. Administration of a loan guarantee program to assist churches with securing financing for building and remodeling projects. Print, internet, and social media that provide a contact point for Minnesota United Methodists and anyone seeking a nearby United Methodist Church or information about the United Methodist Church in our conference, the nation, and the world. Conference entities monitor and support cultural inclusiveness in the increasingly diverse mission field that is Minnesota. Cataloguing and maintenance of historical documents and artifacts of discontinued churches and the United Methodist movement in Minnesota and making them available for research and learning.

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VOYAGEUR 2021
Published Monthly

Our vision and mission: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Congratulations to Jackie Erickson for finding the hidden object this past month. See if you can find this month's!



The prizes are wonderful, useful and fun. This month we've hidden a Christmas bell. And we aren't showing you what it looks like. Can you find it?

Bemidji Methodist Women will meet on
December 15, 2021 at 9:30am.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

At Bemidji Town & Country Club

All women are welcome *Invite a guest.* \$20 per person

Make your reservation to Deanna Nichols at 444-8081 before December 4

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The People of the United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

Church Staff

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BUMC Administrative Coordinator
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Financials
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Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Jane Killgore
Community Table Coordinator

Maria's Cleaning
Custodial