



February 2023

Tower Notes

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY AND OTISVILLE UMC
Clio, Michigan 48420

From the Pastor's Desk

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
UMH#393 Spirit of the Living God

We have been singing the Hymn, "Spirit of the Living God" for about 3 weeks now, and will continue singing it as we continue on our series about Spiritual Gifts. I find myself thinking about this alongside of the prayer of calling that the Bridge Team developed in January. God's Spirit is alive and moving in many areas of the church. I witnessed it when the Bridge Team shared honestly their feelings about the process as we brought in a facilitator to begin to declare mission, vision and values for the Co-operative Parish. I've witnessed it on the skating rink as we have pivoted to adapt to all the wiggly bodies on the roller arena on Tuesday nights as we learn to be in community together again! I've witnessed it in the joy of others who have shown up to be watchful eyes on Tuesday night as well as with those who have helped out with Christian Education programming in Marc's absence. Keep up the great work, church—God is doing a new thing in each of us!

The Holy Spirit is one of the most illusive personas in the Trinity. It is exciting, terrifying, settling, peaceful, challenging and comforting. It can feel chaotic at the same time it is holy. Transformation does not often happen in a vacuum. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. We sing, we pray, that You continue to challenge us in these times to discern your next steps for our congregation(s) individually and collectively, O God!

As we have been working diligently to implement a new church management software for our finances, members and attendance—to put ALL of our information into one system. In the months ahead you will be asked to validate your information, and help us fill any openings! We need your help in ensuring our records are up to date!

Our next phase of this project will be to intentionally review our membership/attendance records, and for you to help make phone calls or send cards. We need all hands on deck to help make connections for this important work of the church!

The NEXT Bible Study will be: Adam Hamilton's, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life." It will be on Wednesdays, beginning the first full week Lent on March 1st, at 4:30. Please sign up and mark whether you have picked up a book or not so we can make sure we order enough books. Books are currently available (yes, in large print too!).

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.CLIOBETHANY.ORG



Please join the Bridge Team and every member of Otisville and Bethany churches in praying the following prayer, either at 8:30a.m. or 8:30p.m.—or Both!—as we send a communal prayer to our Lord and Savior to be with all of us as we dream a Jesus sized dream for our Co-operative Parish. Please be in prayer for us as we continue on this journey for both churches.

"Guiding Spirit, FILL us with YOUR fire, LEAD us by YOUR light, UNITE us in YOUR calling. Amen"

As we continue to prepare for Marc's return, we ask that you be in prayer about how YOU can help our Christian Education Ministries. We need volunteers to be watchful eyes and listening ears. We need people willing to help out with being a "hall monitor" when classes are going on Sunday mornings. We need people praying and connecting with our young people when they are in the building! If you haven't noticed, we have had a couple of new faces who do not come with parents on Sunday morning—we need your help to connect with them on Sunday mornings, building relationships with them so they feel at home, yes even getting to know their stuffies! Be in prayer, reach out to me or ask Marc how you can be helpful when he returns!

Together we serve—*Pastor Kayla*



Our Lenten Series will begin on Ash Wednesday and it is titled, "Seeking." Like many of the characters that we will encounter in the scriptures during the season of Lent, we too are seeking: clarity, connection, wonder, justice and balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred and how to live as a disciple. We are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. We hope this series helps you to unpack these questions in a way that is honest and faithful. Join us beginning for one of the Ash Wednesday Services on February 22nd. Note Ashes & Intentions will be a different experience than the 7pm Traditional Service, should you want to have ashes imposed all day. Planning for this series begins on February 4th 10-2pm at church! Come join the Worship Design Team!

Communications Update!

Bethany and Otisville have agreed to participate in a One Call Tell All communications system. This is a calling program that will allow us to place calls for reminders, announcements and prayer chain calls so there is one, clear and consistent message. Should you not be able to answer your home (land line OR cell phone) it will leave you a voice message. The message will come from someone from church (initially Pastor Kayla, but she'll be looking for helpers). We would like to ask that one number per household signs up for this—but we need your help to sign-up! There will be a sign-up sheet available, please designate your name and the home number you would like us to include so we can begin implementing in the weeks ahead!



Did you get a star word? More are available outside the office at Bethany!

Start with what you know – how do you define the word? How do you already experience this word – is it negative, is it positive? What emotion does it evoke in you as you have received the word?

What do you need to know? How is the word defined? What does scripture say? What do current and historic leaders have to say about this word? What is inspiring or challenging about this word to you?

How might God be calling you to stretch and grow through the lens of this word in 2023? Personal: family, friends, finances, spiritually, health and mental well-being, maybe God is calling you to something new in this season through the random-ness of the draw.



- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Matt. 21:1-22 | 11. Matt. 26: 1-25 | 21. Mark 3: 1-19 |
| 2. Matt. 21:23-46 | 12. Matt. 26: 26-50 | 22. Mark 3: 20-35 |
| 3. Matt. 22:1-22 | 13. Matt. 26: 51-75 | 23. Mark 4: 1-20 |
| 4. Matt. 22:23-46 | 14. Matt. 27: 1-26 | 24. Mark 4: 21-41 |
| 5. Matt. 23: 1-22 | 15. Matt. 27: 27-50 | 25. Mark 5: 1-20 |
| 6. Matt. 23: 23-29 | 16. Matt. 27: 51-66 | 26. Mark 5: 21-43 |
| 7. Matt. 24: 1-28 | 17. Matt. 28 | 27. Mark 6: 1-29 |
| 8. Matt. 24: 29-51 | 18. Mark 1: 1-22 | 28. Mark 6: 30-56 |
| 9. Matt. 25: 1-30 | 19. Mark 1: 23-45 | |
| 10. Matt. 25: 31-46 | 20. Mark 2 | |

Bethany Happenings

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Bethany UMC Community Dinners are every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. These meals are free to anyone that wishes to come and enjoy some good food and fellowship. You do not need to be affiliated with the church in any way to attend. **HELP NEEDED!** We need people willing to prepare a meal for this ministry. If you are able to help in any capacity, but especially in preparing a meal, please let Les Randall or the church office know.



WORSHIP DESIGN WORKSHOP

A workshop, for anyone interested in helping to design our Sunday Worship Service, has been set for February 4 from 10 AM to 2:00 PM. Join our Worship Design Team as we plan our season of Lent.

NIGHT OUT FOR DINNER The Merry Methodist Group are planning a night out at The Junction of Hope in Chesaning. They will be going on February 18 at 6:00 PM. If you would like to join them, or have questions about this event, please let Gloria Sheaffer know by Feb 12.

ROLLER SKATING is held every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome. \$1.00 donation a person which includes skate rental.

VIBE is meeting on Wednesdays, from 3-4:30 PM. This is for all 5th-12 graders who are looking for a safe place to hang out, play games, do homework, and enjoy the company of each other.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE is back. Join us at 4:30 for an hour of fun learning the Bible and participating in activities set for children and youth.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY will be taking a break until Lent. The bible study will be called "John, The Gospel of Light and Life". If you are interested in attending, please sign up and take a book! All book donations can be labeled "Bible Study" and placed in the offering on Sunday.

FOOD PANTRY Did you know that our food pantry served 55 families last year?! Our pantry needs your support - with things like cereal, canned soups, vegetables, canned



Shut-in Outreach

Madelon Sipler
Brookdale Grand Blanc
5080 E. Baldwin Rd.
Holly, MI 48442
810-687-0248

Ron Lemmon
1126 Pinehurst
Mt. Morris, MI 48458
810-686-5739

Ruth Ackerman
11364 Runnels Dr.
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-9406

Norma Gillette
3056 Wilman Dr.
Clio, MI 48420

Wilma Thoms
513 Elm St.
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-6285

Jack and Mary Edwards
4480 W. Lake Rd.
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-0364

Dorothy Isbell
12063 Sara
Montrose, MI 48457
810-639-1055

Juanita Woolworth
3221 E. Baldwin
Rm. 221
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-730-7670

John & Pat Corder
4029 W. Dodge Rd.
Clio, MI 48420
810-730-7670

Darlene Morgridge
P.O. Box 446
Clio, MI 48420
Margaret Gray

4165 Willard Rd.
Birch Run, MI 48415
810-686-9143

Pat and Chris Longueil
9170 Maplewood Dr.
Clio, MI 48420

Bob and Carol Wilson
11365 Runnels Dr.
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-8737

Don Cain
461 Selkirk Dr.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458
810-265-6162

Please remember these wonderful members of Bethany's congregation. Give them a call or send them a card letting them know that we are thinking of them and sending them our love! Cards are available in the Gathering Room or ask Kory, if there aren't any on the table next to the coat room!

If you know of someone who is not a church member, but would just like to receive a card or a message, please get them to Diane Weaver and she will add them to the list. Everyone is welcome and needs a kind word.



Send
a
Card

PRAYER list...

Remember in Your Prayers

- ⇒ Katy Smith
- ⇒ Family of Bruce Chargo
- ⇒ Jane Revere
- ⇒ Beverly Williams
- ⇒ Lloyd Massey
- ⇒ Otis Stout
- ⇒ Family of Emma Wagner
- ⇒ Our Military
- ⇒ The people of the Ukraine
- ⇒ The people of Russia
- ⇒ The people of all third world Countries

And PRAISE God for all He does for all of us every day! Amen



Ruminations from the Roller Rink

By Elizabeth Whiting

Our roller-skating season is 6 months long, from October to March. I write this in mid January near the halfway point in our skating season and we've definitely had some highs and lows in the first half of the season. I want the whole congregation to know the value that this skating ministry - and it really is a ministry - brings to our church and our community!

Joys that we are celebrating:

- The commitment of our volunteers – Incredible thanks to Debbie & Bryan Boyse, Sue Boyse, Gail Bower and Pastor Kayla for being alongside me. I have become somewhat of the mouthpiece of roller skating around here and am trying to do a decent job of it! We've also been joined by Dave Bower & Keith Smith. Also, thanks to many of our members who come to skate, bring kids to skate, help and interact with our skaters & families. Nancy Frazier, Kory Sanger, the whole Doolittle family, and others I may be forgetting. Also, we love it when some of the men come down, after Men's Night Out, to interact with our skating families. We've seen Richard Gray, Harlow Crawford, Jerry Mowl, and Doyle Doan and probably others I'm forgetting. It's wonderful for our skating families to have opportunities to meet so many people from our congregation.
- Sue Hilgris, Sue Boyse & Marc Middleton & COE made for a very special Christmas for our skaters with the opportunity for our skaters to make their own ornaments to take home.
- We've had GREAT attendance every week. One night we had a really full house with 45 skaters. Most weeks we have between 20 – 30 skaters. We have never had fewer than 12 skaters this season.
- Our Holly Jolly Skate Night on 12/21 was so much fun! Gail prepared treat bags, I made a take home Holly Jolly Skate coloring book, Bryan was spinning Christmas music classics as the crew skated around and Dave Bower joined us to take pictures and memorialize this fun event. One of our regular attendees, Debbie Cousineau and her 3 grand kids, Sydney, Soffia and Cal decorated sugar cookies to send home with all of the skaters. The skaters all wore their Christmas gear and we just had a really fun night with a lot of joy.
- We've moved past learning the names of our skaters and have begun to really develop relationships with our skating families. Our skaters are becoming more familiar with the church and especially the people who make up the church. Seeing children become curious about God and what happens in the church besides skating is such a thing to behold. A skater asked before Christmas this year how old Jesus would be. What a unique way to be able to have a conversation about Him.

We share and celebrate those joys, but we also ask for your prayer support and if you are up to it your physical presence

as we work through some challenges in our skating ministry. We have families attending roller skating from all walks of life, from unchurched folks to church members of our own or other churches. We have all ages and skating ability levels as well. We encourage more people from the congregation to come in and build relationships with our skating families and to help keep an eye on the skating floor. We continue the long tradition of being a dynamic ministry for Bethany bringing 10 – 15 different families into our church on Tuesday nights.

Anytime you get a group of people together, there will be joy and there will also be conflicts. The lack of face to face contact during the pandemic has left much of our society with social skills for groups that are a little rusty from lack of use. We've experienced miscommunications, yelling, shouting, swearing, accusations, hurt feelings, tears, a few bruises, and the occasional violation of our safety rules. I believe our volunteer team has met the challenges with grace and compassion. I'm pleased with the work we've done, though I realize the work is never done. Truthfully, in some of the relationships we are building, the hard work is just beginning. We have an opportunity to BE the church and show the world different ways, Godly ways, to resolve our human conflicts and build a healthier community. The reward for this kingdom work is seeing the smiles of the skaters as I call them by name upon arriving each week. Our relationships are deepening each week and we continue every week to invite our attendees into other discipleship making activities like Sunday School, VIBE and Wednesday Night Live.

Check the walls of the Fellowship Halls for names and stats of some of our skaters. Consider writing down a name and praying for that skater each day. Also, keep your eyes peeled for an opportunity for you to make a valentine for our skaters in February! If you aren't able to join us in person, will you support us in the 2nd half of the skating season with your prayers? I'd love it if you would pray this on Tuesday evenings at about 6:30pm as our skaters begin to arrive, but any time will work! God answers our prayers!



Infinitely patient God,
You called the little children to You and we welcome them
into Your church.

Strengthen the spirits of all of our skating volunteers and
make them calm and steady in the face of all conflict. Help
them be the light of Christ to all who enter this rink.

Grab hold of the hands of the skaters and their families who
attend. Skate alongside those who do not yet know You.
Open their spirits to look around Your church and become
curious to know more about You.

Let all who enter this roller rink praise Your name and feel
Your presence.
Amen.



Reflections on Bridge Team Progress

Bridge Team progress...in a word, slow. Slow, like when one plants a nasturtium seed and waits with hope that the sun warms the earth and the rain comes at the right time. Nasturtium seeds have hard coverings that require soaking, over-winter stratification or sanding to help them germinate. That's been the Bridge Team's progress - softening the hard shell. Bethany UMC, with Otisville UMC have been sanding the hard shell of what it means to be a cooperative parish. We're making slow, thoughtful progress. We appreciate your questions and prayer.

Over-wintering - February of 2022, the seeds for a cooperative parish were planted. Bethany UMC gathered in the fellowship hall and after hours of sharing, discussion, pizza, and charting; we chose to nurture the idea of a cooperative parish.

Spring - The first signs of growth began to emerge. Pastor Kayla was introduced to the Administrative Boards of both churches. The Bridge Team was formed by May 2022

Summer - Growth began with decisions for worship service times and how to share expenses for the churches' responsibilities to the pastor along with other shared administrative expertise. I recognize Deb Boyse's and Kory Sanger's contributions here!

Summer was a time of church family gatherings. The Bridge Team encouraged joint fellowship in events held at each church and we facilitated cooperative events of outreach in the Clio community. Summer was also a time of weeding, pruning, and reassessment. What is it we are trying to become as a cooperative parish?

Autumn: the Bridge Team Harvests - Meetings in July and August were opportunities to get to know more about each team member, about each congregation (Attend the 9:30 Otisville service if you get the chance!) and begin to have tough conversations about what it means to become a cooperative parish. I purposely write *become*, not be. This is still a conversation. During autumn we gathered tools to use. We attended a lecture on the Simplified Accountability Structure in September. In October and November the team received, read, and reflected on the book, *An Effective Approach to Cooperative Parishes*. (Copies are still available). During our December meeting we listened to a presentation on using community data to determine who we might reach in ministry. These are tools to use in some way.

Over-Wintering, January 2023 - Rev. Sarah Heschles led the team in a good, hard conversation about becoming a cooperative parish. We have our autumn harvest of tools. We've been lifted by your breakthrough prayers. Do we move into a cooperative parish? I think yes. We are now prepared for the coming spring warming. The nasturtium seeds are ready. How do we move into a cooperative parish? I don't have the answer yet, but I know we have tools and trust and two congregations of a fire cleansed prayer of calling. We begin a new season under your care.

From Bridge Team Member Jennifer Lee

HELP NEEDED We are looking for someone who is able to help with nightly security on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings. We are open to a volunteer or a paid staff person. If you can only cover one or two of the nights, we can work with that as well. Please see Elizabeth Whiting if you think you could help do a nightly walk through of the church. Call: 810-610-222, or see Elizabeth after church.



MISSION News

The Missions Committee at Bethany is a small group but we are dedicated to serving the people of our community, our church and the world. This past year we have donated on behalf of our congregation to many causes. I will share a few. In Michigan we have supported the Baldwin Center, The Methodist Children's Home, the Michigan-Haiti Covenant Partnership, and the Liberia Ministry Partnership.

On the National level we served The Henderson Settlement and Red Bird Christian School.

Internationally we supported Heifer International and World Hunger and Poverty.

We also support Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti Artisan's for Peace International., Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village and Water for Life.

We also support the missionary, Randy Hilderbrandt from the God's Country Cooperative in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Joshua's House is another project that we support.

We also partnered with the Commission on Education to purchase duffle bags for the foster children in Genesee County.

We want to thank the congregation for the support that you have given us.

We will continue to do fund raisers to support this program.

This year we are going to support several Special Sunday offerings including, Human Relations Sunday, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Sunday, Peace Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and Student Day. More information will follow.

Thank you for your support of Missions with your donations and prayers.

Sue Hilgris, Missions Committee



Pastor Cathi has found a home and has asked us to share her new address with everyone. You may send any future mailings to: Cathi Hugarere; 1794 N Trillium Circle; Zeeland MI, 49464

Bethany UMC is doing away with their post office box. We ask that all future mailings be sent to the street address of 353 E. Vienna St. Clio, MI 48420.

Please plan to attend our Member Care Fellowship Hour after worship on 2/26/2023. This will be just like our normal cookie hour with one special difference. During this fellowship time, we will be reviewing the names of our members and regularly attendees that we haven't seen in a while and planning for ways to reach out to them. The more people who attend the better! If you cannot attend on 2/26/2023, please reach out to the office and let Kory know you are interested in being a part of a member care outreach team. Once we have the names organized we'll need many people who will be willing to make some calls, send cards and more. We truly cannot have enough help with this effort. We really want to level up the way we care for one another in 2023! Come & be a part of it!

We are working to update our church records, please pick up your contact information sheet, validate your information and complete your birthdate and anniversary (including year), email and your winter address if you have one.



February 22, 2023

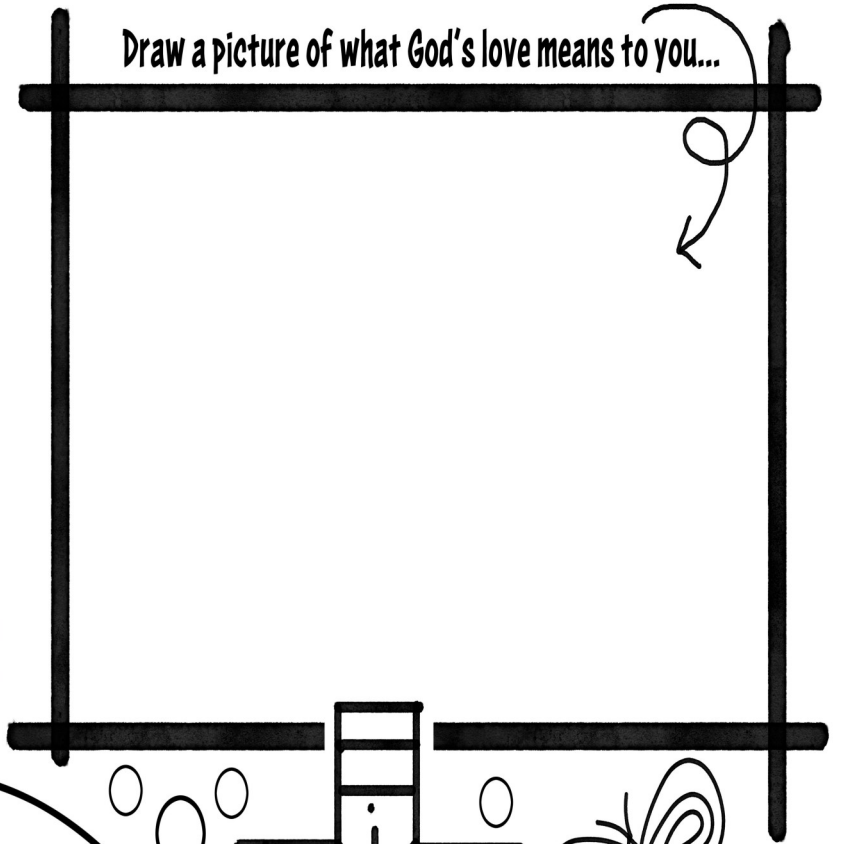
Ashes & Intentions: 7-8am at Bethany

Service at Otisville 1:00pm

Service at Bethany 7:00pm

ALL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

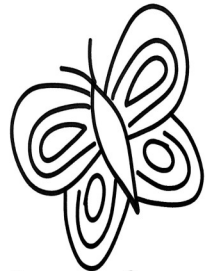
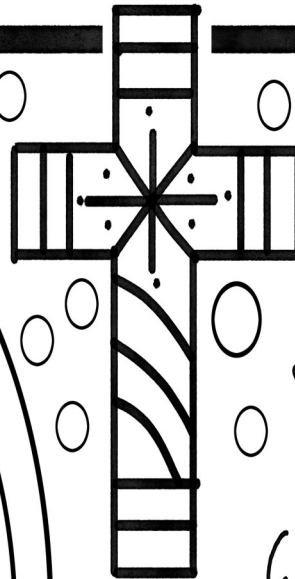
Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...



What's your favorite Bible
verse about God's love...



JESUS LOVES ME



God's love is...

Tower Notes

Bethany United Methodist Church
353 E. Vienna St.
Clio, MI 48420-0327
810-686-5151

Otisville United Methodist Church

Guiding Spirit, FILL us with YOUR fire, Lead us by YOUR Light, Unite us in YOUR calling.....Amen

OTISVILLE UMC WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 am

BETHANY UMC WORSHIP SERVICE
11:15 am

Pastor Kayla is at Bethany Monday,
Wednesday, and Thursday.
She is at Otisville on Tuesday.

Please call to schedule an appointment with
her if you wish to talk with her.

**Our goal is to motivate and equip all
people to:**

- **Accept Jesus as the Son of God and choose Him as their personal Savior**
- **Engage in a lifelong relationship with Jesus**
- **Use all means to share the love of God with others**



Bethany UMC
Church office hours
Mon.—Thurs. 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
Fri.—Closed

(810) 686-5151

STAFF MEMBERS
PASTOR: Kayla Roosa
Director of Children and Youth
Ministries: Marc Middleton
Secretary: Kory Sanger