

JANUARY 2023: A Long Obedience

Philippians 3: ¹² *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.* ¹³ *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,* ¹⁴ *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

For many people the end of a year and the start of another is often a time of reflection and taking stock of where they have been, and consideration of where they are headed. As disciples of Jesus Christ on pilgrimage with others from Black Hawk-Bethlehem, we also pause to evaluate how we have grown in relationship and likeness to Jesus this past year, and seek direction as we journey onward.

The essential thing "in heaven and earth" is... that there should be long obedience in the same direction; thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living. Friedrich Nietzsche-Beyond Good and Evil

Eugene Peterson, author of the Message transliteration of the bible, published a book in 1980 called *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. Through it, he sought to encourage the steady, *onward and upward* movement of a disciple from the infancy of re-birth to the final consummation of faith in Jesus' eternal presence.

Peterson relates our discipleship and pilgrimage to the Psalms of Ascents (Psalm 120-134) in the Bible. These 15 Psalms were likely sung by Hebrew pilgrims as they made their way to the great worship festivals in Jerusalem. He notes that topographically, Jerusalem is the highest city in Palestine, so those who traveled there spent much of their time ascending. The metaphor is that we, disciples of Jesus Christ, are similarly on a great pilgrimage of faith throughout our lives; ever-moving onward and upward on a *Long Obedience in the Same Direction*.

As we journey this new year together with all its uncertainty, expectations, and excitement of a new beginning, may we likewise be guided by the Psalms of Ascent as we *press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us!* Please, pray, study, and be willing to share what God is showing you each week so the worshipping community can move together as one!

Lace up your hiking boots! Onward and Upward! PK



IMPORTANT CHURCH CONFERENCE

In Pastor Kendall's *December 2022 Newsletter* article, you were given the most current update on progress of possible Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. We have now spent months praying, informing, discussing, meeting, evaluating, discerning, documenting, planning, and seeking the mind of Christ for Black Hawk: Bethlehem Church. We have now reached the point of decision. **BHBUMC MEMBERS:** we invite you to gather for a specially called Church Conference on **Sunday January 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the church sanctuary to vote whether (or not) to Disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.**

Step 12 of the process outlines the following details for this Meeting:

- Our District Superintendent, Rev. Amanda Stein, will preside over the Meeting.
- Professing Members must sign-in next to their name on the verified printed Membership roll (*the Membership list is posted on the kitchen bulletin board*).
- The vote to Disaffiliate must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of Professing Members present at this church conference (*no proxy or absentee votes permitted*).
- Written ballots must be used.
- Results must be certified and signed by an authorized officer of BHB and given to the District Superintendent as soon as meeting adjourns.

As always, we pray that you are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ who is head of the Church. We covet your prayers as we attempt to be His faithful disciples.

In service to Christ and His church,
Black Hawk: Bethlehem Disaffiliation Committee:

Eugene Unger, John & Ranju Been, Christine & Kyle Elliott, LaNell Jaquish, JoAnn Ballweg, Shalome Ullmann. Advisory: Rev. Dennis Weis & Pastor Kendall Schlittler

"Progress in life is not measured by security but by growth; and growth means taking occasional risks. You'll never get anywhere interesting by always doing the safe thing."

Author Unknown

John C. Maxwell: Any totally safe road you find will lead only to stagnation. Life is a series of choices and changes. It requires faith and action. You can't stay in the harbor and discover new worlds at the same time.

"My obligation is to do the right thing. The rest is in God's hands." Martin Luther King, Jr.

John C. Maxwell: As you face a decision, always determine what the right this is to do. If you do that first, then a choice is often very easy to make.



NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION JAN. 1st
Classes Resume January 8th, 2023

Sunday School Offering

Please have your kids save their offering.
We will invite them to bring it forward the
last Sunday of each month during
worship. The collection will be set aside for
a mission-related organization, decided by
the students & teachers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BIRTHDAY BASH

JANUARY 22nd

10:00 AM

Celebrating Oct-Jan Birthdays
CUPCAKES FOR EVERYONE!

ATTENTION: BAD WEATHER SUNDAYS

1. **Church and Christian Ed. will still meet:**
The form and setting may change, but our focus will always be on the Lord.
2. **Personal safety decision:** *Individuals must use their own good judgment in coming out in inclement weather. If you are responsible for duties and have decided to stay home, give the office a call (544-3991) **Please: do not RISK it.** We prefer you be safe and sound. We will gladly adapt.*
3. **Cancellation:** *In the **rare** event of cancellation, an email and Facebook post will be sent out. **Please check before leaving home.***

SOWING & GROWING

WOMEN'S WORKOUTS **MONDAYS 5:30-6:15 PM**

Join Karen at church for a 45-minute workout:
cardio, strength, stretching exercises to
inspirational music. Teens welcome too!
Bring a mat, water bottle and light weights.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 8:30 AM
Call Karen for location 608-544-3991

SPOUSES WITHOUT SPOUSES

Ladies, meet for lunch at The Eagle Inn on
Thursday, Jan. 12th at 11:30.

WATER WELLS

BHB Friends...you have met the basic need of
families with the gift of accessible, and safe water.
Combining **MEMORY/HONOR STAR** donations with
the **Nov-Dec. Sunday School Offering**, we were
able to "gift" SIX Water Wells to Compassion
International to help people living in poverty (\$100
provides for one family). By providing WELLS,
Compassion-assisted children and their families will
greatly benefit from access to a safe water source.
Thank you for your generosity! Jesus said...
*"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to
one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I
tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his
reward."* Matthew 10:42

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for
people/families to sign up for a
MONTH of BASIC cleaning
duties (garbage collection, vacuum, dust, mop,
replenish, straighten) The time commitment
would be approx. 1 hour a week x 4.
In appreciation, you will receive a \$25 PIG
GROCERY CARD. Please see the full list of
duties on the church kitchen bulletin board.
The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.



JANUARY 2023

WORSHIP SERVANTS

If you are UNABLE to serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a substitute and notify Karen by Wednesday of that week. Thank you.

Keep this page as your reminder.

Worship Leader

1st Pastor Kendall
8th Jo Ballweg
15th John Been
22nd Tom Owens
29th Christine Elliott

Acolyte

1st Pastor Kendall
8th Sarah Gerike
15th Abigail Hartley
22nd Micah Bennett
29th Paisley Jaquish

***Audio/Visual Technician**

1st Sunday Pastor Kendall
2nd Sunday Gene Unger
3rd Sunday Nick Hartley
4th Sunday Katey Ullmann
5th Sunday Rhett Jaquish

I would like more people on my rotation list. Would you consider being a Sunday Worship Leader?

- Introduce Opening Song & Hymn
- Lead Call to Worship & Prayer
- Lead Apostles' Creed
- Read Scripture

Mom/Dad could tag-team with a child who has strong reading abilities. Contact Karen if you would like to be included on this rotating list.

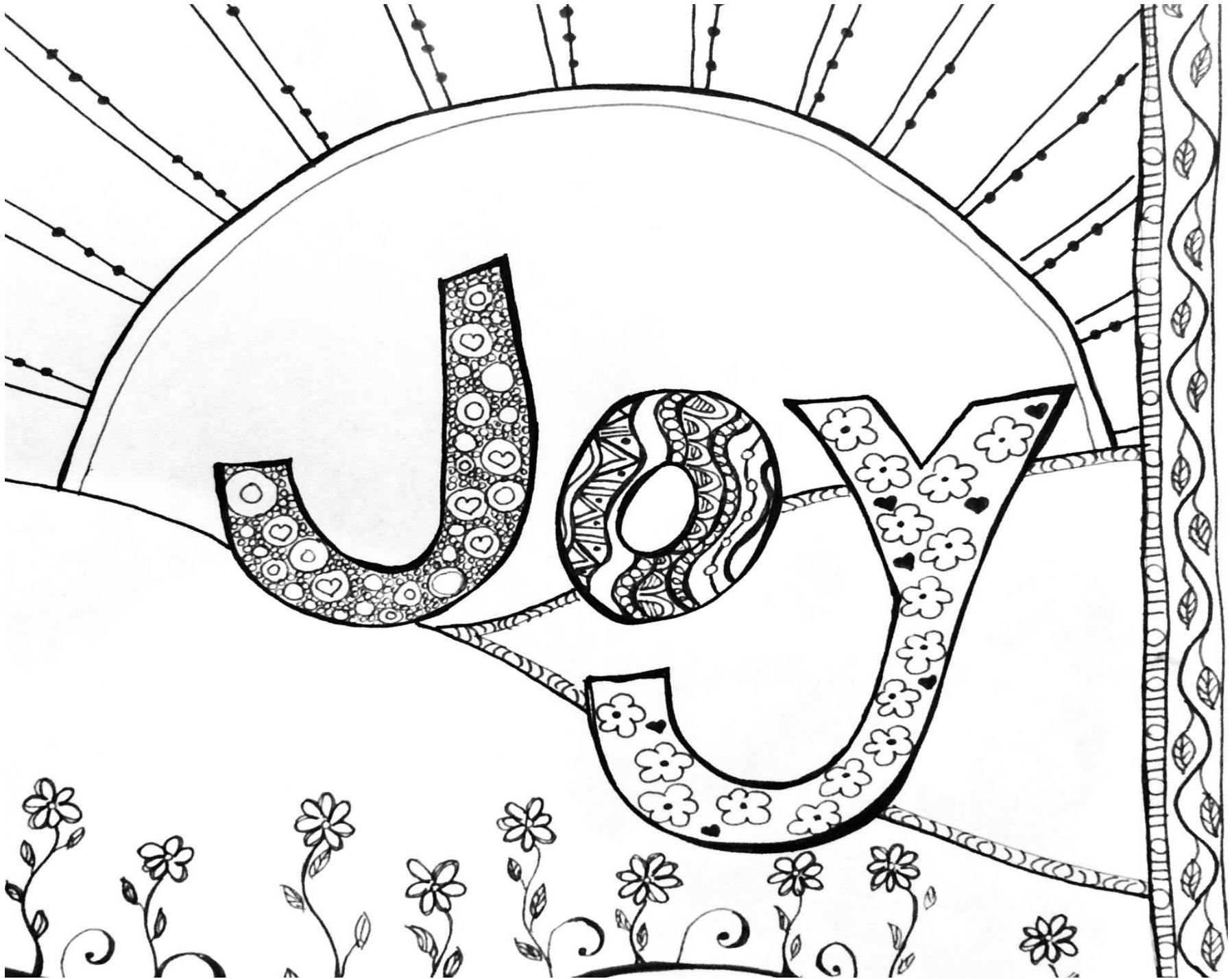
BLACK HAWK 4th of JULY

The 4th of July Committee will meet at the church on **WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25th at 7 PM.** It was our "first try" last year and despite the rain showers, it was a successful event. Planning early for 2023 will help us fine tune the day for everyone's enjoyment. We will discuss what went well, what did not, ways to improve, and new ideas. Interested and willing workers are encouraged to attend.

It was a beautiful moon-lit night for the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society Event held at the Salem Ragatz/Honey Creek Church... **CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE COUNTRY.** Thank you to Lise Meyer/Kobussen of SPAHS for the vision and to Karen Schlittler for creating the program content...it was a great collaboration. Special thanks to Shalome Ullmann for sharing her gift of harp music...it was lovely. Thank you, Pastor Kendall for narrating the program; thank you to our own Bethlehem Choir who joined almost 100 voices, filling the sanctuary with the heart-warming carols of Christmas. There were many positive comments on the SPAHS Face Book page, expressing hope that it will become an annual event. Thank you to everyone who planned and participated and thank you to all who attended. We hope you were blessed!

Kendall and I "got outta town" in December for a week-long vacation to Costa Rica with our son Ian and his family (wife Jasmine, 19 mo. son Ruben, mother-in-law Maria). What a place! Beauty everywhere you looked! It was a wonderful experience and we made lots of great memories. While we soaked in hot springs, hiked in the National Forest, and swam in the warm salt waters of the Pacific, Rev. Dennis Weis removed snow and ice before Sunday morning worship 😊 and filled the pulpit. Many thanks you to everyone who stepped in while we were away.

JANUARY 15th, 2023
10:00 AM IN CHURCH SANCTUARY
SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
DISAFFILIATION DECISION
BHBUMC MEMBERS VOTE
ALL ARE WELCOME



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EPIPHANY 9:00 Worship NO CHRISTIAN ED NO CHOIR PRACTICE	2 5:30 PM Women's Workout	3	4 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 SS Music 10:00 Coffee Cart	9 5:30 PM Women's Workout	10	11 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 Men's Bible Study	12 11:30 SWOS Ladies Lunch @ Eagle Inn 4:30 PM Habitat mtg.	13	14
15 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 DISAFFILIATION MEMBER VOTE	16 5:30 PM Women's Workout	17	18 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Admin.	19 10:00 AM Maplewood 3:30 PM Pines	20	21
22 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 B-Day Bash 10:00 Choir practice	23 5:30 PM Women's Workout	24 10:00 AM Habitat mtg.	25 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM 4 th of July Committee mtg.	26 10:00 AM Greenway	27	28
29 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 Coffee Cart 10:00 Choir practice	30 5:30 PM Women's Workout	31				



2022 CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM "THE KING'S BIRTHDAY"

Herald: Micah Bennett

Narrators: Sean Elliott, James Elliott, Anna Gerike, Carolyn Elliott

Innkeeper: Logan Sorg

Inn Workers: Sarah Elliott, Sarah Gerike

Mary: Anna Pagel **Joseph:** Wesley Hartley

Shepherds: Becca Gerike, Bode Jaquish, Griffin Jaquish, Caleb Anderson, Brady Ullmann, Abigail Hartley, Paisley Jaquish, Elise Hooks, Alice Bennett

Stars: Oliver Anderson, Nellie Bindl, Blakely Sorg

Angels: Sarah Gerike, Sarah Elliott, Micah Bennett

Kings: Abigail Hartley, Paisley Jaquish, Brady Ullmann

Director: Abby Bennet

Teachers: Bobbi Jo Hartley, Christine Elliott, Angie Sorg, Terri Anderson, Shalome Ullmann, Abby Bennett, Jane Pagel, Jeff Sorg, Sylvia Timm, Laura Mallon, Karen Schlittler

It was a blustery and bitter night...but families braved the winter elements to come hear the kids tell the Greatest Story ever told...the birth of Jesus:

King of kings and Lord of lords...Savior to all!



... Growing Generations of Faithful Since 1864

Black Hawk-Bethlehem
United Methodist Church
S10174 County Rd C
Sauk City, WI 53583

Return Service Requested

JANUARY 2023 HAWK TALK

We, the faith community of Black Hawk-Bethlehem United Methodist Church,
exist to grow generations of faithful followers of Jesus Christ by:

Preparing the fertile soil bed of faith

Sowing seeds of God's Word in people's hearts

Cultivating and nurturing each individual's spiritual growth

Harvesting the fruit of souls made righteous by God's grace

Black Hawk-Bethlehem United Methodist Church S10174 Cty Rd C Sauk City, WI 53583
Pastor Kendall Schlittler 608-544-3991 email: pastor@bhbumc.org website: bhbumc.org

