



PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills



Called to Make Disciples Of All!

Hallelujah! Let Us Celebrate!

Parish of the Hills United Methodist Churches

Office Address: 400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
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Parish Website: parishofthehills.org
Conference email: www.wisconsinumc.org

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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

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

BETHEL United Methodist Church

has paid its annual apportionments in **FULL!**

FIRST United Methodist Church

has paid its annual apportionments in **FULL!**

LINDEN United Methodist Church

has paid its annual apportionments in **FULL!**

Dear Members and Friends of Parish of the Hills:

Let us celebrate! 2018 Conference Apportionments are paid in full! All three of our local churches have met this objective for the second consecutive year!

With God's help, we achieved this goal. How marvelous! With faith, we served dinners and breakfasts, we cooked pasties and pies, we enjoyed auctions and craft festivals, and we worshipped together.

I am inspired by the devotion of so many in our congregations. I often witness devotion in our local churches: not just devotion to building maintenance and fund raising, but devotion to helping children with attention, supporting neighbors with hot meals, and nurturing souls with music and sweetness.

Thank you all for your inspiring involvement. As God has blessed you, you have blessed so many through your devotion to the loving ministry of Jesus. May God bless us with happiness!

Gerhardt

Enjoy
The
News



NEWS & Notes

Mineral Point News

By: Ross Pollock

I sincerely hope and pray that you all had a happy and blessed Christmas and that the Lord will bring you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Janet and I had a fun “Christmas” the Saturday before the 25th with Janet’s youngest daughter and her family and her oldest son and his girlfriend. The rest of her family live a long way away, and all of my kids are in Europe so we don’t get to see them very often. We were in Church Christmas Eve and then went home for my family tradition – oyster stew (the secret is in lightly sauteeing the oysters in butter and then stewing them in half-and-half. I add heavy cream and a stick of butter; bring the whole to an “almost boil; then keep it in the ‘fridge overnight so the flavors have a chance to blend before serving). Christmas Day was very quiet. Just the two of us. New Year’s Eve we had oyster stew again (the first batch was Sooooo good!). We had a young (at my age anyone who is just 50ish is a kid!) friend over for stew. She went home early and we managed to stay up this year until the New Year ball dropped in New York, then went to bed. Although technically we didn’t celebrate our own New Year, still it was altogether a good start on 2019.

We had a very successful Christmas Bazaar – “Home for the Holidays” - Saturday, December 1st. Attendance was very good. We had tables and tables of good things to buy – not only baked goods but a large amount of Christmas items too. The famous FUMC Cake Walk attracted a good number of adults in addition to the kids this year. It is a fun activity with the chance of winning a cake thrown in as a bonus! We made almost \$1800 (which is much needed and appreciated too!)

Our scheduled December Administrative Council Meeting was not held due to the lack of a quorum. There were just too many schedule conflicts and people away that evening.

This issue of the Parish Visitor is coming out very late so most of the January activities have already occurred.

We wish Pastor’s wife, Ling, a Very Happy Chinese New Year (February 5)! Sarah Circle will meet at the Pointer Café for lunch at noon on Thursday the 7th. Contact Carol Paynter for more information. The Administrative Council will meet at 6:30 p.m., also on the 7th. Anyone may attend – but only members may vote. (A “heads up” to all you guys!) Valentine’s Day is Thursday, February 14th.

The Administrative Council has decided to leave our insurance “as is.” Local insurance agents have informed us that we are getting a really good deal on our insurance rates. All the proposed changes would increase our liability without much saving in premiums. So we will leave things as is for the time being. The Ad Council Committee is planning (a dinner?) for Shrove Tuesday, March 6. More information will follow in the Bulletin and the Parish Visitor.

Thanks to your generosity and Karla Vogel’s hard work, our Apportionments due to the Wisconsin Annual Conference have been paid in full. Congratulations Karla! This is the third year in a row that we have fully met our obligations.

Are YOU involved in any of the church’s many activities? Not only will your participation be very much appreciated, but you will leave with a very good feeling from it too! Just to name a few: The Choir can always use new singers. Just show up a little after 8:30 a.m. any 2nd or 4th Sunday for practice and join in! People are needed to help serve Holy Communion the 1st Sunday of each month. No experience is needed. Sign up on the clipboard on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Do you come downstairs after the service each Sunday for coffee and “treats?” “Come on down,” meet people and experience the fun and fellowship. We also need people to bring in cookies, cakes or whatever, and make the coffee that we enjoy. There is another clipboard at the back of the church upon which you can sign up for this. As we come into spring and summer, we can use more people to help with yard cleanup, gardening, lawn mowing, etc. More about that later. How about helping your Financial Secretary Margie Stephenson count money after the service once every couple of months (usually for 30-45 minutes.) Call Janet Pollock (574-8354) to get on the schedule. Contact Marcia in the office for Food Pantry help twice a year or Parish Visitor collation twice a year, If none of these appeal to you, there is always more to do! What would YOU enjoy doing?

Have you checked out our Face Book page online? Go to “First United Methodist Church Mineral Point

Wisconsin.” There is all sorts of interesting stuff posted there.

This is a prayer I think we can all subscribe to – regardless of our politics: Dear Lord, we pray you will grant our President the wisdom to guide us safely through these perilous times. Help him to recognize and focus on policies that will work for the benefit of all America and all Americans. Surround him with wise and knowledgeable men and women to advise him. And finally, bring us all together in a more respectful and civil life style so that we may all come together in peace as Americans. All this we ask in your Son’s name, to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen

Linden News
By: Dixie Edge

The Sunday School children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade made Thanksgiving cards for some of our local friends & family of the church. Each of the kids came up with similar but different versions to send. It is all about giving “Thanks”.

The church was decorated beautifully for Advent and the Christmas season. Thank you to Lois Alton, Linda Nichols, Lynda Cutler and Pam Reddell for putting up the decorations. Despite the very “rainy” evening of December 5, the Christmas tree lighting was held at the church with the UMW serving hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies. A nice gathering of friends shared in the “Spirit” of Christmas. We are so very thankful for Jeff Lindner, Larry Dale and Mandy Schultz for helping with making this a tradition for our community to enjoy by getting the lights on the big tree in the church yard. It is a beautiful reminder of the reason for the season. Our Church is blessed with many members and friends who constantly remind us we are a community church for all.

The funeral of Barbara (Harker) Crapp was held at the church with the UMW serving the luncheon following graveside services at the Linden Cemetery on November 30. Barbara was a great supporter of our church. We extend our condolences to the family.

On December 11, the UMW gathered together with a Christmas potluck party to end their year. A nice evening of socializing and as always, great food. Thanksgiving and Christmas cards were sent out to many family & friends of the church.

The days leading up to the church bake sale found UMW, along with friends of the church busy preparing and making pasty for the sale on Thursday & Friday. Over 60 pasties were made. Once again, we are always thankful for the help from the community to support our church. We are very thankful that the UMW were able to donate over \$3,000 to the many organizations in our area and also, support the church general fund for conference apportionment from their general fund and the “Betty Jean” fund. The UMW will resume meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

UMW served the funeral luncheon for Dickson “Dick” Faull on January 4th, following graveside services at the Linden Cemetery. Our condolences to the family.

The Christmas Eve service was well attended. It wouldn’t be Christmas without the children’s program and the traditional Candle light service. A big heartfelt thank you to all of our participants:

Nursery & Kindergarten, taught by Linda Nichols; Brantley Batton, Beckett Bollant, Braxton Bollant, Brayson Draves, Mya Hoffman and Allison Milliken.

1st & 2nd Grade taught by Jill Hughes; Tayte Hoffman, Zayda Smart, Sadie Spurley, Corbin Batton, Charlie Bollant and Bryler Draves.

3rd & 4th Grade taught by Pam Reddell; Carmen Parish, Hadleigh Vivian, Leah Hoffman, June Spurley and Camryn Leitzinger.

Baby Jesus - RaeLynn Aide. And Teacher/Helper Kali Wicks.

Liz Hoffman preformed Jingle Bells on her clarinet. Allyson Cullen sang “Mary Did You Know”. Rhoda Rule-Anderson played the organ and Jill Hughes played the piano.

It is always nice to see the youth come back and help with the service. Lucas Reddell, Charlie Richards, Tad Spurley and Gabriel Vivian were ushers. Candle lighters were Kennedy Kitelinger, Emma Cullen, Liz Hoffman, Ella Parish, Grace Vivian, Lilliana Vivian and Savannah Vivian.

The children performed the Christmas story first, while they changed out of their costumes the congregation sang a couple of songs. The Children came back and each class had a short presentation on Christmas and then the children sang several Christmas songs. The service ended with the candle

lighting and singing Silent Night. The Church was full of family and friends who came to hear the Christmas message. It's a story everyone knows, but still come back every year to hear and watch as the young people of our congregation perform it.

The Sunday School will take a short break after the Christmas Eve program and start back on Sunday, January 20th.

The pancake breakfast was held on Sunday, January 6th. Many people came out for food and fellowship. Thank you to all for your support.

The men are making plans for the annual Soup Supper. The tentative date is Wednesday, March 13th . Watch for more information.

*Bethel News By:
Cindy Reynolds-Doyle*

New Year greetings to everyone. Hopefully the Christmas season filled you with Love and Joy. 2019 comes with the promise of hope as we anticipate with excitement the year ahead. Family and friends will play an important part in our journey throughout this New Year. But, not everyone is blessed with the loving support of a family, and you may be able to help fill the emptiness in a life that needs some loving care. Keep your heart open to opportunities to do good. Touch lives, touch hearts! Become involved where you are needed. Let the blessings of God's love inspire you to do great things.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Willing workers gathered after the Sunday service on December 2nd. It did not take long before our church was looking festive for the Christmas Season. Sunday, January 13th we busily took down decorations and stored them away for Christmas 2019. Thank you to all who were able to help with decorating and un-decorating the church. Your help was greatly appreciated.

SNOWFLAKE SUNDAY: A heartwarming tradition took place at our Sunday, December 9th worship service. We select a snowflake ornament from our lovely collection to hang on the Christmas tree. We do this in remembrance of loved ones who are no longer with us. The people fondly remembered are like snowflakes, each unique and special in their own way.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our Christmas program was held at our Sunday morning worship

service on December 16th. Guest soloist, Leon Stebleton looked very stylish sporting a top hat and holding a wooden cane. His beautiful rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" was enjoyed by everyone.

Our chime players, Ellery Massey, Grace Wersal, Jennifer Reynolds and Livia Doyle performed two Christmas carols. Jeanne Massey accompanied the Chime Choir. Our Bethel Choir singers included, Jennifer Reynolds, Cindy Reynolds-Doyle, Mary Oellerich Milz, Greg James, Jennifer James Baker, Leon Stebleton, Misty Whitford, Grace Wersal and Ellery Massey. Jeanne Massey accompanied on piano to the favorite carol "What Child Is This".

Children's story participants: Reader (Livia Doyle), Helpers (Quayde Doyle wearing a cow hat and Gentry Doyle wearing a lamb hat), the story book titled, "The Silent - - no, The NOISY Night" by Jill Roman Lord. The story begins "It may have been a silent night when Jesus came to earth or . . . it may have been a NOISY night to celebrate His birth".

Many animals filled the stable to welcome the birth of baby Jesus. Livia read the story as the little helpers found stuffed animals in the big basket next to the reader. They found a cow, hen, donkey, lamb, kitty, puppy and pig which they placed in front of the altar. A nativity scene was displayed on top of the altar. The story ended saying "Let's spread the love of Jesus Christ and good news with delight! Let's share His peace and joy like that first NOISY Christmas night". Quayde, Gentry, Ellery and Grace passed out rhythm instruments to the congregation. Everyone joined in singing Deck the Halls accompanied by Jeanne on the piano along with bells, maracas, tambourines and rattles. Without a doubt it was a NOISY, Happy celebration proclaiming the birth of baby Jesus at Bethel Church. The message is clear, be joyful and spread the good news loud and clear as we welcome a New Year!

A special tribute was paid to our three dedicated musicians who share their talents playing the keyboard for Sunday morning services. Cindy Reynolds-Doyle presented Nancy Reynolds, Jeanne Massey and Jennifer Reynolds with a Thank You card and gift from the Bethel Congregation. Music plays a wonderful part in our worship services. We are so very thankful to have Nancy, Jeanne and Jennifer in our church family.

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. Thank you to the many church members who joined in our Christmas program celebration.

FOOD PANTRY: We will continue to collect items for the Mineral Point Ecumenical Food Pantry Throughout the winter months.

CARE AND SHARE MISSION: We are continuing to collect clothing items for children four years through fifth grade. Winter hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear are needed. The Mineral Point Elementary School appreciates these useful donations. Thank you for your generous gifts.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY: We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Dorothy Anderson who passed away on December 25th, 2018. Dorothy was the mother of Linda Larsen, grandmother of Darlene Palzkill and great grandmother of Cooper Palzkill all members of our Bethel Church Family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

THANKFUL FOR GIFTS GIVEN: 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. We welcome visitors anytime. Come be a part of our church family and celebrate Bethel's 136 years of sharing God's love.

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEMBERS FROM BETHEL CHURCH: (Ellery Massey and Grace Wersal) We support and encourage our young people as they explore their faith and God's love in their lives.

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

BETHEL AD COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, February, 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

BIRTHDAYS: January = Quayde Doyle (7th)
February = Gordy Whitford (20th), Carlos Schroeder (22nd), Mary Oellerich-Milz (22nd), Steve Oellerich (25th).

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: January = Carlos and Carol Schroeder (10th).

CELEBRATE the accomplishments of the past year, dedicate yourself to the goals of next year. Each new year is a blessing of great hope and new cheer. Embrace it with enthusiasm.



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

January 06	Apportionments
January 13	Apportionments
January 20	Community Connections Free Clinic
January 27	Improvement Fund

February 03	Souper Bowl Sunday: Hodan Center
February 10	Apportionments
February 17	FUMC Music Fund
February 24	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 2019. 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-Linden	Feb. 18	Feb. 28
May/June-Bethel	Apr. 15	Apr. 25
Jul/Aug-First	Jun 17	Jun. 27
Sept/Oct-Linden	Aug. 19	Aug. 29
Nov/Dec-Bethel	Oct. 21	Oct. 31
Jan/Feb-First	Dec 09	Dec 19












CHRISTMAS SEASON

January 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
 JANUARY		1 	2	3 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café	4	5 Twelfth Night
6 Epiphany of the Lord 8:00 Bethel svc. 9:15 FUMC svc. 10:45 Linden svc. 8-12 Linden Pancake Breakfast	7	8	9 5:30-7:30 Tiger Den at FUMC	10 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Ad Council meet at FUMC	11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day	12 UCC Pasty Day
13 Baptism of the Lord Communion all 3 churches 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 (8:30 Choir at FUMC)	14 WICK 2-6 at FUMC	15 9:15 Uplands 10:30 MPCC 6:30 Linden Ad Council	16 6:00 POH Council Mtg. at FUMC	17	18 Week of prayer for Christian Unity (18-25)	19
20 8:00 Bethel svc. 9:15 FUMC svc. 10:45 Linden svc s/s resumes at 1 st 8:15 & Linden 9:30 1:00 Historical Society at FUMC 6:00 Pack mtg at FUMC	21 	22	23 5:30-7:30 Tiger Den at FUMC	24	25	26
27 Ecumenical Sunday 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at FUMC 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.	28	29 1:00 Community Card Club (euchre) at the MPCC	30  January	31	 January	

February 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
 <p>FEBRUARY</p>					<p>1 National Freedom Day</p>	<p>2 Groundhog Day</p> 
<p>3 Communion all 3 churches 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 Souper Bowl Sunday</p> 	<p>4 6:45 – 8:00 Organizational Mtg. of Cub Scouts at FUMC</p>	<p>5 Chinese New Year</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café 6:30 Ad Council at FUMC</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at FUMC 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Lincoln's Birthday</p> 	<p>13 5:30-7:30 Tiger Den at FUMC</p>	<p>14 Happy Valentine's Day</p> 	<p>15 Christian Ballet Company at the MP Opera House</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at FUMC 9:15 FUMC svc. & s/s children sing 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc. 6:00 Cub Scout Pack Mtg. at FUMC</p>	<p>18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>  	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Washington's Birthday</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>24 8:00 Bethel svc. 8:15 S/S at FUMC 8:30 FUMC choir practice 9:15 FUMC svc. with choir 9:30 s/s at Linden 10:45 Linden svc.</p>	<p>25 6:30 Bethel Ad Council Mtg.</p>	<p>26 1:00 Community Card Club (euchre) at the MPCC</p>	<p>27 5:30-7:30 Tiger Den at FUMC</p>	<p>28 Collate P/V (by Linden) Historical Society 7pm Lyceum 2 of 3 at Orchard Lawn 987-3222 for more information</p>		