

The Visitor

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
May 2017

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy



“Church as Family”

Rev. John L. Kennedy

On Sunday, May 14, we will celebrate Mother’s Day, and on June 18, we will celebrate Father’s Day. It’s obvious that all of us had a biological mother and father. Each of us grows up in our own culture and time and with different expectations of what it means to be a healthy mom, dad, and family. In 1917, over 60 percent of our population was rural, and the average household had six people; families looked quite different than they did in the 1950s.

During the postwar Baby Boom generation (1946 to 1964), the ideal family was a married man and woman, who were preferably members of the same religion

and similar social status. Many families lived in the same area in which they were raised. Most husbands/fathers went to work, and most mothers stayed home and raised their children, maybe working a part-time job. TV shows like “Leave It to Beaver,” “Father Knows Best,” “Donna Reed,” and “Dick Van Dyke” reflected the norms of the day. They left parents feeling guilty for not being like Beaver’s parents, Ward and June Cleaver, where June cleaned and cooked at home all day while wearing a dress, makeup, high-heels, and pearls. The biggest problem anyone ever dealt with in those shows had to do with unrealistic and trivial matters. Personal pain, grief,

troubles, and addictions were unspoken and secreted away. The difference today is that we talk about what is happening instead of pretending. In the 1950s, communication and technology were more personal but also slower and more complicated. Many families had one car, one telephone (with a rotary dial), and one television.

On Sundays, businesses were closed, and special events did not happen because a huge number of people went to Sunday school and church. America was white, Christian, and segregated. Families were having children at a record rate. Many families lived near their church and could walk

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 14** **Mother's Day**
(see page 8 for flower info)
- May 17** **Auxiliary/Mothers' Study,**
birthday celebration potluck
- May 18** **Conversation with Lily**
at Espresso Royale – Downtown
(see page 7 for info)
- May 20** **Church flowers planting day**
(see page 8)
- May 20** **Gail & Andrew Jennings concert**
Organ & Violin (see below)
- May 26** **Parking Lot Pretzels sales**
- May 28** **Education Scholarship deadline**
(see page 11 for details)
- May 29** **OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day**
- June 4** **Graduate Recognition Sunday**
(see page 8)
- June 4** **Final Sunday School Backyard BBQ**
(see page 3)
- June 15** **End-of-year Youth Group BBQ**
(see page 3)
- July 30** **Tigers Outing**
(see page 7)



*Gail and Andrew
Jennings
Saturday, May 20,
4:00 p.m.*

*Please join us for a
Musical Celebration
featuring
Gail and Andrew
Jennings,
Organ and Violin*

Education Ministry Lenten Mission Report

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things.
But we can all do small things with great love, and
together we can do something wonderful!"*

—Mother Teresa

Lenten Mission Project Report

We're grateful to the entire Bethlehem community for your support of our Lenten mission project! Together, with our small acts of love we did something wonderful! We set out to support the Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW). WRW is a local organization that supports refugee families in our county. WRW helps refugees find housing and gives them donated furniture, clothes, toys, and more. They also help families with emergency support when needed. With staff at WRW, we identified three areas that we could offer support. Thanks to you, we made it happen!

*Together, we raised **\$1722.60**
to support Washtenaw Refu-
gee Welcome's emergency
fund, which helps refugee
families with unexpected
costs and emergencies!*



FINANCIAL:

Stone Soup Fundraiser: \$603
Cookie Sales: \$532
Palm Sunday Brunch: \$360
Sunday School Alms Jar: \$227.60



CLOTHING:

We collected local t-shirts and other clothing that will help families feel a greater sense of belonging in their new home!



TRANSPORTATION: We collected **13 bicycles**

that help families with transportation needs. A special thanks to Clark McCall, a volunteer at Common Cycle (www.commoncycle.org) for coming to Bethlehem to make sure the bicycles are road ready!

June Visitor Deadline



**Deadline
to submit
articles and
photos is
May 26.**

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Phone 734-665-6149
Fax 734-665-3399**

www.bethlehem-ucc.org



www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Education Ministry – News & Events

Our theme for May is “What is Worship?”

All youth grades 6–12 are welcome to join us Thursdays at 6:30 as we think outside the box about worship. We'll explore what worship means to each of us as individuals and as a community—what do we worship, how do we worship, why do we worship? We'll discuss, experience, learn, move, and create. The possibilities are endless. We hope you'll join us!

Mother's Day Song

Will your family be at church for Mother's Day? If so, the children are invited to join in one of the songs. Members of the choir will be working with Sunday school classes in the coming weeks to prepare.

Welcoming Lily

As you probably know by now, Bethlehem hired Lily Tinker Fortel as our Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development. Lily and the Education Ministry Team are already in conversation about how she'll support educational opportunities for Bethlehem members of all ages. Lily is excited to meet the Bethlehem community. Please let Lily know if you'd like to set up a time to meet with her or invite her to join a community event or activity (performance, sports event, etc.) that your children or youth are involved in: lily@bethlehem-ucc.org, 734-665-6149.



Mark your calendars!

Sunday, June 4—Graduate Recognition Sunday

Graduates and families, please fill out this survey online (<https://goo.gl/forms/Ng3jZU2weOIJm7YI2>) or in the church office so we can recognize you!

Sunday, June 4—Final Sunday School Backyard BBQ

Join us after church on June 4 for hotdogs and ice cream.
Pray for a sunny day!

Thursday, June 15—End-of-Year Youth Group BBQ, 6:30 p.m.

All youth are welcome to join us for games and good food as we celebrate the end of the school year!

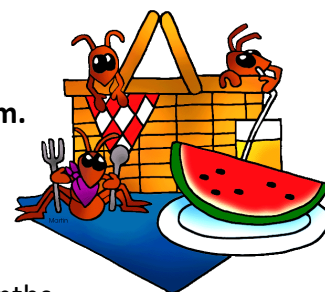
Summer Sunday School

We will have a one-room Sunday school during the summer months.

All youth, from babies to high school, are welcome to join us. We need volunteers to help teach. Please sign up outside the office or call us! Lesson plans are available.



SUMMER
SUNDAY
SCHOOL



APRIL 2017 FINANCIALS

Monthly Target \$32,830.00
Monthly Received \$25,953.82

YTD Target \$118,188.00
YTD Received \$116,959.26
Difference (\$1,228.74)

*"Church as Family"**Rev. John L. Kennedy*

there. They could ride a bike to school, church, and the neighborhood grocery store. Our world was much smaller. In the U.S., church attendance was at its all-time highest during the "Boom." Church and Sunday school classes were overflowing, and new church buildings were being built to meet the need. We may look back with nostalgia at the best of these seemingly ideal times and forget how much we've gained with what we've lost and how much we've lost with what we've gained.

What did we lose? Perhaps the innocence and security we felt when we all conformed to the social structures of the day. People knew their place and where they belonged. But for people of color, a woman, a single mom, a gay teen, someone with learning or physical disabilities, or different in some kind of way, it was an oppressive time. It was a time of strict conformity and unequal opportunity. If one challenged the cultural barriers (spoken and unspoken), then those same "Father Knows Best" families could become threatened and enraged. All the weight of our culture would be brought to bear to keep the barriers firm.

In the 21st century, only 19 percent of our population is rural, and most households on average have 2 1/2 members. Women and people of color are now scientists, physicians, and professionals. Families are smaller, churches are smaller, and Christianity is smaller in this country. Couples start their families later in life and often have only one child. Families also come in many different expressions: single, no children; single parents; 50 percent divorced and remarried; mixed race, ethnicity, and religion; families with same-sex parents. The majority of families do not stay in the same town of their parents and move often. Nothing closes on Sunday anymore, and families and churches must compete with increasingly overly programmed children. Technology is now king in our culture, and most people, including our children, carry smart phones that connect them to a world of information and online relationships. Some communities are formed entirely online, including churches.

So what does it mean to be a good mother and father in our world? What does it mean to be a Christian faith family in these times? How do we celebrate the good things of our past and yet realize where they fell short and how to change? How do we celebrate Christ's presence together in a world where being family is very different from what it looked like 30-40 years ago? What kind of world are we hoping to leave for our children and grandchildren? How do we as Christians welcome and celebrate families that look different from those of the 1950s?

The roles of what it means to be father, mother, family, a religious nation are all still shifting, but one thing stays the same, and that is change. Change is always happening. Doctors claim that one of the key skills and attitudes that adds to a longer life, and a happier life, is one's ability to adapt to change. This is true for anyone and, collectively, nations and churches. We know the alternative.

In closing, here are some suggestions for healthy families and churches, from the basic concepts of family-systems theory by Dr. Lewis Parks. It is hoped that leaders of smaller churches might be encouraged to search for the healthy stories beneath the symptoms of dysfunction. Here are positive signs of healthy families and churches:

- The sociological unit that most resembles an extended family is a smaller congregation.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members know that they become more together than the sum of their parts. They are part of a story larger than themselves.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members want to get together; it is rewarding. They need to catch up.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, the inflow of new energy can come from several directions, and the group will achieve new balance.

- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, there is the ability to name and face, rather than deny, real threats.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members communicate directly with one another and their leaders. Message bearers are translators, not gossips.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, the leader is a self-differentiated, less-anxious presence.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, the leader stays in touch with constituents via “soft information” (overheard bits and pieces, ear-to-the-ground data).
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, all agree that after Jesus Christ, there is no more need for scapegoats (Isaiah 53; Hebrews 9:23-28).
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members take responsibility for actions, apologize when required, and make restitution where possible.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, God’s deliverance is experienced in the breaking of negative family legacies and the beginning of new and positive ones (Genesis 12:1-3; Jeremiah 31:29-34; Mark 3:31-35).
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, those who have “crossed over” before us are remembered and released.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members and leaders are growing in self-awareness, including awareness of the assets and liabilities of their birth order.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, members can identify the unresolved issues of previous relationships rather than project them onto their new relationships.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, people grow up and contribute or start their own stories.
- In a healthy family and a healthy small church, there are glimpses of the future reign of God on earth.

God’s grace,
Pastor John

Bethlehem Outreach Ministry

Volunteer Opportunity

by Laura Seyfried

We are looking for two volunteers to host a group of 38 bicyclists at Bethlehem on Monday, July 31, beginning around noon through Tuesday, August 1, around noon.



This need must be filled soon in order for the group to complete the route schedule.

The Journey of Hope participants have stayed at Bethlehem overnight in the past, but the previous volunteer couple is not able to help this year.

The Outreach Ministry has been tasked to find two adult volunteers willing to greet the cyclists and spend the night at the church with them.

Other amenities will take place off-site. More details about the Journey of Hope cycling events can be found at the following link:
www.abilityexperience.org/journeyofhope.aspx

If you are interested in helping with this opportunity, please contact the church office or Laura Seyfried (lseyfried@hotmail.com).

WANTED

SUNDAY MORNING BELL RINGERS

Matt Perros is in need of steeple bell ringers on Sunday mornings.

Please email Matt at mattperros@comcast.net for more info or call the church office.

Welcome Lily

We are pleased to announce that Lily Tinker Fortel joined the staff at Bethlehem on April 11.

She has accepted the position of Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development



Lily is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York City (Master of Divinity, 2015) and Earlham College (Peace and Global Studies, 2006). At Union, Lily studied the intersections of religion and social transformation. Her interdisciplinary course of study included social theory, philosophy and sociology of religion, feminist theology, and liberation theologies.

Lily has worked with children and youth in volunteer programs, churches, camps, and schools in New York, Ohio, Texas, Indiana, and Missouri. From 2006-2012, Lily worked with intergenerational community-rooted nonprofit organizations in Missouri to advance peace and social justice. Lily has traveled nationally and internationally to advance and study secular and interfaith work for peace and justice. Lily is a board member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA. Raised Methodist and Quaker, Lily delights in honoring the sacred in everyone through building paths to holistic and sustainable healing in our world.

Please join us in welcoming Lily to Bethlehem!

Youth Group



We're looking forward to several activities in the coming months. Keep a lookout for a date for an upcoming lock-in, a late-summer trip to Cedar Point, and other summer outreach and hang-out opportunities!



We want to extend a special thank-you to those who have provided dinner for Thursday evening youth group over the past many months. Your support in this way helps make youth group a space where we come together and experience the fullness of fellowship together. We're grateful to you!



On Sunday, April 23, several members of the BUCC youth group (and many Bethlehem members and friends) attended Pioneer High School's production of The Wizard of Oz! The talent of Bethlehem youth and children is amazing! It was a joy to see Sarah Kennedy and John-Matthew Kennedy in this production!

Photo Credit: Eileen Koprowski

A Note from Lily

I'm thrilled to join the Bethlehem staff as Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development! I'm excited to work with all of you to ensure that Bethlehem is a place where all are supported on the winding paths of our spiritual journeys.

In this part-time role, I am excited to support you in providing meaningful education and spiritual growth opportunities for BUCC members of all ages. I am excited to work with the Education Ministries Team to support and strengthen Sunday school programs and develop and offer adult education opportunities. I'm thrilled to work with the youth group – to learn about our world with you and to co-develop activities, which will support all of us as we experience the fullness of life's experiences. I am looking forward to working with the Education Ministry Team, The Fellowship Ministry Team, and the Outreach Ministry Team. In the future, my work may also intersect with other ministry teams as requested by Pastor John.

Thank you for the welcome you have already extended. Thank you for the invitations to volunteer at Peace Neighborhood Center, make bags for families at Mott Children's hospital, engage in deep discussions, attend ministry team meetings, play with puppets, make pretzels, and more!

I think spirituality is a living process. As we journey through life, personal experiences and communal and societal realities shape who we are. I already know that Bethlehem is a community that offers

so much to you (its members), the broader local community, and our world. I'm excited to learn how you desire to develop your spirituality *within* the walls of Bethlehem and how you seek to develop your spirituality by *extending* the sanctuary—the sacred space—of Bethlehem and the beauty of God's extravagant love beyond Bethlehem's walls.

Thank you to those of you who have already shared ideas. I look forward to hearing from more of you in the weeks and months to come. Please call me or email me to chat or set up a time for a meeting.

**In addition to meeting on Sundays
and one-on-one at Bethlehem,
I'll be available for conversations
at local coffee shops during these times:**

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at RoosRoast
1155 Rosewood Street, Ann Arbor (off S. Industrial)

Thursday, May 18

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Espresso Royale
214 S. Main, downtown Ann Arbor

Joyfully,



Lily
lily@bethlehem-ucc.org
734-665-6149



IT'S TIGER TIME!



2017 Bethlehem Church Tigers Outing – July 30

We have a block of excellent seats reserved for the Tigers game against the Houston Astros on Sunday, July 30. Scheduled game time is 1:10 p.m. We plan to depart from Bethlehem following 10:00 a.m. worship and return to the church right after the game. Your \$44 ticket gets you a ride to and from Comerica Park in a luxury coach, your game ticket, lunch and beverages aboard the bus on the way to the game, other special items, and great fellowship. Contact Brian Paton to make your reservation: 734.635.9204 or bapaton@hotmail.com. We have a bus with 52 available seats; your payment reserves your seat.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Mother's Day is May 14.

**Please help provide
beautiful flowers and plants
for our church grounds,
in honor or memory of a loved one.**

***Please get us your information by
Wednesday, May 10,
so it can be listed in the bulletin.***

- Please pick up a Mother's Day donation sheet from the bulletin board near the office.
- Choose a monetary donation of **ANY AMOUNT** to go towards the purchase plants and flowers for the church grounds.
- Donations will then be used to buy flowers and plants suitable for the church grounds.
- On Mother's Day, May 14, the flowers will be at each worship service, and a memorial and honorarium list will be in the bulletin.

COME ALONG AND HELP US PLANT

**Please join us on
Saturday, May 20, 9:30
to plant the flowers.**

*Donuts and
coffee
will be
provided*



Aceldamimages.com

Graduate Recognition Sunday June 4, 2017

Are you a 2017 high school
or college graduate?
Is there a graduate
in your life?



Please let us know by filling
out this online survey
(<https://goo.gl/forms/Ng3jZU2weOIm7YI2>)
or picking up a hard copy in the church
office or after worship on Sunday.

We'll honor graduates in worship on
Sunday, June 4, at the 10:00 service.

Please contact Lily
(lily@bethlehem-ucc.org, 734-665-6149)
with any questions regarding
Graduate Recognition Sunday.

2017 Easter Gifts, in Honor of

Daffodil in Honor of:

Jillian Boggs
Loretta Seeger

Given by:

Grammy & Bapa
Michael, Lisa, Terri,
Joe, and Ken

Hyacinth in Honor of:

Sophie Boggs
Betty Marshall's 97th
Birthday on 4/15
Our Bethlehem Family
My family

Given by:

Grammy & Bapa

Paul & Barb Marshall
John & Karen Kennedy
Marie Slotten

Lily in Honor of:

Logan Haab
Sandy & Sun-Kee Kim
Karen Slotten
Marie Slotten

Given by:

Bapa & Grammy
Cresson Slotten
Cresson, CJ, & Jenna Slotten
Cresson, Karen, CJ,
& Jenna Slotten

Tulip in Honor of:

Our Bethlehem Family
James Haab

Given by:

John & Karen Kennedy
Bapa & Grammy

Other Funds of Choice:

Radio Broadcast Fund
Youth Program

Given by:

Judy Coucouvanis
Carole & Larry Katz



2017 Easter Gifts, in Memory of



Daffodil in Memory of:

Our Mothers – Martha Holliday & Mary Stanley
Frank Young, Viola & Harry Kuhlhorst
Our Parents & Carole's Sister

Given by:

Jay & Jacquie Katz
Linda Young
Carole & Larry Katz

Hyacinth in Memory of:

Ted & Almeta Koeble
Shirley Lindstrom
Carl & Helen Stoll
Gene Slotten

Given by:

Don & Sandi Koeble
Pamela Widmayer & Fred Castenholz
Their Family
Marie Slotten

Lily in Memory of:

Our Son – David
Our Parents
Betty & Richard Boman
Norman & Helen Grob
Norman & Helen Grob
Virginia Seitz & Claudia Anne Seitz
Lloyd & Gerry Seyfried
Gene Slotten
Erwin & Luella Weber – Mom and Dad
Daniel E. Weber – Brother

Given by:

Marjorie & Eugene Alber
Marjorie & Eugene Alber
Nancy, Greg, Kelly, & Brian Gotham
Norma & Conrad Foster and Family
Ken & Denise Gregg
Julie Seitz
Marty & Laura Seyfried
Cresson, Karen, CJ, & Jenna Slotten
Jim & Joann Weber, Norm & Kathy Cole
Jim & Joann Weber, Norm & Kathy Cole

Tulip in Memory of:

Jean & Carl Raab

Given by:

Mary Jean & Chuck

Radio Broadcast Fund in Memory of:

Stanley Finkbeiner
Ernie, Eleanora, Ernest, Robert, Don, & John Gardner
Joseph, Laura, & John O'Reilly
Robert & Geraldine Paul and Alfred J. Paul
Virginia C. Seitz
Raymond & Marie Zahn

Given by:

His Family
Harriett Holzapfel & Family
Pat & Shannon
Mary Friend
Michael F. Ehnis Family
Ken & Judi Tappe

Other Funds of Choice:

General Fund
Cemetery Maintenance Fund
Cemetery Maintenance Fund
Chapel Enhancement Fund
Church School Fund

Property Improvement Fund
Property Improvement Fund
Property Improvement Fund

In Memory of:

Our Parents
John & Selma Haab
Virginia Reppenhagen
Martha Ebinger
Oscar, Martha,
& Kenneth Holzapfel
Eldean & Lillian Hanson
Cal & Eleanor Seyfried
Ron & Julia Kennedy

Given by:

Roy & Sue Muir
Mike & Dindy Haab
Susan & John Irwin
Mike & Harriett Ehnis
Harriett Holzapfel & Family

Dick Hanson Family
Dindy & Mike Haab
Dave Kennedy & Dick Hanson Families

World Peace Conference 2017

by Laura Seyfried

World peace, the wish of many pageant contestants: Is it really possible? What would it look like? Who will participate? Is peace a human right? How can we make it happen?

"Promoting peace is more than just ending armed conflicts. To truly bring about peace, we must address the underlying issues including:

Poverty, hunger, and health

Violence prevention

The role of faith-based organizations

The role of media in peacemaking

Preserving basic human rights

Peace and conflict resolution

Involving youth in peace and conflict resolution"

These topics outlined the program at the World Peace Conference held in Ann Arbor last month. Over 500 attendees from more than 20 countries—including 200 students, faith-based organization representatives, Rotarians, and caring community members—joined together to advance their understanding of the worldwide good will needed to promote peace. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of this inspiring group.

Working for sustainable peace with justice and equality for all starts at home, with each of us. By working together we can become force multipliers and create opportunity to make small, positive changes in our community that can impact the wider world as we connect with other like-minded peacemakers.

Speakers at the conference armed us with thought-provoking stories of how a seemingly small intervention could lead to high-impact results in breaking down the barriers holding back more peaceful living across the globe. Faith leaders discussed the roles of respect, acceptance, and tolerance in interfaith communications and relationships. Journalists discussed the role of media in peacemaking by informing and empowering their audiences and by educating the public to make their own decisions with real stories



not sensationalism. Peace leaders shared that even basic human rights like clean water, healthcare, and education are precursors to more peaceful living.

So how can we at Bethlehem United Church of Christ work toward world peace? The Outreach Ministry is continuing the work of supporting and partnering with local agencies that work to help children and families live healthier and safer lives here in our own community. The following organizations are being funded and offer volunteer opportunities in 2017:

Peace Neighborhood Center

Food Gatherers

SafeHouse Center

Alpha House/Interfaith Hospitality Network

Other organizations and projects may be funded this year and in the future, and many more member volunteer opportunities are on the calendar. If you are interested in joining the Outreach Ministry, please contact the church office for more information and to find out when our next meeting will take place.

We know that we care about our neighbors near and far, but we must continue to be active in our mission.

For more information and resources, check out the following websites:

2017peaceconference.org

www.safehousecenter.org

www.alphahouse-ihn.org

www.foodgatherers.org

peaceneighborhoodcenter.org/wordpress/

Deadline Is May 28

Members of Bethlehem are eligible for educational scholarships. These are open to any qualified member attending full-time at an approved, accredited university, college, or seminary at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Applications may be obtained in the church office or by emailing CarolLeyshock@Bethlehem-UCC.org. They can also be downloaded from the website, bethlehem-ucc.org (click on Education in the left column).

**RADIO SPONSORS NEEDED**

Sign up to be a Sunday morning Radio Broadcast Sponsor or Contributor.



A **"Contributor"** funds a portion of a broadcast.

A **"Sponsor"** funds the full cost of a broadcast (\$230) in honor or in memory of a loved one and has their sponsorship broadcast on the radio and printed in The Visitor newsletter and Refrigerator Page.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TODAY TO KEEP OUR RADIO MINISTRY GOING

Sign up in the office hallway, contact the church at 734-665-6149, or sponsor online at bethlehem-ucc.org by clicking on the donate button.

DONATE

Thank you for your support!!



**Many thanks to Bethlehem's
Auxiliary/Mothers' Study for
preparing these bags of goodies
for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.**



**C.S. MOTT
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**



Bethlehem Church Ongoing Outreach Opportunities

Please consider joining in! Sign-up sheets are in the office hallway.



FOOD GATHERERS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

June 4 and July 2 (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.)

May 23 (fourth Tuesday of each month, 2:30–4:45 p.m.)
(see info below)

FOOD GATHERERS FOOD BARREL

Place nonperishable food items in the food barrel in the library.



FAITH AND FOOD HISTORY

Please join us on Saturday, June 3, to help plant or just learn more about the program.

Faith and Food was created in 2009 in response to the historic faith-based efforts to address hunger in our community. Food Gatherers has always relied on donations of fresh produce for distribution to those in need, and it started a coordinated campaign to encourage congregations to start Faith and Food gardens or continue/expand a current garden.

As you are aware, Bethlehem UCC, through several gracious donations, has provided fresh produce to Food Gatherers monthly. This spring we will again expand our efforts by growing our own vegetables in our church garden located in the southwest corner of Bethlehem Cemetery.

We will also need people to sign up each week to help with weeding, watering, harvesting, and delivering the vegetables to the Delonis Center.

Please contact me if you can donate some time to this important outreach program: ziesemertn@gmail.com. –Tom Ziesemer



Outreach 2016-17 Opportunities

Peace Neighborhood Center
1111 North Maple Road, Ann Arbor



Message from Sue Muir

★ **After School Feeding Program:** I have posted the dates we need volunteers for the winter/spring semester (4th Tuesdays, January–May) on the bulletin board outside the church office. The commitment is from 2:30–4:45. Please consider volunteering!

★ **Every Friday,** January through mid-June, Food Gatherers provides fresh produce for families in-need that we help distribute at Peace Neighborhood Center. 9:00–11:00 No sign-up is necessary

Visit Peace's website for more information about their programs
and assistance to our community.
www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org



Chancel Choir



Easter Sunday



New sacristy cooler. Thanks guys!



Palm Sunday



The Immigrants' March in Ann Arbor, March 25.



Easter cookies



Easter Sunday music



Sunrise Service,
Bethlehem
cemetery



Maundy Thursday



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

CURRENT FUND

Raelin Dresselhouse Baptism Honorarium

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Carolyn Ferri Memorial
Marian Caswell Memorial
Jim Schmale Honorarium
Virginia Seitz Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Virginia Seitz Memorial
Betty Diuble Memorial
Bill Fellenberger Memorial
Hilda McLaughlin Memorial

RADIO FUND

Godfrey Keppler Memorial
Virginia Seitz Memorial
Marian Caswell Memorial

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Marian Caswell Memorial

YOUTH PROGRAM

Marian Caswell Memorial

*Gifts listed were received through
April 30, 2017.*

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORSHIPS

April 9 In memory of **Frederick and Lela
Keppler**, with love from the family.

April 16 In memory of Jamie Dylenski's father,
James Milidonis, on the anniversary
of his birthday.



PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

4/11/17 Marian Caswell
4/20/17 Don Rutledge

BAPTISMS

4/02/17 Michael Thomas Zieseimer
4/30/17 Raelin May Dresselhouse

NEW MEMBERS

4/23/17 Dennis Durnwald
Carol Durnwald
4/30/17 Eileen Koprowski
Scott Buday
Janelle Buday
Lily Tinker Fortel



**Pastor John Kennedy,
Carol Durnwald, and Dennis Durnwald**



**Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel, Eileen
Koprowski, Scott Buday, Janelle Buday,
Sofia and Kai Buday.**

THANK-YOU

To our church family,

*Thanks for all the cards and prayers during Jerry's recent hospital stay for a stroke.
Special thanks to Pastor John, Larry Katz, Tony Peters and our family for the
hospital visits. Jerry is hopefully and with God's help on his way to a full recovery.*

Love to all, Sandy and Jerry Sutfin

Thank You



Palm Sunday Brunch Thank -You

Our annual Palm Sunday Brunch was another huge success. Thank you, Jan Eadie, for taking the lead in my absence. A *big* thank-you to all those who provided the wonderful selection of food, to Debbie Belcher for making her delicious pancakes again, and to Paul Marshall for keeping the dishes warm during the service. There was a spirit of fellowship felt throughout the dining hall. I want to also especially thank those listed below who helped with the planning and worked the day of the brunch:

Sue and John Irwin
Kris Lovelace
Kathy Warner

Sherry Marcy
Nancy Quay
Dave Gilmore

Sue Muir
Jan Burnham

Marj Alber
Linda Young

Again, many many thanks!
Jane Zieseimer, Fellowship Chair

BETHLEHEM TREE OF LIFE

BY PAUL MARSHALL

Well, spring is here, and it's time for us to tend our beautiful **Bethlehem Tree of Life**, allowing its stunning hues of gold, silver, and copper leaves to burst forth into bloom and once again tell the stories of our members and friends.

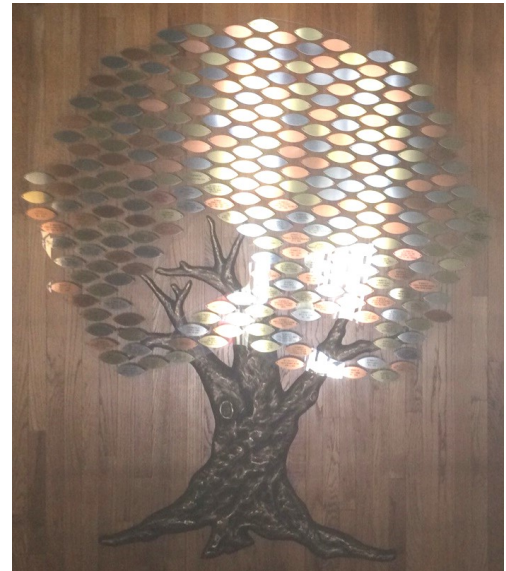
If you haven't seen the tree lately, we encourage you to stop by and see it when at church, as it is now softly illuminated, giving a warm glow to the colored leaves that memorialize our beloved and commemorate the special events and times of our faithful members. The tree is located at the Fourth Avenue canopy entrance of our church.

If you have been considering the purchase of a remembrance leaf on the tree to commemorate a baptism, confirmation, graduation, wedding, anniversary, milestone birthday, or

any other special occasion "in honor of" or "in memory of" a special person, couple, or family, now is the time, as there are still several leaves in various areas of the tree available for purchase.

The cost of each leaf is \$300, and this includes the personalized engraving. Proceeds from the sale of the leaves will be administered by the Finance Ministry Team to help fund special projects and needs of our church.

To place an order for a leaf, please contact Carol Leyshock in the church office at 734-665-6149. Carol can provide you with a special order form, and order forms will also be available to pick up at the Fourth Avenue canopy entrance at our Welcome Center. Please be aware that a separate order form must be completed for each leaf you order, and



each order must be prepaid with a check made payable to Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

So if you are looking for a special gift for a special occasion or person(s), our gorgeous Bethlehem Tree of Life provides a wonderful opportunity to commemorate in a very personal and permanent way what is important in your life and the lives of those you love and care about, while at the same time creating a history of our times here at Bethlehem.

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
Lily Tinker Fortel	Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development
Carol Leyshock	Parish Administrator
Betty Clark	Financial Administrator
Donna Whitney	Parish Secretary
Arianne Abela	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.