



## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

*Look deep into my heart, God, and find out everything I am thinking. Don't let me follow evil ways, but lead me in the way that time has proven true. Psalm 139:23-24 CEV*

Friends,

It's the most wonderful time of the year - at least for beach lovers. 😊 School will be out soon for summer break. Family and friends will come to our homes - or we will go to theirs - to visit each other. For many, it is vacation time. Vacation comes from an Old French word, meaning "freedom or release" from an activity or occupation. It's a time to break out of the old routine and find freedom in the new.

As we continue to recognize graduate Sunday (6/2) and Father's Day (6/16), we are also embarking on a break from the familiar and trying a new thing. On Memorial Day weekend we began our first Sunday morning "SON Worship" at 8 a.m. at the Hope Center. The 8 a.m. summer service is a new format and a new direction in a new space. And that is just the start.

Mariners Bethel Council and strategic planning team are currently reviewing all the ministries of the church and making hard decisions. Truth is, we can't do every good thing and we want to give God our best. We want to make sure we are focused on three main things: making disciples of Jesus Christ, loving others in practical ways, and helping others find the love and life that Christ has given us. **Basically, making disciples for LIFE.** To that end, we are steeping all that we do in prayer. And not a soft, safe kind of prayer.

In his book, "Dangerous Prayers" (2020), author and pastor Craig Groeschel noted that when we pray dangerous prayers it first involves asking God to search us. Usually, when I read Psalm 139: 12, the translation begins with the words "search me" or "examine me" - and then

I read this following translation from the contemporary English version... two phrases jumped out at me.

The first is **"look deep in my heart, God."**

Looking deep into our hearts is a risk many of us avoid. Like the task of cleaning an overflowing garage or closet, while there may be treasures found, we usually must sort through the junk and broken stuff to get to it. It's dangerous because the process leaves us vulnerable. And yet, that is exactly what we need to be when we come in prayer. Because prayer builds relationships with the One we call Holy.

To be released from our own limited view, we must learn to dream big for God's kingdom. Wimpy, predictable, prayers that ask for what other churches have, will not do. Bold, dangerous prayers set us free to see a world of possibility through Him "who can do exceedingly more than we think or can imagine." The dream prayer exercise was to help us take a risk, without knowing the how, why, or when of the outcome. Because bold prayers require faith and courage on our part.

(Continued on page 2)

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **As We Shift Into Summer Mode - p 1**
- **Dream Prayers for Mariners - p 2**
- **Children's Coordinator Position - p 3**
- **SPRC Congregation Connection - p 4**
- **Upcoming Events - p 5**
- **Birthdays & Anniversaries - p 6**
- **FMS Menu for June - p 6**
- **Church Council Letter - p 7**
- **Grief Share - p 7**
- **Exploring the Word - p 7**
- **Financial Status of the Church - p 8**

(continued from page 1)

At Mariners, we are called to be courageous people with a bold witness and praying bold prayers. When Pastor Leo read the prayers from the golden bowl on Pentecost Sunday, he read one dream prayer about Mariners launching 3 churches and 3 ministers/missionaries in the next 3 years. At each service, when this dream was spoken, there was a gasp in the room. At one service I heard someone whisper in surprise, "that's a bold prayer."

**"Lead me in the way that time has proven true"** was the second phrase that jumped off the page.

Time and time again, in scripture and in history, God has always provided the direction when we let Him lead the way. And time and time again, He amazes and astounds us in what He accomplishes with what we bring. After the past few rocky and uncertain years, there are those who didn't think the bills would be able to be paid, didn't think we'd be able to confirm 8 students this spring, much less, baptize 4 adults this month alone. And still, God is faithful when we align with His plan for His purpose.

How do we start? As we take a break this summer, and change our wardrobe to more shorts and flipflops, maybe it's time to change our prayer perspectives.

Instead of asking God to do something FOR you, ask God to reveal something IN you. Don't let your fears define your witness as safe and predictable. Jesus was never predictable and never shied away from the dangerous for the sake of the gospel. And neither should we.

As Mariners shifts into summer mode, may we take this time to reflect and renew. And while we are at it, maybe just take the risk of letting God take the lead. He will never steer us wrong.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



## **DREAM PRAYERS FOR MARINERS BETHEL GMC**

Written by Rev. Dr. Leo Park

*"13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14, NIV)*

For the past 3 years, through our many birth pains, the Lord Jesus Christ gave birth to a new church named Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church. As a newly born church, we must leave the past of the UMC behind and move forward as the GMC. I want us to stop talking about the past and move forward for the future. Just as parents look at their newborn baby and dream of what he or she will become, I believe the Lord looks at us and dreams a grand dream for us. "Won't you dream His dream together?"

On Pentecost Sunday, we lifted high the golden bowl of dream prayers we submitted and prayed together in unison. The prayers below are not just our dream prayers, but, I believe, they are the Lord's dream prayers for our church. I believe that the Lord has a dream in each of our hearts and wants us to lift it up to Him in prayer. As you read the dream prayers below, I invite you to join us in praying to the Lord, "Lord, please make these dreams come true!"

1. (I pray) That we would be a community-focused church - helping members of the community where they are - filled pews with every hand raised and prayer filling the sanctuary.
2. (I pray for) Unity, Love, Hope, Inclusiveness.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

3. My dream (prayer is that) Mariners houses that feeling that all are welcome. We continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus. And we live Matthew 25:34-40 everyday. Prayer is our way.
4. (I pray) That this would be a "hub" for all ages to come to know Jesus, to grow in Him and spread His words, His acts and love.
5. (I pray for) A preschool at Hope Center
6. We pray that Holy Spirit will bring revival to Mariners and all or families will be saved. We pray our community will be saved by the grace of Jesus.
7. (I pray) Those who have left the church and love of God, to return to commitment of Jesus Christ.
8. (I pray) For Mariners to launch 3 new churches, 3 1st time pastors/missionaries in next 3 years.
9. Jesus shine Your light on us - let us be a glow in your love and truth-bring us together as a true church - loving You and each other.
10. (I pray) For people getting more involved.
11. I pray that so many new people will join our church that we all together can serve God with joy!
12. Heavenly Father, all praise and glory to you Almighty Father. Thank you for Pastor Becky and Pastor Leo our awesome pastors and our wonderful congregation here. I am always praying for an amazing praise and passionate spirit-filled revival. For Mariners and include all God's people and increased commitment of our generous giving of our time, talent, treasure and testimony!
13. (I pray for) Peace - fellowship, house of prayer, love.
14. Lord, please lead more people to our church to hear Your words and understand.
15. I pray for every Mariner to know the love of God - superior to man's love, in response share it!
16. (I pray) That Mariners would open the gifts God has given us for His church and share them!
17. I pray that Mariners would grow and thrive in scriptural truth and God's grace.
18. (I pray that) The Lord will use Mariners to spread the word to his community and beyond. A great revival. All committee of Mariners will be rooted in deep in the Holy Spirit and seek God's guidance through prayer first.
19. (I pray) To obey Jesus, we will serve Him as He calls us to do.
20. Prayers for our church to be full of people - all willing to serve and give.
21. My dream prayer for Mariners Bethel: That Mariners become a community of disciples - more than believers - who... As individuals, we yearn to know God, and seek the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, so that they burn with the love of Jesus for others EVERY day and their love is evident, and undeniable. As a church, commit to: 1) fling open our doors and hearts to ALL who need to know Christ and His healing power AND 2) March into the community to serve and witness to all in need and bring the lost to Christ!
22. I pray for Mariners Youth Seminars (13-20) teaching God's view of singleness, sex, and marriage - (2 times a year more for youth groups - 1 day seminars.)
23. My prayer is that we will contribute to a church to grow in grace and knowledge in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's all about "JESUS" and we do all we can for our young children to know who Jesus is and how he loves them!



## CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR POSITION IS OPEN

We are searching for an individual to provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of the children at Mariners. This position supervises and provides coordination of the Nursery (infant through age 4), Kid's Church, and assists with outreach programs and special events. Training and/or education in Christian Ministry, Education, or a related field is a core competency. We are looking for someone who has a passion for ministry with children that spurs excitement and leads to growth, Authenticity and integrity are important reflecting the fruit of God's Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. An understanding of technology and software to stream curriculum, check in children and volunteers, register guests, and sign up volunteers. You must have a passion for sharing God's grace, love and His Word. This is a part-time position. Job description is on our website. Applicants should apply through Indeed, or contact the church office.

# SPRC CONGREGATION CONNECTION

By Jeff Heintzelman and Ray Danieli

The first Congregation Connection was conducted on April 29th, 2024, in which 5 congregants were invited to come and discuss with the SPRC their questions, concerns, and suggestions. This was a wide-ranging and at times challenging conversation. Below is a summary of what was discussed that day and a recent follow-up session to provide findings and answers.

- How are we doing financially? Giving is similar to the prior year but is not keeping pace with expenses, requiring tighter cost management and some expense reductions. We need to encourage greater giving of all our gifts – time, talent, and treasures. Please refer to the Finance Committee’s article in this newsletter for more information.
- Purpose of the Narthex changes, why? The goal was to open the entry area to become more welcoming, eliminate the ‘log jam’ caused by the round table, and make it more inviting to linger for fellowship and conversation in the lobby area after service. This caused some consternation from people who valued the table for the information (newsletters, promotions, devotionals, etc.) formerly found there. A suggestion was to provide another information table. Other comments noted the area looks stark. Suggestions included wall decorations, a ‘Welcome to Mariners’ banner, and a more visible permanent Welcome Desk.
- A comment was made concerning the perception that Pastor Becky doesn’t seem to warmly engage with the congregation. People would like to see her more involved with groups, ministry activities, and events. Another comment was made about Pastor Becky’s wardrobe which we didn’t dignify by addressing it.

Many observations and questions were related to worship:

- Why is there no dedication of the offering or Doxology? There has been no doxology regularly offered during the 9 am worship due to the contemporary nature and time constraints of that service; however, it is offered every week at the 11 am service. Note: while the Doxology may be missing, Pastor Becky did institute weekly use of the Lord’s Prayer at every service.
- Why didn’t Pastor Leo speak in May? Several personal matters this month (including his Graduation ceremony!) prevented him from speaking in May, but he will speak twice in June. The intent is to have Pastor Leo preach – on average – 25% of the time. As Pastor Leo commented to me, “An Associate Pastor does not have the right, but rather the privilege to preach.” I questioned the necessity of listing speakers in advance. No one objected to omitting this in the future, with the occasional exception of mentioning guest speakers.
- Why no ‘passing the peace’ at 9 am? Due to time constraints, and people’s tendency to leave their pews and wander to see friends, this is not always done. In the future, the Pastors will direct the congregation to offer a greeting to their immediate pews ‘neighbors’.
- Why recorded scripture reading? This is due to people’s preference for doing it this way, and more time is required to read live. Another benefit is that one recording covers both services. Roughly 25 people are willing to read scripture (not all of whom are willing to read live) which makes establishing a rotation of readers difficult. However, we have made it a practice to read scripture live once a month at each service.
- Hymnals are missing from the pews. The majority were removed due to UMC imagery and liturgy contained in our hymnals. Since no particular hymnal has been created for the GMC we will keep two hymnals in each pew row.
- Why do Pastors sit in the pews and not on the chancel when not preaching? This is their preference.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

- Why is the altar no longer on the floor? The rolling altar that sits idle in front of the organ, where it has been since at least 2015. Paster Becky bought the current fixed altar and put it permanently below the cross. There was none there when Becky arrived.
- Why don't we recite the Apostles' Creed more often? It has not been a regular practice during worship services since at least 2015, but it is said in conjunction with all baptisms and presentations of New Members. Related was the discussion of the Baptismal font not being used during the recent Youth & Confirmation and Reaffirmation service. Pastor Becky explained that the font is and will continue to be used for infant baptisms but not for all adult and youth baptisms.
- Why are the old banners in sanctuary missing? Due to the inclusion of UMC imagery on the banners they were retired, not discarded, and are being kept with other Mariners 'archives'. However, the red partitions were removed from in front of the stained glass windows making them completely visible. I suggested that we stop trying to have what we want and start wanting what we have - stained glass windows that are the envy of any church!

Future Connection chats will be held every 4-5 weeks.



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## PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Mariners is hosting a prayer service for peace in the Middle East on Sunday, June 2 at 4:00 PM in the Hope Center. This service is open to all denominations.

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## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

**Thursday Evenings ~ Now through June 27th**, CBS is currently doing a new Bible Study, "God's Amazing Book." The group meets from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Social Hall. All age groups are invited! For further information, contact Marty Quillen at [martyquillen@mediacombb.net](mailto:martyquillen@mediacombb.net).

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## SON WORSHIP AT THE HOPE CENTER

**Offered Sundays - Now through Labor Day at 8:00 AM**

Come and experience our new worship service on Sunday mornings. This special service is casual and will allow you to spend the rest of the day sun worshipping or whatever you need to do!  
Held Memorial Day through Labor Day!



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## WOMEN CENTRAL'S SUMMER BEACH STUDY

This summer Women Central will again hold their beach study at Bethany Beach and 2nd Street. The study will be "The No-Homework Women's Bible Study: Group Hug IV," by Christine Tate. Get ready to buckle up for another fun round of discussion based, critical thinking, centered around God's word with your Christian sisters. This study takes you through engaging weekly discussions including submitting to God's will, anger, selfishness, being fruitful, hearing God, white lies, fear, and the highs and lows of life. The study will be held **Wednesday mornings** beginning **June 12-July 31**. Register on Church Center or in person in the lobby.

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Register now for "Scuba" - where kids ages 4 to finishing 5th grade will dive into friendship with God! July 8-12 from 8:30 AM - Noon. Register on Church Center or pick up a form from the office.  
Volunteers can sign up too!

<https://marinersbethel.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2216851>  
Volunteers: <https://marinersbethel.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2216996>



## BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 - Vernon Burgan, Michael Kwiecien,  
Peggy McCowan  
6/2 - Nancy Smith, Alisa Jasjko  
6/4 - Ruth Slocum  
6/5 - Jeanne Pekar, Olivia Tetzloff,  
Gregory Tetzloff  
6/6 - Abigail O'Shields, Amy Brothers  
6/8 - Jodi Paules, Teddy Quillen  
6/9 - Eric Lewis, Bob Kertesz  
6/12 - James Carr, Sandy Butler  
6/13 - Liz Danieli, Lorraine Logan  
6/15 - Kaylee Christopher, Carter Porter,  
Carson Porter  
6/17 - Ellie Zook  
6/18 - Chuck Gularson, Susan Wingate,  
Harrison Burkle  
6/19 - Andy Van Zee  
6/20 - Diane Palmer  
6/21 - Mark Smith, Pat Resnick  
6/22 - Jennifer Carey, Linda Mease  
6/24 - Nancy McCreary, Nancy Piel  
6/26 - Ryan Porter  
6/27 - Tiffany Steele, Winnie Talemal  
6/28 - John Noon  
6/29 - Janet Freeman, Sherry Powers



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/1 - Glenn & Pastor Becky Collison  
Mark & Tammy Beam  
David & Kathy Deganich  
6/7 - Don & Carolyn Lawson  
Matt & Nicky McCowan  
6/13 - Ed & Tina Rickards  
6/15 - Sam & Theresa O'Shields  
6/16 - Rick & Bev Bigley  
6/17 - Bob & Nancy Lueckel  
6/18 - David & Susan Wingate  
6/21 - Harold & Barbara Beam  
Michael & Judy Matsko  
6/22 - Edward & Pat Winn  
6/25 - Russell & Dianne Archut  
Dan & Marge Orendorf  
Robert & Jodi Paules  
6/26 - Elliott & Lee Joy Workman  
6/27 - Michael & Linda Mease  
6/28 - Rick & Patti Morris

## Menu for June

Feed My Sheep Cafe  
Tuesdays from 11:30-1:00  
in the Hope Center

### June 4

Spiral Sliced Ham, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, & Fresh Vegetable  
Soups: Tuscan Sausage & Sweet Potato w/Apple

### June 11

Cheese Ravioli w/Meat Sauce, Roll, & Salad  
Soups: Italian Sausage & Minestrone

### June 18

Double Sausage Cheeseburger w/ Chips  
Soups: Chicken Mushroom & Tuscan Bean w/Veggies

### June 25

Hot Dog w/Sauerkraut, & Side of Onion Rings  
Soups: Chicken Cheddar Broccoli & Stuffed Pepper



Menu changes may occur  
due to food supply

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL BY JIM RINDFUSS

"I don't know about you, but I feel the excitement of a growing church at Mariners' as we embark on our journey of becoming a Global Methodist Church. Over the past few months, we have seen growth in new ministries and programs. We are starting a new 8 am Sunday service, had a successful Men's Retreat with 92 men participating, are revitalizing our prayer ministry, and are renewing our children's program. It is a great time to be a member here at Mariners!

However, this does highlight that more volunteer help is needed in many areas. Specifically, volunteers are needed to support this summer's Vacation Bible School, our nursery volunteers, our new Children's ministry, and help with our tech team. Without additional volunteer support, these ministries could be in jeopardy of not taking place. So, please volunteer some of your time. If you need help getting connected with a specific ministry, please contact the church office, one of the lay leaders, or myself.

My email is [jimrindfuss212@gmail.com](mailto:jimrindfuss212@gmail.com) and phone number is (302) 354-3585. We will see that you get connected to the right people. Thank you in advance for your help."



Mariners offers a Grief Share support group every Monday evening from 6-8:00 PM in the Conference Room upstairs in the Church building. You'll receive valuable guidance and tips on dealing with the loss of a loved one. We can help you find comfort, direction, and peace of mind. Contact the church office if you have questions or stop in and try one of the sessions.

## EXPLORING THE WORD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



**A New Study beginning Sunday, June 9 from 10:30-11:30 in Jonah #220**

*Romans 12:2 " And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
that you may prove that good, acceptable and perfect will of God."*

Prayerfully consider joining us  
as we explore and discuss God's Word!



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## FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH

**September - April**

	<u><b>Actual</b></u>
Total Funds Received	\$ 773,000
Funds for Capital Purchases	(31,000)
Funds Received to repay HC Loan	<u>(37,000)</u>
	\$ 705,000
Total Expenses	<u>778,000</u>
Net	(\$73,000)

Where does the church stand financially? To date, the church has received \$773k. After taking out funds designated for the pay down of the Hope Center loan and the purchase of assets for the church, \$705k remains to cover the operational costs of the church (ministry programs, community events, and building, operational, and personnel costs). With expenditures at \$778k, the church is in a year-to-date deficit of \$73k. To cover the shortfall and the anticipated spending from May to August, the church must receive a total of \$126k per month (the average for September - April is \$ 88k).

If funds do not increase, we may not have any recourse but to cut or cancel programs and/or reduce personnel hours to reduce costs. The church has made significant strides in the last couple of months:

- hiring an Associate Pastor,
- increasing participation and attendance in the Enrichment of Hope after-school program,
- increasing attendance and participation at church,
- expanding and growing the Bible studies,
- holding the first Men's Retreat,
- offering community events,
- opening the Hope Center to various organizations,
- musical Cantatas,
- and the list continues.

We ask that you please help us continue the growth, work, and support of God's kingdom by closing the gap on the financial shortfall. An increase in giving will help us meet our basic expenses, including paying down the remaining \$140 thousand of the Hope Center loan.

Please see any member of the Finance Committee to see how you can help.