



The LINK is a monthly publication LINKing together the people of Bethel United Church of Christ

BENEVOLENCE—SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER FROM PASTOR LAURA** 2
- PRAYER CARE** 3
- BIRTHDAYS** 3
- BACKPACK SHEPHERDS** 4
- CHOIR CANTATA** 4
- PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND** 4

Share the Light—  **One Great Hour**
O F S H A R I N G

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.”
This scripture from Matthew 5:14 invites us to ‘Share the Light.’

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

Join us for our Lenten Services and Soup Supper on Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our Lenten Wednesday offerings will go to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SCHEDULE

- 6:30 pm Lenten Soup & Service
- 7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal following the Lenten Service

BETHEL DREAMING YEAR RETREAT—MARCH 9

ALL CHURCH RETREAT from 9 am to Noon. This retreat is for all ages. This is our second “Bethel’s Dreaming Year” retreat. The retreats are designed to deepen our connections with each other. Come join us Saturday morning as we continue our “Dream Year: at Bethel.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—MARCH 10

It’s time to Spring forward one hour at 2 A.M. on Sunday, March 10



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Daylight Savings**
— March 10
- **Lenten Soup & Service—6:30 pm: March 6, 13, 20**
- **Good Friday Service 7:00 pm**
March 29
- **Easter Service with Cantata**
10:00 am

SWEET GARDEN OF PRAYER

My dad would have turned 100 years old last month (February 17). Maybe that is what has me thinking about him so much lately. Maybe it's the FaceBook memories of taking him for strawberry shortcake or tearing off the old deck and building a new one while he watched.

Dad's nickname on his high school football team was "Moose". Pretty much all the attributes you think would apply to someone with that nickname described my dad. While in their 70s, he and my mom hiked the Pacific Northwest with me—we're talking hikes listed as "moderate" in the trail guides, not paved pathways through meadows. The realization that dad was no longer a "moose" was shocking. I was at their house to visit, and mom kept bugging us to go for a canoe paddle around their little lake. Dad insisted he didn't feel like it, but finally gave in to her badgering. When we lifted the canoe onto the water, he said to me, "OK, hold it steady while I get in." In an instant, I knew exactly why dad hadn't wanted to go. He had been the hero for his little girl—the one to hold the canoe steady while she climbed in, the one who opened jars for her and climbed ladders, hefted the heavy stuff. He didn't want my image of him to be diminished. I assured him that it didn't matter to me who steadied the canoe for whom, he was still my hero—and always would be.

Many of you have reached, are reaching, or will soon reach that stage in life where you are no longer "the moose". It's really tough to have to admit that it's time for someone else to steady the canoe while you get in, but that doesn't make you any less of a hero.

There's an old saying: "What goes around, comes around". That can be a warning against doing something dishonorable toward someone else, or it can be a reminder that the good you do in this world will, eventually, come back to you.

I have memories of the way other people treated my parents, particularly my dad, after they crossed over the line of being the givers to being the recipients. Once, I took my folks and Bob's mom to a seaside restaurant for lunch. Dad was proudly wearing his WWII Veteran cap as always. When we finished, and I asked for the check, our waitress said our entire bill (plus tip) had been paid by someone sitting at another table who had already left. She said, "They said to tell your father thanks for his service."

After mom had died, Bob and I drove dad to an Amish restaurant about an hour from our house for lunch. This place served chicken livers once a week. Dad loved chicken livers. It wasn't the restaurant's day for chicken livers. I asked the waitress if there was any chance they could make some for my dad. She took a look at him sitting on his walker, and said she'd ask. He had enough chicken livers for lunch that day—and for two days more after that!

Continued page 4

PRAYER CARE

Please pray for . . .

Gerry Hendrix; Randy Pace; Rachel Wolfe; Joe Luttrell; Adam Niederhauser; Rachel Terrill; Jamie Elder; Larry Jurgensen; Nelda Ravenscraft; Lauri Arbutnot; Gerry McGuire; Marilyn Helmich; Elaine McDuff; Linda Jackson; Bobbi Wendle; Alice & Jim Inman; Vern Bohlmeier, Shianne Reith.

Vicki Thompson's father, Bill; Ted & Maggie Basch's daughter, Cindy; Kathy Harms sister-in-law, Terri; Art & Darlene Todtenhausen's friend Nicole's husband and their

friend Jen; Susan Schindler's sister, Joy; Ron Wendle's brother, David; Shirlee Mendon's sister, Connie & brother-in-law, Larry ; AnnaLee Kapp's sister, Sara & niece, Caitlin & Brianna; Randy & Marquita Pace's friend, Doug; Pat Armstrong & Don Sand's friend, Gary; Jamie Elder's grandson, Caleb and friend, Don; Fulvio & Kathy Hayes' friend, Virginia; Gerry Hendrix's sister Donna; Mary Fleener's friends, JT & Nancy; Marty Pace's sister & brother-in-law, Michelle & Dan; Rachel

Wolfe's aunt & uncle, Beverly & Reggie; Lauri Buck's friend, Kristi; AnnaLee Kapp's relatives, the Hershman family & her friend Julie; Bob Atkinson's brother, David; Marilyn Helmich's daughter, Carolyn; Randy Pace's friend, Marvin

We will continue to keep these members and friends in our prayers. Keep us informed of any additions or corrections is important.



BETHEL FINANCIAL NEEDS—WHERE WE ARE

To meet 2024 monthly budgeted expenses, we need \$14,408 in contributions. Current fund contributions for February were \$15,549

LECTORS & GREETERS NEEDED

Please remember to volunteer to be a Greeter or Lector. Sign up in the Narthex to choose a date. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome to participate!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



3/4 Toni Faust
3/5 Stan Niederhauser
3/6 Adam Niederhauser, Shellie Willis
3/7 Marquita Pace

3/8 Shirlee Mendon
3/12 Sidney Hendrix
3/14 Sophie Lane
3/15 Maggie Basch
3/18 Drew Buck

3/22 Kathy Hayes
3/25 Joe Thompson
3/26 Levi Pierson
3/30 Nelda Ravenscraft

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

There are times when a member of our Bethel community may need some financial assistance. Last year, the council established a Pastor's discretionary fund. This fund is a designated and made available to the pastor to distribute to a member for emergency financial aid.

During our Wednesday Lenten services, we will be collecting an offering that will go towards funding the Pastors discretionary fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund outside of your regular amounts on Sundays, please memo "pastors discretionary fund" on your check or on the offering envelope.

The theme for this year is for us to care for one another. This is another way for us to do this.

Sonja Payne, Council President

Sweet Gare of Prayer Continued . . .

My parents' joyous memories often included stories of the kindness of strangers—like the man in Paris who rode the train with them all the way to their stop and then got back on going in the other direction to return home and strangers who helped them find their gate at the airport. The good they put out into the world came back to them. While adjusting from being the kind stranger to being the one depending on the kindness of strangers wasn't always easy, my dad navigated the role change with dignity and grace. He accepted that he couldn't do the things he used to, but found ways to continue to serve. He still helped with his church's monthly chili supper at the homeless shelter, but went from cooking chili for 300 people to doing the shopping for the new cooks. Although he was no longer the lead steward he had been in the Merchant Marines, he remained in the galley.

If you have reached a point where your role is changing, know that you are still very much needed and wanted in the boat—even if someone else must steer. Like my dad did, have gratitude that someone else is keeping the boat afloat, nurture your satisfaction that you steadied the boat while it was your turn to do so, and joyfully still climb aboard. Show those stepping into the roles you filled how to read the nautical maps and teach them how to steady the helm. The ship has not set sail without you. You are still an integral part of the crew. We at Bethel UCC are charting new courses, and setting sail, but not a single one of us is ready for dry dock!

God's PB&J,
Pastor Laura

BETHEL CHOIR PREPARING

The Bethel Choir has begun rehearsal for the cantata "Come to the Cross" (an Easter Cantata) by Cindy Berry, arranged by Keith Christopher. The cantata will be on Easter Sunday. Celebrate the joy of the Resurrection with *Come to the Cross*. The cantata is a selection of beautiful songs and traditional Easter hymns woven together with dramatic narrative for the events of Holy Week. If you would like to join the choir see Jeremy Faust.

BACKPACK SHEPHERDS MARCH NEEDS

- canned chili or stew
- microwave popcorn
- tortillas or taco shells
- ramen noodles
- snack chips, crackers or individual snack cakes
- canned tomatoes
- fruit drinks in small cartons
- pudding 4-packs
- granola bars & nut bars
- Instant oatmeal or Pop-Tarts

Pat Armstrong, Bethel Rep.



PASTOR LAURA'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Laura's drop-in office hours: 9:00-12:00 Mon-Thurs, Sabbath – Friday.



MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES - If you would like to donate a lily(s) for Easter Sunday worship, please fill out this form and return it to the church office with a check for \$10 per lily. Please return by March 24.

Name of Donor(s) _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

Number of Lilies _____

Amount Paid _____