

**Batavia United Methodist Church**  
**Church Council Minutes - Draft - November 27, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Dan Van Haften, Melissa Meyers, Kathy Abernathy, Chet Zabka, Cornel Du Toit, Judy Larson, Eric Ashby, Chris Johnson, Becky Manigold, Jack Hinterlong, Rob Walters, Pennie Hall.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Melissa.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The 10/23/23 Church Council meeting minutes were approved.

**Celebrations:** 1) Morne Du Toit's November 26, 2023, lay sermon; 2) Sunday brunch; 3) fall decorations in the sanctuary; 4) work of the hospitality team each Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall; 5) appreciation for BUMC's support for the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot; 6) the youth Turkey Bowling event; 7) BUMC's participation in Batavia's Festival of Lights; 8) the ASP BBQ fundraiser.

**Topics for Discussion/Action**

**After School Program** - Pastor Melissa reported there is a lot of interest. Pastor Melissa will organize a meeting after the holidays.

**Listening Session/Vision Board Updates**

Kathy Abernathy suggested a visioning session retreat, perhaps in January, to discuss the inputs and BUMC's response.

**Updates**

**1) Program/Ministry Groups**

**Worship** - Becky Manigold reported the Worship Committee will look at getting some new banners for the sanctuary. The hanging of the greens in the sanctuary is Saturday, December 2, 2023. The Worship Committee will work on getting greeters.

**Christian Ed** - Cornel Du Toit reported she is working with Rhonda Hibbeler on upcoming mystery dinners for the youth. Two people have signed up thus far for the December 10, 2023, Christmas pageant.

**Youth** - Pastor Melissa reported the 2024 Confirmation informational meeting was November 15, 2023. There likely will be four confirmands from BUMC. Danice Craney reported the 2024 Appalachian Service Project (ASP) mission trip BBQ fundraiser was held November 16, 2023. The deadline for 2024 ASP mission trip sign up is December 1, 2023. The Cookie Walk ASP mission trip fundraiser is December 10, 2023.

**Mission** - Danice reported BUMC's next Hesed House service is Saturday, December 30, 2023. Chet Zabka reported Lazarus House is the fourth Tuesday of every month.

**Invitation and Connection** - BUMC had about 20 volunteers in two locations for Batavia's 2023 Batfest. We distributed 300 crafts at our Riverwalk station. We ran out of hot chocolate at our BUMC parking lot station. Lots of candy was distributed.

**Stewardship** - Chris Johnson reported the Stewardship testimonials were excellent, as were Tammy Ashby's instructions on Commitment Sunday. We are slightly ahead of last years in number of Commitment Sunday pledges (43 vs. 31), and in dollars committed. On Commitment Sunday there were 3 new pledges, 16 increased pledges, 17 pledges stayed the same, 3 decreased pledges, and 3 pledges that haven't pledged in the past year or two. Five

families asked for ways to serve. There were 91 people in worship this year for Commitment Sunday, vs. 65 last year.

**2) Finance** - Eric Ashby reported through October 2023 BUMC's General Funds are \$35,301.50, Designated Funds are \$57,855.64, and Investment Funds are \$773,581.11. BUMC's total financial account contains \$866,738.25. October income was \$25,958.75. YTD income is \$295,512.66. The annual income projection is \$410,000. October expenses were \$31,639.58. YTD expenses are \$344,435.61. The 2023 expense forecast is \$443,987.26. Thus far our 2023 income is behind our expenditures. Finance has a preliminary 2024 budget, and will continue to work toward a final budget to present to Church Council.

**3) Trustees** - Chet Zabka reported Tomas Hibbeler will repair the west side BUMC sign for an Eagle Scout project. The refrigerator has been replaced in the parsonage. BUMC's water softener and water heater have been replaced. The parking lot needs to be resealed in 2024. Rain run-off is not hitting the existing storm sewer. The Trustees will ask the City of Batavia to rework the storm sewer. The City of Batavia supposedly fixed the sanitary sewer line. The toilet room floor drains backed up. The Trustees hired a plumber to route out the pipes and fix the problem. The church phones currently do not work. We will need a "hard line" for the elevator. Trustees will look at getting quotations for a new system. Rob Walter fixed leaks from the two urinals in the third floor men's room.

**4) Building Committee** - Jack Hinterlong reported on the historical Batavia High School gym floor in the Hubbard Building. Jack is looking for a carpenter to take up the gym floor board by board. Jack is open to suggestions for winter displays in the front windows of the Hubbard Building. Jack suggested BUMC acquire a BUMC-labeled tent-like structure for BUMC events, whether they be in the parking lot, on the Riverwalk, or elsewhere.

**5) Staff Parish** - Dan Van Haften reported Staff Parish will review the 2024 Ministry budget at the December 4, 2023, Staff Parish meeting.

**6) Parents Day Out (PDO)** - Pastor Melissa reported there is still an opening on the PDO Board.

#### **Any New Business or Future Topics**

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Melissa reported an Advent study starts Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Care package for college students will be sent out this week. Six new members will be received on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

**Joys/Concerns:** 1) David Newhouse turned 70—he sends his greetings; 2) Marlene Rotolo passed away; 3) Diana Sharp passed away in October; 4) Several church committees need more members. Forward candidates to fill open positions to Pastor Melissa or to Kathy Abernathy, Chair of Church Council.

**Reminder-Next Meeting:** The next Church Council meeting will be in January. The date will be announced.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Melissa.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dan Van Haften.