

The Visitor

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
November 2016

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy



“The Day After”

Rev. John L. Kennedy

It's just days till the election of 2016, and what an exhausting campaign it has been! Everyone is holding their breath while watching, waiting, and wondering. What will the world be like the day after?

What our world will look like the day after depends on each one of us! Is that surprising? If I didn't believe that people could make a difference, I would not be a parish pastor. Maybe a chaplain but not a parish pastor. A hospital or hospice chaplain's primary role is to provide one-way care to people, not to lead others to a cause more expansive and eternal than themselves. A parish pastor's role is not only to provide care but

also to lead others into the “priesthood of all believers” (meaning celebrating Christ's presence and carrying the presence of Christ into our everyday life at work, home, and everywhere). With God, you can make a difference, we can make a difference, and Bethlehem UCC can make a difference by leaving the world a better place than we found it.

Bethlehem has a special role in our community and world. We are part of a growing movement called “progressive Christianity.” By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: conventional Christians and questioning skeptics;

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NOVEMBER

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Stewardship Sunday

November 13



The 2017 Stewardship mailing has been sent to all Bethlehem households.

Please return your "Intent Card" and your "Time and Talent" information to the church by Sunday, November 13, for Stewardship Sunday.

On November 13, we will have our "We Are Family" walk during worship, and then celebrate our stewardship campaign with a "Pretzel, Donut, and Cider" celebration after both services.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY A GREAT SUCCESS!

We would like to thank the following members and friends for their help on our Church Work Day, October 29.

Michelle/Bob Loukotka
Jim/Sallie Stadel
Karen/John Samford
Dave Gilmore

Mike Haab
Jan Eadie
Brian Paton
Tom Zieseimer

John Irwin
Jennifer Vasquez
Pam Widmayer
Jane Zieseimer

Kris/Scott Lovelace
Randy Schneider
Kaye Harwood

Jim Judson
Eric Bower
Kathy Warner



Thank You for sharing your Time and Talents. Your Facilities Ministry Team

December Visitor Deadline



Deadline to submit articles and photos is November 29.

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Phone 734-665-6149 Fax 734-665-3399

www.bethlehem-ucc.org



www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2



www.pinterest.com/bethlehemucca2



www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2

Upcoming Events & Information

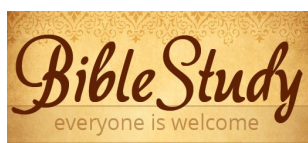
Community Outreach Opportunities are detailed on page 9.

In Memory.....



TOTENFEST SERVICE Sunday, November 6

At this service, everyone will be invited to come forward and light a candle in honor of loved ones who have died since our last Totenfest Service on November 1, 2015. A **Totenfest memorial bulletin** will be included on the 6th.



MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday, November 8,
10:00 a.m., library
We meet monthly on the second Tuesday.

AUXILIARY MOTHERS STUDY

Please join us on Wednesday,
November 18, 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, for Totenfest and a cooking demonstration with Luise Kienzle.



IT'S PRETZEL TIME!
Plan now to be a pretzel roller!

PARKING LOT PRETZELS - Nov. 18

Pretzel rolling/baking, 7 am (cleanup at 11 am)
Pretzel sales from 11 am - 1:30 pm

HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS - Nov. 11

Nov. 10 - rolling 9 am, sales 10:30-12
Nov. 11 - pretzel sales at the Star Bazaar
Nov. 12 - pretzel sales at coffee hours, if there are any left after the bazaar



**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 11
FOR BETHLEHEM'S
STAR BAZAAR
AND LUNCHEON!**

See page 7 for details.

TWO VETERANS' EVENTS

Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast

Nov. 4 and Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m. Classic up Café

This meal is open to all our Bethlehem vets. If you would like to bring a fellow vet friend, please let me know so we have a proper head count. Hope to see you there!
Tom Ziesemer (734-663-0378)

Veterans' Day is Friday, November 11.

We will be recognizing our Bethlehem veterans on Sunday, November 13.





Ann Arbor Youth Chorale
1987 - 2017
30 Years of Singing

Join us for our annual

WINTER CONCERT

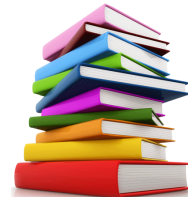
December 4 at 4:00 pm
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

For more information about
SE Michigan's premier children's chorus
visit annarboryouthchorale.org




BETHLEHEM BOOKS

Fall is here. As the days get shorter and colder, it's a good time to check out the used books for sale in the Bethlehem Library to curl up with on a cool or rainy day. Additional books are added regularly, so come check out what's there. Books are just \$1.00 each. On the far right wall you will find a nice selection of books for children and young independent readers.



"The Day After" Rev. John L. Kennedy
(continued from page 1)

believers and agnostics, women and men; those of all sexual orientations and gender identities; those of all classes and abilities.

4. know that the way we behave toward one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. strive to protect and restore the integrity of our earth;
8. commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.

If we believe in the One True God, who has always loved all of us, loves us now, and loves us forever (with no take-backs), then we are called to live this, too, and show it to our children, our families, and our community. God will bless our efforts to leave the world a better place. Our actions model and testify that we will stand, again and again, with our God on all the "day after" experiences.

This November 13, we are invited to renew our commitment to model in faith our commitment to stand with confidence and proclaim who our God is and who we are as God's Family. I invite you to pray and then pledge your financial gift to Bethlehem UCC for 2017. Let us be the difference we want to see in the world, today and the day after, for our children, families, and world.

God's blessings and grace,
Pastor John

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, following the 10 a.m. service

The Leadership Council is calling for a Congregational Meeting to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 20, 2016, following the 10 a.m. service.

A letter about the meeting has been mailed to all member households.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

The Worship Ministry Team continues to seek input from our worship attendees so that meaningful, streamlined services will be provided each Sunday. Working with Pastor John and our interim music director, Paolo Debuque, we are planning our upcoming celebratory services that we hope will prove to be inspirational for our members and visitors.

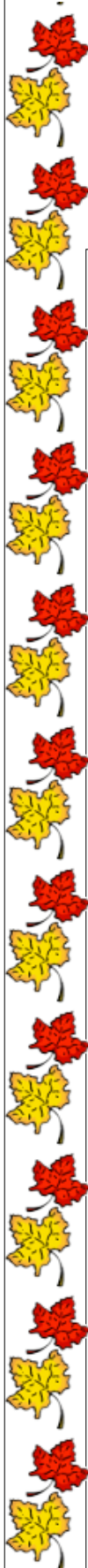
Totenfest will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6, at our 8:30 and 10 a.m. worship services. In addition, recognition of our veterans will take place at the 10 o'clock service.

Please bring your friends and family to the following Christmas Eve services that are being planned:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 p.m. | The family Christmas service will include lessons and carols, with special attention to participation by our children. Traditional candle lighting will be included. |
| 7:30 p.m. | This will be our traditional candle-light service with lessons and carols. Inspiring music by our Chancel and Handbell choirs, brass, and strings will be provided. |
| 11 p.m. | This is a candle-light service with lessons and carols, communion, and inspirational harp music. |

Because Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year, we are planning to have a service at **10 a.m. only** on December 25 and January 1. Please consider joining us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the New Year.

Harriette Ehnis, Chair, Worship Ministry Team



Education Ministry Team

Many of our youth and families had a chance to say goodbye to Pastor Greg at a party on October 14. The youth posed for a "Last Supper" portrait. Unlike the portrait by Leonardo da Vinci, Pastor Greg had a glass with soda, and the bread (hotdog buns) had leavening. Everyone had a good time, and it was reassuring to have Greg laughing and letting us know that he is doing well. We can honor him by continuing the Christian faith and social justice lessons that he has taught us over these past few years.

This year we have eliminated the Youth Forum for our senior-high youth. We are hoping, instead, to have all middle- and high-school-aged youth join us in the service.

Youth can choose to sit with their families or with friends. We also encourage all of you to participate in worship. We have opportunities to help in worship including ushering, serving communion, being a reader, singing in the choir or in a group or solo, or playing an instrument. If you have any interest in any of these things, please let me know and we can link you with right teams!

We do have one new opportunity for once-a-month camaraderie. On the **third Sunday of each month** we are walking to a nearby restaurant for a quick



breakfast or beverage **during the 10:00 service**. We are calling this **"Walk & Talk,"** and the breakfast is on us. There is no specific agenda; this is just a chance to be with friends and walk, talk, and eat together. So far, we have had two breakfasts, at The Cloverleaf and at Panera. The next Walk & Talk will be November 20, and we will head out after the children's moment. Come to the sanctuary ready to leave. No sign-up is needed. Just come.

For the Advent season this year, we are planning an **All-church Advent program on December 11 during the 10:00 service**. It will be followed by the **Advent workshop and potluck**. The service will have a Christmas play and present the Christmas story

in a fun way. We are looking for youth and young-adult volunteers of all ages to help with the play. There will be speaking and nonspeaking parts. We want to make room for everyone to be involved no matter how young or old. We also want you to sing or perform. Sarah Herwick will direct the play again this year. Please contact her if you are interested in a part or want to help in any way:

Sarah Herwick,
sarahherwick@gmail.com

Jane Schmerberg, Education
Ministry Team chair,
jmnmd@umich.edu

Stay tuned for our
youth Advent project.

MORE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

by Dindy Haab

Have you checked out the selection of books recently in our church library? There are novels for adults as well as young reader and children's picture books. There are even a few LARGE PRINT books and Audiobooks that are located on top of the bookcase toward the back of the room on the left side.

The youth books and children's books are located on the right side of the room. They are arranged from bottom to top in order of reading ability. Young children's books are on the bottom shelves. Independent-reader books and young-adult books advance upward.

If you are interested in donating books, there is a bin inside the library door for you to place them. We will be glad to shelve the books. Here are some reminders about donations: We collect books for **reading entertainment**. Therefore, we are seeking donations of *just* novels and children's books and perhaps a biography or two. Please remember that we do



not want or accept textbooks, cookbooks, self-help books, devotional/spiritual books, travel guides, or non-fiction books. There are other donation sites in Ann Arbor for those types of books such as the Ann Arbor District Library and the Ann Arbor ReUse Center on S. Industrial Hwy. Again, we are looking for novels for your reading entertainment.

We thought you might be interested to know that the most recent money raised from book sales went to purchase fabric to make cloth bags to put school supplies in for the Church World Service School Kits. Fabric was purchased, cut, and sewed by Bethlehem members. This year we would like to thank Pat O'Reilly who bought the fabric, cut out the fabric to make the bags, and then sewed most all of them as well. SO, thanks for your support as you buy books and thank you, Pat, for your dedication to getting the School Kit bags completed.

**COME CHECK OUT
OUR BOOKS FOR SALE!**



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HOLIDAYS



WREATHS AND TREES—As sure as the weather is turning colder, the holidays will be upon us before we know it. It's not too early to think about ordering a wreath or live Christmas tree in honor or memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet will be available soon. Prices for a small wreath is \$20, the large wreaths are \$25, and the trees are \$30.

HANGING OF THE GREENS—We'll "spruce up" Bethlehem for the holidays on Saturday, November 26, starting at 9 a.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office. Also, the Christmas tree will go up in the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m. Help is needed that night as well. Pizza and drinks will be provided. This is always a wonderful time to come together as a community to prepare our church for Advent, Christmas, and the New Year.

Bethlehem's Star Bazaar



**Friday
November 11
10:00 am - 2 pm**

**Luncheon
11:00 am-1:00 pm**

Beef or Turkey, Assorted Salads, Pies

\$10/\$5 for children

**Tickets on sale at Church Office beginning October 16
Call 734-665-6149 to reserve tickets**

**Fundraiser for Peace Neighborhood Center, Food Gatherers,
Property Improvement & the Women's Treasury**

**Bethlehem United
Church of Christ**

**423 S. FOURTH AVENUE
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
734-665-6149**

**Open at
10:00 am**

★ **BAKE SALE**
★ **CHRISTMAS
RECYCLED**
★ **CRAFTS**
★ **QUILT
DISPLAY**



**A quilt, made by the Bethlehem Quilters
several years ago, will be raffled off at the
Bazaar/Fall Luncheon on
Friday, November 11.**

**Tickets can be purchased on Sundays, at the
Church Office, or the day of the Bazaar.**



Thank you to Sally Wetzel for the gift of the quilt.

QUILT RAFFLE

Tickets:

\$3 or two for \$5

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU FROM THE AUXILIARY/MOTHER'S STUDY GROUP

by Barb Fisher



The Auxiliary/Mother's Study Group shipped 74 school kits, 72 health kits, and many individual baby kit items to the Church World Service organization on October 20. Bethlehem's faithful community contributed significantly to this accomplishment.

Church members and friends donated money and many kit items during the past several months. Women of Bethlehem, the Auxiliary/Mother's Study Group, and Pat O'Reilly donated money to purchase fabrics that Pat cut and sewed to make the school kit bags. The kits were assembled and packed in boxes by Auxiliary/Mother's Study members and other church friends.

Women of Bethlehem made a major donation by using the proceeds from Holy Rollers pretzel sales to cover the costs of shipping the kits to Maryland and covering the costs to be incurred by Church World Service to distribute the kits to the needy worldwide.

Note: Baby Kits will not be a part of the 2017 program. CWS will focus on the desperate world need for school and health kits. Preparing kits at Bethlehem continues as an ongoing activity during the year. Your donations of kit items and monetary gifts to meet this need are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who contributed to a very successful 2016 kit project!

THE INTERFAITH ROUND TABLE OF WASHTENAW COUNTY



-TASTES OF FAITH- FOOD THAT CELEBRATES GRATITUDE AND JOY

*This year's fundraising dinner will precede our 22nd
Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving
Celebration which starts at 7 pm
All are invited to attend both IRT events*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

APPETIZERS – 5 PM

DINNER – 5:30 PM

**THE MEAL WILL CONSIST OF FOOD USED IN RELIGIOUS
CELEBRATIONS OF SIX SEPARATE FAITH TRADITIONS**

Baha'i, Hindu, Jewish, Lutheran, Muslim, Roman Catholic

THE CHINMAYA MISSION, 4760 PACKARD, ANN ARBOR

DINNER TICKETS: \$25 (MEAL ONLY)

(\$10 – CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER)

\$50, \$75, \$100 (DINNER PLUS A DONATION TO THE IRT)

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

CALL 734-424-1535 OR EMAIL gbrides@umich.edu

**COME SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE IRT THAT FOCUSES EXCLUSIVELY ON CREATING
A CULTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSION.**

Bethlehem Church Ongoing Outreach Opportunities
Please consider joining in! Sign-up sheets are in the office hallway.



FOOD GATHERERS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

November 6 & December 4 (first Sunday of each month)

Please sign up in the office hallway. Cook 12-2:30, Clean 2:30-5

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (111 N. Maple Rd.)

November 22 (fourth Tuesday of each month, 2:30–4:45 p.m.)

(see info below)

FOOD GATHERERS FOOD BARREL

Bring nonperishable items at any time, and place them in the food barrel in the library.



FRESH PRODUCE COLLECTION FOR FOOD GATHERERS—November 20

(3rd Sunday of each month during the winter months)

Please bring your donations of fresh produce to either service and place on the altar.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed on the 4th Tuesday of September through May to serve elementary school children nutritional snacks before going into a tutoring program.

Commitment is 2:30-4:45 p.m.

Please sign up on bulletin board by Office.

Peace Neighborhood Center

is located at:

1111 N. Maple Rd. Ann Arbor 48103

Questions? Contact Sue Muir at

suemuir@comcast.net or

734-761-9795



FRIDAY FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

September through May, volunteers are needed on Fridays to help sort and then distribute fresh produce, provided by Food Gatherers, to families eligible to take part in this program.

Commitment: Any time between 9-12. It's not necessary to sign up . . . Just come when you can!

Takes place at Peace Neighborhood Center

Please sign up on bulletin board by Office.





MEMORIALS & GIFTS

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Charles Lanis Cope
and Marian Helen Vogel Cope

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Fred Schmale Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Bill Fellenberger Memorial
Hilda McLaughlin Memorial
Virginia Reppenhagen Memorial

*Gifts listed were received through
October 31, 2016*

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORSHIPS

October 2

Sponsored by Marion Seyfried, in loving
memory of **Frederick J. Seyfried** and
our **daughter, Nancy Lynn Seyfried.**

October 9

Sponsored by **Alethea Helbig** in loving
memory of **Virginia Reppenhagen** and in
gratitude to her daughter and son-in-law,
Susan and John Irwin, for their very loving,
exemplary care of Virginia, who will be very
much missed.

October 16

In memory of **Frederick and Lela Keppler**
on what would have been their 75th
wedding anniversary on October 19,
with love **from their children.**

October 30

In memory of **Lois Haeussler** from her loving
family and friends.

PARISH RECORDS



DEATHS:

Geraldine Seyfried
October 15, 2016

A celebration of the life of Geraldine Seyfried will
be held at the Muehlig Funeral Chapel Wednes-
day, November 23, 11 a.m. The family will greet
guests at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow in the
Bethlehem Church Fellowship Hall.

CORRECTION:

*The Memorials and Gifts list, printed in the Octo-
ber Visitor, was a repeat of the list printed in the
September Visitor. Below is the Memorials and
Gifts list which got omitted.*

Memorial Gifts received September, 2016

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

Al Paul Memorial

CHURCH SCHOOL FUND

Lois Haeussler Memorial

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Helen Schmale Baumann &
Rev Glenn Baumann Memorial
Al Paul Memorial
Rev & Mrs Schmale Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Al Paul Memorial

RADIO FUND

Lois Haeussler Memorial
Al Paul Memorial

OCTOBER 2016 FINANCIALS

Monthly Target	\$35,336.00	YTD Target	\$310,962.00
Received	\$25,714.00	YTD Received	\$274,227.00
		Difference	(\$36,735.00)

OKTOBERFEST THANK-YOU

Jane Ziesemer, Fellowship Chair

I'd like to first thank my amazing committee for their outstanding help in planning the Oktoberfest. The members are Debbie Belcher, Jan Eadie, Cheryl Grant, Harriett Holzapfel, Sue Irwin, Kris Lovelace, Michelle Loukotka, Sue Muir, and Tom Ziesemer. Bob Walker was the chef for this event. Along with the committee, we had over 50 volunteers who helped make this event a *huge* success. There were approximately 225 adults and children in attendance. Stevie D. and the Wannabes certainly set the tone for the evening, along with the amazing decorations. Thank you, Kris Lovelace, for your creative efforts in turning the dining room into a Bavarian festival. Again, I thank you one and all. A total success for sure.



Oktoberfest



3 easy ways to support Bethlehem. All you have to do is shop!

Support Bethlehem through these
Community Rewards Programs

Kroger

Busch's

amazonsmile

- For Kroger rewards, go to Kroger.com, click "Sign In," and follow the directions.
- For Busch's rewards, go to buschs.com, go to your MyWay account, and click the Cash for Education icon.
- For Amazon rewards, shop at smile.amazon.com (see info at right)
- See *Bethlehem-ucc.org* for complete information

Welcome to
amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Bethlehem United Church of Christ** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.

- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

Covenant of Welcome

We, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, declare ourselves an
Open and Affirming congregation where we celebrate Christ's extravagant love.
We covenant with God and one another to welcome the diverse tapestry of all people,
no matter their age, race, nationality, ethnicity,
economic circumstance, marital or family status, physical or mental ability,
sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
We invite everyone—believers and questioners, seekers and skeptics—
to share their gifts in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship,
sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of our congregation.



Bethlehem's Ministry Team

Rev. John Kennedy	Pastor
Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann	Pastor Emeritus
Carol Leyshock	Parish Administrator
Betty Clark	Financial Administrator
Donna Whitney	Office Support Specialist
Arianne Abela	Director of Music
Paolo Debuque	Interim Director of Music
Gail Jennings	Organist
Jim Rowan	Director of Handbells

The *Visitor*
is printed 12 times a year

Our Mission

To worship God,
To learn and live the
Word of God,
To engage in Christian
fellowship and service,
To invite others to join us
on our faith journey in the
ministry of Jesus Christ.