



# VOYAGEUR

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022

Hello Wonderful Ones!

Not one of you will be surprised when I say that I am overjoyed to be able to continue to serve this magnificent congregation as your pastor. It's not hard to love you, collectively and individually. I love seeing your faces in those chairs on Sunday, and all the days of the week we get to visit.

My goal is that by Christmas, I'm able to meet with each one of you to discuss your vision, your concerns, your hopes and dreams for our church and world, and your personal goals too. You really matter. I've come to know more and more of your unique gifts. And my, we have gifts and faith galore!

Every day that I serve this church I should be pinching myself because I can't believe how blessed I am. I've enjoyed laughing with you, been honored to cry with you, and look forward to walking with you every day, in every way.

Please consider texting my cell phone (218-214-3581) or sending me an email ([pastordebora@davis@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebora@davis@gmail.com)) to set up a time we can meet: your place, my place, my office, the park, the lake, a downtown park bench; I don't care; I'll be there. Also remember that our church does the care center services every first Wednesday of the month. Join me in this important ministry. We are changing lives. 10:00 and 2:00 services are open for this succoring support ministry together. You are so important to people in this community and I'm thankful for your willingness to serve God in all the ways you do.

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3:9 keeps coming to mind, "How can I thank God enough for you in return for all the joy I have in the presence of our God because of you?"

We've all heard the saying, "pillars of the church." I see our whole church as a huge pillar vibrating with strength, a solid, dense beam of wisdom, heated to the hilt by fire, forged and tempered by time.

You know how metal can vibrate with sound? This church does this. We always have. When I began visiting in the 80's I could feel it in this church, and that clear collective strain has only grown in resonance and reach!

We vibrate with neighborliness, joy, intelligence, and servanthood. We are VIBRANT, alive with faith, and foundational in sound doctrine. Our whole community needs to know you. The whole world needs to know what you know. That is part of our calling.

But also, we have the call to gather together in a way we've never done, or had to, before. Life these past few years has been like a Lake Bemidji upheaval, like a violent storm full of whitecaps and undertows, cold spots, and sandbars. My prayer is that we can "round up our school," heal, get nourished, find renewal, live in love and joy in every gathering again.

Let us, together, learn more of how to love our neighbor higher and to love God deeper. We are Bemidji Methodists after all, and we've got good work to do!

Pastor Deborah



# Community Meal

## News from Community Table

We are unable to serve meals inside our dining area yet. We are looking at reopening indoor dining soon and will let everyone know as soon as we are. We continue to need plastic grocery bags if anyone has any. If anyone would like to volunteer on **Thursdays**, we could use servers from 4-6. It would not have to be every **Thursday**. If interested let Jane Killgore 218-760-6300 know or leave a message with the church office. Thanks for all the support the congregation has provided. A special thanks to Judy Dvorak who helps almost every Wednesday.

Congratulations to Tony Nicholson who entered his writing to The Upper Room. It was featured in the July 2022 issue. Nice job Tony! His entry is listed below for you to enjoy. ▼▼▼▼▼

### BIRTH STORY

READ Luke 1:57-66

SAT  
JULY 30  
2022

*[Zechariah] asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed.*

— Luke 1:63 (NRSV)

One day my daughter-in-law asked me to share my son's birth story. In her Native American tradition, birth stories carry particular importance. She knew her own birth story and those of their two daughters, but not her husband's. I realized that I had never told my son this story.

On a fall evening, my wife and I went to the hospital anticipating the arrival of our first child one month early. The next morning, under a clear blue sky, my wife went into labor. She was sedated, but I was present. Soon after delivery, my wife began hemorrhaging. She never regained consciousness, and she passed away six hours later.

The first person to come to the hospital was our pastor, David. Then came my best friend, David, and his wife, along with my oldest brother, John. As my wife and I had not chosen baby names, John David seemed appropriate. John means "God is gracious" or "gracious gift of God," and David means "beloved."

I know God was present at John's birth and grieved at the death of his mother. God surrounded my son with love that day and has continued to love and watch over him. My son now knows that in him God gave the world a beautiful gift.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Even when I struggle to comprehend God's love and presence, God is still there.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to love and trust you even when our situation causes us to question our relationship with you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

Ivan W. Nicholson (Minnesota, USA) — See p. 21.

**Prayer Focus:** FIRST-TIME FATHERS



Adult Sunday School is starting up again in September and considering our next topic or book. **If anyone has suggestions, please let Jeff Anderson or Jane Killgore know.** A message can be left with the church office as well.

#### Square Dancers



Square-Dancing group meets at UMC Church. Anyone who would enjoy participating or watching is welcome! Dances start up again this Fall. Any questions, talk to Jeff or Charlene Anderson.

**Sunday, September 18, 2022**

**2:00-4:30pm**

**Sunday, October 16, 2022**

**2:00-4:30pm**

#### Prayer Shawl Knitters

A group of our knitters gather on the second Wednesday of each month and knit Prayer Shawls that are given to those who need an extra comfort in time of need or a soft and cozy cuddle in recognition of baptisms or other special events. The group meets at 4:00 and would welcome anyone who would like to join them. Contact Angie Dahlberg at 218-760-5157 for further information.



**Wednesday, August 10, 2022**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2022**



#### July 20<sup>th</sup>- St. Philip's Church

Vocalists: Christian Breczinski and Tamara Moore, Gwen Youso, piano, and flute

#### July 27<sup>th</sup>- United Methodist Church

Glenn Seibel, euphonium. Wayne Hoff, piano

#### August 3<sup>rd</sup>- Church of Christ

Abby Cobb, piano, violin. Emily Mathew, piano

#### August 10<sup>th</sup>- Evangelical Free Church

Miriam Webber, bassoon

#### August 17<sup>th</sup>- Calvary Lutheran Church

Jennifer (Paquette) Ellis, piano, folk harp

#### August 24<sup>th</sup>- First Lutheran Church

Sarah Carlson, organ. Jon Romer, native flute

**Email Addresses:** Church Office: [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net) (218) 751-3503  
Pastor Deborah: [pastordeborahdavis@gmail.com](mailto:pastordeborahdavis@gmail.com)  
Pastor Deborah's Cell: 218-214-3581

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619  
Street Address: 924 Beltrami Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# 10am - 2pm



### Church Staff

Pastor- Deborah Davis

Office Admin- Karen "Bubbles" Thompson

Organist/Musician- Dan Will

Custodial- Maria's Cleaning



### JULY

Kari Knudson- July 02  
Sandra Robinson- July 05  
Terry Thomas- July 05  
Hazel Geiger- July 08  
Robert Rieke- July 11  
Lorne Lofberg- July 15  
Linda Wagner- July 22  
Nicholas D'Albani- July 24  
Vera Kavanagh- July 24  
Kristi St. Pierre- July 24  
Noli Dahlberg - July 24  
Mike Albrecht- July 27  
Vince Freborg- July 27  
Aletta Anderson- July 31  
Romaine Wilson- July 31

### SEPTEMBER

Betty Howard- September 11  
Denielle Kimble- September 11  
Nancy Swenson- September 12  
Patricia DeChaine- September 13  
Mary Ann Gray- September 14  
Elaine Clark- September 17  
Judy Comstock- September 24  
Jill Parson- September 24  
Karen "Bubbles" Thompson- September 27



### AUGUST

Pam Stowe- August 02  
Roy Miller- August 04  
Grace Stowe- August 04  
John Holmstrom- August 07  
Jerry Manley- August 12  
John Robinson- August 22  
James Hess- August 23  
Jessica Pickett- August 23  
Judy Dvorak August 25  
Vic Mosser- August 28  
Mary Lou Brown- August 29  
Devin Danielson- August 30

### Stamping Group Meetings

Thursday, July 28th 2-5:30pm  
Thursday, August 25th 2-5:30pm  
Thursday, September 22nd 2-5:30pm  
This group meets in The Lounge.  
Stop by and see how much fun  
stamping can be. Contact Deanna  
Nichols at 218-368-2868



Please remember in your prayers  
those.....

...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman

...at Trillium: Judy Comstock

...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark,  
Dotty Naramore, and Evan Hazard

...at Havenwood Care Center: Mary Conner

...at Goldpine: Laura Hays, Helen LeClaire,  
and Robert Frazey

...at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks

...Jim and Betty Howard, now in Sparta, TN

### **CAKE ► CAKE ► CAKE ►**

Join us after the 10:30am Worship  
Service, Sunday, July 31st, for member  
birthday cake and welcome Pastor  
Deborah!

The next Voyageur will be published the last quarter of the year, October-December.  
Deadline for articles will be **Thursday, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**. You will receive the next  
Newsletter by October 1st, via email. If you would like a mailed paper copy, please let  
Karen know in the office.

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING JULY DATES**

**Thursday, July 21, 2022**

10am- Churches United Meeting  
1:30pm- **Finance Committee Meeting**

**Saturday, July 23, 2022**

11am- Rose Craig Graveside Service with luncheon to follow at 12 noon

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022**

2:00- Stamping Group

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

12 Noon- Bemidji Area Church Musicians Concert  
Glenn Seibel on euphonium and Wayne Hoff on piano.  
5:00- Community Table

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**

2PM- Stamping group  
5:00- Community Table  
6:00- **Church Council**

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

After 10:30am Service-  
Member birthday cake and welcome  
Pastor Deborah Cake!



**Jane Killgore**  
**Special Mission Recognition Award**  
**Sunday, July 17, 2022**

Congratulations Jane Killgore, on your Special Mission Recognition Award from Bemidji Methodist Women. We are so appreciative of the hard work you put forth leading Community Table, Adult Bible Study and volunteering when needed for other church events. Thank you from all of us!

**Bemidji Methodist Women**  
General Meeting every Third  
Wednesday (except Summer months)  
**Date:** September 21, 2022  
**Place:** BUMC Lounge at 9:15am  
**Hostesses:** Diane Morris and  
Joyce Holmstrom  
**Devotions:** Ruth Howe  
**Speaker/Subject:** Roxann Mann  
Morrell's Trading Post



United Methodist Church Members,

We are currently NOT receiving copies of The Upper Room Daily Devotional. Their prices increased and few copies were being picked up at the church. We realize that some of you really miss this, and we are trying to come to a resolution. If you get copies mailed to your home, the cost is significantly higher, than if the church orders them bulk in one package. Diane has called the company and we think we may have a way to continue with getting copies for you.

Each devotional is printed bi-monthly.....  
(6 issues a year)

If you would like a large print edition, the cost to you would be slightly higher.

If you are interested in getting a copy, please let the office know. Once we know how many to order, we can get an accurate cost per issue.

You can leave a message on the answering machine at (218) 751-3503, or email the office and let Karen know. [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

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**Our Daily Bread** is another devotional that is available. You have the ability to print or just read the devotion on-line. To reach the website, [www.odp.org](http://www.odp.org)