Bethel-Bethany
United Church of Christ

December 2019

The Beacon

Advent—Week 1

Sunday, December 1

10:00 am Worship & Communion, Guest Preacher Rev. Ron Ballew, Guest Musician Rose Marie Knoth

11:15 am Fellowship

Saturday, December 7

11:00 am Cookie Pack and Carol Singing

Advent—Week 2

Sunday, December 8

10:00 am Worship, Kids' Rock

11:15 am Fellowship, Second Sunday

Advent—Week 3

Sunday, December 15

10:00 am Worship/Advent Choral Concert, Kids' Rock

11:15 am Fellowship

Saturday, December 21

Kids' Play rehearsal - in Sanctuary

Advent—Week 4

Sunday, December 22

10:00 am Worship, Kids' Program

11:15 am Fellowship

7:30 pm Blue Christmas Worship Service

Christmas Eve

Tues., Dec. 24

6:30 pm

Candlelight service

Lessons, Lights, and Carols

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am Worship —Rev. Ruth Krymkowski

11:15 am Fellowship

Our Mission

To celebrate and share God's Love
through dynamic worship experiences,
meaningful spiritual programs,
and nurturing leadership opportunities
as an inclusive Christian church
serving the urban and
global community.

Dear Church Family,

If you were in church on Sunday, you heard Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons remind us how scandalous our faith is. The way of the cross often brings us into contact with our fears and asks us to trust that God is at work even in "those places," and among "those people." I've been wrestling with this good word from Rev. Christie, and it has reminded me of how scandalous the Christian story of Christmas is.

The story of Christmas is the story of incarnation— God taking on human flesh and becoming one with us. Christmas is the ultimate story of downward mobility told to a world fixated on upward mobility. What an act of solidarity and hope for the redemption of all things. This scandalous story is what we spend this season reflecting on together.

Advent invites us to focus on the experience of waiting—we wait in anticipation for the coming Christ celebrated in the birth of Jesus. But waiting is not idleness. As we wait for the coming Christ, we remember that our scandalous God has called us, as the Church, to be the ongoing presence of Christ in the world. And so, we longingly wait for a day when all will be made right, but while we wait, God's Spirit moves in us and among us, calling us to participate in God's unfolding actions here and now.

May the presence of the scandalous Christ, whose light is breaking in all around us, guide you and be with you this holiday season.

Peace,

Pastor Thad

What Can't Wait

As part of our Advent theme, we will be hearing sections of "Letter from Birmingham Jail", written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in April of 1963. It was a public response to the white clergy who insisted on waiting for justice, and the letter's core message came to be known as: "Why we can't wait."

Learning Community

Bible/Book Study

10-11:30 am Wednesday
(1st and 3rd)
December 4 and 18
Our current study is
The Universal Christ
by Richard Rohr

Great Courses AM

9:00-10:30 am Wed
(2nd and 4th)
December 11
(we are off on Dec 25)

We are using two series -
The History of Christianity II
and **Holy Land Revealed**.
Join us.

Kids' Rock

Children start in worship and are released to their teachers partway through worship on 2nd - 5th Sundays. Classes are Dec 8, 15, and 22. We are off Dec 29 and Jan 5., 2020.

Mark your calendars:

Dec 22 - Children's Christmas Play (rehearsal the day

November B-B Update

Council was busy the first half of November, getting information together for the Congregational Annual Business Meeting on November 17. At our November Congregational meeting we had 37 attendees and all motions passed unanimously.

At the Congregational meeting, we passed the Safe Conduct Policy and Procedures and the Emergency Action Plan. We also passed the Twenty20 Budget, including your generous pledges. The budget has a surplus of $2500 (at this time,) which is the first time we have passed a surplus budget in recent memory at the Business Meeting. We are grateful for everyone's pledges and commitments to Bethel-Bethany.

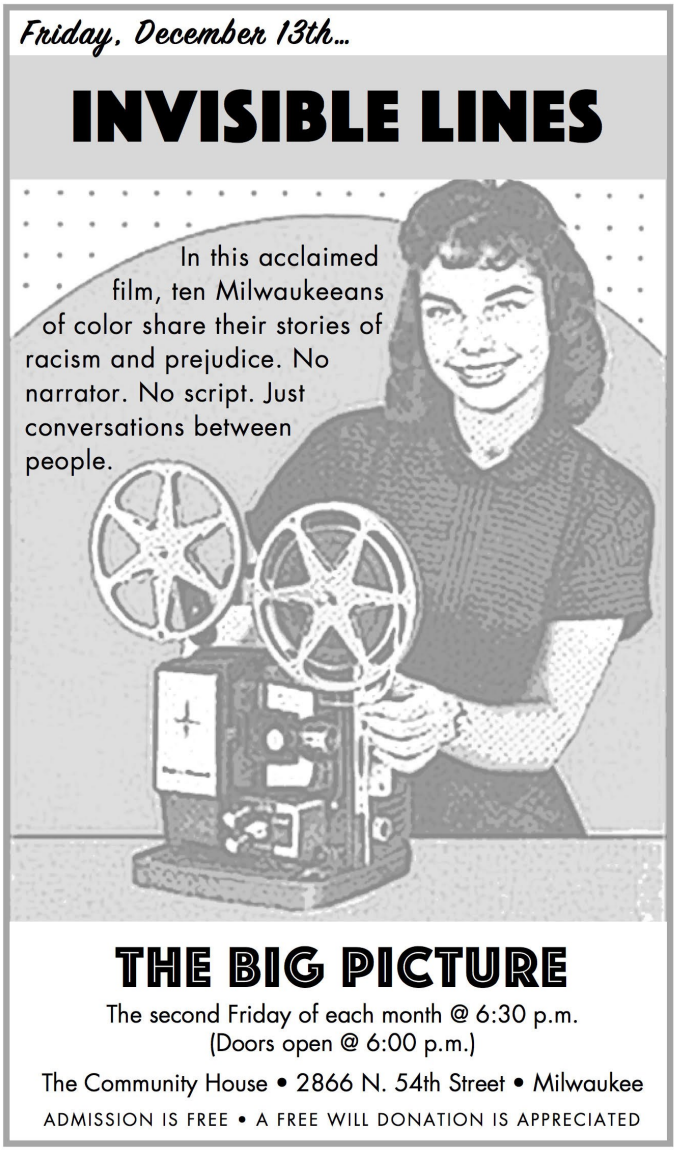
Community House

Our new sign at the Community House has been installed. There is a space on the side for information about upcoming events.

Worship

In Advent, choir will be presenting an Advent Concert during worship on Dec 15 and the children will be presenting a short play during worship on Dec. 22. There are two Christmas services this year - a Blue Christmas Worship on Dec 22 at 7:30 pm and a Candle-light Christmas Eve Worship on Dec 24 at 6:30 pm.

- Lisa Quinn, Admin Assistant



SECOND SUNDAYS

December 8

sandwich making for Guest House

January 12

sandwich making

Community House Team

We typically meet on first Mondays of each month in The Community House.

December 2
5:30-6:30

January 6, 2020
5:30-6:30

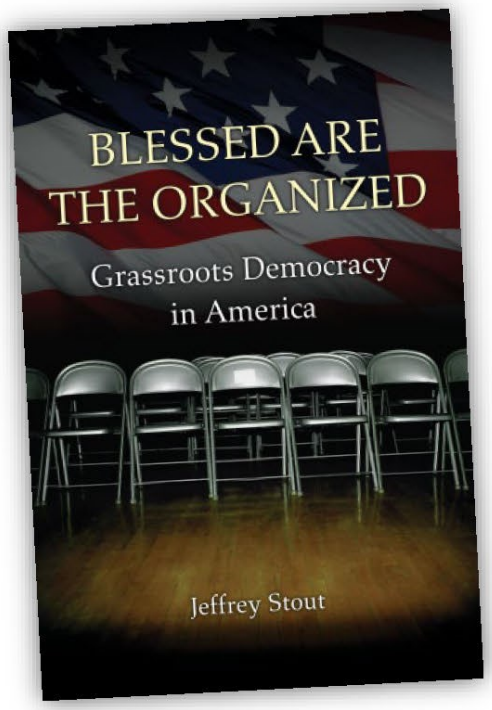
amazonsmile

Rather than going to the normal Amazon website, you can shop through https://smile.amazon.com and a small percentage of eligible purchases will be donated to the charity of your choice. This link will take you directly there in support of B-B: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1227575. Once you've named Bethel-Bethany your charity of choice, it will remain the default charity.

Let's Talk About This!

It's time for another book discussion

Friday, December 6, 6-8pm | The Community House



Please sign up for the discussion in Fellowship Hall and indicate whether you would like us to order a book for you by Oct. 6. (Or buy your own) Anticipated book cost: ~ **$14**

Copies of the book will be available by mid-late October.

FOOD from Funky Fresh Spring Rolls will be provided. Suggested contribution for meal will be posted at the event.

In this important new book, Jeffrey Stout bears witness to the successes and failures of progressive grassroots organizing, and the daunting forces now arrayed against it.

Stout tells vivid stories of people fighting entrenched economic and political interests around the country. From parents and teachers striving to overcome gang violence in South Central Los Angeles, to a Latino priest north of the Rio Grande who brings his parish into a citizens' organization, to the New Orleans residents who get out the vote by taking a jazz band through streets devastated by Hurricane Katrina, Stout describes how these ordinary people conceive of citizenship, how they acquire and exercise power, and how religious ideas and institutions contribute to their successes.

The most important book on organizing and grassroots democracy in a generation, *Blessed Are the Organized* is a passionate and hopeful account of how our endangered democratic principles can be put into action.

Jeffrey Stout is professor of religion at Princeton University. His books include *Ethics After Babel* and *Democracy and Tradition* (both Princeton). He is past president of the American Academy of Religion and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Questions? Talk to Marsha Poulsen | 414.405-1066 or tgfgrace@gmail.com

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22
Preaching/ Speaker	Rev. Ron Ballew	Pastor Thad	Advent Concert	Pastor Thad
Reader	Ruth Russell	Robert Zimmermann	Dave Redemann and Brian Klabunde	Carolyn Pauls
Ushers	Cindy Krause Carol Darrington Fran Smith Fran Hadley	Charles Pauls Theresa Dawson Cindy Krahenbuhl Nicola Smith	Steve Komes Nealy Rothe Rich Pine Sherry Pearce	Charles Pauls Carolyn Pauls Beth Horstmeyer Robert Zimmermann
Recording Engineer	Steve Coleman	Dave Redemann	Cindy Krause	Charles Pauls
Nursery Care		Cindy Krause	Diane Warner	Amy Lingard
Kids' Rock	Kids in Church	Gr K-2: Lynne Woehrle Gr 3-6:Val Sauvé	Gr K-2: Lynne Woehrle Gr 3-6: Scott Bennett	Gr K-2: Val Sauvé Gr 3-6: Scott Bennett
Fellowship Host	Jeanne Phillips, Carol Darrington, Ruth Russell	Sherry Dismuke, Fran Smith	Sara and Charlie Smith, Choir	Woehrle/Foersterling Family and Kids' Rock

	Tues. Dec 24	Dec 29
Preaching/ Speaker	Pastor Thad	Rev. Ruth Krymkowski
Reader		Betty Haas
Ushers		Cindy Krause Fran Hadley Charles Pauls Carolyn Pauls
Recording Engineer		
Nursery Care	Kids in Church	Kids in Church
Kids' Rock	Kids in Church	Kids in Church
Fellowship Host		Steve Coleman

Christmas Fund offering

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

December 22

A 5 for 5 UCC offering that provides direct assistance to UCC clergy and lay church employees in their time of need, retired and currently employed

December 2019

TCH= The Community House
FH= Fellowship Hall
CC= Church Classroom

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
1 ADVENT 1 10:00 Worship–Communion Guest Preacher - Rev. Ron Ballew 11:15 Fellowship	2 5:30 Community House Mtg 6:45 EMC Meeting	3 **Office Closed** (Pastor Thad available)	4 10:00 am Bible/ Book Study-TCH 7:00 Choir	5	6 *Pastor Thad Sabbath day* 6 PM Book Discussion	7 11 am Cookie Packing and Carol Singing
8 ADVENT 2 10:00 Worship, Kids' Rock 11:15 Fellowship SECOND SUNDAYS	9	10 Office Hours: 10-2 6:30 pm Council	11 9:00 am Great Courses—TCH 7:00 Choir	12	13 *Pastor Thad Sabbath day* 6:30 pm—Big Picture *Invisible Lines*	14
15 ADVENT 3 10:00 Worship - Advent Choir Concert, Kids' Rock 11:15 Fellowship	16	17 Office Hours: 10-2 6:00 Pastoral Care Team	18 10:00 am Bible/ Book Study-TCH 7:00 Choir	19	20 *Pastor Thad Sabbath day*	21 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Kids' Play Rehearsal
22 ADVENT 4 10:00 Worship, Kids' Rock Play 11:15 Fellowship 7:30 pm Blue Christmas Service	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Office hours: 9-1 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 **Office Closed**	27	28
29 10:00 Worship - Rev. Ruth Krymkowski 11:15 Fellowship	30	31 Office Closed	1 January No choir	2 Office Open 8-4	3	4

Recent Prayers

If we've missed your birthday, please contact the Church Office so we can update our Database.

Lectionary Readings

December 1
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 8
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7.
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 29
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Cookie Packing

Saturday, December 7 at 11 am

All are invited to Fellowship Hall for Cookie Packing, lunch, and Carol Singing.

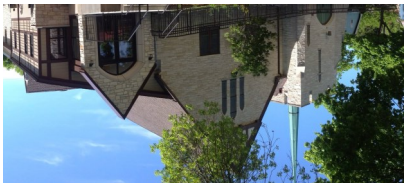
Can you share a dozen or more of your homemade Christmas cookies? Bring to church before or to the Cookie Packing.

Blue Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 22 at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm



Bethel-Bethany UCC
2866 N. 54th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Return Address Requested

Church Leaders

President	Chris Chance
Vice Pres.	Maris Fried
Secretary	Karin Haug
*Treasurer	Kevin Wolf
*Finance Sec.	Jeanne Fehr
*Finance Asst.	Brian Klabunde

Council–at-large

Carol Darrington	Thomas Derenne
Holger Foersterling	
Steve Komes	Caryn Redemann
Kathy Reed	Kas Whitmore

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Thad Winkle
Ministers	All Members
Music Director	Deborah Cincotta
Admin. Asst.	Lisa Quinn