

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 PM Backpack Buddies (FH)	3 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting (FH) 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	5 Church office closed	6
7	8	9 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	10 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	11 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	12 Church office closed	13 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX) 4:00 PM Calvary Refuge (FH)
14	15	16	17 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	18 9:00 AM Food Co-op Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC) 7:00 PM UMW Joy Circle Meeting (FH)	19 Church office closed	20 8:00 AM United Methodist Men's Meeting
21 Beans&Rice and Friends House Sunday 12:15 PM Mission Team Meeting	22	23 11:00 AM Lunch Bunch	24 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Praise Band Practice (WC)	26 Church office closed	27 11:00 AM Mission Tea Fish Fry - Drive through only 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 16332 (AX)
28	29	30	31 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study			



2021

A Note from the Pastor



Rejoice

Bethel United Methodist Church

There are times in life when finding joy is a challenge. We are human, living among humans. People, tests, and trials can make happiness a far-off goal. Turning to Psalm 39, we can see an example of a person struggling. His psalm is a cry of lament. Psalm 39 opens with ¹ *I said, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence."* ² *I was silent and still; I held my peace to no avail; my distress grew worse,* ³ *my heart became hot within me. While I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:* ⁴ *"Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.* (NRSV)

I read it as a reminder that it can be wise to keep silent. If we are silent, we can avoid saying something stupid. In the presence of the wicked, it may be better to keep my mouth nailed shut. Silence can be a gift to ourselves and to others. When faced with negative thoughts and or negative people robbing us of joy, sometimes silence is the answer.

It is challenging to suffer in silence. Even more challenging is to remain silent in the presence of evil. The spirit of wickedness makes us uncomfortable. There are times when everything within us says we must act. We must respond.

Many of us have experienced those situations that we recognize we have reached our limitations of grace.. In response, there is the urge to lash out. We have to admire the Psalmist when he came to his limits. When he could no longer hold his peace, he cries out to God. *"Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days..."*

Life is short. Let us not waste this valuable gift by being stuck in a negative state of mind. Bitterness, anger, depression, resentment, and unforgiveness rob us of the joy in living. I am not saying we are never to speak out against evil or injustice. Nor am I saying it is best to suffer in silence. However, calling out to God is always wise. Seeking God's help is still the first line of defense. Speaking to God before lashing out at others allows us an opportunity to measure the value of our words. Will they fall on deaf ears? Will my comments be used for healing or as a tool to bring more hurt?

When the psalmist chose not to add more negativity to the atmosphere, he placed his trust in God. He trusted God to deliver him from his adversaries. He trusted God to keep him from looking foolish.

How can we find joy when we run low on patience in the trial? Turn to God. Turn to God's word. The book of Philippians offers us godly wisdom in the face of negativity. It reminds us to choose joy. Philippians 4:4-5 - *Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!* – (The Message)

It is a reminder that life is short. As much as possible, let us live in peace with one another. Let us seek reasons to be happy and celebrate the goodness of God. Yes, we may say, it is easier said than done. Right, that is all the reason to trust God. Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* (NKJV)

In light of the tests and trials that we encounter, let us choose joy. Grab hold of a song, a psalm, a bible verse and find delight in God, as well as peace.

A song running through my head today is an oldie but goodie. *"My life is in you, Lord. My hope is in you, Lord. My strength is in you, Lord. It's in you. It's in you."*

Let us choose joy!



Oreo's Blog



When I hear someone talk about the month of March, I think about the wind. The wind that blows the trees; that blows the leaves; and that blows my ears. The wind that surrounds me when I am out for a walk. The wind can be chilly or warm depending on the temperature outside. When I think of wind, I think of the Holy Spirit. Can we see the wind? No more than we can see the Holy Spirit. The wind surrounds us and so does the Holy Spirit. We can't see the wind. We can't see the Holy Spirit. We can see the things the wind blows; and we can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Wind cannot be stopped or controlled by people. The Holy Spirit also cannot be controlled by people. The wind can be soft and blow the leaves, or it can be like a tornado and uproot trees. The Holy Spirit can gently lead a person to love Jesus over a period of years or lead a person to Jesus through a hard or scary experience. The Bible gives us examples of the Holy Spirit working in people's lives. The Holy Spirit moved people to talk in different languages on Pentecost. It caused an earthquake to make a jailer a believer in Jesus. What other examples can you find in your Bible?

Jesus loves you and so do I!

Oreo



The Evangelism Team has a limited number of Refillable Hand Sanitizer spray pens with the Bethel logo available for sharing with neighbors and friends. They will be available in the Narthex when we return to onsite worship.

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WEB: www.bethel-umc.com

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday | 9:30 AM—2:00 PM

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Lynn Valentine
Mavis Sewell & family
Doug McAfee
Nancy Mc/afee
Gail Quinteros
Phyllis Cowan
Eleanor Carter
Donna & Gwen Brautig
an
Carol Meyers
Denise Mainer
Nell Redding
Pam Redding
Jean Searls
Natalie Walters
Erin Ricks
Dianne Kozara
Trip Weldon
Debra Bryant
Rossoff Family
John Mcgee
Monique Searls
Cheryl & Brenda
Charles Pruitt
Bill Frizzell
Cora Johnson
Tracey Redding
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Doris McKnight
Lucy Strauss
Billie Jo Strauss
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Victoria Scott
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Sharyn Hope
Betty Brooking
Tammy Price
William Akbar
Timothy Milton
Larry Sharp
Susan Webb
Jimmy Jackson
Samson Chapman
Mary Frances Koch
Liz Dawson
Janice Gray
Nicholas Jerome Scott
James Peters
Patricia Strauss
Pansy Horton
Jeff Sanders
Harper Ricks
Shirley Walters
Ken Smith
Lee Shaffer
Jerry King
Rev. Glenn Dyer
Donna Thomas
David Parker
Mark Johnson
Family of Herman
Miller - cousin of Joan
McElroy and Kathy Kerdsomboone
Family of Jim Henry –
Catherine Johnson's
brother
Family of George Stewart – father of Sandy
Everidge (Joe)
Family of Roberta Ward
– mother of Natalie
Ward and mother- in-
law of William Walters
Family of Joanne Auber
Family of Mary Latimore

ONG TERM PRAYER LIST

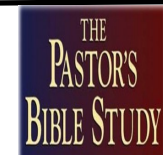
- *Paula Frizzell
- *Lily Eubanks
- *Allison Spence
- *Ajani King
- *Eden Bankston
- *Louise Whittaker
- *Rick McNabb
- *Mavis Sewell
- *Timmy Graham
- *Pat Prichett
- *Warren Sprayberry
- *Sheila Readdy
- *Gloria Chamlee
- *Harry and Eldora
Pierce
- * Windell McIntosh
- * Sarah Potts
- *Alisa Anderson

GENERAL GIVING FOR February 2021

7 February	\$6,751.00
14 February	6,059.81
21 February	<u>4,099.00</u>
	\$16,909.81

Thank You

Bethel Family for all the ways you
give



The Pastor's Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study meets every Wednesday in the conference room. Anyone interested in attending a Bible study during the day is welcome to join in.



The United Methodist Men meet every third Saturday. At 7am we gather to prepare the food and at 8am we have breakfast. Come on out guys and let's have some good food and fellowship.



JOY CIRCLE
The Joy Circle of the UMW meets every third Thursday at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Youth and Children's Activities

There will be no in person activities until further notice.

Be sure to check for online activities.



You might recognize the title of this article. The late country singer Kenny Rogers made that phrase a household staple. It may have actually been the first country song I really enjoyed.

So as you enter the season of Lent, I invite you to get "On the Road Again". When you pack, make sure you have those resources that will draw you closer to God.

Rogers reminded us of the awe of traveling on the road via an automobile. With societal advancements, many no longer travel by car. It seems that we are consumed in getting from one place to another as quick as we can. Yet, Rogers paints a rich picture with of life with the song "On the Road Again".

Listen to the first stanza:

On the road again
I just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is makin' music with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again

Yet, Rogers is telling us nothing new. Life is exciting and exhilarating on the road. The road provides twists and turns. The road is a metaphor for life.

Just think, we are entering a year of living in a pandemic. Not many, if any, could have imagined that the road would lead us to a world health crisis. It is almost unimaginable to believe that half a million people have died as a result of COVID-19.

Being on the road is not easy. I think this must have been what Jesus felt as He approached Calvary and the crucifixion. Jesus understood the road He was traveling was not pretty. Yet, He persisted.

Today, we are on the road called Lent. A time of introspection and self-denial. Lent beckons us to draw closer to Christ. We cannot draw closer to Jesus without the proper tools. Just as a good driver understands the importance of a map, compass, GPS system and gas, a disciple knows it is important to have a spiritual toolbox. What are these tools – Bible, prayer, Christian community and fasting are just a few.



March 27th, 11 AM until 5 PM. \$8.00 per plate which includes Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, and Hushpuppies

No Eat In - Drive Thru Only

Sponsored by the Mission Team



Youth Ministry Announcements

Join the Youth in creating an Origami Butterfly Installation

During the season of Lent, the youth will be making origami butterflies for an Easter/Resurrection Sunday installation. There is paper in the narthex of the church if you would like to make a butterfly or two. You can view this YouTube Video for instructions on how to make one. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZdO2e8K29o>

Small Refrigerator Needed Do you have a dorm size refrigerator that is collecting dust? Well the youth would love it for the new den. We are looking for a small refrigerator to store water, sodas and juice. If you can help, please reach out to Rori.

First Thursdays are Back The youth will meet March, 2021. Starting at 6 p.m., we will have a devotional centered on metamorphosis as a spiritual process followed by some small group break out time creating butterflies. We will not share a meal so plan to eat prior to the meeting. We will wear masks as a gift to ourselves and others in the community.

Bethel – A House of Prayer

During Lent, you are invited to join the youth in writing short prayers to God. Prayers may focus on individual or communal needs. There are tags in the narthex that you can use or an index card. You may sign your name or leave them unsigned. If you have questions, please contact Rori at youth@bethel-umc.com.



Calvary Refuge Homeless Center

Join the Mission Team on March 13 for our monthly trip to feed the guests at Calvary Refuge. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 PM to make sandwiches and we leave for Calvary at 5:30 pm. You can participate in both or part.



Andre Wilkerson, Jr.	3-03
Alan Pierce	3-07
Pam Redding	3-12
Phyllis Philmon	3-12
Victoria Scott	3-14
Louise Whittaker	3-17
Joanne Smith	3-19
Bobby Bankston	3-22
Fiana Thacker	3-25
Pat Deloney	3-26



Alan & Patti Pierce 03/01

Bethel Service Times Online Only

Third Sunday Donations

Please remember your Third Sunday donations for these mission initiatives:

A Friend's House is dedicated to meeting the emotional and physical needs of children in crisis. Please consider donating to A Friend's House. Look for the Little Wooden House in the Narthex to make your donation.

Helping in His Name Food Pantry. As you enter or leave worship, don't forget to place your donations of beans and rice in the supply bin near the church office.