



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

JULY 2026



Hi Everyone, my name is Rev. Bea Mungania, PhD., but I go by Pastor Bea.

I am so excited to be joining Byron UMC, and participate in the work God is already doing at your church and in your neighborhood. I love to share Jesus' Love with others. I cherish the connections through the body of Christ. I love passing on the faith to others because faith was passed on to me as a little child and since then, I found the roots of my faith in Jesus.

One thing people may not know about me is that I am an interdisciplinary Christian. My ministry is supported by various professional backgrounds such as Business Studies, education, chaplaincy, and pastoral care and counseling. My passion is to serve the church. My various gifts have supported my service to serve the church joyfully. I have been in church since I was little. God has been setting me up and preparing me to serve the church. I love people. I look forward to serving God with each one of you. God is already at work and has invited each one of us to join the ministry of God's faithful discipleship!

Pastor Bea Mungania



MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER: As part of Byron Good Neighbor Days, all are invited to a **FREE Taco Dinner Thursday, July 16 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Menu features beef & chicken tacos, refried beans, Mexican rice, chips & salsa, dessert, and beverage. Dine-in is free. Carryout available for \$15. Proceeds from carryout will go to support a new monthly free community meal beginning in Sept. 2026.



Free Community Dinner



NEW MINISTRY COMING in SEPTEMBER –

‘COME, BE FED’: After a seed idea was planted, the idea of offering a community meal was explored, prayed upon and born! In today's world we are very aware of food insecurity and hunger, but there is also great ‘soul’ hunger - the need for soul nourishment that is increasingly caused by an overwhelming and disconnected world. We see people who feel stressed, isolated, lonely, discouraged, hopeless, grieving, they don't belong, disenfranchised, those experiencing mental health issues.

There is a church that after communion the people are asked "Have all been fed?", they answer "Not Yet!" This "Not Yet!" signifies the ongoing mission of the church to serve, to show God's love by being the hands and feet of Jesus, to follow Jesus' commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself. This "Not Yet!" is a call for us to live into our BUMC core values.

A community meal is simply an occasion for gathering together with a group of people to share food and time together. But when we think of Jesus eating with all kinds of people, in all kinds of situations (in homes, crowds, with his friends & strangers), the meal acts as a Christian biblical spiritual practice. Jesus shared the good news of the gospel, LOVE, by being present with people, sharing time with them and sharing a most basic and essential life activity. The vision of the free monthly community meal is a call to action to act boldly and joyfully by opening our doors and hearts to better serve those in need in our community. The prayer is that God will use BUMC as disciples to extend the invitation, Come, Be Fed, to all who are 'hungry' for whatever reason and in the gathering around a table God's love will be felt. Food ministry is as wonderful a way to share the gospel and build community today as ever.

After receiving support from the BUMC leadership team, a planning team has been working on initiating this ministry. Our annual *Mexican Fiesta Meal* on Thurs., July 16 during Byron Good Neighbor Days will be the first Free Community Meal to those who dine in and will be used as a way to introduce and communicate the ministry. Monthly meals will start in Sept. and be ongoing from then on. Sign-up sheets for workers/needs for the Mexican Meal are in the dining room. We hope to have great response for workers for this lively community meal! And please consider how you can support the ongoing meals as we start this church mission in Sept. The present planning team is team lead Chris Miller, Marlene Abel, Terry Egbers, and Cathy Huntoon. We'd welcome anyone interested to the planning team! -- In Christ, Chris Miller

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026: Save the dates! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Aug. 9-13 from 6-8 p.m. All children pre-K through 6th grade are invited for a free Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year is "*Everywhere Fun Fair!*".



GRIEF GROUP: The Grief Group will not meet in July and August. Watch for an announcement in late August or September as to resuming.

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!

NEW CHURCH WEBSITE:



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



Church Financial Report

The following table summarizes BUMC financial funds ending June 30, 2026.

Balance Sheet Roll Forward Report					
06-01-2026 to 06-30-2026					
Funds					
Name	Starting	Income	Expenses	Balance	
General	\$8,001.92	\$10,472.50	\$14,106.35	\$4,368.07	\$2,500 Designated, remainder undesignated)
Missions	\$988.55	\$63.70	\$25.00	\$1,027.25	Designated
Covenant Hands	\$615.00	\$0.00	\$615.00	\$0.00	Designated
Apportionments	\$169.75	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,169.75	Designated
Education	\$1,176.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,176.42	Designated
Memorial Designated	\$1,278.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,278.04	Designated
Memorial Undesignated	\$9,996.82	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,996.82	Undesignated
Trustee savings	\$1,412.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,412.71	Designated
BUMC Undesignated Savings	\$10,102.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,102.32	Undesignated
Quilt Group	\$168.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$168.70	Designated
BAYM	\$2,685.68	\$0.00	\$1,134.69	\$1,550.99	Designated
BUMC Programs savings	\$3,978.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,978.02	Designated
Outgoing Charitable	\$740.00	\$140.00	\$880.00	\$0.00	Designated
Totals	\$41,313.93	\$13,676.20	\$16,761.04	\$38,229.09	
YTD Totals	\$43,289.70	\$89,587.98	\$94,648.59	38,229.09	



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: 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, Claire Field, 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: 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, Carol Ramthun, 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.

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 Tracphones

Shampoo and conditioner (full-sized)

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

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.



USE FULL CHURCH ADDRESS FOR MAILING: When sending mail to the church, please be sure to include the 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.

Byron United Methodist Church Leadership Team Meeting Minutes July 8th, 2026-- 6:30 pm

Attendance

Al Miller Finance Chair	x	Chris Miller Lay Leader	x	Cathy Huntoon Mission Rep	x	Terri Nelson Church Council Chair	x
Roger Vick Trustee Chair	x	Pastor Bea Mungania		Holly Rolandson SPR Chair	x	Kelly VanDeWalker Education Chair	x

Treasures Report

Al Miller provided treasurers report and finance updates as of 6/30/2026:

General Checking Balance: \$ 9,696.91

Memorial Account Balance: \$ 13,274.86

Savings Account Balance: \$ 15,493.05

Finance Committee updates

- a. Current expenses review
 - a. Apportionments January – March are paid, April pending available funding
 - b. STEAM held one session, remaining sessions cancelled due to lack of attendees, deposit of \$500 kept, returned \$2,100 check to STEAM
 - c. Remaining camping expenses pending
 - d. Parsonage repairs including small garage door and slider for basement have been replaced = \$4000 funds will be pulled from undesignated memorials
- b. Parsonage Allocation of \$5000 were approved by the committee

Old Business

1. Stewardship/generosity program – Members discussed the next steps in the formation of a Stewardship/Generosity program. This will be a topic of discussion with Pastor Bea
 - a. Congregations' members received written information on stewardship & generosity and what their current level of giving. Finance committee would monitor to see if this information impacted giving.

The follow items pending follow up with Pastor

- b. Formation of a committee including a cross section of congregation members starting soon to assist in developing the foundation of a Stewardship/Generosity Program
 - c. Development of a timeline
2. Website - Roger Sinning is continuing to provide enhancements and updates to the church website, <https://www.byronunitedmethodist.org/>, Roger will be asked to attend Leadership Committee twice a year to provide updates

3. Church Branding Project

- a. Follow up with Pastor Bea regarding what information she has received on the development of visual identity package with new logo, considering the website, bulletin, newsletter, letterhead, flyers, and more.
- b. Members supported hiring a professional photographer to assist with pictures on the Website. Al Miller will follow up with Sara Miller Photography.

Committee Updates:

- a) Missions – Chris Miller provided an update on the Free Community Meals Mission - “**Come, Be Fed**”. This program will be tested with the upcoming Taco Dinner on July 16th. She has requested and the committee has approved \$1,200 for funding which will come from the BUMC New Program Savings fund.
- b) Education – Kelly VanDeWalker
 - i. VBS will be held on 8/9 – 8/13
 - ii. Sunday School will be starting on September 13th
- c) Trustees – Roger Vick
 - i. Parsonage Updates, Roger thanked members of the congregation who participated in cleaning the parsonage, to ready for our new Pastor. He shared that lower patio doors need to be replaced
 - ii. Facility repairs updates, work is continuing on the handicap accessible pews, stair treads and asbestos removal

Pastor Updates - No updates at this time. Pastor Bea will be moving to Byron this week with her 1st service on Sunday, July 12th.

Next meeting – next meeting is August 5th 6:30 pm. This meeting has been moved a week earlier due to VBS.

Minutes submitted by Terri Nelson

CHURCH CONTACTS:

Email: byronumchurch@gmail.com

Phone: 507-775-6610

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