<table>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td><img src="Happy_Easter.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>7:30p Maundy Thursday service at Bethel</td>
<td>7:30a Early Easter worship 9:30a Easter worship</td>
<td>12:00p Virtual Good Friday service</td>
<td>Holy Saturday 11:00a Easter Egg Hunt at Bethel</td>
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| 9:30a In-person Worship  
Sunday School following Time with Children | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | No office hours for Renee | No office hours for Renee | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 6:00p Youth Ministry meeting |
| 11     | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 9:30a In-person Worship  
Sunday School following Time with Children | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | Newsletter articles are due 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 1:00-3:00p Covenant Association Spring meeting via Zoom |
| 18     | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 9:30a In-person Worship  
Sunday School following Time with Children | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 6:45p Memorial Committee meeting | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours |        |
| 25     | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     |          |
| 9:30a In-person Worship  
Sunday School following Time with Children | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 6:45p Memorial Committee meeting | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours | 9:00a-1:00p Renee’s office hours |          |          |
Dear Friends,

April showers make May flowers, or so the saying goes. But figuratively speaking, the rain clouds aren’t as dense as they were a year ago as we leaned into the headwinds of an emerging global pandemic. Now, with twelve, full months under our belts, we can breathe a little easier (albeit still through the fabric of our face masks). The reopening of our economy is picking up steam as is the reopening of our church. We’re achieving a goal we only dreamed of a year ago, so-called herd immunity. At least here at Bethel, a vast majority of our seniors are fully vaccinated, and soon, younger members will be immunized as well. It bodes well for our return to in-person worship services, reengaging in mission work, and participating in fellowship events.

We need each other. The virtual experience of YouTube worship and Zoom committee meetings has been a technological blessing over the past year. But there is no substitute for face-to-face conversation, hugs and handshakes, and shoulder-to-shoulder fellowship in praise and service to our God. We are called into Christian community by the One whose name we bear. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,” Jesus tells us in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew’s gospel. We are a collective of believers, of Christ-followers – called and gathered. That’s how Christ intended it to be when he ordained his church, this mortal extension of God’s kingdom on earth.

So how do we live into our calling in a post-pandemic world? How do we not only regain but surpass our pre-pandemic position as a light in the darkness, a bastion of hope, and an agency of change? One thing you can count on, it won’t be easy. It will take time, hard-work, and commitment from each and every one of us who’re proud to call ourselves “Bethelites”.

In my sermon of March 7th, I asked the following question. So now that the pandemic is waning and we’re returning to some sense of normalcy, what are we to do? Now that we’re back together again and able to mutually offer God our praise and prayers, what are we to do? What are we to do with our redirected focus, our newfound sense of purpose? One thing for sure, we cannot, indeed we must not go back to the way it’s always been – as tempting and compelling as that may be. We have to reimagine ourselves in a whole new way. Not just as congregants - worshipers merely in attendance. We must see ourselves as the living, breathing, body of Christ. In other words, we have to be disruptors. We have to bring the kingdom of God to bear upon our community, our nation, and indeed the entire world. It’s no longer about conformity, about following the rules. It’s about divine disruption. It’s about turning over the tables of ritual and tradition in order that Christ and Christ alone can take center stage. It’s about small-group ministry. It’s about broad-based mission. It’s about shifting the focus away from ourselves and onto the greater glory of God. It’s less about accumulation and more about radical spending. It’s less about self-preservation and more about emptying ourselves for the sake of the gospel. It’s about letting the Holy Spirit take the reins and following her directive to places we’ve never been before.

So, Bethel Church, what do you say? Are you ready to reassume your vital role in our community and in our world? Are you ready to stand up for Jesus? Are you ready to become the people and the church that God calls us to be, that God created us to be? If I close my eyes and listen with my heart, I can hear your voices replying in the affirmative; I can see your hands raised in solidarity. May it be so!

Faithfully,

David

Pastor Bucholtz
NEW BABY

Charlotte Lynn Roberts was born March 9, 2021 to Jeffrey and Lindsey Roberts. Charlotte weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 inches long. Grandparents are Joe and Julie Roberts; great-grandparents are Joe and Mary Sue Moore.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In-person worship sign up links continue to go out each week. Limited spots are available for social distancing. Please click on the green “sign up” button. When a new window opens please enter your email and click “continue”. You will be asked to double check your email address and then click “confirm”. The next window will have your contact information and one spot selected. You may “save and add another person” or “save and done”. If you know someone that does not have access to email, you may reserve a seat for them with their permission. If for some reason you are unable to attend after signing up, please go back in and remove your name by clicking on “my spots” and “remove”. The next window will ask if you’re sure you want to be removed. Click yes. Please feel free to contact the church office if you need help and Renee will sign you up or edit your reservation for you. We look forward to worshiping with you!

MAUNDY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY

Please come to the Maundy Thursday service in our Bethel sanctuary on Thursday, April 1st at 7:30 p.m. Please click on the following link to reserve your seat. https://signup.com/go/sAiWPxo

An ecumenical Good Friday service will stream live from the Manchester United Methodist Church and will be available on Bethel’s YouTube channel.

WOMEN OF BETHEL

A great Easter memory for young and old is releasing our balloons with the message “He is risen” and singing Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high! Lives again our glorious King! Alleluia!
Happy Easter!

RE-MEMBER 2021

Due to the COVID-19 situation Re-Member has cancelled their volunteer trips scheduled for March, April and May 2021. Michelle Roberts is on staff at Re-Member and is keeping busy still with the Winter Heating program, by cutting and delivering firewood. Thank you to Bethel for the support they provided for this program. Re-Member is now looking forward to the spring planting season. They are following the progress of vaccines and the status of the reservation closely and they will keep us informed as to when the reservation will open up to visitors. Several of Bethel’s church members are eager to go to Pine Ridge this year. We hope it will be possible by August. If you are interested in going with us and experiencing a life changing experience, please let Cathy Moore or Pastor Dave know.

EASTER WORSHIP

Sign up for the 7:30 a.m. Easter service by clicking on the following link: https://signup.com/go/tNzNJoL
The 9:30 a.m. outdoor service will not have a sign up sheet.
FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all that made the food drive a success. We had 54 families donate 1,969 pounds of food for Food Gathers. Special thanks to Diuble Equipment for the use of their building, those that gave and the 14 volunteers (from the youth to seniors). Bethel should be proud!
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Meetings are still on hold for now until they can be held in safety in the church. Watch for an announcement.

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF WEEKDAY TRIPS

World Medical Relief has opened up again to volunteers to help sort and pack medical supplies. We are looking at volunteering on Wednesday, April 14th and Thursday, April 15th. We typically go for the morning volunteer hours which are 9:00 am – 11:45 am. This would mean leaving Saline at 8:00 and arriving back about 1:30 (since we take advantage of going to lunch at the deli around the corner from WMR). Let Cathy Moore or Pastor Dave know if you can go either one of those dates. We will make arrangements to carpool/caravan.

WEBSITE

Reminder: PayPal is available on our website for your convenience. On the home page scroll down until you see the donate button that looks like this.

THANK YOU

Thanks for all the prayers, cards and calls in the past weeks from the Bethel Family. It was surely evident that we have a very caring Church Family. Thanks to all – Duane

__________________________________________________________________________

Former Bethel Church minister, Rev. Richard Hardy says “Thank you to the church friends for the birthday card. Very thoughtful to hear voices out of the past.”

__________________________________________________________________________

I would like to thank Eric Coval, Eric Lobbestael, & Gus Rickelmann for the help in changing over the sanctuary flood lights to LED. It was great having brave souls that can overcome ladder heights. It has been on the To-Do list since before Covid hit so we are glad to have finished it up.

Thanks again to these three, Scott Diuble

ELVIRA M. VOGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

May 15, 2021 is the deadline for applying for Higher Education Scholarships and Vocational Education Scholarships. Regarding Vocational Education, in the news one hears that there is a real shortage of persons with skills in the trades. Something for our youth and members to consider as they make education choices. Please contact Mary Sue Moore (734-428-8687 or msjoe56@aol.com) for an application. Other educational grants and scholarships will be considered if funds are available. Awarding all scholarships and grants will be based on certain criteria, but especially on participation in the life of the church as persons are able during the changes the COVID Pandemic have forced everyone to make.

The Elvira Vogel Scholarship Fund is supported by our Sauerkraut Supper. Date of the 2021 supper is unknown, at this time.

USHERS and GREETERS UPDATING

Definite requests for ushers and/or greeters for in person services in April are unknown at this point in time. Watch for announcements from the Church Board and the Re-Opening Task Force.
CHURCH GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

When weather permits, work to remove the growth that is too big for its area will be removed. This includes the Weeping Cherry on the east end and the Arborvitae on the west end of the Fellowship Hall.

RECYCLING AT BETHEL CHURCH

Our waste disposal company will recycle many items if they are left by the trash bins in back of the church. The list of items is posted in the kitchen above the three-compartment sink under which there are cartons for them. Also, Renee has a copy of the list in her office. Please check the list to be sure the item is acceptable before placing it in the recycling cartons.

There is a tub, marked for recycling, for paper and cardboard in the Church Office under the counter next to the copier. All recycled items are frequently placed in bags provided for recycling and taken outside to the trash bins.

Our Sunday worship bulletins are recycled. If you don’t wish to take yours home, please leave it on the back pew in the sanctuary or annex. THANKS!

🎵🎵TAKE NOTE🎵🎵

A few people have volunteered to present musical offerings in small ensembles. As time permits, and the music is found that fits their voices, we will hear from them in our virtual services.

In March, the sanctuary was opened for In-person worship. The usual COVID-19 protocols were observed, but by using the plexiglass screens that had been donated by Judy and Duane Fiegel, we were able to have Special Music. Thanks to the following:

- Pastor Dave and Earl Roehm for their duet of “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought,” on the 7th
- Alison Robison for her solo “Lord Most Holy” by Mozart/Arr. by Liebergen, on the 14th
- Susan Mann & Cathy Moore for the Hymn of Reflection “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” on the 21st

For Easter, we will be working around the plans for an early In-person worship. Then, weather permitting, an outdoor service. Special Music for those services is still tentative.

As usual, thanks to Pastor Dave, Jennifer Bucholtz and Aaron Helber for using recorded selections from as far back as 2012 for other Special Music sites in our virtual worship services and creating the graphics to go along.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you signed up to be part of the Prayer Chain this year, you have been placed on the e-mail list or telephone list, depending on what you requested. If you are not yet on either of these lists, your name can be added at any time. Call or email Renee (office@bethelonthehill.org or 734-429-8530), Pastor Dave (bucholtz@umich.edu or 734-323-4129) or Mary Sue (msjoe56@aol.com or 734-428-8687).

If you wish to have a name go out as a “Prayer Chain Request” you must stipulate that in your request for prayers. Just asking for “prayers” for someone will not result in having their name go out as a “Prayer Chain Request.” That cannot be assumed. At times, people do not want their name on a “Prayer Chain Request.”

However, if you ask for prayers, but do not request a Prayer Chain Request, the name will be put on the Prayer Requests List in the bulletin.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

A Memorial Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28th.
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee is proud to announce that Gautham Muthusany, the Managing Partner at our financial advisors, Baughman Capital Management, has been named to the 2021 edition of the Forbes list of Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. This list recognizes the top financial advisors across the United States. This is the second Forbes award for Gautham. Last year he was named on the 2020 Forbes Next-Gen-Advisor list.

As of the end of February, financial resources at Raymond James & Associates under Baughman Capital Management's advisory control, including assets in the Endowment, Memorial, Discretionary, and Cemetery Funds, totaled over $1 million. Bethel Church is fortunate to have Gautham, together with Tom Baughman, the founder of Baughman Capital Management, and Raymond James Associates, a nationally recognized member of the New York Stock Exchange, overseeing our financial resources. Rest assured our financial resources are in Good Hands with Baughman Capital Management.

ALPHA HOUSE

The 2021 upcoming dates to serve dinner Alpha House are July 31st, August 28th and December 18th. Due to Covid restrictions, we are making the meal and delivering to Alpha House on a cart near the entrance door at 5:30pm. At this time we are not going in to serve the dinner, so please use disposable pans. Hopefully, we will start serving dinner and resume activity time with the kids later in the year.

For each dinner they are requesting a protein, carb, vegetable and a dessert. If you would like to help, please contact Tammy Wakevainen to sign up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bethel’s Sunday School classes are scheduled to resume on Sunday, April 11th and continue through June 13th. The plan is for the children to attend worship in the sanctuary until the conclusion of Time with Children. They will be dismissed at the end of worship at approximately 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for Pastor Bucholtz:
Tuesday 10:00a-1:00p
Friday 10:00a-1:00p
Other times by appointment: (734) 323-4129

Office hours for Renee:
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00a-1:00p
Exception: April 8 and April 9

Please call ahead (734-429-8530) before coming to the church to make sure Renee is in the office. Office hours are subject to change. If you need pastoral assistance during non-office hours, please call or e-mail Pastor Bucholtz. (734) 323-4129 or bucholtz@umich.edu

COVENANT ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING

All are invited to a Zoom meeting of the Covenant Association of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ on April 24, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for congregational members at large to experience an association meeting without ever having to leave home.

Please register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sduqupzMoH9HegkBCH3uES8YfW2B8qJQM

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
LAY READERS SIGN UP

Please sign up to read scripture during worship. Select the date you want to read! Lay Reader sign up

HOT CROSS BUNS!

We had a great time making 18 dozen hot cross buns with our 7th-12th grade youth March 20th! We learned some crazy hot cross bun trivia like: If you hang a hot cross bun in your kitchen, they'll protect against fire and make all your breads rise perfectly as long as you replace the bun each year! Hot cross buns were sold by donation on March 21st after church with 100% of proceeds to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, a charity selected by our youth.

Our next gathering will be April 17, 2021 6pm at Bethel with plans to paint pottery together. Details to be sent out to our youth and families via email.

If you are in 7th-12th grade or know someone who is and they are not receiving our emails, please email Amanda Eisenmann at alaberdee@gmail.com. You can also receive updates to your phone via the Remind app by going to http://www.remind.com/join/ymbethel or search for our class "Bethel Youth Ministry" on the app with class code @ymbethel.
MATERIAL AIDS 2021

When out shopping keep an eye out for sales of items for our School and Health Kits. You can drop items off at the church during Sunday service or during the week when Renee has office hours. No need to purchase an entire Kit. We put together Kits with the things we receive and purchase any missing pieces.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12”)
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- The cotton bag is provided through the generous donation of time and material by Jean Martin

To assemble a Health/Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16” x 28”. Manufacturers are making towels oversized, so watch out for ones that are too large. (no fingertip, bath, kitchen or micro-fiber towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®

Place all Health Kit items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Health/Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to these kit shipments just prior to shipment.

The value of a School Kit is $15 and a Health Kit is also $15. If you don’t have time to assemble a Kit consider donating the money towards purchasing one. Again, it is not necessary to assemble a Kit, any items are welcome. Contact Cathy Moore to donate or if you have questions. (734) 649-7431, catherinemoore@att.net

Please remember to continue to save:

- No longer used eyeglasses/lenses
- No longer used hearing aids and new hearing aid batteries
- Pop can tabs, aluminum only please
- Box Tops for Education
- Paper & plastic grocery bags, which will be used by Manchester Family Service. Yes, we can take the plastic grocery bags again. Thanks for holding off on them for a bit. Meijer stores have bins by their front doors where they recycle plastic bags, in case you have too many.
- We always have a need for the paper bags which seem to be in short supply.

- Currently we are not collecting cancelled postage stamps or greeting card fronts. The programs that have made use of those items in the past are not collecting them at this point.
ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you to those who provided the beautiful altar flowers the month of March.

March 7 Given by the Meranuck family in celebration of Phyllis’s birthday
March 14 Given by the Meranuck family in memory of Jim
March 21 Given by Susan Mann and Bonnie Mitchell in praise for spring and March 27 birthdays
March 28 Kring in honor of all those people who have led each of us to the welcoming arms of Bethel UCC.

If you would like to provide altar flowers in 2021, please click on the link to see dates available to sign up. Thank you!  [Altar Flower sign up]

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Jacqueline Lanz
jslanz68@gmail.com

Valorie and Robert Van Patten
3907 S Cook Valley Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-8356

WEDDING

Eric and Leigha Davis were married on March 27, 2021. This date was so meaningful because it was Eric’s great-grandparents (Willard and Ruth Kuebler) anniversary. Congratulations!

BETHEL CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021 Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by President S. Diuble


Others present: S. Luckhardt, A. Helber, V. St.Charles, A. Robison

Absent: S. Neigebauer

Devotion: Led by Pastor Bucholtz

Agenda- Reviewed. Motion to approve – J. Meyer; second – J. Martin
Approved – all. Motion carried.

Reports
Secretary’s Minutes – J. Laberdee
Motion to accept – D. Davis; second – J. Martin
Approved – all. Motion carried.

**Pastor’s Report** – Reviewed. See Attached
Mission – food drive will take place on February 27, 1pm – 3pm

Financial Secretary Report – S. Diuble
S. Diuble explained to nominees some of these duties

Treasurer’s Report – J. Meyer
Motion to approve – J. Laberdee; second – J. Martin
Approved all – Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**
- **Archives** – S. Diuble
  Nothing to report

- **Stewardship/Evangelism** – J. Meyer
  Meeting postponed until February 16, 2021.
  Time & talent spreadsheet was sent to Mary Sue

- **Endowment** – J. Meyer/S. Diuble
  No recent meeting; will be meeting to clear up by-law verbiage

- **Communion** – S. Diuble
  More elements (pre-packaged) have been purchased

- **Board of Christian Education** – S. Diuble
  New members will be Stacey Sheets and Linda Perkins
  Ask them to re-define their direction and focus

- **Memorial Committee** – D. Davis
  Scheduled to meet January 27, 2021. Some things on hold.
  New communion cloths were ordered and delivered

- **Sextons** – S. Diuble
  Nothing to report; generally those who take part are S. Diuble, D. Kuebler, R. Layher
  This is basically assisting during funerals

- **Cemetery Committee** – J. Laberdee
  No recent meeting. Hopefully meet again soon.

- **Ice Cream Social Committee** – J. Laberdee
  Nothing to report.

- **Mission** – Nothing to report

- **Cabinet** – J. Martin
  Set to meet soon; tentatively set for March 2, 2021 @ 6:45pm.

- **Youth Task Force/Youth Ministry** – J. Martin
  Not much to report yet – trying to get meeting time set.
Sauerkraut Supper/Vogel Scholarship – S. Diuble
Nothing to report; board member should stay involved

Maintenance (S. Diuble) – (monitored by Board Members but can be done by others)
- Water testing – Jeff Mann handles water samples quarterly; yearly check has been issued
- Altar Spot lights – need to be replaced
- Pew cup holders – pending staining
- One furnace was not working; was addressed by Roehm-Wahl
- Boiler inspection was completed in November 2019; S. Diuble will call in schedule again

Old Business
Board members on committees – do not need to be on all committees such as Vitality Committee, Communion Committee, or Youth/Christian Education Director hiring committee, But maintain enough involvement to keep things moving forward.

New Business
Annual Meeting – Annual meeting seemed to have gone well.
- Sent email reminder to those in attendance to send in.

Re-opening Task Force Meeting:
A. Laberdee - Hospitalizations are stable – not much change from last month
  Vaccinations are slow, but moving along
D. Davis – according to M-Live, all counties together are below 3% rate and cases trending down
A. Laberdee – new variant is in Ann Arbor area/U of M campus - likely to infect faster
S. Diuble – feels we should move forward to in-person/social distancing services beginning
  in March; his own opinion, not representing Board
C. Meyer – concerned that those who want the vaccine are unable to receive it
D. Davis – everyone should be aware of their own risk and take their own risks

J. Martin- some people do not feel they have choice about when they attend church (ie: Board
  Members)         Need to have really good plan before we open doors
A.Diuble – Infectious disease expert stated Michigan is doing better at lowering covid infections;
  Things seem to be turning for the better
Lots of discussion on how to safely re-open.
Decision made to re-open church on March 7, 2021. Decision on Sunday School will follow after Cat
Meyer contacts teachers. There will be a sign-up requirement, mask requirement, and social distancing.
Task-force portion was 8:00pm to 9:45pm. Task Force Members were thanked for their participation
and contribution.

Gravel Pit expansion – S. Diuble and J. Laberdee will be meeting with Stoneco representative and Freedom
Township Planning Commission members to discuss potential options.

Next Meeting date: Tentatively set for March 10, 2021.

Church Board to meet Sunday, February 28, 2021 at church at 1pm to clean up/prep church for
Re-opening.

Motion to Adjourn – J. Meyer; second – D. Davis
Approved all – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm. Closed with Lord’s Prayer. Next meeting March 10, 2021 at 6:30pm
TREASURER’S REPORT

Month Ending 2/28/2021

Receipts:

- Offering $12,021.09
- Initial Offering $5.00
- Benevolences (OCWM) $330.00
- Local Benevolences $152.00
- Re-member $25.00
- Pine Ridge $20.00

**Total Receipts** $12,553.09

Disbursements:

- Personnel (salaries & related expenses) $8,982.53
- Building costs (custodian, utilities & propane) $4,960.08
- Operations (phone, office, & worship supplies) $322.85

**Total Disbursements** $14,265.46

Beginning Cash Balance February 1, 2020 $23,478.95

**Ending Cash Balance February 28, 2020** $18,852.58

Ending Balance plus/minus:

- Mary Sue Moore’s Sacred Music Fund $ (1,000.00)
- OCWM Benevolence $ (440.00)
- Local Benevolence $ (229.00)
- Re-member $ (25.00)
- Pine Ridge $ (20.00)
- Bethel BCE $ (1,200.00)

**Accrued Cash Balance 1/31/2020** $ (2,914.00)

Newsletter articles are due on the 15th of each month.

Bulletin information is due on Wednesday of each week.
PASTOR’S FEBRUARY REPORT TO THE CHURCH BOARD

Summary/Reflection
This coming Sunday we recognize the Transfiguration – the day that Jesus’ climbed up a mountainside and was changed (ever so briefly) into something glorious, otherworldly, and wholly transcendent. Transfiguration doesn’t get the same attention as Christmas and Easter (even though it should) since it bridges the gap between Jesus’ birth and resurrection. Transfiguration provides a momentary glimpse of what will one day be a permanent reality not only for Jesus, but for you and me as well. Life. Life in the Spirit – in all its splendor, in all its glory. As followers of Christ and as trustees of his body, the church, it’s incumbent upon us to think of ourselves in that way, with the same kind of effervescence as the disciples enjoyed (or endured) that Transfiguration day. So equipped, we can be confident that even a liability like COVID-19 cannot define us, any more than comparable liabilities could define Jesus.

Worship
Weekly study and sermon preparation; virtual staff meetings
Weekly filming and production of our online worship services
Holy Communion (February 7)
Forthcoming: Ash Wednesday and Lent

Committee Work  Church Board (January 13)
Youth Task Force (January 19)
Worship Music Committee (January 22)
Zoom Coffee Hour (January 24)
Annual Meeting Preview (January 27)
Annual Meeting (January 31)
Monthly submissions, editing, and publication of our church newsletter, Bethels Kirche (January 29)

Pastoral Care
2 Home Visits; 8 office visits
Numerous phone calls, texts, and emails to members young and old.

Mission Work
Virtual worship videos as mission/outreach

Christian Education
Sunday School – Weekly virtual Lessons
Forthcoming: Church Vitality and Convergence Networks (formerly the Center for Progressive Renewal)
Forthcoming: Holy Communion Study Group

Denominational Work

Ecumenical Work
Milton Weidmayer Washtenaw Ag Banquet Achievement Award presentation (January 18)

Facilities Management
Garage Doors – still waiting for adjustments

Miscellaneous  Membership transfer

Miles Accumulated in travel: ~205

A.M.D.G.

Pastor Bucholtz
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

8th  John & Nancy Bihlmeyer
8th  Greg & Melanie Weidmayer
15th Earl & Doris Roehm
15th Laura & Mike Finkbeiner
18th Brandon & Melissa Henes
28th Stacy & Eric Sheets

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st    Olivia Diuble
2nd    Cameron Hibbard
4th    Robert DeVol
5th    Michelle Roberts
       Stephen Roehm
6th    Barbara Brauns
       Michael Keller
7th    Heather Hieber
       Kim Herter
       Ryan Mann
       Megan Vogel
       Mackenzie Roberts
8th    Lorelei Baron
9th    Hattie Carson
10th   Ryan Amrhein
       Elizabeth Baron
       Derald Bauer
       Ellie Senkewitz
11th   David Haeussler
12th   Aaron Helber
       Sam Kelly
13th   Lillian St. Charles
15th   Scott Diuble
16th   Jordan Heuser
       Rachel Heuser
18th   Charles Hieber
       Michelle Jedele
       Hailey Roulo
19th   Larry Aiken
       Angie Diuble
       Daniel Reineck
       David Reineck
       Gage Smith
20th   Andrew Helber
       Darell Loy
       David Roehm
21st   Brian Finkbeiner
24th   Stephen Carson
       Elaine Creech
       Lucas Diuble
       Mona Heiler
       Valorie Van Patten
25th   Alison Robison
26th   Mackenzie Henes
       Lucas Woodman
27th   Ja’Kia Aiken
       Kristi Campbell
       Bailey Elliott
       Joyce Guenther
28th   Mildred Guenther
       Kathryn Martin

Please contact the church office if your anniversary or birthday is in April and your name is not on this list.