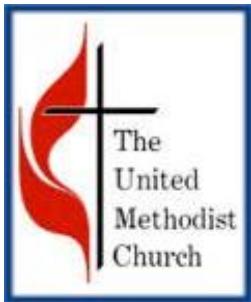


# Parish of the Hills



Go and Make Disciples

## Parish of the Hills United Methodist Churches

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

Office E-mail: [pohumc@gmail.com](mailto:pohumc@gmail.com)  
Parish Website: [parishofthehills.org](http://parishofthehills.org)  
Conference email: [www.wisconsinumc.org](http://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;

First UM Church: 400 Doty Street, MP  
9:15 a.m. — Worship  
Handicapped Accessible

Linden UM Church: In the Village on Hwy. 39  
9:30 Sunday School  
(see scheduled dates)  
10:45 a.m. — Worship

Pastor Chris Droste  
Cell: (608) 359-8180  
E-mail: [darling8180@gmail.com](mailto:darling8180@gmail.com)

Marcia Ajer, Administrative Assistant



DECEMBER, 2022 - JANUARY, 2023

# PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills



Today as I write this page, I hope to edify you as another year draws to a close and gives way for a new year ahead.

For me, in the now, it is November 21, 2022, seven years from the moment my husband Tim died.

Facebook memories show that exactly fourteen years ago I flew out to California to meet with the illustrator who later worked on the children's book I published, *From The Oak Tree*. Next to me on the floor is a small box of books, advance copies of my auto biography that will be released on November 28. (Tina Marie—*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*)

As I sit on the couch, in *my spot*, as it has been for the past twenty-two years, I can hear jazz music coming from my husband Jim's office. In the past four years I have come to live in a new town, meet new people, marry a wonderful man, adopt a cute but naughty dog, take on an incredible new career and live a life that in 2008, or 2015 I would never in my wildest dreams foreseen. I am so blessed. God is truly a God of restoration.

When I wrote the children's book, I thought maybe it would help lift me out of the financial recession that had hit the country, but it didn't. When I married Tim, I thought we would be together forever, but we weren't. Back when I worked at General Motors, I thought that like my dad, I would be there for thirty or so years, but I wasn't.

My point is, that there are times when our path in life takes us a different direction than we anticipated. I'm glad I wrote the book. I cherish my time with my Tim and I value my past career in the automotive world.

I look forward to the future with the peace I have in knowing that God is for me, that I can trust Him, and that His love never fails. May you be blessed and be a blessing to others,  
Pastor Chris

## **Mineral Point News**

*By: Carol Paynter*

The Parish Bible Studies started October 18th on Tuesdays through November 8<sup>th</sup> when we will take a break until January 10<sup>th</sup>. Next year's 5 weeks of study will be on Tuesdays at the same times: 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (weather permitting). All classes will be held in Fellowship Hall at the 1<sup>st</sup> UMC. All are welcome! Bring a friend or neighbor! Bring your bible and ask questions! We have had several enjoy the challenge of studying in a group again. It's fun!

A lovely service and funeral luncheon was held for family and friends of Donna Ralph on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

A successful small (153) pasty sale was held November 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the workers, organizers and buyers – you are great!

Our church was decorated by special elves (Margie & Dan Stephenson) just in time for the first Sunday of Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup> with a beautiful live tree, beautiful fresh wreaths on our doors, advent candles and candles & swags in our beautiful stained glass windows! We always have out-of-town visitors who enjoy visiting our church during the holidays and are so pleased with their positive comments.

Our "Old Fashion Holiday Bake Sale" will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-12:00. Come and enjoy a variety of homemade baked goodies! Donations, as always, are much needed. This is part of Candlelight shopping week-end in Mineral Point with Gallery Night, Fireworks, Santa Day at Shake Rag Alley, Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theatre at the Walker House, Trinity's Bazaar & Hope Lutherans Annual Cookie & Candy bake sale too!

The offices circulating heat pump was replaced - a big thank you to the donors who raised \$775 of the \$875 to replace the pump! Also, the handicap entrance light & basement stairs light breaker is now working again thanks to a \$100

donation for the electrician! The kitchen phone is now out of order & probably needs replacing.

Services are now held in Fellowship Hall for the winter in an effort to save fuel costs. However, Christmas Eve 6:00 service, and Christmas day 9:15 service will be held in the sanctuary.

Other holiday events will be found elsewhere in this news letter as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

## **Bethel News**

*By: Cindy Reynolds-Doyle*

The Christmas story inspires us to cheerfully spread the message of God's love. Many opportunities are available to share kindness and help brighten the lives of others. Gifting in small ways can have great impact and lift your own spirit. Open your heart to this festive season of the year and be grateful for the many gifts we receive in our daily life. Share the Christmas message of Love, Joy, Hope and Peace with friends and family. I wish you and yours a Christmas filled with all the joys of the season!

### **FALL SUPPER/BAZAAR/AUCTION**

Bethel's Fall Harvest Supper was held on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The fall weather filled the air with a little breeze and slight chill. It was a good day to welcome people to our church in the country. The Bazaar in the entryway had a wonderful array of baked goods, fall produce and handmade articles. We served 120 meals including several carry-outs. The menu offered an excellent selection of food choices. A lively auction with Jim McNeill as auctioneer followed the meal. Justin Doyle and sons, Quayde, Gentry and Meritt were on hand to assist at auction time. The enthusiastic young helpers added some fun to the evening. Thank you to our church family for all the work given to make our Fall Supper, Bazaar and Auction a success. We thank everyone who attended and supported our Bethel Fall Event.

### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Preparing our church for the Christmas season took place following worship service on Sunday,

November 27<sup>th</sup>. The decorating crew hung pine garlands, wreaths and placed candles and pine on the windowsills. Ornaments made by Sunday School Children through the years were hung on the Christmas Tree. A nice reminder of the many who have been a part of the Bethel Church Family. Addition of several newly created ornaments added sparkle to the tree. Once the decorations are in place a warm, peaceful feeling radiates throughout the church and spreads hope and joy to us all.

### **SNOWFLAKE SUNDAY**

We will be celebrating Snowflake Sunday on December 4<sup>th</sup> at our 8:00 a.m. worship service. It is our tradition to remember loved ones as we hang special snowflake ornaments on the Christmas Tree. This is a very touching and meaningful sign of the season at Bethel. Christmas traditions play a key role in our own families, as well as our church family. Old and new traditions are to be cherished.

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY**

Our church Christmas Program will be included in the morning worship service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Special music provided by soloists, choir members and the chime players will bring joy to all who attend. Our church pianists, Jeanne Massey and Jennifer Reynolds will add their talents to this special service. Jeanne and Jennifer are coordinating the music presentations. A mix of ages will participate in a play and special readings. Livia Doyle, Melissa Doyle Jacobson, and Cindy Reynolds-Doyle will help in planning this part of the program. Refreshments and fellowship in the church dining room will follow the service. Sunday School Children will hand out traditional treat bags to all who attend. We invite you to join us on this Christmas Celebration Sunday at Bethel.

### **HEARTFELT THANK YOU**

Music most certainly plays a vital role during this festive season. Joyful and inspirational music fills the air in great celebration. Favorite Christmas Carols warm our heart and bring back special memories. Music has always played a key role in our Bethel Church. We have been very fortunate to have talented musicians to continue the tradition. We want to give a big shout out to our dedicated pianists for their very

important contribution to Sunday morning services. Jeanne Massey and Jennifer Reynolds faithfully provide us with beautiful music each Sunday. Thank you very much from your entire church family.

### **CARE AND SHARE MISSION**

Once again, we will collect warm winter wear for children ages four years through fifth grade to be given to students at the Mineral Point Elementary School. Hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, underwear, coats, and any other clothing items new or in good condition are welcome. We will be collecting through the winter months. Your donations are appreciated!

### **BETHEL AD COUNCIL**

The Bethel Church Ad Council met on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The budget for the next year was approved and nominations for committees appointed. Discussion included membership listing and the new railings installed outside the kitchen door. Parish of the Hills Charge Conference will take place at Mineral Point United Methodist Church on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Representatives from Bethel are asked to attend this meeting.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** Trevor Jacobson (6<sup>th</sup>), Dennis Schaaf (7<sup>th</sup>), Carol Small (10<sup>th</sup>), Danielle (James) Reed (14<sup>th</sup>), Caroline Reynolds (16<sup>th</sup>), Deb Douglas (19<sup>th</sup>), Katie Fitzsimmons (28<sup>th</sup>) and Cora AnneMarie Reed (31<sup>st</sup>).

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:** Jeff & Chris Reynolds (18<sup>th</sup>).

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:** Katelyn Oellerich (2<sup>nd</sup>), Helena Oellerich (2<sup>nd</sup>), Quayde Doyle (7<sup>th</sup>) and Rob Massey (15<sup>th</sup>).

Bless us, Lord, this Christmas with quietness of mind –  
teach us to be patient and always to be kind.  
Show us that in quietness we can feel Your presence near,  
filling us with joy and peace throughout the coming year.

Helen Steiner Rice

**WISHING YOU ALL A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH MANY BLESSINGS!**

## Linden News By: Dixie Edge

Five members of the Linden American Legion went on the Badger Honor flight. Previously it was reported only four were going. Denny Rickard went on October 11th, and Jerre Custer, Stan Cutler, Bill Hirsch and Martin Lenz went on October 29th. Many family and friends went to the Dane County Airport in Madison to welcome home the veterans when they arrived back from Washington DC. Thank you again to these men for their service to our country and community.

Our condolences to the family of Trudy Scott who passed away on October 15th. Prayers go out to her husband Joe, daughter Tonya and son Shaun and family.

Sunday school is going very well. The children sang in Church on November 13th. They did an awesome job. Many parents and grandparents were in attendance to enjoy the performance. Such a delight to see their smiles and hear them sing. Thank you to the teachers and parents that made this happen.

Christmas Eve services will start this year at 6:30 p.m. We will begin with the Sunday School program and will end with the traditional candlelight service. This is such a beautiful time to be in our church, we hope to see you there!

The Sunday School will take a break after Christmas with plans to start again in February.

Our sincere sympathy to the family and many friends of Donna Ralph who passed away on November 11th. She will be missed by her family, Charlie Rule, Rhoda Rule and Paula Rule and families.

The fireworks will be held on Saturday, December 17th at the Linden Village Park. Santa Claus will also be in town that day. Watch for details.

We are once again making plans to have a pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 8th starting at 8am to noon. Always a great time to

enjoy a great breakfast and spend time with friends and family.

Watch for details on the Men's Soup Supper, scheduled for the 3rd or 4th Wednesday in March. All your favorite soups and lots of great fellowship to be served.

Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love!

Thanks be to GOD, for his indescribable GIFT. 2 Corinthians 9:15. May the joy and peace that were present at the birth of Christ be present in your home this season.



### ATTENDANCE

October	2	9	16	23	30
Bethel	14	18	13	16	21
First	28	28	18	29	19
Linden	14	08		10	11
Facebook Live	20	18	n/a	12	13
5 Day Totals	62	14	n/a	52	58

November	6	13	20	27
Bethel	16	11	14	31
First	21	22	14	19
Linden	10	42	13	17
Facebook Live	17	21	15	07
5 Day Totals	85	63	51	



Below please find the Parish Visitor Rotating Church Collation Schedule for 2023. Our goal is to mail our newsletter out by the last week of every other month:

Parish Visitor:	Article Deadline:	Church Collates:
Feb/March-First	Jan 17	Jan 26
April/May-Linden	March 20	March 30
June/July-Bethel	May 15	May 25
Aug/Sept-First	July 17	July 27
Oct/Nov-Linden	Sept 18	Sept 28
Dec/Jan-Bethel	Nov 20	Nov 30



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

December 04 Sunday School Fund

December 11 Apportionments

December 18 Improvement Fund

December 24 Improvement Fund

December 25 MPCC Resident's Fund

January 01 Fireman Fund

January 08 Apportionments

January 15 Community Connections Free Clinic

January 22 Improvement Fund

January 29 MP Rescue Squad

#### REMEMBER THESE WHEN SAYING GOOD BYE – PARENTING YOUR PINT SIZED TREASURES:

See you later alligator, in a while, crocodile.  
Out the door, dinosaur. Chop chop, lollipop.  
Take care, polar bear. Give a hug, ladybug. In an hour, sunflower. Maybe two, kangaroo. Better swish, jellyfish. Chow chow, brown cow. Better shake, rattlesnake. Bye bye, butterfly. Gotta go, buffalo. Let's jam, Sam. Blow a kiss, goldfish. Be sweet, parakeet. Sweet dreams, jelly bean.  
See you later escalator!

#### A Perfect Marriage?

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about. For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day, the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000. He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my

grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll." The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness. "Honey," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?" "Oh," she said. "That's the money I made from selling the dolls."



#### Twenty Third Psalms for Busy People

*The Lord sets my speed, I shall not rush. He makes me stop and rest in a quiet time. He provides me with moments of stillness that restores my serenity. He leads me to be efficient and calm of mind. He gives me peace. Even though I have a great many things to accomplish, I will not fret for I feel His presence. His power and strength keep me in balance. He gives refreshment in the midst of my activities. By the love and grace of His Holy Spirit my joy and energy are renewed. Harmony and effectiveness are the fruits of my hours. I shall walk at the speed my Lord sets and dwell with Him now and forever.*

#### Home Rules

Always be honest, count your blessings, bear each others burdens, forgive and forget, be kind and tender hearted, comfort one another, keep your promises, be supportive of one another, be true to each other, look after each other, treat each other like your friends, but most important, love one another deeply from the heart.



*life* 102.5

88.1

These are Christian Radio Stations to encourage and uplift you. Pastor Chris would like you to start your day by listening to one of them for just a few minutes of your time.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

# DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> World Aids Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10-12 Holiday Bake Sale At 1st UMC 7:30-12 Faith Lutheran Cookie & candy sale 10-2:30 Trinity 64th Holiday Fair Candlelight Shopping, Gallery Night, Santa Day
<b>4</b> 8:00 Bethel Svc with communion 9:15 1st Svc 10:45 Linden Svc with communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	<b>8</b> 7:00 Ad Council meets at 1st UMC Brownie Day	<b>9</b> Christmas Card Day	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:00 Bethel Svc & Snowflake Sunday 8:30 Choir practice at 1st 9:15 1st Svc, Choir & communion 9:30-10:25 Sunday School at Linden 10:45 Linden Svc 7:00 Trinity's Lessons & Carols	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Fireworks Linden's Village Park
<b>18</b> 8:00 Bethel's Christmas program & svc. 9:15 1st Svc 9:30-10:25 Sunday School at Linden 10:45 Linden Svc	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter Solstice/First Day of Winter Crossword Puzzle Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 6:00 Candlelight Service at 1st UMC 6:30 Children's Program at Linden UMC & Service
<b>25</b> 8:00 Bethel's Svc 8:30 Choir practice at 1st 9:15 1st Svc /Choir 10:45 Linden Svc	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Fruitcake Day	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b> 

# JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>  <u>New Year's Day</u> Epiphany Sunday 8:00 Bethel Svc with communion 9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Svc 10:45 Linden Svc with communion	<b>2</b>  <u>New Year's Day Holiday</u> 	<b>3</b>  January	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Twelfth Night	<b>6</b> Epiphany of the Lord  Cuddle Up Day	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  Baptism of the Lord 8:00 Bethel Svc 8:30 Choir practice 1 <sup>st</sup> 9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Svc with communion/Choir 8-12 Linden's Church Pancake Breakfast 10:45 Linden Svc	<b>9</b>  National Take the Stairs Day	<b>10</b>  Bible Study 10:00 & 5:30 at First UMC (week 1 of 5)  Houseplant Appreciation Day	<b>11</b>  Human Trafficking Awareness Day	<b>12</b>  6:30 Trustees 7:00 Ad Council meet at 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  Human Relations Day 8:00 Bethel Svc 9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Svc 10:45 Linden Svc  National Hat Day	<b>16</b>   <u>M L King Day</u> Martin Luther King Jr. DAY  Holiday	<b>17</b>  NEWSLETTER  Feb/March issue  Bible Study 10:00 & 5:30 at First UMC (week 2 of 5)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  January	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  National Hugging Day
<b>22</b>  8:00 Bethel Svc 8:30 Choir practice 1 <sup>st</sup> 9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Svc w/Choir 10:45 Linden Svc  Chinese New Year	<b>23</b>  National Pie Day	<b>24</b>  Bible Study 10:00 & 5:30 at First UMC (week 3 of 5)  Compliment Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Collate Parish Visitor (First UMC)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
<b>29</b>  8:00 Bethel Svc 9:15 1 <sup>st</sup> Svc 10:45 Linden Svc	<b>30</b>   JANUARY	<b>31</b>  Bible Study 10:00 & 5:30 at First UMC (week 4 of 5)	<b>1</b>  National Freedom Day  Bubble Gum Day	<b>2</b>  Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>  Feed the Birds Day	<b>4</b>

