

Bethel United Church of Christ
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327
(248) 682 9240



Bethel United Church of Christ March 2011 Newsletter

Our Mission Statement:

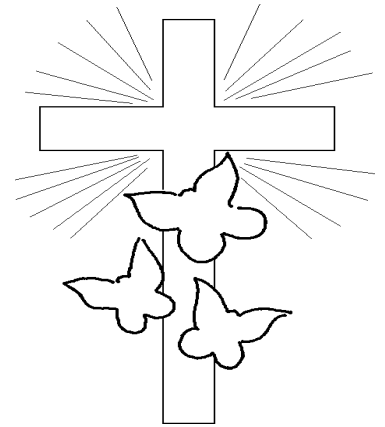
We are seeking the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit,
and the faithful response of our congregation to:

- Spread God's Word,
- Reach out to the community and world by
imitating Christ's service,
- Share the comfort of knowing Jesus Christ, and
- Grow in the knowledge and love of God in Christ.

Web site – www.BethelUCCwat.org

e-mail BethelUCCwat@sbcglobal.net

Pastor's Thoughts



Pastor's Message – March 2011

“March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” the adage goes. Do you know the meaning of this adage? I learned this is an old folklore saying that refers to the way the weather is typically wild at the beginning of March, but fair by the end. It may also be the reverse, “in like a lamb and out like a lion.”

As we begin our journey into March we also begin the Lenten season. Do we know the meaning of the season? Lent is the one season of the liturgical year known to most Christians. It is typically regarded as a season to “give up” something, which reflects an attitude of limiting our self in order to focus on Jesus’ work on earth on our behalf – especially his life and death, with a view towards his resurrection. But Lent is also a joyful season, a time when our community celebrates the mystery of resurrection (known by some as the “Paschal Mystery”) with our hearts and minds renewed. In this way Lent is a positive time – a time for new life to appear and old attitudes to disappear, a time to celebrate the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection.

But what does this mean? How do I *experience* the Paschal Mystery? How does it affect me on a day-to-day basis? How do I become aware of its presence in my life in a real way and not just something I know about? The Paschal Mystery is basically the *process* of dying and rising, death and new life. We see this all around us and in our own lives.

Many use Lent to enter more deeply into this mystery and see it as a time of fasting, repentance and preparation. Some choose to not eat meat on certain days or to eliminate sweets during this period. However, food is not the only thing to utilize to remind us of this process.

Focusing on global concerns, we can ask, “How can I reduce my consumption (something that contributes much to the state of our world’s stress)?” Considering that America is a culture built on consumerism, how can we become more attuned to the ways our consumption habits have negative effects on others around the globe? One estimate I read was “The waste generated each year in the U.S. would fill a convoy of 10-ton garbage trucks 145,000 miles long – over half-way to the moon.” (www.usm.maine.edu) Maybe fasting from unnecessary purchases for 40 days would be the way for some of us to go. Looking at the home front, what would happen if we fasted from video games? Could more time spent with family be resurrected because of this change? Or for a personal spin, try fasting from gossip. Proverbs 16 states “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.” Resurrecting healthy relationships by talking directly to the person with whom you disagree or who hurt you might be a way for tremendous healing to occur. Even fasting from something like noise (T.V., radio programs, etc.) might allow us to experience and enjoy solitude – a state that is growing ever so small now in our fast-paced, plugged-in society.

So how do we need to prepare ourselves for Easter during the season of Lent? In whatever way you choose to honor the season of Lent, I pray that at the end of these 40 days we will find ourselves changed by the experience and closer to the One who gives us life and breath and unconditional love.

Lenten blessings,

Pastor Diane

Bethel United Church of Christ
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327

Office: 248.682.9240
Email: bethelucwat@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.betheluccwat.org

Pastor: Diane Baker
Organist: Teri Lynn Barnaby
Secretary: Kimberly Eve
Custodian: Renee Ingsbee

Ushers

Chris & Kim Eve

Greeter

Rose Sanok

Communion Servers

**Shirley Milligan, Jane Ellen Bussard,
Gary Bussard, Rita Milner**

Council Members

Lance Shew President
Gary Bussard Financial Sec.
Jane Ellen Bussard Treasurer
Nola Shew Recording Secretary

Council Liaisons

Chris Eve
Property
Shirley Milligan & Dorothy Sherrit
Missions/ Christian Education
Rita Milner
Finance
Council at Large
Fellowship/ Membership/ Worship

Pastoral Relations Committee:
Nola Shew, Shirley Milligan,
Virginia Hudnell, Kim Eve and
Pastor Diane

Mission of the Month

**One Great Hour of Sharing
(OGHS)**

Military Prayer Requests

Sr. Medical Technician Penny Barker
Staff Sergeant Nicholas Barker
SPC Benjamin Duhamel
PV2 Eric Stewart
HM1 Michelle Teschner
—1st Class Petty Officer
SGT. Brandon Yarbrough
PFC Robert Yarbrough
SGT. Jeffrey Bussard

Bethel Ministry of Prayer

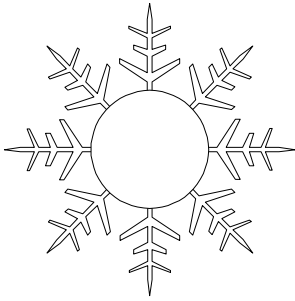
Here at Bethel

Lillian Bailey, Bettie Kluesner,
Kathy Petrik, Chris Struthers
Mardell Williams, Peggy Austin
Les & Marge Hotchkiss
Iris Davis

Bethel Friends

Todd Hensel,
Pat Howell (Shirley Milligan's Sister)
Ryan Morrissey, Betty Jean Mulanix,
Carol Shew
Joe D. (Friend of Paul Crook)
Ralph & Diane Mueller
Nancy McNeff (friend of Dot)
Bill Cote (Cousin to Karen Crook)
Dave and Kathy Barker

March No-Gossip Column



A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations, but look what they can do when they stick together! All the way from a snowball to a snowman to a nor eastern storm that closes banks, schools and businesses twenty-four hours before it arrives. God's creation is awesome. But there is a positive side to all of the snow! My Dad always said, "Over a foot of snow on the ground in March means good mushroom season in April and May." Just think about it, mushrooms are a fungus and 80% water. What better medium to grow a good crop of morels than a foot of snow melting slowly. Also the snow has made a great season of winter sports. The ski lodges have had a couple of hard seasons where they had to MAKE snow to even open in December. This year they have been able to make up for the bad times in the past. And in a recession this is good. The spring thaw will fill the reservoirs with drinking water and the dams for making electricity. But the very best thing about three months of snow on the ground is our attitude about the coming of spring and how much we are looking forward to going out the door with only a light jacket on. The planning of a garden for the back yard and looking for crocuses sprouting up through the patches of snow left in the flower beds makes us long for spring to come quickly. When we see the robins on the edge of the winter birdbath set up in the back yard then spring is almost here. These are some of the things we look forward to during those snow covered days of winter.

My daughter has a portable green house that she can set up in February and start the plants for her garden. She is so economical because she found out a packet of seeds costs 1/100 the amount of ten tomato plants. Bless her heart. We were over at her house the other day and she said, "Come here Mom. Stick you head in there and smell," She unzipped the green house and I put my head in the opening. I said, "What am I smelling?". She said, with obvious awe, "Dirt! Can't you smell the dirt?" She is a blessing.

He who cultivates a garden and grows vegetables from the sod, walks hand in hand with nature and very close to God. This March let's plant a garden. My Dad always said peas had to be planted by St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, or they won't be a good crop. It is okay if they get snowed on before they sprout. They need the adversity to grow stronger. The first time her dad told Lanna to plant her peas in March, she said, "There is still snow out there in the garden!" But she took the advice in faith and planted the peas and had an early crop of peas and new potatoes.

For our garden plant 3 rows of peas —1. Peace of mind, 2. Peace of heart, 3. Peace of soul. Plant 4 rows of lettuce —1. Let us be faithful, 2. Let us be kind, 3. Let us be patient, 4. Let us really love one another. Plant 4 rows of squash —1. Squash gossip, 2. Squash indifference, 3. Squash grumbling, 4. Squash selfishness. Plant 3 rows of Turnips —1. Turn up for meetings, 2. Turn up for service, 3. Turn up to help one another. Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much produce in our garden because you reap what you sow.



Nola WFIM

Youseetimmy: It has been said children's ears may be closed to **ADVICE** but their eyes are open to **EXAMPLE** !

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Diane returned from Hawaii saying that she and Dean really enjoyed themselves. (I'm so jealous. They were enjoying the sun in Hawaii while we were here enjoying snow, snow and more snow!!) She will be meeting with the Waterford Ministerial Association to schedule Lenten Luncheon services both for Bethel to host and for Diane to speak. She asked about a portable communion set so she can offer the sacraments to shut-ins when she visits. The council will look at various sources.

The Pastoral Relations Committee is in place and will hold its first meeting on February 23. The members are Shirley Milligan, Kim Eve, Virginia Hudnell, Nola Shew and, of course, Pastor Diane.

Finance:

The proposed budget for 2011 was accepted at the congregational meeting.
Pledge cards are to be sent to out-of-town members.
21 pledges have been received so far.

Mission / Christian Ed:

Dot Sherit reported that \$55 and a whole bunch of other stuff was collected during January for the Baldwin Center. I think they could have used my truck to haul everything to the Center. Grace Centers of Hope is the focus for February. They need personal items, cleaning supplies – just about everything.

The March mission will be One Great Hour of Sharing

Looking forward to April, the committee suggested the Power Company Kids Club. Look for more information next month.

Fellowship / Membership / Worship:

Greeter for March:	Rose Sanok
Ushers for March:	Chris and Kim Eve
Communion servers March 6:	Shirley Milligan, Jane Bussard Rita Milner, Gary Bussard

Mark March 9 on your Calendars. That's Ash Wednesday. We will have a worship service with communion at 7:00 pm. WITH a fried chicken dinner at 6:00 pm. Compliments of Chef Craig Barnaby.

Kim and Rita are trying to find palm ashes to use during the service.

Eleven "ladies" met for lunch at the Long Horn Steak house on the 2nd Thursday in February.

The ladies luncheon was moved to the 2nd Thursday.

The adult dinner has also been moved to the 4th Thursday to avoid crowded restaurants on Friday. Watch the bulletin board to keep up to date on the changes.

Property:

The church has a shiny new vacuum. The old one finally died after serving faithfully for over 10 years.

Other items discussed:

Be sure to visit our new website, <http://betheluccwat.org>. Take a look!

The office computer has been overhauled and Kim reports that it starts and does everything faster. All the unnecessary junk that was slowing it down has been

Continued

removed and it has more and faster memory. (Don't you wish it was that easy to upgrade our personal memories).

Kim is looking into when Servant Keeper will have a training class in the local area so she can learn more about using the program more efficiently.

The next blood pressure clinic will be March 10.

Craig asked for permission to purchase some new photo albums to hold the many pictures that make up Bethel pictorial history. The council said yes.

Pastor Diane is investigating the possibility of a grant to help defray the cost of training she wants to take.

Lance Shew, Council President

p.s. Just a reminder that all are welcome to attend the Council meetings.

Missions

The January donations were delivered to the Baldwin Center. We collected around 100 cans of food, several items of clothing, and \$55 in cash. A wonderful reflection of the caring hearts here at Bethel.

Our February donations are being delivered to Grace Centers of Hope.

Our mission focus for March will be for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). These are monetary donations needed.

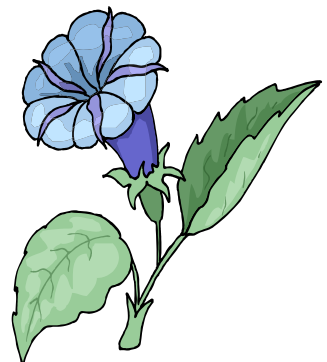
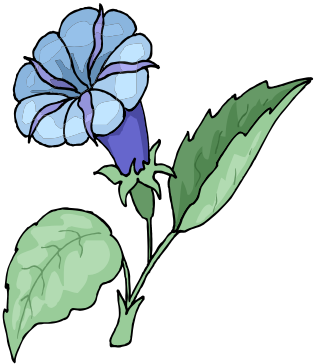
All of your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Mission Committee
Shirley Milligan
Dorothy Sherrit

Benevolent Contributions thru January

Altar Flowers	6.00
Baldwin Center	55.00

Gary Bussard
Financial Secretary





MEMORIALS



TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

February Memorials

In Remembrance

Presented By

MARCH



Mr. & Mrs. Jim Nicklow
March 15, 1947

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Crook
March 17, 1988



Georgina Hodge	3/03
Lois Nicklow	3/10
Zac Woodworth	3/10
Karen Crook	3/17
Keith Stickley	3/20
Ron Shier	3/28



**The 2011 Annual Waterford Ministerial Association
Lenten Devotional and Luncheon Schedule is included in this newsletter for
those who are interested in attending!
This schedule is also posted on the bulletin board at Bethel**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH
IS ASH WEDNESDAY!
CRAIG BARNABY IS MAKING A YUMMY SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN
DINNER! MMMMM! COME AND ENJOY THIS
WONDERFUL MEAL BEFORE SERVICE! PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET ON
THE BACK BULLETIN BOARD IF YOU ARE
PLANNING TO ATTEND!**

**DINNER IS AT 6:00 PM
SERVICE IS AT 7:00 PM**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 13TH
(Fall Back -Spring Ahead)**

**It's time again to change the clocks.
Before you go to bed on Saturday March
12th make sure to move your clocks ahead
one hour!**

**We now have a Pastoral Relations
Committee here at Bethel UCC:**

**Pastor Diane
Nola Shew
Virginia Hudnell
Shirley Milligan
Kim Eve**

**The next meeting will be Tuesday,
March 15th at 1:00 pm**

Ladies luncheon is Thursday, March 10th at 12:30

**Hosted By: Ed and Joan Matthews
At: Logan's Roadhouse**

The Adult fellowship dinner has been changed to the 4th Thursday of each month

**Mark your calendars for the next adult fellowship dinner
Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 6:00 pm**

WATERFORD MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

2011 ANNUAL LENTEN

DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCHEON SERIES

Wednesdays of the Lenten Season

Worship at 12:00 pm and Luncheon at 12:30 pm

We invite all within the Waterford Community to participate in the Annual Lenten Devotional and Luncheon Series sponsored by the Waterford Ministerial Association.

The services and luncheons are held at various churches within the Waterford Community, and clergy from various area congregations will be leading the worship times. A schedule of locations and worship leaders is provided. Enrich your Lenten observance with these special times of fellowship and inspiration.

2011 Annual Waterford Ministerial Association

Lenten Devotional and Luncheon Schedule

Worship at 12:00pm - Luncheon at 12:30 pm

(Free Will Offering)

Wednesday, March 16th

Christ Lutheran Church

5987 Williams Lake Rd.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bea Fraser-Soots

Four Towns United Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 23rd

Central United Methodist Church

3882 Highland Rd.

Worship Leader: Rev. John Negele

Christ Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 30th

Canterbury on the Lake Episcopal Church

5601 Hatchery Rd.

Worship Leader: Rev. James Kellermann

Central United Methodist Church

Wednesday, April 6th

Bethel United Church of Christ

6670 Elizabeth Lake Rd.

Worship Leader: Rev. William Hale

Canterbury on the Lake Episcopal Church

Wednesday, April 13th

Four Towns United Methodist Church

6451 Cooley Lake Rd.

Worship Leader: Rev. Diane Baker

Bethel United Church of Christ



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



About St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and the Irish. He was born about 389 A.D. in Northern Wales, which at that time may have been part of England or Scotland.

Saint Patrick had an adventurous life. He was captured by pirates at the age of 16. The Irish pirates brought him to Ireland to tend the flocks of a chieftain in Ulster. Six years of slavery made him a devoted Christian. He escaped to France and became a monk. In 432, a vision led him to return to Ireland as a missionary bishop. He brought Christianity to Ireland and taught there for 29 years. He used the shamrock, a 3 leaf clover, (Ireland's national flower) to explain the Blessed Trinity. St. Patrick founded 365 churches, baptized over 120,000 people and consecrated 450 bishops.

Many tales sprung up about this popular saint. One of the most popular legends was how he charmed all the snakes and toads of Ireland down to the seashore to be drowned by the water. The only certain writings of St. Patrick's are his Confessions and a letter written to a man named Coroticus (See Tripartite Life of St. Patrick by Stokes and Lives by Todd, Healy, Bury and Lusack.). His Confessions are written in crude Latin.

According to some Irish writings, St. Patrick died on March 17, 461 A.D. The anniversary of his death is celebrated as St. Patrick's Day. It's interesting to note that the shamrock clover flowers around that time of year.

The first official celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the United States occurred in Morristown, New Jersey in 1780. It was authorized by George Washington. Today St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by the Irish as well as many Americans with parades, parties, wearing of green, Irish songs and jigs. People wear green on this day to represent the lushness of Ireland-The Emerald Isle.

Ode to a Clover By Julie Youngster, age 12, 7th grade:

**Some say it is a day of luck
With leprechauns and such,
Rainbows and pots of gold,
Irish legends and magic of old.**

**But this day is about how, long ago,
A special man taught all to know
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
With a method not known to most.**

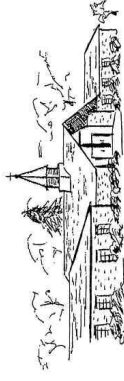
**He took a clover in his hand
And explained to fellow man,
"The Trinity is like this plant with
leaves of three."
They are all part of one plant, you see.**

**And if this can on earth exist,
So God of three persons can consist."
This special man brought many to God
And because of him, to Ireland they
trod.**

**St. Patrick is his lovely name.
It has brought Ireland much fame.
A day was named after him with love.
It is the one I have spoken of.**

**On it you may hear children cheer,
"St. Patrick's Day is finally here!!"**

March 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Knitters 6-9 pm QQ 9-1	2	3	4	5
6 Choir 9:30	7	8 QQ 9 -1	9 Ash Wednesday Dinner 6 pm Service 7 pm	10 Ladies Lunch 12:30	11	12
13 Daylight Savings begins Choir 9:30	14 Council 6pm Meeting	15 PRC Meeting 1:00 Knitters 6-9 pm QQ 9 -1	16 Lent service See schedule	17	18	19
20 Choir 9:30	21	22 QQ 9 -1	23 Lent services See schedule	24 Adult Fellowship Dinner 6pm	25	26
27 Potluck Choir 9:30	28	29 Knitters 6-9 pm QQ 9-1	30 Lent service See schedule	31		
					**Location to be Announced	