

MARCH 2023: No Fear! Little Flock

Luke 12: ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Last month I reported on the January 15th Church Conference vote of Black Hawk-Bethlehem that approved disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. This process will conclude mid-year after payment of the exit fee, a vote of approval at the UMC Wisconsin Annual Conference in June, and a final transfer of property and assets back to the re-birthed Blackhawk Bethlehem Church (BhB). Once that is all complete, BhB will be an independent, non-denominational church. The Disaffiliation Team led by Gene Unger continues the ongoing work of organization of the new church. The entire leadership covets your ongoing prayers as we make our way through the remaining steps, and as we seek to follow God's leading to fulfill His will and purposes for Blackhawk-Bethlehem today, and into the future.

Some of you may be wondering about the future of BhB, including the question of pastoral leadership. In November 2022, I informed you that I will be retiring as a United Methodist Pastor as of July 1, 2023. After much discussion, prayer, and discernment, Karen and I have agreed to continue as Secretary/Pianist and Pastor of BhB through June 30th, 2024. In the meantime, the newly formed leadership will be considering whether to remain independent, or join another denomination in the future.

Like any adventure, this transition can be frightening and exciting all at the same time! I see the coming year as an opportunity for serious self-examination and re-awakening to the possibilities of God's Kingdom life in and through the people of this church community. I can imagine this as a season of revival; of hearts being (re)awakened to the reality of God and His desire for reconciliation and relationship with you, your neighborhood, and the world. If that doesn't both scare and excite you, I don't know what will!

As we "birth" a new church, here are some of the areas of emphasis for the coming year: home-study groups; additional spiritual formation for our youth; corporate prayer opportunities; strengthening traditional marriage & family; praise, worship & prayer; humility & holiness; deepening our relationship with Christ.

I know there are some who think the church is going in the wrong direction. And I also understand that some may no longer wish to be associated with BhB and will want to remove themselves from the Membership. Though it makes me sad, I respect that decision. I believe we all need to live according to our convictions and conscience. So, at the request of our UMC District Superintendent, I agreed to inform you that anyone desiring a transfer of Membership to another church may begin the process by notifying the church office with your request (608- 544-3991 or bhbumc@gmail.com).

Friends, I know change can be unsettling...fear of the unknown threatens to rattle even the most faithful followers of Christ. I also know that He who began a good work in you will see it to completion! He is our Rock on Whom we place all our hopes and fears!

Psalm 62: ⁵ Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. ⁶ Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will not be shaken. ⁷ My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. ⁸ Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Therefore, do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom!
Onward and Upward, PK

For all those who came to the April Chicken & Dumpling Dinner, Witwen 4th of July, and October Lord's Acre Weekend, we say **THANK YOU** for your financial support. The Black Hawk-Bethlehem Church commits to giving a 10% portion of these Annual Fund-Raising profits to various Missions & Ministries.

The 2022 total amount to disperse was **\$1,932**. We have "gifted" the following:

- Salvation Army
- Good Neighbor Clinic
- 6:8 Making Service Personal Ministry
- Sauk Prairie Food Pantry
- Spring Green Food Pantry
- SPAHS/Ragatz-Honey Creek Church
- Habitat for Humanity
- Tim Czech/Cru/Athletes In Action
- UMC Camp Scholarships

thank you!

Church Family...Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Thank you for cards for Ralph's passing and my time in the hospital; both were nice to receive. Know that all your prayers helped get us through some hard days. Donna & the Ralph Soeldner Family

Regarding the Christmas STAR + Sunday School Donations 2022 ...

Thank you for giving a gift in Jesus' name through the Compassion Gift Catalog! Your gift of \$600 will provide water wells that benefit hundreds of children. Thank you for giving hope to children and families in poverty. Your gift will create stories of light and transformation around the world.

In Christ, Steven Marble

Sr. Director of Supporter Care/Compassion International

The Good Neighbor Clinic of Sauk Prairie wishes to extend our appreciation for the generous donation of \$150 in support of our medical services. Thank you for your kindness.

Dear Friends...Thank you for your donation to support the Salem Ragatz Historical Church. Monies are used for ongoing care and long-term preservation of the church.

Dear Bethlehem UMC...Thank you for your outstanding donation to Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. Your gift of \$150 is sure to make a positive impact for families in the area. The Pantry is truly blessed by the generosity of so many! On behalf of our Board of Directors and our patrons, thank you again for your support. Because of you, we can continue our mission of *"Building a COMMUNITY One Meal At A Time"*. Sincerely, Jean Schneller/SPAFP Treasurer/Volunteer

After a day of sleety snow, everything was covered in an icy mix. But the church tractor-snow-blower had died the week before! Thank you, Logan Sprecher, for coming out to clear the church parking area as well as our driveway. What a blessing to have that job done! You are greatly appreciated!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIGGING IN!

ATTENTION PREK-5th GRADERS!

Karen will teach you a song to sing for Palm Sunday (April 2nd) along with a palm processional. Join her at the piano after Sunday school class (10:00) to practice!

YOUTH BAKE SALE SUNDAY, FEB. 26th

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

YOUTH!

Be a part of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine!
Lock-In at BHB-UMC

6PM FRI. March 3rd-7PM SAT. March 4th

Youth will BEGIN fasting after lunch (or noon) on FRI. Our famine ends with a feast on SAT. at 6PM. ALL juice, water, gum and feasting food will be provided.

- Here's what we'll be doing: play games, watch videos, group challenges, Bible study, sleep on the floor, try not to think about food, JUICE breaks, water anytime, FREE time, outdoor adventure depends on weather.
- This event has many big challenges: not eating for 30 hours, raising money to feed hungry children, learn of God's love and grace walking with Jesus.
- Friends are welcome to join in the FUN!
- Contact Sylvia Timm for more info.



**Vacation Bible
School 2022
AUGUST 7th-11th
9:00-11:30 AM**

WINTER-TIME MOM/KIDS PLAYGROUP (ALL AGES)



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. **THURSDAYS MARCH 9 & 23**

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



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

The UMC Summer Camp Catalog is here! Check out the terrific camp experiences for all ages... you don't have to be a kid to attend...there are adult camps too! To help cover your cost, we offer this coupon for each camper/family who would like to register. If you have questions, please talk to Pastor Kendall or Karen.

SUMMER CAMPER COUPON

From: BHB Missions/Ministry
United Methodist Women

**\$250/full week
\$150/3-day**

Towards camp registration for any member/friend attending a United Methodist Camp at Lake Lucerne or Pine Lake.

Give your registration receipt to Karen Schlittler for reimbursement.

SOWING & GROWING

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

SPOUSES WITHOUT SPOUSES

Ladies, meet for lunch at No.1 Kitchen on
WED, MARCH 15, at 11:30.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Study the Gospel of Mark. Discuss. Pray.

4th of JULY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th at 7 PM.

Interested and willing workers are
encouraged to attend.

SAUK COUNTY WI RIGHT TO LIFE

SPRING EDUCATIONAL EVENT

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 6:30-8:00 PM

Walnut Hill Bible Church 1900 East St. Baraboo
Sara Patterson/CEO Care net Pregnancy
Center of Dane County presents: The Mission
& Vision of Care Net...how we're helping
women and men in unexpected pregnancies.

To get all there is out of living,
we must employ our time wisely,
never being in too much of a hurry
to stop and sip life,
but never losing our sense of
the enormous value of a minute.
Robert. R. Updegraff

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 12th
SET CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR**



MARCH 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

5th Mike Enge
12th Angie Sorg
19th Steve Mallon
26th LaNell Jaquish

Acolyte

5th Paisley Jaquish
12th Micah Bennett
19th Abigail Hartley
26th Sarah Gerike

***Audio/Visual Technician**

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

WOMEN'S CHOIR

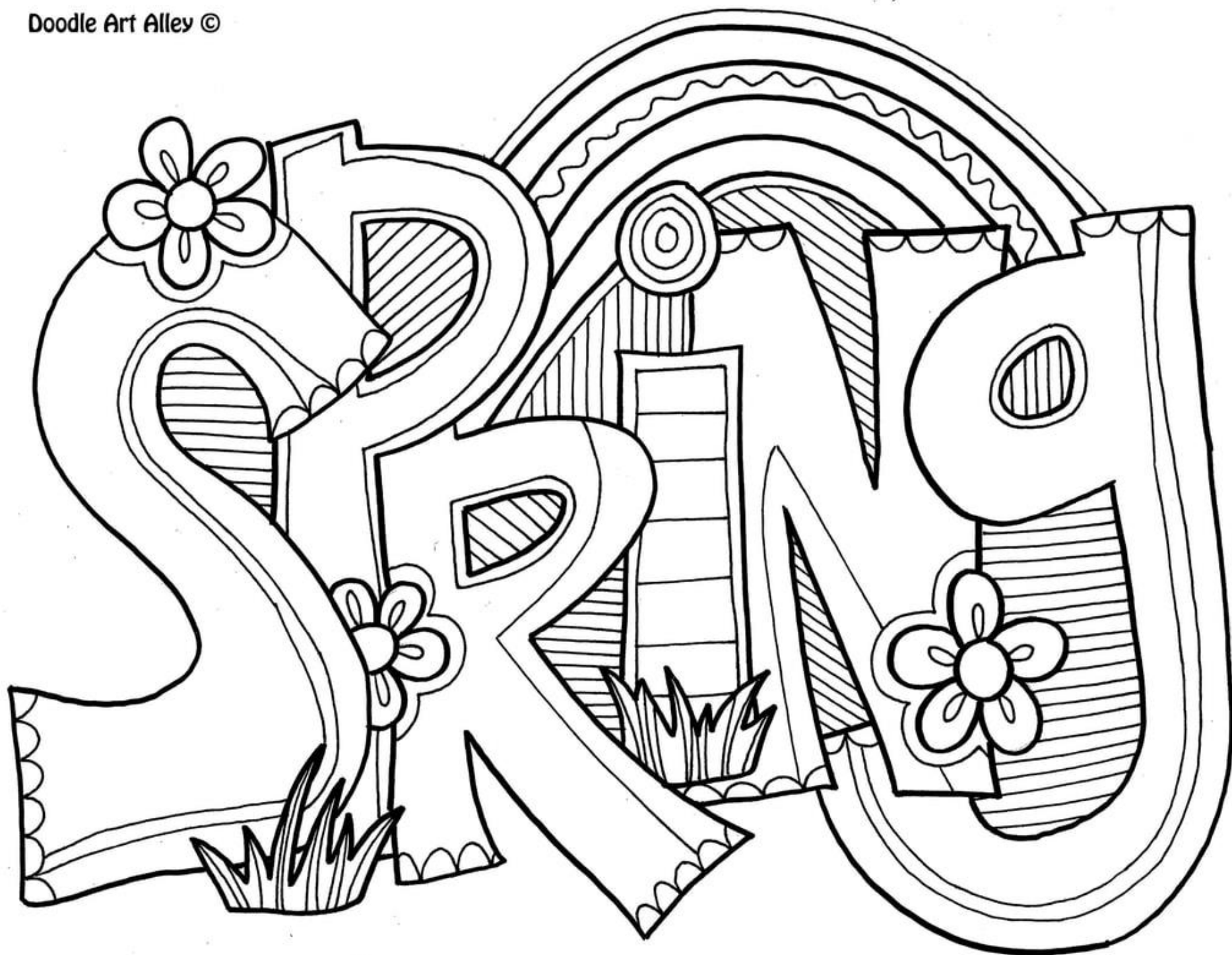
Ladies & teen-girls...if you are interested in singing with this group, please join us for the rehearsals. All are welcome!

Practice Dates: Sunday, March 5th

Sunday March 12th

Meet in the sanctuary at 10:15 AM.

We will welcome
Karen Ladd and (son) Tim Ladd
into full membership at BHBUMC on
March 19th, 2023.



MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 Women's Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout	2	3 YOUTH 30-Hour Famine 6:00 PM	4 7:00 PM 
5 COMMUNION 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 Kid's Music 10:15 Women's Choir	6 5:30 PM Women's Workout	7	8 8:30 Women's Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout	9 11:00-1:00 Playgroup	10	11 10:00-Noon Family ACTS Roller Skating Richland Center
12 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 Kid's Music 10:00 Coffee Cart 10:15 Women's Choir FLOWER ORDERS DUE TODAY	13 5:30 PM Women's Workout	14	15 8:30 Women's Study 11:30 SWOS Lunch 5:30 PM WW 6:30 Men's Study	16 10:00 Maplewood 3:30 Pines	17	18
19 9:00 Worship Membership Vows 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 Kid's Music 10:00 Choir practice	20 5:30 PM Women's Workout	21	22 8:30 Women's Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout	23 10:00 Greenway 11:00-11:00 Playgroup	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:00 Kid's Music 10:00 Choir practice	27 5:30 PM Women's Workout	28	29 8:30 Women's Study 5:30 PM Women's Workout 7:00 PM 4 th of July mtg.	30	31	

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 12th**. 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 9th. Thank you.



_____ Lily @ \$8.00 _____

_____ Tulip @ \$8.00 _____

_____ Daffodil @ \$8.00 _____

_____ Hyacinth @ \$8.00 _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Check # _____

In MEMORY _____

In HONOR _____

FROM _____

As I was cleaning out my files, I ran across an email from a friend who shared with me the following writing (author unknown):

Dancing With God

When I mediated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing “dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God’s will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn’t flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It’s as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw the G, I thought of God, followed by U and I. God, U and I Dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God’s blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and every day. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting Him to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.





... Growing Generations of Faithful Since 1864

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

Return Service Requested



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