

# FEBRUARY 2023: REBIRTH

*1 Peter 1: <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

**JANUARY 15, 2023** was a big day for Black Hawk Bethlehem Church. 98% of the 48 Members attending a special Church Conference (total membership: 120) voted to Disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church over the denomination's refusal to uphold a number of longstanding and foundational Christian doctrines and practices. Interestingly...the UMC Book of Discipline, the denomination's polity and guiding documents book, still contains language upholding the following: traditional marriage (one man and one woman); rules prohibiting marriages in UMC churches that don't uphold this view for God's designed union; and requirements for clergy accountability to uphold such beliefs and values. Yet, some UMC clergy and Bishops refuse to uphold these classic Christian standards and are not only ignoring their own rules, but are also actively promoting the normalizing of many behaviors that run contrary to the Holy Scriptures, as well as the will and desire of our righteous God for His people.

Sadly, some suggest that those of us who believe in a traditional view of human identity, sexuality, and marriage, hate those who believe differently. Far from it! Despite the hate-language some promote, we seek to boldly love our neighbors (all people) as Christ loves. Where we differ is in our interpretation of the Holy Scriptures...what God is saying to us, and how He is directing His people/Church regarding these core doctrines and values. Our understanding of Truth is that each person is created as an image bearer of God and is of sacred worth and great value. The Apostle Paul reminds us: *We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (Eph. 2:10) We affirm that truth! And through grace, compassion, and God's amazing love, we will disciple the "flock" as we walk together...discerning between current culture and Christ. Between feelings and Facts. Between doubts and Deliverance. Between self and Spirit. *Eph. 4:14-16 Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Proverbs 14:25...a truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.*

NOW WHAT? The next step in BHB's Disaffiliation from the UMC will be to pay an exit fee that consists of an additional (12) months of apportionment payments, BHB's share of unfunded pension liability, and \$10,000 for estimated legal fees. The final bill will be calculated in May 2023 and should amount to approx. \$80,000. In return BHB will be released from UMC authority, and their claim to BHB buildings and assets. Then the WI UMC Annual Conference will meet in Green Bay in early June, 2023, to approve our (and a number of other WI UMC churches) Disaffiliation. The final transfer of property and funds from the UMC to the rebirthed Blackhawk Bethlehem Church will occur by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Friends, may we look at this new season in the life of BHB as a rebirth of God's Spirit! May He breathe vitality into the church and its members! May we experience the fullness of life that God intends for His faithful people! May our old natures fall away like scales from our eyes that we might see clearly our purpose in the Kingdom of God! May those idols we thought were our identity be cast off so we might run with perseverance the race Jesus marked out for us. May this difficult journey we are on bring praise, glory, and honor to Jesus Christ, both today in the land of the living and for eternity. Won't you join us on this great adventure?

*Onward and upward! PK*

As it has been our Advent tradition for many years, a basket was placed by the altar to receive monetary offerings that would be given to Mendota Mental Health Institute. In addition to YOUR generous gifts, BHBUMC added a \$300 check for the purpose of buying Christmas presents for the residents. Along with many hand-decorated cards, the following words came from a note of appreciation...

*Generous Gift-Givers...Thank you so much for making the Holidays brighter for the MMHI patients. Your kindness does not go unnoticed. MMHI Staff & Patients*

*I (karen) recently opened a link in an email and thought the content was valuable enough to share. The following is an abbreviated excerpt from an article on Mental Illness and Your Ministry. You can read the entire article on: [childrensministry.com](http://childrensministry.com) January 4, 2023*

**MENTAL ILLNESS:** Many people feel uniquely un-qualified to help people affected by mental illness. Here are 10 ways we can minister to families living with mental illness:

- 1: Draw near.** People in crisis need others to draw toward them, not away. They need assurance that God and His people still love them when they're vulnerable and in need.
- 2: Resist the temptation to try to fix people.** Like anyone who lives with a health problem, people affected by mental health challenges need to be accepted, loved, and cared for. You can do all of that without trying to fix all their problems or cure their maladies.
- 3: Get educated.** You don't need a degree in psychology, but all church and ministry leaders need a basic working knowledge of mental illness and various forms of treatment people might be going through. Check out resources (FaithNet, NAMI) and read a few good books on the subject.
- 4: Get equipped.** Consider getting trained in Mental Health First Aid.
- 5: Find partners.** Seek counselors, psychologists, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, nonprofit organizations, other faith communities to partner with you in providing care in our community.
- 6: Connect people to professional resources.** Because people in crisis most often turn to church and ministry leaders, you become a gate-keeper to mental health care. Have a LIST of local providers and facilities you can recommend and make it readily available.
- 7: Address practical needs.** People in crisis may need meals, financial assistance due to lack of employment or expensive treatment, child-care, appointment rides, a listening ear and a warm, supportive hug.
- 8: Recognize and address needs for spiritual care.** A mental health crisis is often accompanied by a spiritual crisis. Referring people to professional mental health care is important, but it won't answer questions of faith. People need the loving care of their spiritual leaders, reminding them God loves them and will not leave them.
- 9: Host a support group.** Churches are ideal locations for peer-support groups. Many established programs will provide materials and training for leaders (Fresh Hope for Mental Health or Mental Health Grace Alliance).
- 10: Educate others.** Make topical resources available. Talk about mental health in your ministry programs. Pray for those affected with/by mental illness.

Ministry to individuals and families who live with mental illness is no easier than ministry to anyone in pain. It's not particularly glamorous, and may not always be rewarding. But it's worthwhile! This is a ministry opportunity God has brought to your door. As you are faithful to his calling, you'll see God work through you in significant ways, and at times when people most feel their need for God and his people.

(Article authored by: Amy Simpson author of *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission*)

## **READ: ISAIAH 61**

*...He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor...*



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIGGING IN!

### 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.



### YOUTH BAKE SALE SUNDAY, FEB. 26<sup>th</sup>

Stop by the stand for tasty treats! Proceeds will fund projects that provide nourishment for those dealing with hunger and poverty.

**30-HOUR FAMINE RETREAT  
SCHEDULED FRI-SAT MARCH 3-4**

Details to follow



### FAMILY A.C.T.S ROLLER SKATING PARTY! SATURDAY, MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00-NOON

**Galaxie Skate/Richland Center  
Skate Rental, Pizza, Pop  
RSVP BY MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>  
Shalome 608-852-3326**

## SOWING & GROWING

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### WOMEN'S WORKOUTS MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

**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

Read. Discuss. Share. Laugh. Pray. Together.

All are welcome to attend!

Call Karen for location 608-544-3991

### 6:8 SOUP-ER BOWL FOR CIRCLES FUNDRAISING EVENT

Reducing Poverty in Sauk Prairie  
by 10% in 10years

- Enjoy soup made by local chefs
- Go home with a unique bowl made by SPHS Pottery Students
- All proceeds benefit Circles Sauk Prairie

**WHEN: SUNDAY, FEB. 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00-2:00 PM**

**WHERE: 6:8 821 Industry Rd. SP**

**COST: \$50 (includes Soup lunch AND Bowl)**

**TICKETS: [www.MakingServicePersonal.org](http://www.MakingServicePersonal.org)**

### SPOUSES WITHOUT SPOUSES

Ladies, meet for lunch at The Eagle Inn on  
**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, at 11:30.**

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meet at church on **WED. FEB. 15 at 6:30 PM**

### WINTER-TIME MOM/KIDS PLAYGROUP (ALL AGES)



Join together every other Thursday for the remainder of the winter. Drop in anytime from 11-1 in the BHBUMC fellowship hall for some free play for the kids, and good conversation for the moms! Everyone is encouraged to pack a lunch and bring kid-sized scooters or ride-on toys to help burn some energy. Questions? Contact Abby Bennett (608) 370-2380. **DATES: Feb. 9 & 23, Mar. 9 & 23**

## **FEBRUARY 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**

5<sup>th</sup> Anna Gerike  
12<sup>th</sup> Karen Schlittler  
19<sup>th</sup> Logan Sorg  
26<sup>th</sup> Kay Hankins

#### **Acolyte**

5<sup>th</sup> Sarah Gerike  
12<sup>th</sup> Micah Bennett  
19<sup>th</sup> Abigail Hartley  
26<sup>th</sup> Sarah Elliott

#### **\*Audio/Visual Technician**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Brian Ullmann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Gene Unger  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Nick Hartley  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Katey Ullmann  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rhett Jaquish

## **BHB SOUP SUPPER**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **FEB. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **5:00-6:15 PM**



A delicious variety of soups will be served along with bread, cheese and dessert. COST: Donation  
The collection will be used for Missions.



## **WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM**



You Are INVITED to the  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual

## **ONE HEART WOMEN'S SEMINAR**

### **Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**8:00am – 3:00pm**

Wintergreen Resort at Clarion Hotel & Suites,  
Wisconsin Dells

**Cost: \$49.00** (\$60.00 after Feb. 20th)

Ticket includes three inspiring messages,  
morning refreshments, and a sit-down  
lunch provided by the Wintergreen

#### **Speakers For The Day ~**

**Tera Elness** - "Ask Him Again" - The power of prayer, persistence, and personal connection to the One whom all things are possible.

"Don't Stop Believin'" - The anthem of faith that dares to dream, refuses to quit, rocks the boat, and causes the dead within to get up and dance.

**Cathy Robinson** - "In the Midst of Miracles" - Cathy will be sharing about the miraculous journey their family has been on since the day their son had an un-survivable, stage 5, brain aneurism. She will also share about the Almighty God who has stood with them in the fire, the God who has been their refuge and strength, their El Shaddai...their abundant provider! The God whose light is never diminished, even in our darkest hours, His love and presence flicker through...inextinguishable!! *Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the Glory!*

Visit our website [www.oneheartseminar.com](http://www.oneheartseminar.com) for more information  
or call Bonnie at 608 742-6893

*I (karen schlittler) have attended this Women's Conference for many years and have ALWAYS been blessed by the Spirit of God in the speakers, fellowship, and worship. REGISTRATION FORMS can be found at church in the narthex.*



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# FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout	2	3	4 NO REGRETS MEN'S SEMINAR @ GRACEWAY CHURCH
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 SS Music	6 5:30 PM Women's Workout	7	8 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 11:00 AM SWOS Ladies Lunch 5:30 PM WWorkout 6:30 Finance mtg. 7:30 Mission & Ministry	9 9:30 AM School/Clergy 11:00-1:00 Moms/Kids Playgroup @ BHBUMC	10	11
12 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 SS Music 10:00 Coffee Cart 10:30 Trustee mtg.	13 5:30 PM Women's Workout	14 <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b>	15 DCOM/PK 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout 6:30 PM Men's Study	16 10:00 Maplewood 3:30 Pines	17	18
19 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 SS Music 10:00 Choir practice	20 5:30 PM Women's Workout	21	22 <b>LENT BEGINS</b> 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00-6:15 PM SOUP SUPPER 6:30 Ash Wed. Worship	23 10:00 Greenway 11:00-1:00 Moms/Kids Playgroup @ BHBUMC	24	25 ONE HEART WOMEN'S SEMINAR 8:00-3:00 Wisconsin Dells
26 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 SS Music 10:00 Choir practice YOUTH BAKE SALE	27 10:00 AM Circuit Clergy 5:30 PM Women's Workout	28	MARCH 1	2	3 <b>30-HOUR FAMINE</b> 	4

If you would like to help beautify our sanctuary for EASTER SUNDAY, please fill out the order form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office along with your money by **SUNDAY, MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please indicate the flowers to be given in MEMORY or HONOR and who they are FROM. Your plants may be picked up after Easter morning worship on APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



\_\_\_\_\_ Lily @ \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip @ \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil @ \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth @ \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

In MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_

In HONOR \_\_\_\_\_

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

***Friendship is something that raises us almost above humanity...***

***It is the sort of love one can imagine between angels.***

**C. S. Lewis**

James Spurgeon was a man ahead of his time. Nearly two hundred years ago, he pastored a congregation of more than 600 with his trademark down-to-earth teaching and tender care. But rather than draw denominational lines between his church and others in the community, he forged friendships with other pastors and church leaders. In fact, he had a strong friendship with a nearby Anglican rector named Mr. Hopkins. The relationship was so strong, that the two comfortably shared members of their congregations.

James probably never noticed that a young pair of eyes was watching him, but his grandson, Charles was often at his side during the meeting times. The young boy munched on sugared bread and butter at the amiable meetings and learned through his grandfather's acts of friendship that believers should be friends even if they had differences.

When Charles grew up, he followed in his grandfather's and father's footsteps and also became a preacher. In 1854, Spurgeon arrived in London at New Park Street Church, a congregation of 232 members. Thirty-eight years later, the church had more than 5,300 members and became the largest independent congregation in the world at the time. Though his church attracted members of parliament and the royal court, some of his contemporaries dubbed him a heretic for his preaching. Yet because of his grandfather's example, Charles Spurgeon managed to maintain surprisingly open and strong friendships with other denominations and their leaders.

From the book: Simple Acts of Friendship By: Margaret Feinberg

***If we would build on a sure foundation in friendship,  
we must love friends for their sake rather than for our own.***

**Charlotte Bronte**





... Growing Generations of Faithful Since 1864

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

Return Service Requested

## FEBRUARY 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](mailto:pastor@bhbumc.org) website: [bhbumc.org](http://bhbumc.org)