



The Flame
Byron United Methodist Church
Byron, MN

 **Who Are We?**

We are a welcoming church that
wants everyone to know God's love.

 **Our Core Values**

Love First Foster Belonging
Grace-Powered Hope, Help, and Healing

SEPTEMBER 2026

**FROM
THE
PASTOR**



Dear Byron UMC Members, Family's and Friends. Grace and peace of our Lord to you and your families! Thank you for your generous hospitality, love, and care for one another. As I walk the journey of faith with you, thank you so much for your faithful prayers, gracious service, loving care, and generous offering to our congregation and its ministries. Through your love to serve, to give, to encourage, and to participate in Byron Church ministries, God calls each of us to strengthen our church family and pass on His lavish love to others.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities before us, including our upcoming Ready, Set, Worship! service, Free Community Meal, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, LIFT fellowship activities, and all events designed to grow our faith, build relationships, and serve our community. All these events are opportunities to experience God's presence and grow in faith together. May God guide our congregation and bless each one of you for His glory.
Grace and peace be with you!

Pastor Bea

Free Community Dinner



COMMUNITY MEAL: Our 2026 Byron Good Neighbor Days Mexican meal was blessed! Thank you to the cooks, to those who donated food and to the hardworking team that kept the event running smoothly. Your time and effort in bringing this event to life was so appreciated! Thanks to those attending for joining us in making our event a memorable success.

We used this meal to introduce Come, Be Fed, the new BUMC free monthly meal ministry, that will begin Thursday, Sept. 17 and continuing on the third Thursday of each month. Through the take-out meals charge and generous donations we have \$1,053 to support our ongoing meal mission. We are so grateful for the support of our 'Come, Be Fed' vision to feed 'hunger', to build community and to show God's love around our tables as we offer a free meal.

Our first meal will be Sept. 17 with the dining room open for gathering at 4:30 pm and dinner served 5-6pm. It will take our faith community volunteers to make this a success...to work but also for our faith family to just come be fed in community. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help. There will be a *sign-up board* in the dining room with the various tasks...cooks, set up, servers, entry greeter, hospitality hosts, clean up. Our September meal will be *meatballs, spaghetti & sauce, veggie sticks, apple slices, garlic bread, cookies and beverage*. We will be looking for donations of 1-2 dozen cookies for the dessert and if anyone has apples, we'd love to come pick!

The team has been working hard to identify ways to get the word out about this ministry through signage, flyers, online platforms, working with the Bearpack program, Byron Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels. Please help us spread the word to the community as Sept. 17 draws close. Look to those around you who could use a meal for whatever reason and invite them to come! Please pray for God's blessing on this ministry as we seek to be the hands of Jesus through intentional hospitality. Call 507-269-6413 with questions. Chris Miller, 'Come, Be Fed' Team Leader

READY, SET, WORSHIP!: Ready, Set, Worship! resumes on **Sunday, September 13, at 9:30 a.m.** Sunday School will start the following Sunday, Sept. 20th from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Check out the church website for more information regarding Sunday school.

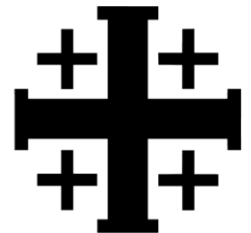


CONFIRMATION CLASS: Confirmation class, 8th grade through 12th grade, starting September 20th at 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.



GRIEF GROUP: The Grief Group next *meeting is on Wednesday, Oct. 14th from 10-11 a.m.* and continues the second Wednesday of every month. The group offers opportunities to talk about things that cannot be discussed in other settings and to find others who can relate to their situation. The scope of the group is helping others find comfort, healing, and relationships through conversations and fellowship with others. For more information, contact Marlene Abel or Pastor Bea.

COVENANT GROUP: The Thursday evening Covenant Group invites you to consider trying out discipleship in the Methodist way by joining them for a trial session. Participate in a couple of meetings to see what it's like and then decide if you are ready to make this covenant commitment. Speak with Kelly VanDeWalker for details.



BEARPACK PROGRAM: Byron UMC continues its pledge to give \$200 monthly (Sept. – May) toward the BearPack Program with Byron Schools. This program helps those families with children in need in our schools. ***All donations through the year at fellowship time go toward this fund.*** Please consider supporting this great need in our community by giving generously to the cookie jar each week!

CHURCH WEBSITE:

Go to <https://www.byronunitedmethodist.org> and or scan this QR code with your smartphone. There are Events and News postings to keep people informed of announcements or activities taking place. Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters are uploaded to the Worship page; information about Ministries offered and Sunday School info. Livestreamed services can be found under the Posted Livestreams page. Online giving is available on the giving page.



PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER:



For those who need healing: God of compassion, source of life and health, strengthen, restore, and relieve those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially now: Mike Hudson, (brother-in-law of Judylaine Luttmers), Mike Nerlien, Claire Field, Jaxson Clark, Pastor Beth Perez, Jeff Schmidt (son-in-law of Anita Carlson), Ruth Wescott (cousin of Janet Sinning), Suze Anderson, Karin Byers, Donna Walters, Nancy Kelly, Doris Frey, Treaver Bleichner (grandson of Julene Bleichner), Dick Hart (brother of Judy Luttmers), David Larsen, Calvin Bell, Vicki McIntosh, Paige Reder, Sara (granddaughter of Anita Carlson), Max Smith (son of Barb Smith), Debbie Webb, so that they may receive healing and help in You.

For those who have died and for those who mourn: Eternal God, by your steadfast love, open your arms of mercy to those who have died, that they may find their place with you, and look with compassion on those who grieve, that they may be comforted by your sure presence and filled with hope in your goodness, especially now: Carol Ramthun; Marlene Sovereign (mother of Sue Vick); Julie McCoy; Sandy Fitzpatrick; Wayne Petersen (friend of Julene Bleichner); Loren Walters; Jared White; Jim Miller (brother of Suze Anderson); Kirsten Hart (mother of Aubree, Gauge and Hunter); Patricia Klingsporn, Debbie Schwartz (sister of Kathy Nerlien).

For the homebound, those in care facilities, and their caregivers: God of all seasons of life, bring comfort to those who are vulnerable, tired, or weak, especially now: Suze Anderson, David Larsen, Nancy Kelly, Bette Josephson, Calvin Bell, Donna Walters, Alan Bourquin, Debbie Byers, John Lloyd, Barb Smith; so that they may be blessed and at peace each day. Inspire and encourage those who care for them, so that their work may be filled with grace and their love may be multiplied.

For those who celebrate: God of blessing, we praise You for the joy we have received and the gift we have in one another. We lift up special thanks for those who celebrate milestones in life – birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, the birth of a child, graduations, promotions, and new jobs – and we ask Your continued blessing upon them, now and always.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in these prayers, please call or email the church office at byronumchurch@gmail.com or speak to Pastor Bea at 507-775-6610.



CREATION CARE TIPS: *Making “Green Living” a Part of One’s Life Series*

The Soil & Climate Initiative (SCI) brought together farmers, scientists, food companies and nonprofit allies for a holistic look at the agriculture industry. They worked on creating agriculture systems that support soil health and regenerative food. Practical solutions to the problems in our food systems showed a need for a certification label-Soil & Climate Health Initiative Verified. The label marks products that are made with regeneratively grown ingredients. This gives farmers and brands marketable proof that they are

doing the necessary work to heal the soil.

Farmers and brands must commit to a three-year transition with SCI’s guidance such as cover cropping, integrating livestock, and reducing synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Three years is enough time for the soil to adjust and farmers to begin to see the fruits of their labor.

Acres of farmland are being moved from extractive and harmful monocultures to practices that support biodiversity, soil and plant health. These products can be found with the SCI label in Whole Foods stores around the country.

Excerpts from *Green American Summer 2026* by Mary Meade. Submitted by Cathy Huntoon.

Online Giving

Offerings can be made using electronic fund transfers from your bank account or by credit/debit card and have the option to be set as a recurring gift. Please go to <https://www.byronunitedmethodist.org>. Click on GIVE or scan this QR code with your smartphone. Once there, go to GIVE and follow the instructions for registration.



The following table summarizes BUMC financial funds ending August 31, 2026.

Balance Sheet Roll Forward Report		08-01-2026 to 08-31-2026			
Funds					
Name	Starting	Income	Expenses	Balance	
General	\$3,595.58	\$25,754.94	\$15,979.67	\$13,370.85	\$2,500 Designated, remainder undesignated)
Missions	\$1,098.25	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$1,268.25	Designated
Covenant Hands	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Designated
Apportionments	\$1,169.75	\$200.00	\$1,330.25	\$39.50	Designated
Education	\$1,073.92	\$100.45	\$50.45	\$1,123.92	Designated
Memorial Designated	\$1,278.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,278.04	Designated
Memorial Undesignated	\$12,002.54	\$20.00	\$4,109.98	\$7,912.56	Undesignated
Trustee Savings	\$1,413.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,413.42	Designated
BUMC Undesignated Savings	\$10,107.35	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,107.35	Undesignated
Quilt Group	\$168.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$168.70	Designated
BAYM	\$1,550.99	\$0.00	\$503.31	\$1,047.68	Designated
BUMC Program Savings	\$3,706.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,706.54	Designated
Outgoing Charitable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Designated
Community Meal	\$1,033.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$1,053.00	Designated
Totals	\$38,198.08	\$26,265.39	\$23,973.66	\$40,489.81	
YTD Totals	\$43,289.70	\$130,158.25	\$132,958.14	\$40,489.81	

WOMEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORT CENTER: Byron UMC's ongoing mission is support for the Womens' Shelter and Support Center. They also shelter men and their families (pets are welcome too) that need to get out of an abusive situation as well. Once they have a safe place to live they need to set up house and we can help by donating items to the shelter for them. There is a receptacle in the narthex for your donations. You aren't obligated to donate expensive items or donate at all. Help if you can. **All donations must be NEW.** The following is a list of needed items:



School supplies: Scissors, Folders plastic (Red, Blue, Yellow and Green), Crayons, Colored pencils, Highlighters, Markers, Pencils (sharpened preferred), Erasers, Glue (bottles and sticks).

Gift Cards - Visa, Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip (Gas, Food, Supplies, Car Repairs, etc.)

Kids Activities gift cards i.e. Movie passes, Bowling, Bounce House, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Pizza places, Arcade, etc.

Adult color/activity books & colored pencils

Non-Perishable Food / Snacks (individual packets, i.e. Potato chips, granola bars, fruit bars, pretzel bits, raisins, fruit packets, animal crackers, and microwave popcorn

Baby wipes, Pull-ups (size 3-4T, 5-6T).

Paper products (toilet paper, napkins, tissues); **Cleaning Supplies** (dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant spray)

Eco-friendly plates, bowls (microwaveable) **cutlery.**

Kitchen Utensils (spatulas, whisks, wooden spoons, measuring cups/spoons, peelers, graters, cutting boards, knife sets, ladles, can openers, kitchen scissors, baking sheets, pot holders)

New Pots & Pans, Small Appliances (Coffee pots, mixers, can openers, etc.)

New Pillows, New Bath Towels, New Twin Sheet sets, Women's PJ's - all sizes

New Laptops & Tablets, New Tracfone

Shampoo and conditioner (full-sized)

If you have something you think they could use not on the list, please contact Janet Sinning at jksinning@outlook.com or 507-251-1657.

USE FULL CHURCH ADDRESS FOR MAILING: When sending mail to the church, please be sure to include P.O. Box 146 in the address. The post office has been returning mail to senders when the PO Box # is not included. Please use 503 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 146, Byron, MN 55920.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES: August 5th, 2026-- 6:30 pm

Attendance: Terri Nelson, Al Miller, Chris Miller, Roger Vick, Kelly VanDeWalker, Holly Rolandson, Pastor Bea

Welcome – Terri Nelson

Treasurer Report – Al Miller provided the following updates from report of 7/31/2026: General Checking Balance: \$10,349.99; Memorial Account Balance: \$13,280.58; Savings Account Balance: \$15,227.31

Finance Committee updates:

- a. Current expenses exceed funds in checking account. The finance committee supported a transfer of money from undesignated savings to address the current shortage.
- b. It was suggested we provide communication to the congregation on current financial status and request they consider increasing their current giving. Al Miller will work on communication to be emailed to congregation members.
- c. The committee also supported including funding for the Pastor Emergency Fund as part of special offering during Easter and Advent.

Old Business:

1. The committee continued the discussion regarding the formation of a Stewardship/generosity program. Pastor Bea suggested a separate committee with a separate leadership, consider a generosity connector from the Conference. What do we want this person to do, provide us with some direction on how to set up a meeting and provide? She also suggested the leadership team come back to the September meeting with the reasons why we are doing this program, what are our goals and expectations. This topic will continue at our September leadership meeting.
2. Church Branding Project Status - will be hiring Sara Miller Photography to take professional pictures of the church, and she is also willing to edit and collate candid pictures taken during church activities (VBS, Missions, Projects, etc.). Kelly VanDeWalker will reach out to Pastor Andy regarding his conversations with the marketing director who would be responsible for the development of visual identity package with new logo, considering the website, bulletin, newsletter, letterhead, flyers, and more. The church received \$2,500 in grant money for the branding project.

New Business:

Pastor Bea will be calling together the Worship Committee. This group will assist in planning the worship service, providing input on the structure with potential enhancements, what's working and what is not working, tasks that need to be done and planning for Advent and Easter.

Committee Updates:

- a) Missions – Chris Miller updated on monthly Community Meals which the committee is starting to meet. The first meal will be held on the third Thursday of each month starting in September. The

- b) church will continue to provide meal support to Dorothy Day House and continue assisting with Meals on Wheels in September.
- c) Education – Kelly VanDeWalker provided an update on Education activities:
 - i. VBS will be starting next week - currently have 24 kids registered.
 - ii. Sunday School starting in September; Ready, Set, Worship! will continue on the 2nd Sunday of each month; 3rd grade bibles will be provided to three third graders this year.
- d) Trustees – Roger Vick provided the update:
 - i. Wheelchair / Handicap seating is continuing, with more progress in September.
 - ii. The church did not receive a facilities grant submitted by the Trustees.
- e) SPR – Holly Rolandson shared the SPR committee will work on scheduling small group meet and greet with congregation and Pastor Bea.

Pastor Bea Updates – Worship is a work in process, with additional slides added to the powerpoint to enhance the message. She is getting to know people and getting a feel for the church; scripture readers have been identified. Her day off is Monday. She is also making follow-up calls to members. New email address pastorbea49@gmail.com and new cell phone number is 952-248-0539.

Closing – Pastor Bea closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting – September 9th, new meeting invite will be sent to members.
Minutes submitted by Terri Nelson - Leadership Committee Chair

CHURCH CONTACTS:

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