

# The Visitor

Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
June 2017

*an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy*



## “Graduation” Rev. John L. Kennedy

*“The Lord’s power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord’s spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry. He asked me, “Human one, can these bones live again?” I said, “Lord God, only you know.” He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.”*

—Ezekiel 37:1-5

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, Bethlehem UCC will be recognizing members who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. We will read the names and invite

the graduates to come forward and receive gifts and our recognition. We will smile, clap, pray, and perhaps remember our own graduations or those of our family members. It is one of those moments that remind us of our own progression from one time in our lives to the next.

The etymology of “graduate” pares down to the Latin word “gradus,” meaning “a step climbed” (on a ladder or stair) or a “**step toward something.**” How many times do the road forward and the first “step toward something” seem like trying to walk across an ocean or a vast desert? In the story of “The Valley of the Dry Bones,” Ezekiel speaks to an exiled people who feel utterly broken, scattered, lifeless, and with no hope at all. Where Jeremiah speaks to the people of Jerusalem who have been left behind and whose families have been carried away by Babylonia, Ezekiel has actually been taken hostage and carried away with the other exiles in this new foreign land. Ezekiel and his group are refugees in a land foreign to them in every way. They cannot openly practice their religion of Judaism because it is seen as a threat to their new country. The em-

pire is afraid that if the Jews practice their faith it will lead to solidarity and that could lead to acts of rebellion.

These Jews are at their weakest and most hopeless moment. They have lost everything they had worked so hard for; their homes, land, cattle, and families have been separated. Their temple has been desecrated and destroyed. They are at a critical tipping point again.

How did they get to this point? According to Isaiah and Jeremiah, Israel is reaping the consequences of its own actions and inaction. Isaiah has flatly told the Jews that they will be exiled because they have failed as a nation, claiming to be a “Nation under God,” to care for the widow, orphan, hungry, and poor. The moment they failed to do these things as a nation, they ceased to be a blessing and, therefore, lost God’s blessing upon their nation. Without God’s blessings, their walls could not keep the invaders out. Perhaps, in God’s eyes, that which they fought so hard to acquire and protect had lost its focus so badly that it was no  
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# HAPPY ONA ANNIVERSARY TO US!

May 22 marked the one-year anniversary of Bethlehem's becoming an Open and Affirming UCC congregation, the 1365<sup>th</sup> to do so in the United States. There are more than 1400 ONA churches to date.

We celebrated by photographing the congregation outside with our new six-by-ten-foot rainbow flag, and we had a rainbow cake at coffee hour.



The ONA Standing Committee started meeting on a quarterly basis this year. Our efforts continue to encourage LGBT folks to feel safe and welcome here and join in the life of Bethlehem Church. If you would like to be a part of the ONA committee and help in this important work, please contact Patti Maki (734-646-0389, pattimaki@gmail.com) or Cress Slotten (734-4298-3399, cslotten@comcast.net).



*On Mother's Day, a combined youth and adult choir sang a lovely song entitled For Everyone Born.*

*"For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water . . . For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song . . ."*

## July Visitor Deadline



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

## 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](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)**



**[www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)**

# Upcoming Events & Information

*Community Outreach Opportunities are on page 9.*

## THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4  
in observance of Independence



## 2017 Bethlehem Church Tigers Outing – July 30



We have 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, great fellowship, and other special items. We have a bus with 52 seats; your payment reserves your seat. Contact Brian Paton to make your reservation: [bapaton@hotmail.com](mailto:bapaton@hotmail.com) (734-635-9204)

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11 AT BETHLEHEM WASHTENAW REFUGEE WELCOME

Please join us as we welcome our friends from Washtenaw Refugee Welcome WRW and Muslim Social Services (MSS) to worship on Sunday, June 11. We're thrilled to have Rita Toderan (WRW) and Lamia Sharmeen (MSS) joining us!



## Bethlehem Fundraiser – Art Fair Parking Sign up next to the office or call.

Parking cars in our lot is a profitable and fun way to fundraise for our church. Lots of help is needed parking cars! There are many slots yet to fill. Please consider signing up!



\*\*\*\*\* July 20, 21, 22, & 23 \*\*\*\*\*

Adults and Youth needed for each shift:  
**Thursday, 7/20** 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (to 6:30pm)  
**Friday, 7/21** 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (to 6:30pm)  
**Saturday, 7/22** 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm  
**Sunday, 7/23\*** 11:30am - 3pm, fair closes at 6pm

\*On Sunday, we will need an attendant outside at 8 a.m. to monitor the lot for our church services.

## Father's Day June 18, 2017

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



All youth, 6-12 grade, are welcome to join us for games and food as we celebrate the end of the school year!

## JUNE PRETZEL SALES



**Holy Rollers**  
 June 10, 10:30 – 12  
 June 11, after each service

**CALL THE OFFICE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.**  
*These are the last pretzels until fall.*  
*Thank you for all your support!*

## Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast July 7, at 8:30 a.m.

Classic Cup Café on Jackson Rd.



## COFFEE HOUR CHANGES

We will have one coffee hour between services in the lounge from July 2—September 3. This is a perfect opportunity to spend time with people attending both services!



## American Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethlehem Saturday, June 24, 2017

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Schmale Lounge

To schedule an appointment go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code is: Washtenaw Dairy)



*“Graduation” Rev. John L. Kennedy  
(continued from page 1)*

longer worthy of God’s divine protection? God’s protection is for those who protect. God’s compassion, mercy, and generosity is for nations that show compassion, mercy, and generosity. Israel failed to heed the prophets’ earlier warnings to avert the fall of their nation, but now they were at a tipping point again, whether to give up all hope or resist hopefully.

Ezekiel has a vision from God. God shows Ezekiel a vast valley. The valley is filled with hundreds of thousands of bones, and the bones are separated and very dry. In other words, this was the state of the once powerful and proud combined nation of Israel and Judah. As a people and nation they were broken, scattered, and dry without any resistance or hope. The leap they needed to make was just too big to consider.

How many of us have felt that way when a new challenge is before us, especially when the bridges behind seem to have collapsed and burned? It is said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” We either graduate (take a step *toward* something), or we dry out and cease to exist. Life is full of graduation or steps toward something. Each forward step leads us into God’s forward-moving grace. It also means we move farther away from a previous starting point.

Think of the gap between starting kindergarten, junior high, and then high school. Look at the photos of yourself or your children. In some ways we want to be in a less complex time, but do we really want to live our lives as first graders, and would we want our children to stay there forever? Being single can be less complex; not having children can be less complex; not learning or being promoted can be less complex. Moving to a new town and school in the middle of high school can be complex and scary, but would we want to miss the blessings by avoiding stepping forward toward something? There is never a place where we can arrive, sit back, and feel safe from the fragileness and vulnerabilities of life. But we can step toward God’s renewing grace and peace, and peace always happens in the context of relationship/s—*always*.

In Ezekiel’s vision, God calls him to prophesy to the scattered bones (the discouraged, skeptical, broken people). Prophesy to the breath. The Hebrew word for breath in the original text is **“ruach,”** which is the same word for Spirit or **Holy Spirit**. (In the New Testament, the word for Holy Spirit is “pneuma,” which also means breath or wind.)

*“I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone.*

*When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them. He said to me, ‘**Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath,** The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.’ I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.”*

Listen to the “step forward to something,” scattered bones are reconnected bone to bone, or rather a new structure is being built, things are coming together to frame out a new existence and support the next steps. Then sinews and muscles are placed on the new framework and finally skins to reveal these new bodies. But even though all of this important work has taken place, there is still not evidence of new life. The bodies are frozen and still not empowered.

God directs Ezekiel to call upon the “Breath” or Spirit again:

*He said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’ So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. **I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the LORD says.”***

We thank Jesus, the Apostles, and all those who call upon the Holy Spirit to blow into our lives, communities, and all nations. Dear God, help us to raise our sails to catch the Spirit, and let it bring us together, connecting us with you and one another. Let us be built up where we need it most as individuals, communities, and nations. Remind us that healthy growth and empowerment begin when we acknowledge our complete dependence on you. Give us, Holy Spirit, power to recognize the difference between the spirits of chaos and destruction, which scatter us, and the Spirit of God, which builds confidence in power to make this world better than we found it. Help us to be honest with You, ourselves, and each other, for we truly do know the difference between that which is of You, O God, and that which leads to self-destruction. Help us this day to step forward in a new direction guided by the fresh air of your truth and power. Amen.

God loves us all with no take-backs!  
Pastor John

# A Note from Lily

## AS CHILDREN DO

It has been a joy to dive more deeply into the Bethlehem community this month! Thank you for the ongoing welcome you have extended. Thank you for the May 21 welcome reception and the wonderful welcome basket, and thanks to those who helped me move! In the words of the Psalm, "My cup runneth over." Thank you.

I've been enriched by conversations with so many of you—at coffee shops, in the office, before and after worship, during ministry team meetings, while knitting, during youth group, and more! I continue to be inspired by your love for your faith, and by your commitment to bring love and beauty to our world.

On May 22-24, I attended the *Faith Forward* conference in Chicago. The focus of the conference was reimagining children's and youth ministry in the context of our changing world. Presenters focused on the premise that we are living in dangerous times and that the primary call of Christianity is for us to bring love into our world. The guiding question was: "How do we prepare children and youth to embody love and justice in our world?" While the focus was on working with youth and children, I came away with questions that apply to all of us: What spiritual practices best support us to go out into the world and love? What tools do we need in our spiritual toolkits to make us better at loving in our world? I look forward to conversations with you about these questions.

As I wrote last month, I believe spirituality is a living process. This month, I was encouraged by conversations and activities with the middle- and high-school youth about worship, faith, and spirituality. The conversations reinforced for me that spirituality is a life-long journey and that we can practice our spirituality everywhere. I've also been reminded that, as with adults, children and youth can be supported by church and that they have important insights and gifts to offer when it comes to shaping what church is!

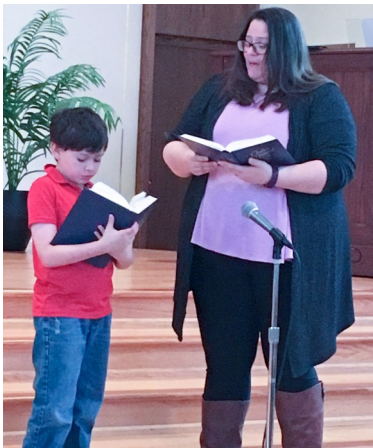
Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" and called us to receive the wonders of this life "as children do." As we support, and learn from, the children and youth in our lives, may we also nourish the childlike spirit *within* ourselves. Whitney Houston sang these words:

I believe the children are our future.  
Teach them well and let them lead the way.  
Show them all the beauty they possess inside.  
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier.  
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be.  
—Whitney Houston, *The Greatest Love of All*

My wish for us this month is that we will encounter the fullness of life with hope for the future, with grounding in the present, with a sense of the wonders that surround us, and with resilient love for everyone.



Many thanks to all who helped fill Lily's basket full of food, goodies, and gift cards for her May 21 welcome reception. And thank you to Pat and Shannon O'Reilly for presenting Lily with one of their lovely homemade quilts.



Sarah Herwick and her son Alton sing a Mother's Day duet.

Noah and John Matthew hang seed paper tributes of love on tree branches.

The seed paper is planted in our church yard.



# EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## ~ MAY HIGHLIGHTS ~

### Lenten Mission Project Update

*“Bethlehem’s wonderful collection, augmented by a few more from the Bike Club, has brought the freedom of transportation to Iraqi, Pakistani, Iranian, Afghani, and Syrian refugees in Washtenaw county! Please let your congregation know that their generosity and kindness continue spreading compassion and connection throughout our community. It has been a wonderful experience to work on this project with you. Your church has once again accomplished something extraordinary. Your church-wide effort was inspirational. What a special place Bethlehem UCC is! It’s an honor to work with you.”*

—Rita Toderan, Washtenaw Refugee Welcome

Rita Toderan and the team at **Washtenaw Refugee Welcome** have continued to inspire us as we’ve remained in communication following our Lenten Mission Project. We hear from Rita that almost all the bikes we donated have been delivered. We’re grateful to Bethlehem members who helped deliver the bikes in May to individuals in Ypsilanti. We are excited about our developing relationship with WRW!



**Sunday, June 11**

### Washtenaw Refugee Welcome at Bethlehem

Please welcome our friends Rita Toderan from Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW) and Lamia Sharmeen from Muslim Social Services (MSS) to worship on Sunday, June 11. We’re thrilled to have Rita and Lamia joining us!

### Youth Group Updates



Bethlehem Youth making their 2017 T-shirts, which read: “Love Beyond Labels” and “You Belong”

May brought several wonderful youth group meetings! Our theme was “What Is Worship?” We talked about many meanings, methods, and mechanisms of worship. We also designed and screen-printed the 2017 Bethlehem Youth Group T-shirts. We’ve had lots of great feedback on the T-shirts, and we’re anticipating the possibility of producing and selling them to the broader congregation in the fall—stay tuned!

As ever, we are grateful for those of you who provide dinner for youth group. As we prepare to mark the end of this school year, we want to honor and extend our deep gratitude to Sarah Herwick, C.J. Slotten, and Jesse Wilcox for all they do to support the youth!

### Contact us if...

- We’ve had initial discussions about working with WRW to plan bike rides with families that have received bicycles. Please let us know if your family would be interested in such an activity.
- Sign up on the bulletin board if you can be a summer Sunday school volunteer!



## Summer Sunday School Volunteers!

*For every lesson you've prepared,  
the love of God has been shared.*

We need your help. Please sign up outside the church office if you're able to help with our one-room Sunday school this summer. It's easy! We provide lesson plans that are easy to implement, *and* there's a lot of flexibility in what you do with the lessons.

### devozone

The Education Ministry Team sends out the print version of *devozone* (a teen devotional magazine) every two months. You can also access it on the web 24/7. Just go to [devozinemag.org](http://devozinemag.org), where you can sign up for daily or weekly alerts. From the website: "Let your phone become part of your prayer. Text **SUB** to **615-970-7255** to receive daily SMS texts—quotes, Bible verses, reflection questions—to help you connect with God wherever you go."



## Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates

**Emily Elizabeth Eisele** – Emily graduated from Grand Valley State University on April 29. She is the granddaughter of Gert Eisele and the daughter of Doug and Arlene Eisele. Emily is planning to attend graduate school for her Master of Social Work degree.

**Andrew Daniel Foster** – Andrew graduates from Pioneer High School on June 8. Andrew is the son of Jenny and Dan Foster. Andrew plans to study Environmental Science at Washtenaw Community College.

**Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy** – Sarah graduates from Pioneer High School on June 8. Sarah is the daughter of Karen and John Kennedy. She plans to attend the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan.

**Alexander Richard Siple** – Alex graduates from Skyline High School on June 12. Alex is the son of Shelly and Paul Phelps. Alex plans to study Theatre at Eastern Michigan University.

### Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders Appreciation

*We extend our deepest gratitude to our Sunday school teachers and youth leaders! Thank you for all you to do support Bethlehem's children and youth!*

#### Sunday School Teachers

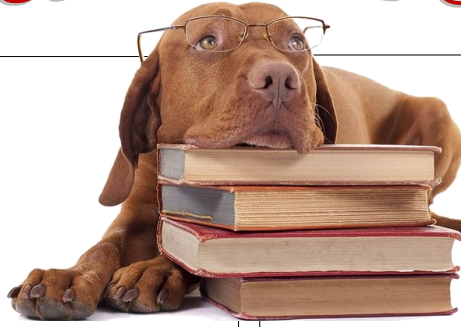
Caroline Ashenfelter  
Jan Eadie  
Julie Feldkamp  
Eileen Koprowski  
Wanda Modica  
Nancy Nicholson  
Nancy Pieske  
Karen Samford  
Jane Schmerberg  
Jill Schwartz  
Diana Slaughter  
Jennifer Vasquez  
Isaac Wilcox

#### Youth Group Leaders

Sarah Herwick  
C.J. Slotten  
Jesse Wilcox



# Book Sale starts June 1



Bethlehem's summer book sale starts June 1 in the library and runs through Labor Day. Please feel free to take advantage of the sale, when books will be priced 4 for \$1. After Labor Day, books will return to \$1 each, which is still a bargain. Summer is here, so we hope you will take some time to do some reading while on vacation or just enjoy some quiet time for your imagination to wander.

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

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 your donated books. We will be glad to shelve them. Here are some reminders about donations: We collect books for

**reading entertainment.** Therefore, we are seeking donations of just novels and children's books. Please remember that we **do not want or accept** textbooks, cookbooks, self-help books, devotional/spiritual books, or nonfiction books. There are other donation sites in Ann Arbor for those sorts of books, such as the Ann Arbor District Library and the Ann Arbor Re-Use Center. Again, we are looking for novels for your reading entertainment.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
**Proceeds are used by the Women of Bethlehem for outreach projects, and we appreciate your support.**

## Outreach Ministry Attends Food Gatherers Celebration

Bethlehem's Outreach Ministry Team recently attended the Food Gatherers Spring Reception and Gathering Awards Celebration. They met at Food Gatherers for their annual Spring Gathering event to learn more about our longtime partner in fighting hunger in our community.

For many years Bethlehem UCC has supported Food Gatherers' efforts by collecting nonperishable food products and fresh produce on a regular basis to help keep the shelves of over 150 food pantries county-wide full for those facing food insecurity. Bethlehem members continue to contribute their time to food preparation, cooking, cleaning, and serving meals at the Community Kitchen/Delonis Center homeless shelter on the first Sunday afternoon each month. More recently, Bethlehem has nurtured a Faith and Food Garden at Bethlehem Cemetery, reaping even

more fresh produce for both Food Gatherers distributions and their meal programs at the Community Kitchen.



The Spring Gathering event offered tours of the Food Gatherers Warehouse, including presentations by staff and volunteers, up-close demonstrations of some of the processing of bulk produce, and information on the food education programming provided to staff and customers at local food pantry partners.

Our Outreach Ministry Team members were impressed by not only the sheer scope of the Food Gatherers facility and operations (serving over 45,000 individuals annually) but also the diverse programming offered by the organization throughout Washtenaw County—from recognition of ethnic and special dietary food needs to summer feeding programs for

school children to the amount of data tracking necessary to continue the fight to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. Bethlehem UCC continues to partner with Food Gatherers in a variety of ways. If you are interested in joining those already volunteering, please check the bulletin board for current opportunities.



**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.)**  
**Fresh Produce distribution, Fridays from 9-12**

**FOOD GATHERERS FOOD BARREL**

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



**ALPHA HOUSE OUTREACH**

**June 8, 5:30 (dinner) & 6:45 (after-dinner kids' activities)**

Volunteers make dinner and help with activities for families using Alpha House for temporary shelter, food, and support services. Email Stacey Stites at [rickandstace@comcast.net](mailto:rickandstace@comcast.net) to help.

**Peace Neighborhood Center Outreach 2016-17**



*As the 2016-17 school years draws to a close, we want to thank all of the Bethlehem volunteers who helped at Peace Neighborhood Center. Your commitments to our outreach ministries in our community are commendable. Later in August we will begin posting information for the 2017-18 school year opportunities at Peace Neighborhood Center.*

**The After-School Program volunteers were:**

- Jacque Katz
- Judi Tappe
- Myrna Pancost
- Harriette & Mike Ehnis
- Carole Katz
- Pam Widmayer
- Sue Wortman
- Roy & Sue Muir
- Mac Gaikema
- Eric Santifer
- Lily Tinker Fortel

**Five members of our congregation faithfully volunteered on every Friday morning they were available for the Fresh Produce Distribution Program at Peace. They were:**

- Kathy Warner
- Dave Gilmore
- Robyn Warner Lachman
- Sue Muir
- Diann Pytlak



## MEMORIALS & GIFTS

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Eve Schmale Memorial

### RADIO FUND

Mary Jahnke Memorial  
Geraldine Paul Memorial  
Donald Rutledge Memorial  
Gladys Saunders Memorial

### RESTROOM RENOVATION FUND

Frederick and Lela Keppler Memorial

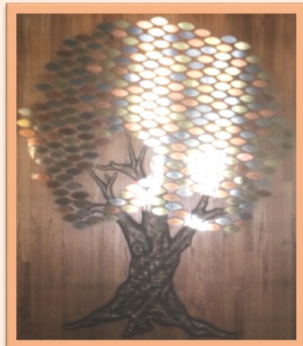
### WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Marian Caswell Memorial

Gifts listed were received through  
May 31, 2017.

## Bethlehem's Tree of Life

*If you are looking for a personal and meaningful gift for a special occasion or person(s), please consider the purchase of a leaf on our Tree of Life, located in the 4th Avenue canopy entrance lobby of our church.*



*Your leaf will commemorate what is important in your life and the lives of those you love and care about. It will also create a history of our times together here at Bethlehem and help to fund special projects and needs.*

*Order forms are available at the church office, the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Welcome Center, or by emailing [info@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:info@bethlehem-ucc.org).*

## Faith & Food Garden

We have seven volunteers lined up so far to help with the planting on June 3 and donating vegetable seedlings. All the vegetables we grow and harvest will be donated to the Delonis Center Community Kitchen for salads and other meals.

Many thanks to Marty Seyfried who rototilled the Faith and Food garden for our June planting day. If you would like



to help by watering, weeding, and harvesting, we ask for a donation of one hour per week. Contact Tom Zieseemer, call the church office, or sign up next to the office. Many dirty hands make light work!

## Flower Gardens

Many thanks to all who made donations for our beautiful Mother's Day flowers (see list at right), all who helped plant the flowers, and all who will be keeping them watered, weeded, and looking nice all summer. We always get lots of compliments from folks in the neighborhood about our lovely gardens.

Thank you to our planting volunteers:

**Sue Irwin**  
**Pam Widmayer**  
**Jacquie Katz**  
**Michelle Loukotka**  
**Erin Foster**  
**Jenny Foster**  
**Kris Lovelace**  
**Caroline, Vivian, and Henry Ashenfelter**

Thank you also to Harriett Ehnis and Jane Zieseemer for setting up the flower display in the sanctuary on Mother's Day; and to Kris and Scott Lovelace for getting the picnic tables back up for the summer and for always keeping watch over the gardens.

# Mother's Day Flowers

## DONATED BY:

Audrey Keppler

Conrad and Norma Foster and family  
 Dan and Jenny Foster and family  
 Dave Kennedy and Dick Hanson families  
 Dick Hanson family  
 Gary and Marilyn Pearson  
 Goforth family  
 Her daughter  
 Jim and Joann Weber, Norm and Kathy Cole  
 Larry and Carole Katz  
 Mary Jean and Chuck  
 Pat and Shannon  
 Paul and Nancy  
 Bob and Cheryl Grant  
 Edgar, E.J., and Ellie Vasquez  
 Jan Eadie  
 Jan Voess  
 Jay and Jacquie Katz  
 Jim and Carol Aldrich  
 Mary Friend (to radio fund)  
 Mike and Dindy Haab  
 Mike and Dindy Haab

## DONATED BY:

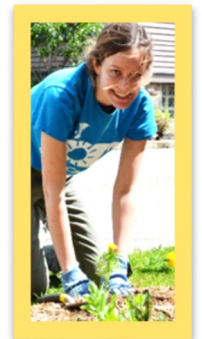
Bob and Cheryl Grant  
 C.J., Jenna, and Cress Slotten  
 Cress and Karen Slotten  
 Cress and Karen Slotten  
 Dindy Haab  
 Edgar, E.J., and Ellie Vasquez  
 Gary and Marilyn Pearson  
 Grandkids Brecken, Ronan, and Evalee  
 Her family  
 Jay and Jacquie Katz  
 Jill, Steve, Katie, and Carrie Schwartz  
 Jim and Carol Aldrich  
 Katie and Carrie  
 Kevin, Jennie, and Paul  
 Kris and Scott Lovelace  
 Larry Katz  
 Lisa, Terri, Michael, Joe, and Ken  
 Mark and Erin Katz and family  
 Mark and Erin Katz and family  
 Mark Katz and family  
 Mike Haab  
 Mom  
 Nancy Gentner, her mom  
 Pamela Widmayer and Fred Castenholtz  
 Tracy, Madeline, and Allison

## IN MEMORY OF:

Martha Huss, Christine Keppler, Lela Keppler,  
 Anne Keppler, and Betty Huss  
 Helen Grob  
 Barbara Vander Hart  
 Julia Kennedy  
 Lillian Hanson  
 Our mothers  
 Kellie Goforth  
 Leta Ristine  
 Luella Weber, our mother  
 Martha and Polly  
 Jean M. Raab  
 Laura O'Reilly  
 Aletta Kulenkamp  
 Our mothers, Ica Schaffer and Ruth Grant  
 Elida Saenz, Irene Zavac, and Dorothy Chope  
 Elizabeth Lambarth  
 My mother  
 Mary Jane Pence  
 Our mothers, Helen Braun and Ruth Aldrich  
 Geraldine Paul, Gladys Saunders, and Mary Jahnke  
 Eleanor Seyfried  
 Selma Haab

## IN HONOR OF:

The mothers of our grandchildren, Kelly, Maura, & Heather  
 Karen Slotten  
 Marie Slotten  
 Sandy Kim  
 Gert Eisele  
 Carol Austin and Jennifer Vasquez  
 Our daughters, Amy, Jill, Mary Jo, Mary  
 Nancy Thibault  
 Cheryl Grant  
 Beth Wenner and Erin Katz  
 Carole Katz  
 Our daughters, Shelli and Terri Aldrich  
 Jill Schwartz  
 Nancy Thibault  
 Our daughter Kelly and her newborn son, Barrett  
 Carole, Jill, and Julie  
 Loretta Seeger  
 Gale Blendin  
 Jacquie Katz  
 Erin Katz  
 Dindy  
 Jennifer McCabe  
 Tracy Faught  
 Della and Vearl Widmayer  
 Nancy Gentner



**THANK YOU  
 TO OUR AWESOME  
 GARDENERS**

## 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

Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann

Lily Tinker Fortel

Carol Leyshock

Betty Clark

Donna Whitney

Arianne Abela

Gail Jennings

Jim Rowan

Pastor

Pastor Emeritus

Minister of Spiritual Growth  
and Development

Parish Administrator

Financial Administrator

Parish Secretary

Director of Music

Organist

Director of Handbells

The *Visitor*  
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### 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.