



Tower Notes

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY UMC
Clio, Michigan 48420

APRIL 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

"Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that **he (Jesus) is going ahead of you** into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Mark 16:7

Recently, in a conversation with a dear friend, I was reminded of Mark 16:7. There has been much to process during Lent, but especially in the month of March. Tears, laughter, fear—things I imagine the disciples felt in their time of ministry with Jesus, especially after the crucifixion and resurrection. Before I said yes to the call to ministry—I felt a similar array of emotions, just as I've felt at every appointment and at every transition.

There have been many moments with tears—sometimes lots of them here at Bethany. I've walked alongside many of you through trials and tribulations in your own lives—I have celebrated the lives of many saints in this congregation. You all have left a mark on me. Thank you for this witness, thank you for preparing me for my next place. You have often had clergy who have been more seasoned in ministry, that is becoming more challenging financially with less people and less resources. Each clergy person has left its mark on you and you have left a mark on each clergy person. Through the tears, I will continue to give thanks to God for the time of ministry and mutual blessing we have been toward one another.

There has been laughter and joy—that fills the fellowship hall Tuesday and Wednesday nights, that happens around the M&M Gatherings, that even happens on Sunday mornings from time to time. There is joy that I've witnessed attending band concerts and talent shows of our skaters, of interacting with leaders at Common Ground, of seeing a community event unfold that we are a part of, demonstrating Christlike service as we support other community organizations beyond the walls of the church. We have discovered that it's not always about getting people to come to us—but we must go to people in the community—sort of like John Wesley going into the fields to preach to the dayworkers—we must continue to strive to go to the people who are not already in our building! There is joy that I witness in the young people of faith that we are raising in worship by creating a space for them to be curious about God, as we care for their safety as they boldly take steps around the sanctuary. There is joy in the celebration of Baptisms and Holy Communion as God provides nourishment for the journey. There is deep joy and gratitude for the ways which you, church, have trusted me to lead you in this season of ministry. We have accomplished so much—more on that in the weeks to come! God is not done with us—we still have work to do together!

There has been fear—fear of if we are discerning the right thing by entering something new. Fear of what may come next. Fear can push us forward, hold us back, bring others behind closed doors, or paralyze us. We are called to move beyond our fear and into love of God, self and neighbor. Do not let fear get the last word—God gets the last word—and through Jesus—God is making all things new! Jesus says "Do not fear!"

Through it all, I continue to know and experience that Jesus is going ahead of me—of us in this season and will meet us in each of the places we are called. Jesus is calling us to continue to fish on the other side of the boat, to learn to do things differently. Church in this (almost) Easter Season we are called beyond locked doors of fear and anxiety and called to build up the Body of Christ—to share the stories of Jesus, to work together, to fish on the other side of the boat, to meet Jesus in Galilee—beyond the walls of the church to reach a new generation of people of Bethany UMC. Gone are the days when people just show up to church because it's the only place that is open on Sunday mornings. There are many in our community that do not have a church home and it's time for us to go fishing as the Body of Christ, to build relationships, to meet people where they are and invite them back to our ministry setting to show them the love and light of Jesus Christ—the work is only beginning! We will have to shake off our fear and "Go and make disciples."

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We have a couple of special services in motion that I'd like you to make note of. First, Randy Hildebrandt the missionary to what you might formerly know as God's Country Cooperative Parish, now called God's Country Community Ministry, will be joining us on April 7th to share a message. We will hear his stories and message and celebrate Holy Communion together.

On April 21st we will have All Music Sunday. Come join us as we worship passionately through music of band, bells, choral pieces and hymns together as the Body of Christ.

Beginning April 14th we will embark on a journey to explore the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." I will be challenging each of you to dive into Passionate Worship (April 14), Radical Hospitality (April 28), Intentional Faith Formation (May 5), Risk Taking Mission and Service (May 12—this is when Mission Banks will be distributed), Extravagant Generosity (May 19) and on May 26th, we will "Mark our Journey" together as we celebrate Pentecost and I'll preach my final sermon in worship. I will return to worship on June 2nd following Annual Conference to preside for communion and lead other components of worship alongside of a guest speaker.

Many details are in motion, we are waiting on the direction of the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet (the 7 District Superintendents and the Assistant to the Bishop see <https://michiganumc.org/leadership/cabinet/>) to hear the appointment of your next Pastor. Please hold this body and the congregation in prayer in this season of transition. Please consider how you might continue to support the ministries of Bethany UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, witness and service—the Body of Christ needs YOU!

Together in Ministry,
Pastor Kayla

Dates to continue to hold in prayer:

Annual Conference (May 29-June 2). See <https://2024.michiganumc.org/> for more information.

General Conference (April 23-May 3). See <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/structure> for how the UMC is set up to function.

Jurisdictional Conference (July 10-13). See <https://www.umc.org/en/content/jurisdictions> for more information

**NOTE: most of these sessions are broadcast, with the exception of small group legislative conversations discussing legislation that may not make it to the floor because of simple majority votes. Our denomination follows very similar structure to our government and Roberts Rules of Order are utilized to maintain order of the body.

Dear People in our Church,

I just want you to know what a blessing I have gotten, volunteering to help with our youth this year. Our youth first started out not listening, they were picking on each other, and wouldn't participate in the things we offered, and so on. But now they sit and listen - they help each other out. For me, I see such growth in each one of them. They are kind, they show respect, they are helpful, and they participate. Every one of these kids got that chance in their life to come here to Bethany United Methodist church to grow for the good. I will never know what an impact we truly made on each and every child.

We as a whole church need you. You might not think you can offer anything, but you can! You can greet them as they walk in the door and make them think you are happy that they are here. Well, that's a good thing! If you are more of a supervisor, well, we need you too. What I am trying to say is, we all have different talents and, yes, we need you. I know we are all getting older. We live with one thing or another going on in our bodies. But if we have to cut out the 2:30 PM Wednesday after school program (which has been suspended for lack of help) we are going to lose so many youth. The kids we have now are so upset over not having the 2:30 to 4:30 program! Some of you don't realize the true impact this group has had and means for these kids. So please, look into your heart and see if you could donate some time on Wednesday, our youth are counting on you!

Thank you, Sally Van Horn

**Can You
Step In?**

You wouldn't have to plan any lessons. The basement has many activities for our youth to enjoy. We just need people willing to give some guidance, listen, and be that adult that shows them we care. Call the church office if you are willing to donate some of your time. Thank you so much Sally, for sharing your heart.



Wow, yesterday—Sunday, March 17th— was a real surprise, wasn't it? So many questions—very few answers. Unfortunately, that is how things sometimes happen in Methodism. Until I became your Lay Leader, I really did not understand how things “worked” - mainly because I had never been involved in the process of making those things happen. It was just a “thing” that every couple of years we got a new pastor and had to make those necessary adjustments. And the past couple of years have shown us that being a “Methodist” - and sometimes, even a Christian—can be VERY difficult. We have lost friends due to the pandemic and

disassociation. We have lost many “worker’s”, volunteers who freely gave of their time and money. People who have been important to the history and growth of this church family for many years. And we try to adjust. But the truth is that we have not done a very good job of it—probably because these are uncharted waters for all of us. Change IS hard, but not impossible. And we have been very blessed in the past by pastors who stayed with us for longer than a year or two, but that has given us a false sense of security in who will be leading us as a church family.

While I was unable to be in church for the announcement, I was watching from home. It is never easy to get up in front of a body of your peers and tell them something that you know they do not want to hear—I am so thankful for what Elizabeth has contributed to our church and her leadership. We, as your SPRC team have struggled with many “problems” for the last couple of years—and mostly, we have done a very good job of taking care of business. Some things have been out of our control and we have sought the advice of our District Superintendent. We have tried new things as a church—and they didn't turn out the way we had hoped, but we gained new friends and did our best. The question was asked about WHY? Well, that is what your SPRC is for—but you need to understand that we are bound by the Book of Discipline and SPRC is NOT a public meeting due to the confidentiality of matters that are discussed at those meetings. But I can try to explain how the process of selecting a pastor is done.

Remember John Wesley? The ITINERANT preacher? Well, that's where the moving around started. Traveling town to town in England, setting up Methodist societies. “Itinerancy” refers specifically to the commitment by pastors to go and serve wherever their bishops send them. “Appointment” is the action taken by the bishops. These are different, yet related. Before they are ordained or licensed, clergy in the United Methodist Church agree to serve where their bishop appoints them. Appointments are for one year at a time. For elders and local pastors, particularly, the goal is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular congregation. In this “serial leadership” of consecutive pastors—no two are alike—over time, the combination of skills blends to form a broad base of developed ministries. While bishops make appointments, they incorporated a consultative process outlined in The Book of Discipline that includes district superintendents, pastors and pastor/staff/parish relations committee. The needs and desires of clergy are “considered” but the mission of the church comes first. (Adapted from an article in the Interpreter Magazine, May-June 2015 and reprinted in the United Methodist Communications in 2024) It isn't a mystery when you know that there are many people who decide that a pastor needs to “move” - and for what reasons—and there are MANY—some personal, some to give another church the opportunity to have a pastor that can help that church find and develop their “best” church, some due to the lack of people deciding to go into ministry at all. Our District—and the whole of Methodism and probably, Christianity—is struggling right now due to the lack of people who are willing to sacrifice what we would consider a “normal” life to serve a greater purpose—to lead all of us on the path to life eternal and to our Lord and Savior. To selflessly answer that call that may come in the middle of the night, to uproot their family, to never really have a home of their own—I cannot even imagine the dedication and the “calling” that has to take place for that to happen. But I thank God every day for those people who have given so much of themselves so that each of us may find our way to eternal life. Please, give those people and each of the members of your SPRC team the grace to find the answers to your questions and to do our very best to provide each of you with the best pastor relationship that we are humanly able to do. Please continue to pray for us, for Pastor Kayla, for our new pastor, and for our entire church family - Thank you for being part of mine.

Diane Weaver, Lay Leader

@ QUICK RECAP

So many things have been happening—and that's what makes our church so wonderful, but there is always a

little bit more that we can do.....

I want to thank everyone who has reached out to me while I have been home trying to get over pneumonia—it has not been easy and so many of you have sent cards, called, or stepped up to fill my absence—and I appreciate it so very much. When you are feeling sick—and sometimes lonely—it is reassuring to know that your absence has been noticed. Thank you to the Kitchen Team who filled in for me on Wednesday nights, to the Pantry Patrol for carrying on with doing their great work, for Pastor Kayla for checking on me and for all the prayers that have been sent up. I am feeling soooooo much better, but may still be wearing a mask for a couple of weeks as I do not want anyone else to get this junk—It ain't no joke, that's for sure!

A special thanks goes out to Sue Hilgris for all of her work with the COE group and making the Easter Egg Hunt happen once again—even though it was a little different this year!!! (Change is ok, folks, as long as the job gets done!) And it involved us partnering with other groups in our community!!! SCORE!!!!

If you would like minutes from any meetings that are held in the church, you can just call Kory in the Office a few days after the meeting or they may already be available on the table outside of her office. If they aren't there, just ask and I am sure that she will get you a copy of whichever meeting you would like to see. There is only one meeting that is held that is not open to the public—that is in direct compliance with the Book of Discipline that governs the United Methodist Church—and that is the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Otherwise, any meeting may be attended by any member of the church—and that person has a voice, but not a vote, in the ongoings of any committee. If you have any other questions regarding this subject, please ask the head of that Committee, Pastor Kayla, or myself and we will get you the information that you are requesting. We need your input about our future and are ready to help you understand the process that we must follow. Thanks!

~ Diane Weaver



Check Calendar Page for Weekly Events

PURPOSEFUL POTLUCKS Potlucks will still be happening with a purpose to continue gathering information to inform the next pastor of the work you continue to do to move forward as a congregation. Therefore, please join us and share in this time of fellowship, discernment and discussion! We will be gathering to enter into conversations about our next steps as a congregation. Mark your calendars for the following dates: April 28, and May 19! Come with open hearts and minds to expand our understanding of our gifts and where God is calling us to move as a congregation!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SPRING FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH All women are invited! The brunch will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM. There will be a program at 11:00 AM with Stephen Forester Ministries . The United Women in Faith are asking for donations of non perishable food, personal care items and paper products for the Bethany Food Pantry. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 10, by calling the church office.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER The Sunday after Easter, April 7, we will be welcoming Randy Hildebrant to our pulpit as our guest speaker. Randy is a missionary with the United Methodist Church, assigned to serve at God's Country Community Ministry based in Newberry, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Randy works with them in community development leadership development, special projects, and in hosting volunteer-in-mission teams. Formally known as God's Country Cooperative Parish, this ministry has been transforming their local communities for 30 years, and has been supported by our Bethany Missions for many years. Bethany will be taking a special offering to support the mission and ministry of Randy Hildebrant. If you wish to contribute to that special offering, you can make a check out to Bethany Church and put Randy's name in the memo line or make a notation of the donation for Randy on the outside of your offering envelope.



April Bible Readings

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Exodus 1-4 | 8. Exodus 5-8 | 19. Jer 17-21 | 30. 2 Sam 5-9 |
| 2. 1Sam. 16-20 | 9. 1 Sam 21-25 | 20. Mark 11-12 | |
| 3. Ps. 39-41 | 10. Ps 42-44 | 21. 2 Cor 1-3 | |
| 4. Job 27-28 | 11. Job 29-30 | 22. Ex 13-16 | |
| 5. Jer 1-6 | 12. Jer 12-16 | 23. 2 Sam 1-4 | |
| 6. Mark 7-8 | 13. Mark 9-10 | 24. Ps 48-50 | |
| 7. 1 Cor. 13-14 | 14. 1 Cor. 15-16 | 25. Job 33-34 | |
| | 15. Ex 9-12 | 26. Jer 2-26 | |
| | 16. 1 Sam 26-31 | 27. Mark 13-14 | |
| | 17. Ps 45-47 | 28. 2 Cor 4-5 | |
| | 18. Job 31-32 | 29. Ex 17-20 | |

I hope you continue to enjoy these daily Bible readings and find some direction or peace in them.

Paying it Back — and Forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. In the spring of 2020, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

Be kind
to one
another.

EPHESIANS 4:32, ESV

Love Out Loud:

Love Others Today: take an honest inventory of your relationships. Are you trying to buy anyone's friendship for your own benefit instead of blessing that person out of sincere love?

Love God Today: "Thank you, Lord, for restoring my soul and my life, and for leading me in the way that is right for me. Amen"

Words
of
Wisdom





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

Norma Gillette
3056 Wilman Dr.
Clio, MI 48420

Wilma Thoms
Genesee Gardens
4495 Calkins Rd.
Flint, MI 48532

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
2105 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519-7670
810-730-7670

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

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

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

Chris Longueil
Mission Point
G-3201 Beecher Rd.
Flint Township, MI 48532

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

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

Madonna Phipps
712 Park View
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-1429

Connie Phelps
526 Poplar St.
Clio, MI 48420
810-516-3833

Joyce Dunlay
11493 N. Bray Rd.
Clio, MI 48420
810-813-2270

Leroy Shumaker
10504 Leann Dr.
Clio, MI 48420

Janet Smith
Maple Wood,
Room 63, Bed 2
810-218-0568

Jerry & Kathleen
Stadler
3200 Rosalie Ann Ct
Clio, MI 48420
810-686-0817

Janet Robertson
4099 W. Vienna Rd
Clio, MI 48420

PRAYER list...

Remember in Your Prayers

- ⇒ George Boyse
- ⇒ Ron and Nonie Lemmon
- ⇒ Those who have been ill
- ⇒ Brian Gillette Family
- ⇒ Virginia Heller
- ⇒ Charlotte Mowl
- ⇒ Ben Wildfong
- ⇒ Family of Ruth Ackerman
- ⇒ Pastor Kayla
- ⇒ Our Church Transition
- ⇒ Bishop & Cabinet

And please continue to pray for anyone who crosses your mind or heart—we all need everyone's prayers in our world today.

Please remember these wonderful members of Bethany's congregation as you celebrate this holiday season. 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 me their name and address and I will add them to our list—everyone is welcome and needs a kind word.

BETHANY APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Easter Monday 1	2 4:30pm Worship Design Team	3 4:30-6:00pm Commu- nity Night	4 Band 2:00pm Bells 3:00pm Grief Group 6:30	5	6
7 Communion Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am	8 UWF Board Meeting Trustees 7:00pm	9 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm	10 Missions 10:00am 4:30-6:00 pm Commu- nity Night	11 Band 2:00pm Bells 3:00pm AA 6:30pm	12	13
14 Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am	15	16 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm	17 Spring Fellowship Brunch 10:00am 4:30-6:00pm Commu- nity Night	18 Band 2:00pm Bells 3:00pm Grief Group 6:30pm AA 6:30 pm	19	20
21 ALL MUSIC SUNDAY! Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am	22 Pantry Patrol 11:00am	23 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm	24 4:30-6:00 pm Commu- nity Night –our last dinner for the school year—PIZZA!!	25 Finance 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	26	27
28 Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30 am Purposeful Potluck af- ter church	29 Ad Bd. 6:30pm	30 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm				

Tower Notes

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

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

BETHANY UMC WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30 am
Adult Sunday School at 9:15am

Pastor Kayla's office hours:
Monday—Wednesday
Thursdays are held for sermon writing and planning. Friday is her sabbath.

Please call 989-948-1390 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.— 4p.m.
Fri.—Closed

STAFF MEMBERS
Pastor: Kayla Roosa
Admin: Kory Sanger