

Bethel United Methodist Church  
2022

April 3

## PRAYERS

- ς Lil Leary
- ς Dagmar Geidel
- ς Lori Catricola & Bill
- ς Donna (Leslie's friend)
- ς Donna (Diane's daughter-in-law)
- ς Joan Wegener
- ς Congregation of the East Berlin UMC which had a fire on Friday  
April 1. <https://www.facebook.com/EBUMCCT>
- ς We pray for Ukraine and all countries in the grip of war.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ς **Palm Sunday service: April 10 11:30 am @ Bethel**
- ς **Holy Thursday service: April 14 7:00 pm @ Woodrow**
- ς **Good Friday service: April 15 7:00 pm @ Bethel**
- ς **Easter Sunday service: April 10 11:30 am @ Bethel**
- ς **Prayer and Conversations** Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm @ Bethel; Thursday  
6:30-7:30 pm @ Woodrow.
- ς **Sundays in Lent @ 4 pm Devotional Study on Zoom**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87516031052?pwd=RjkrVVNCR21LaUdFTDFraU5nRi9nZz09>  
Meeting ID: 875 1603 1052 Passcode: 969270  
Dial by your location 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 875 1603 1052
- ς **Contemplative Worship service** recording is added to our FB page  
Wednesdays around 7 pm.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bethelumcsiny>
- ς We are looking for people who were **married at Bethel!** Call us!
- ς **Mobile Pantry:** Tuesdays: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- ς **Offering:** mail/bring to church or give through PAYPAL.  
(<https://tinyurl.com/2p99xyw8>)

ς St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to help with their **Food Pantry**.  
(718) 227-2485



### Piece by Piece

by Vivian Ruth Waltz

...those of us gathered for the final worship service at “Hearts on Fire” knew Brother James Preston was talking about the bitter ingredient of exclusion and hatred being served to us by the UMC. James told the story of how we tasted something deadly at **General Conference in Pittsburgh** [2004] last year when the votes on LGBT inclusion went against us...

We were fighting for survival in a toxic community that had rejected us once again. In his “Hearts on Fire” sermon, James told of our yearning for just a crumb of recognition from presiding Bishop D. Max Whitfield as we stood weeping around the table. When none was given, and the Lord’s Supper continued as if we weren’t suffocating in our grief right in front of him, the bishop

offered the cup of “the new covenant.” It was in that moment that God commanded James to drop the chalice as a testimony to our brokenness and the broken covenant of “open hearts, open minds, open doors” in the UMC...

As James continued to tell of his prophetic witness, a slide of the glued and wired-together chalice, with pieces missing, was projected for the “Hearts on Fire” congregation... In that moment I realized, incredibly, that I had a fragment of the broken cup...It had been handed to my eight-year-old son Jonah by Bishop Donald Ott, who was kneeling on the floor sweeping the shattered pieces into a pile with his arms...As I stared at the photograph of the pieced together chalice, suddenly I saw where Jonah’s piece fit!

My heart ignited and I was compelled to run to the car to get the shard so that it could be returned. It was truly a bizarre set of circumstances that resulted in my having the piece nearby while James was preaching...I’d been frantically packing the last little pieces of my life in PA. I scooped off everything that was on top of my bedroom dresser into a purse for safekeeping--delicate things like jewelry, and this fragile blue shard of pottery. The fragment had been on my dresser for over a year...

I stood up front on the side of the sanctuary while James was reaching the climax of his sermon. I was panicking thinking, “I have to give it to him before he finishes.”...I got that piece into his hand...and he held it up for all to see. By the end of Holy Communion, the shard was in Heather Murray Elkins’ hand. She lifted it high as she blessed us with eloquent and passionate words about how our shattered spirits and our broken, yet beloved, UMC are being healed piece by piece by God’s everlasting love for us.

After worship ended, I told Heather that it was Bishop Ott who gave the fragment of the chalice to Jonah. She quickly responded, “Then Jonah should have it back.” When I protested, she looked deep into my eyes, pressed the shard into my hand, and told me that I was to tell Jonah that he needs to keep the piece until the Discipline changes. Then he must bring it to General Conference and lay it on the altar in thanksgiving for what God has done in calling the church to truly embrace all of God’s children...By then I was crying, and my heart was on fire again...God

has assured me that I will live to see the day Jonah returns that precious blue shard of the broken chalice to the communion table at a General Conference in years to come ...

- The Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz is chair of the Communications Committee of the National Council of Affirmation.

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[http://www.umaffirm.org/pdf/newsletters/2005-09%20Final%20Vol%2030\\_3%20Summer%202005.pdf](http://www.umaffirm.org/pdf/newsletters/2005-09%20Final%20Vol%2030_3%20Summer%202005.pdf)

PRELUDE

*Bea Jay*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Nancy Townley*

Spring is about to break forth!

**In all the land, new life is happening!**

Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy.

**Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.**

Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

**Let us open our hearts, our spirits, our souls, to God's lavish love.**

**Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*"

#127 UMH

*Words: William Williams Music: John Hughes Tune: Cwm Rhondda 87.87.87 Public Domain*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.**

**I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,**

**feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth  
flow;**

**let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,**

**be thou still my strength and shield;**

**be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.**

**Songs of praises, songs of praises,**

**I will ever give to thee;**

**I will ever give to thee.**

OPENING PRAYER

*Nancy Townley*

**We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
PASSING OF THE PEACE  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Marcia McFee*

*Holy Healer, we come to you seeking restoration.*

**We confess our need to encounter your saving grace.**

*You are always near, and yet we often try to pick up all the pieces ourselves.*

**Restore us to wholeness, and help us to know we are never alone.**

**Amen.**

*Silent Prayers may be offered*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Nancy C.*

*Townley*

Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God's healing love.

Accept this free gift, for it is given for you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We give thanks for God has forgiven us. Amen.**

HYMN "O Come And Dwell In Me" Vs. 1, 2

#388 UMH

*Words: Charles Wesley Music: Genevan Psalter Public Domain*

**O come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within,  
and bring the glorious liberty from sorrow, fear, and sin.**

**Hasten the joyful day which shall my sins consume,  
when old things shall be done away, and all things new become.**

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

*Genesis*

*1:1-27, 31*

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

*2<sup>ND</sup>*

*Corinthians 5:16-17*

*May these readings from Genesis and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians inspire us to live  
for love.*

**Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION “Restoration”

*Rev. Bette*

*Johnson Sohm*

RESPONSE HYMN “*This Is A Day Of New Beginnings*” Vs. 1, 3, 5

#383 UMH

*Words: Brian Wren © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Carlton R. © 1987 Hope  
Publishing Co*

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's  
gone.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave  
behind**

**our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure  
to find.**

**In faith we'll gather around the table to taste and share what love  
can do.**

**This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

THE OFFERTORY “*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*”  
Bartels, soloist

Richard

Karen Jensen, flautist

Bea

Jay, pianist

## DOXOLOGY

#95 UMH

**Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE "ON SHALOM"

*"Shalom" means "peace," but it means so much more as well: wholeness, fullness, and completion; integrity and perfection; healing, health, and harmony; utter tranquility, loving and being loved; consummation; forgiveness and reconciliation; totality of well-being. And even all of these together do not spell out sufficiently the meanings of shalom. But even though we cannot accurately understand or adequately define Shalom, we can experience it. We can readily taste the sweetness of its presence, the bitterness of its absence, and the double blessing of shalom restored. Let us pray:*

**All-merciful, tender God, you created each one of us a treasure. We come to you aware that often we are careless—casting away that which is precious in your sight. We ask you to forgive us. Let your gentle waves of love gather us to your shores to live in true shalom and community with all.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*adapted, June Christine Goudey, The Feast of Our Lives, The Pilgrim Press.*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up as one.**

Let us offer God our thanks and praise.

**It is a good and joyful thing to praise the living God.**

Come with open hearts to this table of resurrection!

God of necessary endings and new beginnings, you who speak and shape new worlds, you who bless and multiply life, receive our deep and joyful thanks for all your gifts.

Beloved Maker, in the beginning your creative hands and heart revealed your wondrous powers, and all of creation bowed in awe. Created female and male in your image, your earth creatures delighted in Eden's possibilities. All things seemed good, all things seemed holy.

And yet like so much in life it all seemed too much too soon. We quickly learned the price of freedom, the risk of reaching beyond our grasp, the meaning of sin.

You have made covenant to be our God but we so often turn away from you. Together or alone we hunger for your goodness, your deep communion, your lasting forgiveness, your amazing grace.

Your sweetness lingers on our tongues, Holy One, your faithfulness beckons us to start anew. As deep calls to deep with gratitude and grace, we join with all of creation to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

In word and story, in poem and prayer, in the rhythm of waves and time, your hope comes.

Again and again Jesus reveals your loving ways, your righteous judgments, your tender mercies. He touches us with love, healing us, restoring us. Fully human, fully divine, beyond our reach, yet near at hand.

As he gathered his friends at table, he gathers us in one faith, one baptism, one hope.

We remember how he took bread, and having blessed and broken it, gave it in the tenderest of manners, saying this is my life, given for you. Do this faithfully in remembrance of me.

In the same manner, he took the cup, and having given thanks, gave it to them, saying this cup is the new covenant joining our life's blood as one. May you find forgiveness here.

In eating and drinking together we receive Jesus' love,  
Transform our hearts, and imagine new futures.

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, glory alleluia!  
Christ will come once again, Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come now, Holy Spirit; bless these prayers, this food and our lives that we might be a blessing to one another and to your greater glory. Brooding Spirit, life-giving Truth, send us forth to the places we have feared to go. Create in us the treasure of resurrected life. And dwell with us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven Hallowed be Thy name! Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

#### SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP

GATHERING SONG "*Song of Hope (Canto de Esperanza)*"

#2186 TFWS

Words: Alvin Schutmaat Music: Argentine folk melody Irregular with Refrain Tune: Argentina

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

*Refrain:*

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

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[www.laughingbird.net](http://www.laughingbird.net)

*Go now and live into your restoration. Know that you are whole and holy, and celebrate that God has made what is most broken most beautiful.*

*And may God shine through you; may Christ Jesus give you the courage to be seen for who you are; and may the Holy Spirit always bring you home safe.*

**We go in peace, and the sure knowledge that love is the heart of the matter.**

## POSTLUDE

*Bea Jay*

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