

Parish of the Hills



Called to Make Disciples Of All!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2018

PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills



Dear Members and Friends of Parish of the Hills: If you read this humble note the days before or after Christmas Day, December 25th, I hope that you remember that the traditional festival of Christmas does not end on December 26th. The festival of Christmas—also called “Christmastide”—is twelve days. Yes, that is “the Twelve Days of Christmas.” According to ancient custom, Christmas extends to January 6th—the festival of Epiphany.

We all have our particular ways of observing and celebrating Christmas. As for me, I have found that not rushing into a Christmas celebration, *and then continuing the festivities*, lifts my spirit well past the twenty-fifth day of December. What matters most is not what date we put up or take down decorations, or when we exchange gifts, or when we share a holiday meal. What matters most is always remembering the loving ministry of Jesus. The baby Jesus became the healer Jesus who through compassion heals outwardly seen pain and inwardly unseen suffering. The baby Jesus became the savior Jesus who through grace saves souls and redeems lives.

This Christmas—and onward—please celebrate God who loves you and blesses you.

I hope to see you in worship on Sunday, December 24th and 31st. Let the songs of Christmas be sung with the joy intended! Merry Christmas (first and foremost) and Happy New Year!

Gerhardt P. Miller, Pastor

Parish of the Hills United Methodist Churches

Office Address: 400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
Phone: (608) 987-2700

E-mail: pohumc@gmail.com

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Bethel UM Church: Located on the Corner of
State Hwy. 39 & W
8:00 a.m.—Worship;
Sept-Dec 8:00 a.m. - Sunday School

Linden UM Church: In the Village on Hwy. 39
Sept-May 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Worship

First UM Church: 400 Doty Street, MP
Sept.-May 8:15 a.m. – Sunday School
9:15 a.m. — Worship
Handicapped Accessible

Gerhardt P. Miller, D. Min.
Parsonage Phone: (608) 987-0494
Cell: (920) 604-3304

Marcia Ajer, Administrative Assistant

Enjoy
The
News



NEWS & *Notes*

Mineral Point News

By: Ross Pollock

What a wonderful fall season we have had. We were still at 60 degrees (briefly) in December. Hopefully our present cold weather is leading up to a beautiful white Christmas!

The antique grand piano has been moved upstairs to the sanctuary and the old piano is now down in fellowship hall. We have been having trouble getting a piano tuner at this time of year, but things have finally connected. The job should be completed in plenty of time for Christmas. The old “downstairs” piano is still available “to a good home” (you will, however; have to move it out yourself).

There is plenty of room for students in our Sunday School. Diane Palzkill and her staff meet with the children at 8:15 Sunday morning. Your children (or grandchildren or visitors) are welcome to attend. The kids have a really good time while learning Christian values too.

The Interchurch Emergency Food Pantry continues to be based in our building. There are some members who oppose having it here – they want to either cut back on hours or close it entirely. The Administrative Council will be discussing this further in the next months.

This year’s Church Charge Conference was held November 9th at the Darlington UMC with District Superintendent Scott Carlson presiding. We had 4 members attending – Ross & Janet Pollock, Lisa Springer and Dottie Mitchell (plus Pastor Gerhardt). The 2018 budget was approved; Pastor’s compensation and benefits were approved; and nominations for our 2018 councils, committees and boards were confirmed. These are all important decisions affecting us all. Were YOU there to help make them? Rev. Carlson talked about the importance of stewardship – supporting the church monetarily. How ALL that we have is a gift from God. We should all be generous in giving back to Him.

Many thanks to Marilyn Trevorow, Margie Stephenson, Don Elmer and Marilyn Owens for doing a beautiful job of decorating the church for

Christmas. In addition, a number of members have donated poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary. They look really lovely at the front of the church.

You may have noticed that the flood lights on the front of the church have been repaired. It really makes a nice impression driving up High Street.

Even though attendance at our 2017 Christmas Bazaar was somewhat light, we still managed to clear just over \$1,000. Most donated items were sold in a silent auction. Especially popular was the “cake walk”. Seven luscious home made cakes were involved and a good time was had by all. Kudos to the fund raising committee – Beth Gribble, Karla Vogel, Lisa Springer, Carolyn Butteris, Linda Adams and their staff – who worked so hard to make this important fund raising event a success!

The Atrium Care Center decided not to hold a bake sale this year. Instead they have asked the community including us for donations. The Ad Council approved \$50 to be given to them.

Rich Goninen drew an original charcoal of First UMC and donated this beautiful 18X24 framed picture of our church in memory of his mother Bonnie Jean Goninen. It has been hung in the chapel. Stop by and look at it!

Karla Vogel got the name of a needy family from Social Services for our annual giving tree. The slips with presents needed were all taken from the tree the first Sunday that it was up. Congratulations everybody!

Rev. Scott Carlson will hold a Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) training session on Saturday, January 20th with 8:30 Registration & 9:00 a.m. to noon program at our church. All current members of the SPRC and Pastor are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, January 21st the Mineral Point Historical Society will have their annual meeting here at 1:00 p.m. which will be followed by a “Lyceum” lasting until @4:00 p.m. A panel of local preservationists will discuss preservation residential practices.

Sunday, February 25th the Mineral Point Historical Society will present their 2nd of 3 Lyceums with Leslie Beuris presenting on “Over Here: The Wisconsin Home Front in World War One” from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Their 3rd Lyceum will be Sunday, March 18th from 1-4 with Paula Dail on “Women Activists in Wisconsin.”

Life Line Screening Company will be here in Fellowship Hall from 8:15 - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6th. They can check for a number of problems from carotid artery blockages to aneurysms. Reservations are a good idea! More information will follow in January's bulletins.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you in church this year. Best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year!

Linden News
By: Dixie Edge

Darlington Methodist Church hosted the 2017 Charge Conference. The meeting was run by District Superintendent Scott Carlson. The parish as a whole and Linden in particular was well represented at the conference. Many thanks to the church committees who submitted their reports in an efficient and timely manner. Copies of the 2017 report are available for anyone who would like one.

UMW served lunch for the Bob Larson Funeral. Deepest sympathy is extended on behalf of the church to the families of Bob Larson, Sarah Jewell and Dean Rickard, all 3 families have been part of the Linden Church family for many years.

Ugly Sweater Sunday was a good time. The congregation raised \$95 for church outreach.

Pastor Gerhardt did a sermon series on Dickens' "A Christmas Story" during the Advent Season.

Thanks to all who helped with the lighting of the Advent wreath. We love to see members help with the worship service. The church was beautifully decorated for the Christmas holiday. A number of groups did their part. Thank you one and all for helping create a wonderful Christmas experience.

There will be a Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) training meeting at First on Saturday, January 20th with 8:30 reg. & program from 9:00-noon. This is one of three training events offered in the South-West District. It's expected that SPRC committee members and Pastor's from several area churches will take part.

The Nov.-Dec. movie series has concluded. We will decide at a later date whether or not we want to view another set of films in the spring.

The October 21st Meat Pie Supper was an unqualified success! Many people from Linden and our surrounding area broke bread (meat pie) together. All enjoyed good conversation and an outstanding meal. Everything needed to put on this meal was donated by generous church members and supporters. Over 100 were served.

In November, the UMW celebrated their annual "Big Give-Away" when the group distributes most of what they have earned over the year to projects and organizations who contribute to the welfare of others. This year the UMW distributed almost \$3,000 among the following organizations: Linden Church Annual Conference for Disaster Relief in the form of flood buckets and the "No More Malaria" campaign, Linden Fire Department and Rescue Squad Funds to help bring Santa to Linden, Linden Family Advocates Blankets to CAP, Iowa-Grant School RIF program, Hodan Center Badger Camp, Mineral Point Fire Dept., and Rescue Squad, Iowa County Food Pantry, Iowa County Sun Program, & Heifer International. Additionally, the UMW Sunshine Chair sends out many cards to cheer and sympathize over the year. It also sends holiday cards to shut-ins. The UMW is grateful for the continued support of its membership and the Linden community. Together we can help make others' lives better. During December the UMW organized the All Church Bake Sale. All proceeds go to the church general fund for expenses.

The UMW enjoyed a quiet Christmas celebration to close out 2017. UMW meetings will resume again in March. The group wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Fruitful New Year.

UMW Co-President, Linda Nichols spearheaded the Christmas Tree Lighting Campaign, assisted by Mandy and Larry Dale Schultz. Thanks to John Trace for getting the lights hung, and various others who provided funds for purchasing lights or providing snacks. Over 50 people were there to witness the tree lighting, sing carols and gather in the church vestry for refreshments. We hope this is the beginning of a tradition.

The Sunday School Children and teachers have been practicing for the annual Christmas Eve program. It starts at 7:30 with the Sunday School and ends with the beautiful candle light message and singing of "Silent Night" - a tradition that brings the community together to remember what Christmas is all about.

The Sunday School will take a short break after the Christmas and resume classes on Sunday, January 14th. Remember to listen to WDMP for any weather related announcements during this winter season.

Sunday, January 7th is the annual Pancake breakfast, serving starts at 8 until noon. Please come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.



As of this writing hoping your Christmas Season is full of happy memories made with family and friends and HAPPY NEW YEAR! I believe we can all agree that family and friends are the true treasures in life. One thing is for certain, life is constantly changing. As we grow older the years go by faster. So, let's get started making 2018 a really good year. Enjoy every moment of this wonderful life you have been given, and take time in the New Year to spread some cheer.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Following the Sunday, November 12th worship service at Bethel, the Sunday School hosted a pancake breakfast. Our young people along with several adults helping, served a delicious morning meal. Egg casseroles, fluffy pancakes and an assortment of sweet rolls filled the buffet line. The donation collection will be given to flood victims in need. Thank you to our Sunday School for sponsoring this event. Much appreciation to all the family members helping out to make this happen!

HANGING OF THE GREENS: A helpful crew was on hand to prepare our church for the Christmas season. Trimming the tree, hanging garlands, placing pine and candles on the window sills transformed the sanctuary into a festive scene. The large Christmas tree filled with ornaments made by Sunday School children through the years is a reminder of the many who have worshiped at Bethel and celebrated this special time of year.

SNOWFLAKE SUNDAY: A heartwarming tradition took place at our December 10th Sunday morning worship service. Our lovely collection of snowflake ornaments are placed on the altar. Anyone wishing to remember loved ones who are no longer with us hangs an ornament on the Christmas tree. The

people we fondly remember are like snowflakes, each unique and special in their own way.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: The Sunday School program was presented during worship service on Sunday morning, December 17th. The program titled "Animals Talked at Christmas" shared a meaningful message of the season. The animals included: Ellery Massey (Donkey), Grace Wersal (Sheep), Quayde Doyle, Genty Doyle and Jack Oellerich (little lambs). Ellery and Grace performed "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night" on the Hand Chimes accompanied by Jeanne Massey on the keyboard. Refreshments and fellowship followed the service. Thank you to the Doyle families for providing the traditional treat bags which were handed out to all who attended. A special thanks to Jeanne Massey for leading the Sunday school fall session.

FOOD PANTRY: We will continue to collect items for the Mineral Point Ecumenical Food Pantry throughout the winter months. Thank you for participating in this project. Many people in need are greatly helped by the kind donations from others.

CARE AND SHARE MISSION: Help us collect clothing items for children age four years through fifth grade such as winter hats, mittens, gloves, scarves along with socks, underwear, coats and any other clothing items new or in very good condition. The Mineral Point Elementary School appreciates these most useful donations. We will be collecting throughout the winter months.

THE SEASON OF GIFTING: Our Bethel church family is thankful for the kind donations and support given throughout the year that allows us to keep the doors open at our little country church. All are welcome to worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and join us at any of our church functions. Our Sunday school is open to any interested young people. We welcome visitors anytime. Come be a part of our church family and celebrate Bethel's 135 years of sharing God's love.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Bethel will once again host the Parish of the Hills Ash Wednesday Soup and Sandwich Supper Service on February 14th. The supper will take place from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Worship service will follow at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY: Quayde Doyle (7th)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: Gordy Whitford (20th), Carlos Schroeder (22nd), Mary Oellerich-Milz (22nd), Steve Oellerich (25th)

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Carlos and Carol Schroeder (10th)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 20 at 1st UMC: Rev. Scott Carlson will hold a District wide Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) training session on Saturday, January 20th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at First UMC with Registration at 8:30 am. All current members of the SPRC and pastor are invited to attend.

February 5th – 6:30 pm Bethel Ad Council Mtg.

February 6th 8:15-5:30 Life Line Screening at 1st

February 14th – Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at Bethel: 5:30-6:45, Worship Service at 7:00 pm.

March 25th Palm Sunday (Bethel potluck breakfast)

April 1st – Easter Sunday

MAY YOU BE A SPECIAL BLESSING IN EVERY LIFE YOU TOUCH!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



First UMC is hosting our Southwest District Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Training this year on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All Parish current members of the SPRC and Pastor should attend this informative meeting.



When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—especially the joy of making a difference in someone's life.

January 07	Apportionments
January 14	Apportionments
January 21	Community Connections Free Clinic
January 28	Improvement Fund
February 04	Souper Bowl Sunday: Sunday School
February 11	Apportionments
February 18	FUMC Music Fund
February 25	Improvement Fund





Need Help? Give help.
Interchurch Emergency Food Pantry, 400
Doty Street, Mineral Point,
Wisconsin
987-2700












Below please find the Parish Visitor Rotating Church Collation Schedule for 2018. Our goal is to mail our newsletter out by the last week of every other month:

<u>Parish Visitor:</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Church</u>
Jan/Feb-First	Dec. 11	Dec. 21
Mar/Apr-Bethel	Feb. 12	Feb. 22
May/June-Linden	Apr. 16	Apr. 26
Jul/Aug-First	Jun 18	Jun. 28
Sept/Oct-Bethel	Aug. 20	Aug. 30
Nov/Dec-Linden	Oct. 15	Oct. 25
Jan/Feb-First	Dec 10	Dec 20

January 2018

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> (office closed)	2 <i>Happy New Year!</i> (office closed) 10:30 Atrium Svc.	3 6:30 Confirmation Class at 1st	4 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café	5 Twelfth Night	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 (Epiphany Sunday, Baptism of the Lord) Communion all 3 churches 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 8-12 Linden Pancake Breakfast.	8 WICK 2-6 6:45 – 8:00 Organizational Mtg. of Cub Scouts at 1st	9 6:00 Linden Ad Council Meets	10 5:30-7:30 Cub Scouts at 1st 6:30 Confirmation Class at 1st	11 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Ad Council meet at FUMC	12	13
14 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st resumes 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden resumes 10:45 Linden svc.	15  Martin Luther King Jr. DAY (office closed)	16 Apportionments for 2017 due to Conference 6:30 Parish Council meets at 1st	17 6:30 Confirmation Class at 1st Human Trafficking Awareness Day	18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25)	19	20 Districtwide SPRC Mtg. w/ Scott Carlson At 1st 8:30 Reg., 9:00-12:00 program
21 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st 9:15 FUMC svc. 9:30 S/S at Linden 10:45 Linden svc 1-4 Historical Society Annual Mtg. at 1st, Lyceum #1. "Panel of local Preservationists on Residential Practices" 6-7pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg. at 1st	22	23	24 NO Confirmation Class	25	26	27
28 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. w/choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.	29	30 1:00 Community Card Club (euchre) at Atrium	31 2017 Stat reports due to conference NO Confirmation Class	 January		 January

February 2018

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
 <p>FEBRUARY</p>		 <p>February</p>		<p>1 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café</p> <p>National Freedom Day</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Groundhog Day</p>	3
<p>4 Communion all 3 churches 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 Souper Bowl Sunday</p> 	<p>5 6:30 Bethel Ad. Council Mtg.</p> <p>6:45 – 8:00 Organizational Mtg. of Cub Scouts at 1st</p>	<p>6 9:15 Upland Hills Svc.</p> <p>8:15-5:30 Life Line Screening at First UMC</p>	<p>7 6:30 Confirmation Class at 1st</p>	<p>8 10:30 Svc. at Bloomfield</p> <p>6:30 Ad Council meets at FUMC</p>	9	<p>10 Basic Lay Servant Class 9-2:30 Westby UMC, 202 E. State St. 648-2528</p>
<p>11 (Transfiguration Sunday) 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc</p>	<p>12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>  <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Shrove Tuesday</p>	<p>14 5:30-6:45 Bethel Soup/Sandwiches 7:00 Ash Wed. Svc. with Confirmation Class</p> <p>Valentine's Day 5:30-7:30 Club Scouts at 1st</p>	15	16	<p>17 Basic Lay Servant Class 9-2:30 Westby UMC, 202 E. State St. 648-2528</p>
<p>18 (1st Sunday in Lent) 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st 9:15 FUMC svc. 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.</p> <p>6-7pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg. at 1st</p>	<p>19 President's Day</p>  <p>presidents' Day</p>	<p>20 10:30 Atrium Service</p>	<p>21 6:30 Confirmation Class at 1st</p>	<p>22 Collate P/V (by Linden) Washington's Birthday</p> 	23	24
<p>25 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at 1st 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.</p> <p>1-4 Historical Society Annual Mtg. & Lyceum #2. "Over Here: The Wisconsin Home Front in WWI" at 1st</p>	26	<p>27 1:00 Community Card Club (euchre) at the Atrium</p>	<p>28 NO Confirmation Class</p>		 <p>February</p>	

