

Worship

Jesus loves me this I know!

My house has a few decorations for Valentine's Day placed about bringing festive red and pink hearts where not too long ago decorations for Christmas were sitting atop a table and shelves. Most of my seasonal decorations this time of year are snowmen so they will stay unboxed (un-toted) for a few more weeks. I can't wait to open the tote with 'spring.'

I wonder if you are busy shifting from one season to the next, one project to the next or one hope to the next. I recently had a short video of my two-year-old great niece shared with me and I smiled when she exclaimed, "I did it!" She was so proud of herself having just swung from one place to the next. Her play reminded me of those times when life was so much simpler.

There are times when we wish we could throw our arms in the air and shout, "I did it!" but instead we have to settle for an honest, "I tried." Often, in worship, our confession has us lifting words asking forgiveness for what we have done or left undone. This part of our liturgy is more than just something we do- words and actions repeated at the beginning of worship. Confessing our sins and receiving forgiveness are gifts we receive each week and I pray you embrace this life-changing liturgy that we share when we lift our 'I tried' to God and are reminded of Jesus' shout of "I did it." Friends, our loving, life-changing God wants to carry all that weighs us down. Freed from these burdens we are better able to share God's love with ourselves and others. Jesus did this for us. Thanks be to God.

In this Valentine, pre-Lenten season, may we be ever-aware of God's agape love for each of us and when we see decorations and candy of the season may we be reminded of divine love that is our sustenance.

Soon, we will have an opportunity to journey together as we embrace the season of Lent with our special services, beginning on February 23 at the United Methodist Church with a

service for Ash Wednesday, and continuing with a simple supper and Bible study on the following Wednesday evenings. This time together will conclude during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship. Please see the announcement for these gatherings in this issue of the Mouse and plan to join us on this spiritual undertaking. As we've done in the past, our gatherings will change location each week moving between Bethel and the UMC.

Let's celebrate love this month of February. God's love that came to us in Jesus and that same love we share with others. It's really a most beautiful part of our calling as followers of Jesus. "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

In God's love,

Lori

563.380.8187

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CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our Bethel family members as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month!

FEB 1	Gregg Kleppe
FEB 7	Dolores Jacobsen
FEB 11	Shannon Tietz
FEB 15	Kendall Jacobsen
FEB 19	Ben Schmitz
	Tex Heyer
FEB 23	Dick Woodard
FEB 24	Nancy Grimes



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Session Roster

Bethel Presbyterian Church 2026

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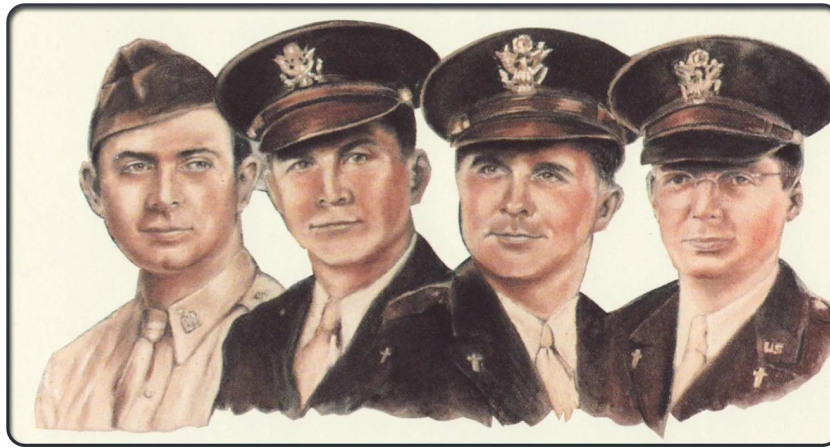
Lent is a season of penitence in preparation for absolution on Maundy Thursday. The forty days of Lent (excluding Sundays) recall Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:1-2), as well as Moses' forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). Historically, for those already baptized, Lent was a period of time to review the meaning of the Bible, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and Baptism. The color purple is used to adorn the pulpit and baptismal font. In some congregations, crosses will be covered with purple cloth



Diaconate will meet at 9:30 on February 9th.

Nancy Dunt is the Host.

The Diaconate received their quarterly offering in January. It was \$155.00



The Four Chaplains of the Army troop transport Dorchester, from left, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed; and Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic. "We live in turbulent times and during these times I think it's more important that we continue to share inspiring acts of courage and stories of real-life sacrifice." Lou Lavetan.

Four Chaplains Sunday is commemorated on the first Sunday in February. We will hear the story of these brave men during worship.

EXTENDED TABLE OFFERING

The gifts you bring to the Extended Table offering that are received on Communion Sunday are now supporting the Open Hands Food Pantry in West Union.

The extended table offering items requested for Communion Sunday, February 1st, 2026, are shampoo, conditioner, and bodywash. They would always welcome gluten free items.

Thanks so much for your offerings to support Bethel's mission to reach out in our community!

This is one simple way we can share with those in need. We are called to be generous as God has been overwhelmingly generous to us!



Rides to Church

Gregg is providing rides as requested and on a week-to-week basis. His number is 563-380-9787.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday

February 1, 2025

For over 75 years, Church World Service (CWS) has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through CWS Blankets and Kits ministry. Together, we can offer comfort, hope and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times.

For many years, Bethel Presbyterian Church has helped to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world through CWS' Blanket Program.

On Sunday, February 1st, our church has an opportunity to provide hope to individuals and families.

\$10 Provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need.

\$25 Provides a CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.

\$60 Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring they have what they need during challenging times.



Agape

In Greek, agape refers to a selfless, unconditional, sacrificial, and divine love, focused on the well-being of others without expecting return.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

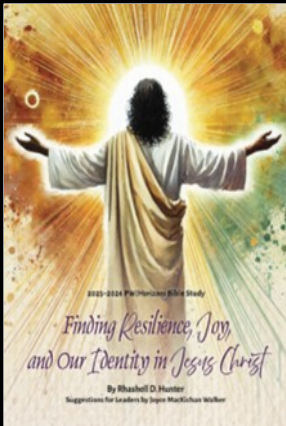
1 John 4:7-8

WINTER WEATHER

Winter is officially here which means we have entered that time of year when weather conditions can make for tricky travel. We plan to hold in-person worship services unless there is inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel due to snow or ice, we will use the following to notify members that church has been canceled:

- KWWL and KCRG TV stations will post the cancellation
- Email notice will be sent to members from the Clerk of Session, Stephen Bartenhagen.

If your email has changed or you wish to be added to the list for email notification, please send your email to sbartenhagen@alpinecom.net so he can update the emailing list and you will receive the cancellation notice.



Third Thursday Bible Study

February 19, 10:00 am at Stoney Brook

We will explore the PW/Horizons Bible study titled: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter. Here is a short description: In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity.

Please join us. [Excerpt from the Introduction to *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*].

Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer.

Together we are remembering: Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway, Don Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, baby McCoy, Rose Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom), Mike Schroyer, Darwin Schrage, and Stephen Bartenhagen.

Good Samaritan Center - Peggi Pape

Stoney Brook - Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer

Eastern Star Decorah - Doyle Gorden

Ossian Care Center - Cindy Barness

Maple Crest—Tex Heyer

Copper Creek—Sandy Schnor



LAYLEADERS

01 LeAnn Popenhagen
08 Gregg Kleppe
15
22

Power Point

01 Stephen Bartenhagen
08 Dawn Jacobson
15 Martha Bartenhagen
18 Robin Bostrom
22 Dave Aanes

FELLOWSHIP TREATS

01 Potluck
08 LeAnn Popenhagen
15 Lee Johansen
22 Gregg Kleppe

COMMUNION

Communion will be served
on Sunday February 1.
Linda Johansen and Kris
Moser will be servers.



Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.

Sewing Circle will meet Thursday
February 12th and 26th from
9:30—3:00

Mark your calendar:

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Worship 7:00 p.m. at UMC



Session Meeting Dates

January 24 Retreat

*February 15

*March 15

April 12

*May 17

June 14

July 12

August 9

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13



*these Sundays are not on the normal 2nd Sunday of the month



We need volunteers for lay
leaders and fellowship treats.

Please sign up in the
fellowship hall.

Our VISION—

*Our Vision is for this Body of Christ to be a Community of Faith called...
Bethel—A people and a place where God is made known!*

2026 Communion Schedule

Month	Captain	Server	# Served
January 4	Dave Aanes	Julie Aanes	_____
February 1	Linda Johansen	Kris Moser	_____
March 1	Mark Bostrom	Ken Popenhagen	_____
April 2 (Th)	Dawn Jacobsen	Lee Johansen	_____
April 5 (E)	Karen Schmitz	Linda Johansen	_____
May 3	Julie Aanes	Carrie Lee	_____
June 7	Kris Moser	Mark Bostrom	_____
July 5 (park)	Ken Popenhagen	Dawn Jacobsen	_____
Aug 2	Lee Johansen	Karen Schmitz	_____
Sept 6	Carrie Lee	Julie Aanes	_____
Oct 4	Linda Johansen	Kris Moser	_____
Nov 1	Mark Bostrom	Ken Popenhagen	_____
Dec 6	Dawn Jacobsen	Lee Johansen	_____
Jan 3 (2027)	Karen Schmitz	Linda Johansen	_____

Session Members:

Lee Johansen
 Karen Schmitz
 Julie Aanes
 Linda Johansen
 Carrie Lee
 Kris Moser
 Mark Bostrom
 Ken Popenhagen
 Dawn Jacobsen



LET US PRAY

Lord, help us to follow your commandment of loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. Help us to heed your word and stand alongside those facing hunger and satisfy the needs of the oppressed. If the sin of partiality comes knocking at our door — may we stand firm in your word — and reject it. Help us understand that when we give a banquet and invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind — we will be blessed. In Jesus' name! Amen.

Friends in faith,

We want to remind everyone to stay alert for online, text, or phone scams that may falsely use the names of church leaders. Recently, members of our community (including churches in John Knox and nearby presbyteries) have received fraudulent messages claiming to be from pastors or staff, often asking for a "quick favor," gift cards, or urgent financial help.

Please know that pastors, staff, or anyone else affiliated with John Knox Presbytery or our churches will never contact you to request gift cards, money, or personal favors by email, text, phone, or social media.

If you receive a message that seems suspicious:

Do not reply.

Do not click any links.

Do not purchase or send anything.

Feel free to contact JKP or the church office directly to verify any questionable communication.

Your safety and peace of mind matter to us. Thank you for staying vigilant and helping keep our community protected.

God bless,



*The
Season
of
Lent*



**We invite you to share in the
~Season of Lent~
with our church congregations**

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18 @ 7:00 pm

West Union United Methodist Church (WU UMC)

Wednesday Bible Study

Meal @ 6pm Study @ 6:30-7:30 pm

Week 1	February 25	Bethel
Week 2	March 4	WU UMC
Week 3	March 11	Bethel
Week 4	March 18	WU UMC
Week 5	March 25	Bethel

Holy Week Worship Services @ 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday	April 2	Bethel
Good Friday	April 3	WU UMC

February 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Worship 10:00 w/the Lord's Supper Fellowship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:00 Fellowship	9 9:30 Diaconate	10	11	12 9:30 Sewing Circle	13	14
15 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Session Meets	16	17	18 Ash Wed Service 7:00 p.m. UMC	19 Bible Study Stoney Brook 10:00 a.m.	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 Fellowship	23	24	25 Lenten Bible Study at Bethel 6:00 meal 6:30 study	26 9:30 Sewing Circle	27	28

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