



VOYAGEUR October - December 2022

Dearest Beloved Congregation,

Blessed Autumn to you! It's a season we all look forward to and sometimes worry about the season that follows. I will tell you that the response to the letter you've each received by email, US Post or in Worship Service (and added below) has been heartwarming. A single time visitor gave generously \$500 with a lovely letter which is included in this newsletter. I appreciate your thoughts, your actions, your belief, and hope. It IS what will get us to the other side of this mountain. Many of you asked for more detail about finances and that is provided below from those who are experts at the facts and figures. We are not alone in this walk, God is our Victory, always has been, always will be; God gives us the strength to do what we must, and the joy in which to do it. How amazing is God!

Pledged and non-pledged contributions have always fluctuated on a month-to-month basis. As we track our financial progress, we are not bringing in enough revenue to cover our monthly expenses and have little reserve funds available at this point. Here are the specifics in brief:

The average monthly deficit currently is over \$2,500, which translates to an annual deficit of over \$30,000 for 2022. Winter, with snow removal and increased heat, will likely increase that figure.

To meet this deficit, our pledging members would ALL need to increase our pledges by 30%. That's a lot to ask, and we fully realize that not everyone can! However, if we all do what we can, we can climb this mountain and immerge at the top, stronger, more unified, and even more able to answer God's call.

Here is a bit more information that Diane Morris put together. ▼▼▼▼▼

Knowing that some would like to know more details about our expenses, I have gone through and calculate the approximate monthly costs in 5 categories:

Staffing and all associated expenses	\$9,000
Utilities	\$2,250
Custodial	\$1,200
Snowplowing and sidewalk sweep	\$ 325
Photocopying	\$ 275

If any of you would like figures for other categories, feel free to ask. Please realize that these are approximate averages. I hand calculated them and cannot guarantee that everything got in the correct category (hey, humans make mistakes). Once our new Bookkeeper gets everything recorded, we will be able to get more precise, and more detailed figures.

~ Diane

We all know that if our income is less than our expenses, ultimately, we have to do one of 2 things: reduce our expenses or increase our income. Increasing our attendance will of course help increase the non-pledged income. We have seen fluctuating but increased attendance, with people returning and new people coming. These past few weeks showed the highest attendance we have seen since before COVID. People's hunger for a stable community family will continue to bring them as long as we continue to remind them and invite them.

(continued on back page)

...And your church is working to reduce expenses:

- Trustees are unplugging refrigerators.
- They will be cutting the heat in the downstairs, Sunday School/Family Room area this winter.
- They have considered the sale of some of our unused property.
- I am not submitting any expense vouchers for which the church is obligated to pay, but am paying them myself, which, so far since June, has been \$1500.
- Karen and I have been buying our own office and cleaning supplies. **BMW has graciously given \$1000. for office supplies toward this since this letter.**
- Finance is seeking grants, and we are hoping to again increase building use income. I have put ads across social media local groups offering our church as a venue for meetings, events, classrooms, etc.

As a short-term fix, Church Council/Finance has pulled \$30,000 from our Foundation General Account.

We have budgeted down the cleaning costs, shaved expenses off garbage pickup, personally inspected the building daily making sure nothing unnecessary is left on or running.

But, these are primarily short fixes. The long-term fix is to increase our income. This is where I come to you. This brave and beautiful church... YOU, each and every one of you beautiful souls, have seen a lot. Even recently! We're living through a pandemic with its declines and shortages; we've endured shutdowns and absence, strokes and hospital stays of pastors, remodeling, reimagining, re-emerging, exclusion, inclusion, political upheaval, and all that went with it. We've seen children running up the stairs to the balcony, watched baptisms in tears, then again heard their laughter, and caught ourselves on our own. Transition, transition, transitions!

We've comforted each other in tears and stood up with each other in hard times. Some of you have known and loved each other for decades. We've seen times of plenty and times of lack, and you've always seen each other through. I ask that you do it again. Your church family needs you today. If you are able to see your way to giving \$10 more a week, \$100 more a week... it will make a difference in the lives of those you've come to love over all these years together. And, it will continue to make a difference to those who you don't yet know.

You know how I'm always asking you to Imagine? Well, I'm asking again: imagine again the laughter of children, whether it's an after-school program, special music, or a Sunday school march. Imagine a choir, imagine gatherings of church family, celebrating birthdays, enjoying coffee and conversation, singing and creating, gathering to watch performances, dine together, worship together, learn and pray and laugh together.

We use this church home
as a place
to say hello,
a place to ask, "how are you?"
and a place to say goodbye.

Now imagine it gone.

Please give what you can. We can weather these last storms too, together.

I've been asked to tell you that our Finance Committee and Church Council will answer any questions you have in person, by phone and by appointment.

We are amazingly strong, when we all work together, when we all stand together.

Pastor Deborah



Community Meal

News from Community Table

We continue to need plastic grocery bags. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer on **Thursdays**, we could use servers from 4-6. It would not have to be every **Thursday**. If message with the church office. Thanks for all the support the congregation has provided.

BEMIDJI METHODIST WOMEN

General Meeting every Third Wednesday, September through May. (Summer months off)

Date: October 19, 2022

Place: BUMC Lounge at 9:15am

Hostess: Judy Dvorak and Velma Wesloh

Devotions: Deanna Nichols

Speaker/Subject: Emily Thabes-Ex Director of Beltrami County Museum speaking on Museums.

Date: November 15, 2022

Place: BUMC Lounge at 9:15am

Hostess: Carol Rieke and Carolyn Ballard

Devotions: Carol Rieke

Speaker/Subject: NW Juvenile Center- Mindy O'Brien

Date: December 21, 2022 Christmas Brunch

Place: To be announced (20 are needed to go back to the Bemidji Town and Country Club)

RSVP: Deanna Nichols

Devotions: Carolyn Ballard

Hostesses: Executive Committee

Butter Braid Pastry Sale

October 02, 2022 through October 16, 2022
sponsored by Bemidji Methodist Women

Contact Carolyn Ballard for orders
218-444-8510

Make check out to BMW Women

7 Flavors:

Carmel Rolls, Cinnamon, 4 Cheese & Herb

Product comes frozen and ready to rise overnight for your coffee party fresh out of oven treat!

Each pastry is \$13 each

Our goal for free delivery is 350 pastries!
Share this info with your neighbors and friends!

Fresh Alternative Fundraising, LLC has been
in business for over 30 years.
Delivery truck comes November 7th.



October Birthdays

Charlie Parson- October 03
Elizabeth Bellefy Schultz- October 10
Tony Nicholson- October 11
Al "Bert" Clark- October 12
John Murray- October 17
Nancy Manley- October 24
Deanna Nichols- October 30

November Birthdays

Ben Stowe- November 01
George Stowe- November 04
Dawson Kimble- November 06
Tom Dvorak- November 08
Marcia Roline- November 08
Seth Knudson- November 11
Don Leet- November 14
Dave Dahlberg- November 17
Evan Hazard- November 17
Joyce Holmstrom- November 18
Dennis Thompson- November 25

December Birthdays

Bob Anderson- December 10
Jacob Bellefy- December 11
Margene Parkos- December 13
Jerry Pickett - December 15
Jean Slinkman- December 17
Carson Danielson- December 20
Dannette Kimble- December 20
Jack Spangenburg- December 2
Bill Weiss- December 31

ANNIVERSARIES

October

Randy Burg and Carol Neilsen - October 11
Dennis and Karen "Bubbles" Thompson - October 14
Ken and Deanna Nichols - October 16

December

Lorne and Verna Lofberg - December 21
Leroy and Diane Morris - December 21



Email Addresses: Church Office: umcbji@paulbunyan.net (218) 751-3503
Pastor Deborah: 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



Even though our Fair-Trade coffee cart in the lounge is gone, we still serve this coffee Sunday mornings in the lounge. In addition, some in our congregation belong to our Fair-Trade coffee buyers' club.

Everyone is welcomed to join the buyers' club. You can shop online at <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/> and see what Equal Exchange has available and the pricing. The advantage of using our BUMC buyers' club is that we combine our order together and are eligible for free shipping. If you are interested in ordering, please call, Fair Trade Coordinator: Terry Thomas at 218-444-9580.

BUMC recently completed our week of delivering Meals on Wheels in the community, September 19-23rd. Our MOW team is: Randy Burg/Carol Nielson, Tony & Carla Nicholson, Sandra Krantz/Vic Mosser, Jeff & Charlene Anderson, Rita & Mike Albrecht, Jerry Pickett, Diane & Leroy Morris, and Terry Thomas and Gerry Manley.

We give a big THANK YOU to our volunteers for keeping this mission project of our church running, year after year. We deliver 5 times a year, each time for one week, three different routes. There are 15 volunteer slots to fill each rotation.

We appreciate the dedication of our team to pitch in, take time out in the middle of their day to deliver meals, and Smiles, to those homebound in our community. We recognize for our customers; this may be the only outside contact they have during the day. It is rewarding volunteer work, and if this is something you'd like to try, please give me a call....we are always looking for additions to our team. Terry Thomas, 218-444-9580.

New Address!



Wag Collins

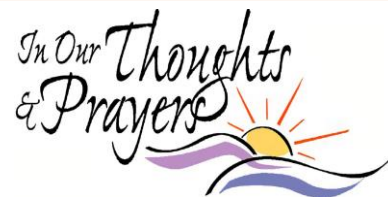
1000 Anne St. NW #206
Huckleberry
Bemidji, MN 56601

Elaine Clark

4400 Lange Ave. NE Apt.#118
St. Michael, MN 55376

John Herath new phone

(218) 828 6347. He does not call but will answer.



Please remember in your prayers those.....

...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman, Wag Collins

...at Trillium: Judy Comstock

...at Windsong: 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 Howard, in Sparta, TN



Thank you to Dan Haluptzok who dropped off some precious heirlooms from our church. It's fun to see old cookbooks that BMW Women put together back to 1947. If you'd like to see them, stop by the church office sometime, otherwise we are planning to put them on display in the future. If your family finds ANY items from Bemidji United Methodist Church, we'd love to put them in our archives for others to see. Thank you!

BEMIDJI AREA CHURCH MUSICIANS

July 27, 2022

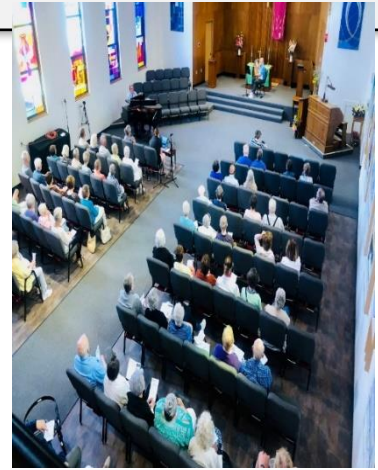
There were 90 people that attended the Summer Series Luncheon series at BUMC. Here are some highlights from the day. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible, including the coffee cake makers, egg bake (Sandy Sterr) and those who helped serve and clean up.



Glenn Seibel on Euphonium



Wayne Hoff on piano



Nearly a full house!

Trustee and Finance Committee Update

In June a request was mailed to all current giving families of Bemidji United Methodist Church. This was for roofing and other large projects within the building.

To date, you have graciously given **\$21,740.00**

Thank you very much to those that have donated and returned your pledge card for this very worthy cause. For those of you who have not returned the pledge card, we encourage you to do so soon.

Trustee and Finance Committees



No date has been set yet, but our church is in the planning stages of having a Fall Rummage Sale. We have gotten volunteers already to help set up and work some. We could use a few more volunteers. More information will be coming soon. Watch for it in the weekly emails sent from the office.



The next Voyageur will be published in 2023, January-March. Deadline for articles will be **Thursday, DECEMBER 15, 2022**. You will receive the next Newsletter right after the New Year, via email. If you would like a mailed paper copy, please let Karen know in the office.

ANNUAL MEATBALL DINNER
SILENT AUCTION - KID'S DRAWING - RAFFLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022
 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 123 29th Street NE
 Bemidji, MN
 (corner of Bemidji Avenue N and 29th Street NE)

Meatball Dinner with all the trimmings,
 including Pie and Beverage

Adults: \$15.00
 Children 6 - 12: \$8.00
 Under 5: Free

Tickets available at the door & Carry-out is available.

Everyone is invited to attend!

Proceeds will help support the
 TLC Preschool and Growing Tree Learning Center.



Thank you, Jane Killgore and Ann Campbell, for all the work you do with Community Table. The two were waiting for a food truck to unload and we snapped this photo of them with "Iggy." He brings so much joy to others who seek Deborah's counsel, in addition to being an emotional support animal for Pastor Deborah!



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MULTIGENERATIONAL Family Dance Parties

WHO Hosted by
Bemidji
Dance
Academy

Open to all families • Bring the entire group:
 parents, grandparents, children, etc

WHAT

Intergenerational Family Dance Party



WHERE

Suzy and Hondo School of Dance
 1259 Tyler Avenue SE • Bemidji, MN 56601

WHEN

Sundays from 1:00-3:00 pm

DATES

- July 10
- September 11
- November 13
- January 15
- March 12
- May 14

We'll teach a bit and dance a bit. Activities will be geared toward all age groups.
 We would love to have you come join in the fun!

COST

Free!

Region 2 Arts Council Arts Access Grants are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Howe/Welle Golf Tournament August 26, 2022

The Howe/Welle Annual Golf Tournament was a success again this year at the Bemidji Town and Country Club. BUMC would like to thank member Ruth Howe, for all she continues to do in the community. This summer, the tournament raised approximately:

\$24,000

All proceeds from the golf tournament and silent auction will directly benefit BSU's nine women's athletic program.

A reboot of the long-running Lady Beaver golf tournament that supported women's athletics at BSU from 1983-2010, the Howe-Welle tournament is named in honor of two of the founders of the tournament – former BSU women's basketball (1964-76), tennis coach (1976-86) and pioneer of women's athletics at the university, **Dr. Ruth Howe**, and longtime BSU athletics supporter Jeanette Welle.

Open letter to Pastor Deborah and congregation:

I was deeply touched by your "green letter" to all for many reasons. I decided to write this because I am an outsider and have neither an ax to grind or trying to accrue favor — I am the "expert from afar". (Haha)

My name is Ken Temple. I live in San Diego and I am Maurey and Lorna Sullivan's nephew.

I was surprised at so many things:

When she says "Dear Precious Congregation", she means it. You can see it in her emotion, what she says and what she does. She's paying for things from her own pocket. She's looking for ways to save money at the site. I also liked the way her message was NOT slathered with Biblical quotes and dogma or "Christian should's"— just the facts ma'am.

When Pastor is talking about saving, she's talking about not just losing money. "We" (the congregation) cannot afford to lose one member. Members and the love they give and receive are the real value of the church. She is telling us we have the ability to make the difference. Eg. :If someone looks lonely, they are. Keep your eyes and hearts open and "adopt" someone. I remember Uncle Maury going to a nursing home to visit an old colleague who was on his last legs and I thought "Why does he do this?" Then I remembered a truism, "The only love you really have is what you give." He is smart that way.

So is your pastor. I strongly believe that with her energy and everyone's help "we" can stop the downward momentum and get back in the black.

Based on that green letter, I feel sure that every penny given from here on in will be used wisely. The church is one of our best forums to give and receive. It's value goes far into the future, beyond our short lives. It truly deserves our energy and attentiveness.

I have always been cheap, especially with myself but I am trying to be more generous because life is short. In hopes of stimulating people to look at the value of what they are getting, here is is \$500 to help get the ball rolling a little.

I wish you all the best in your church and your life.

Your big fan,

Ken Temple

Did you know BUMC has a Toastmasters Group that meets every other Tuesday night?

What is Toastmasters?

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 300,000 in more than 15,800 clubs in 149 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders. For information about BUMC Toastmasters club, **contact Carolyn Ballard at (218) 790-5015**



BMW Women

Please turn in your OUR FAMILY BRAND BAR CODES for the food shelf at the meeting October 19, 2022 or turn them in to Joyce Holmstrom.

Thank you!



Facing the loss of a loved one to death?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. JOIN A SAFE COMMUNITY THAT UNDERSTANDS.

Adult Support Group
Every Thursday 5-7pm
Calvary Lutheran Church
Beginning Sept 22, 2022

Kids Support for Loss of Sibling, Parent, or Caregiver
(Ages 7-13)
Every Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm
Evangelical Covenant
Beginning October 4, 2022
Parents must remain onsite

For more information, contact Erin at (813) 417-7678. For all grief support resources, check out Grief Resources- Bemidji on FB.

