

May & June 2008

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
www.bethelucc-ada.org (920) 565-2977



Morse Code

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community? Praise? Prayer? Peace? We could sit in a circle asking that question and come up with as many different answers as people! But the value at the heart of every answer would likely be the same: Love. Our church is love.

When I think about how the churches' love – God's love – has transformed and nourished me, I want to share it. I want others to feel the blessings of grace and acceptance, to know the joy of service and the freedom to live fully in God's moment – whether it brings joy or sorrows, struggle or laughter.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And this year, for the first time, it will aid the God is Still Speaking Ministry and its message of inclusively.

We will receive the offering on May 11 – the birthday of the church – Pentecost – and Mother's Day. I invite you to celebrate these two – the church and those who are Mother to us – by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

Spread the Love. Strengthen the Church.
God is still speaking!

Peace,

Rev. Sara



Sunday School News

We are almost to the end of another session of classes. May 18th, will be our final day of Sunday school. During the church service that day, the attendance awards will be handed out. Junior Choir will also be singing.

Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible school will be Sunday, July 27th through

Thursday, July 31st. We will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us on Saturday, August 2nd for our church picnic and V.B.S. program.

V.B.S. Teacher's meeting will be Sunday, May 18th, right after our church service. If you are unable to attend, please see me about your lessons.



Thank you to all the teacher's who helped instill God's wonderful word to our youth this past year.

Sunday School Superintendent
Mardell Blohm

Bethel's Annual Brat Fry

This year our brat fry will be held at Miesfelds Market on Saturday, June 14th. If you are interested in helping, please watch for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex of church.

Aluminum Can Pickup

The aluminum cans are scheduled to be picked up the first week of May. If you have some cans hanging out in your garage and you want to get rid of them, bring them to church and set them outside the garage. The money collected from the cans goes to support the ministry of Bethel UCC.

Summer worship schedule:

Sunday, May 25 through Sunday, August 31 worship begins at 9:30 a.m.



Upcoming Events at Bethel:

1. Celebration of Communion with our fourth graders – Sunday, May 4th.
2. Celebration of Holy Baptism for Isley Ella Rietbrock – Sunday, May 11th.
3. Church Brat Fry at Miesfelds Market – Saturday, June 14th.
4. Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for our Mission Trip to Biloxi, MS – Monday, June 30th.

Spring Raffle

The prize list and raffle tickets are ready. You will find them located on the table in the narthex. Our raffle is scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 2008.

The Penny Pail

The offerings for the month of May will go to support the UCC camps in the Wisconsin Conference, Pilgrim Center in Ripon, WI and Moon Beach in St. Germain, WI. During the months of June and July the Penny Pail Offerings will go to support Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS.

Graduating Students

The Church Office would like to have an accurate list of all those students graduating this year. Please contact Cindy Meyer (churchsecretary@bethelucc-ada.org) with the name of the person graduating, where they are graduating from, what degree they are receiving if applicable, what their plans are after graduation, and when they are graduating.

Meal Hosting

If you have currently signed up to provide \$30 toward meal-hosting, you can pay any time. When paying indicate which month you are paying for when turning it in to Judy Zimmermann. Thank you!

Jaycees Golf Outing

Monday, June 9, 2008 at Pine Hills Country Club – 4 person scramble

Proceeds going to Bridgeway and Beyond Program for SCIO and Rainbow Kids. *We are currently looking for golfers to golf the event in our honor, as well as volunteers.* Contact Kristin at SCIO for more information 457-7272 ext. 12.

11:30 Registration/Brat Fry
12:00 Range Practice
1:00 Shotgun start
6:30 awards & dinner



Cost \$175.00 per player – a portion of which is tax deductible.

We Care” Donations made easy.

Support SCIO through the Pick ‘n Save “We Care” donation Program. Just add our organization number to your Advantage Plus Savers Club Card, by filling out an application at the service desk. Then every time you shop at Pick ‘n Save and us your Advantage Plus Savers Club Card, SCIO receives a monetary donation. So please pick SCIO as your charity by using our number 073450.

Transportation Program

SCIO’S Transportation Program is looking for Volunteers to help provide transportation to people needing rides within Sheboygan County as well as outside the county. We have two volunteers that are currently unable to help, and have had over 20 requests already for the month of February. Please contact Judy at 457-7272 ext. 11 if you are interested.

Bridgeway and Beyond Program

Vehicle Donation Program - newly formed program is in need of reliable vehicles to be donated to Bridgeway Mothers. If a limited amount of automotive work needs to be done, LTC has agreed to partner with us to bring the automobile up to good working condition. If you have an automobile to donate, please call Bonnie at 457-7272 ex 15. Automobiles will be assessed as to appropriateness in meeting the needs of the new program. **IMPORTANT:** Vehicles may **NOT** just be dropped off at Bridgeway without having an assessment on the vehicle completed first.

We are in need of another car for LTC to work on for the second semester. If any one has a vehicle to donate please contact Bonnie at 457-7272 ex 15

SCIO Bike-a-thon

Sunday, June 29, 2008
Trisha Bergemann Benefit Brat fry
Please contact SCIO with any questions!

Winter Farmers Market

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization is excited to be introducing a Winter Farmer’s Market being held at First Congregational Church UCC in Sheboygan, 310 Bluff Avenue.

You will be able to purchase such items as wholesome meats, honey, jams and jellies, soaps, and various other items.

The next winter market will be held from 9:00am – 2:00pm May 17th – Sneak Preview of what’s to come at the Summer Farmer’s Market Egg Rolls, Asparagus, Spinach, Lettuce, and Bedding Plants



Canvas

The public is invited to Mental Health America in Sheboygan County's 45th anniversary celebration with the showing of the film *Canvas* at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center on Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. The film is based on true events about a family's struggles with mental illness. Following the film, closing remarks will be provided by Meg Kissinger, a special assignment reporter with the Journal Sentinel staff.

Anxiety Screening Day

National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day is **Wednesday, May 7**. Individuals participating in the screen will complete a written assessment, meet with a professional, and learn about area resources. Half-hour screening appointments can be made at the following locations and times:

Plymouth Medical Plaza, **9 am to 1 pm**
 UW Sheboygan, **10 am to 2 pm**
 Matthews Oncology, **1 pm to 5 pm**

Please help spread the word. Thanks and if you have any questions please contact me at MHA 458-3951.

Kiel Community Pantry is in need of the following items:

- Condiments (e.g. ketchup, mustard, mayo)
- Gravy packets
- Taco seasonings
- Automatic dishwashing soap
- Dusting cleaners (e.g. pledge, endust, Murphy's oil)



Newsletter Update

If you would like to put something in the July/August edition of the newsletter please submit items to Cindy Meyer (churchsecretary@bethelucc-ada.org) by June 15th. Thank you!

Church World Service

A church-related relief and development agency is searching for a new staff person to continue the work established by Church World Service regional staff through community sponsored CROP Hunger walks and the CWS Tools and Blankets Program. An opening for the position of Program Assistant will become available after July 1, 2008. The primary purpose of this position is to serve as office manager, administrative assistant and lead support staff for the Regional office of Church World Service. If this piques your interest, the information detailing this position is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Karen de Lopez at the Office of Human Resources at 800.297.1516.

From John Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC and David S. Moyer, Wisconsin Conference Minister: Thank you to the members of Bethel UCC for being a 5 for 5 Congregation of the United Church of Christ in 2007. 5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. "As God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) Thank you for your continued support!

From Ann S. Moyer, Executive Director of CUE Seminaries: Thank you for your support for theological education in 2007! In 2007, approximately 4.4% of your OCWM support was forward on by the Wisconsin Conference to Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries. A number of churches also chose to make additional "Second Mile" gifts during 2007. Thank you for all the ways that you have helped to support our seminaries! The good news from our seminaries is that enrollment continues to be strong, including an increasing number of younger students. At the same time costs at our seminaries continue to increase, making your support more critical than ever, as you can see from the information below.

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries at a Glance, 2007-08

- Total enrollment (full-time equivalent) – over 650, including 200 UCC
- Numbers of UCC M.Div. students – 130, nearly half of all M.Div students are under 35.
- Average annual tuition - \$11,000
- Average annual cost to seminary per student - \$33,000
- Your Church's Total Support in 2007 (% from OCWM plus your second mile offerings) \$425.30
- Your Church's Total Support in 2006 (% from OCWM plus your second mile offering) \$317.04

Chicago, United and Eden each report a lively mix of ages and backgrounds on their campuses, providing a rich learning environment for all. Each seminary reports an excitement and deep commitment among faculty and students for the work and study they are engaged in.

You are with them, through your support, each and every day! As the work on our seminary campuses continues daily on behalf of all of our churches, please keep their students, faculty and staff in your prayers.

Eternity in Concert

We are excited to invite you to hear Eternity in concert at Immanuel UCC near Lakeland College. Eternity will be performing on Friday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. Eternity offers gospel quartet harmony sounds in a family friendly performance. Eternity has a passion for people, and enjoys building a playful rapport with the audience, while delivering rock-solid harmonies across both country and southern gospel music styles. For more information or directions, you can contact Donna at (920) 451-9632 or Immanuel UCC at (920) 565-3554 or www.immanuelchurch.org or visit Eternity at www.eternitysings.com. A free will offering will be taken for organ repair and maintenance.



Moon Beach Camp

St. John's United Church of Christ (Schwarzwald) Women's Guild invites you to join them for a bus trip to Moon Beach Camp on Wednesday, August 20, 2008.

We will leave St. John's parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and return by 6:00 p.m. Cost - \$40.00 (includes lunch).

St. James' UCC Ladies Aid Annual

Brat Fry

The brat fry will be at St. James' UCC, at Spring Valley, 13312 Pioneer Road, Newton on Wednesday, May 14th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will serve brats, burgers, chicken breasts, and dessert!! Carry outs are available. There will also be raffle prizes.