



The Visitor

Bethlehem
United Church of Christ
October 2017

invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

Every Knee Should Bow

Rev. John Kennedy

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to

cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges ; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

How many of us grew up in a sporting event, marching band, or mission trip, and had a coach or leader say, "Take a Knee"? (Continued on page 8)

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor John Kennedy	Page 1	Musical Celebration	Page 8	Memorials & Financial	Page 14
Stephen Ministry	Page 2	Miscellaneous	Page 9	NOVEMBER DEADLINE	Page 14
Upcoming Events	Page 3	Spiritual Growth event	Page 10	Cemetery Board	Page 15
Spiritual Growth & Dev.	Page 4 & 5	From Lily's Desk	Page 11	Veterans' Breakfast	Page 15
Welcome Ministry	Page 6	Education Team	Page 12	Star Bazaar	Page 16
Golf Outing	Page 6	Mission Project photos	Page 13	Bazaar: donations/help	Page 17
CROP & Outreach	Page 7	Peace Neighborhood	Page 13	Who we are	Page 18



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

What is Stephen Ministry?

By Kurt Schmerberg

We all go through tough times in life, times that are turbulent and unsettling. In the midst of these challenging seasons, it can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to offer understanding and encouragement – to provide stability, hope, and Biblical insight to help us through the storm. That is what a Stephen Minister is able to provide: a listening ear, a supportive perspective, and God's Word to help us through the challenges of life. Stephen Ministry "multiplies ministry"- our pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis.

"Upcoming Stephen Ministry Info Sessions"

Come for a 30 minute session, including presentation with question and answer!

Sunday, October 22 - Following the 10:00 Service
Thursday, October 26 - 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Sunday, October 29 - In between the services

The mission of our congregation's Stephen Ministry is: "Equip and empower lay people to provide quality, confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. To support and cultivate a culture which affirms that no one needs to endure life's challenges and difficulties alone."

July 30th through August 5th Lily Tinker-Fortel and I attended the seven day Stephen Leader Training Series in Pittsburgh. We were joined by over 400 others from around the U.S. and Canada to learn how to implement and direct Stephen Ministry here at Bethlehem Church. Pastor John has already received the training so now we have three trained Stephen Leaders.

The training is intense and comprehensive but extremely uplifting. There is nothing like being in a room with over 400 other folks committed to bring Christ's healing power to others. The result is Bethlehem Church has now joined over 12,500 other congregations in 177 different denominations, spread over 30 countries, equipped to offer Stephen Ministry services to their communities.

Pastor John, Lily, and I have been meeting weekly for the last month to fine tune the mission, goals, and objectives for our specific Stephen Ministry program and make sure they align with the overarching vision determined by our Leadership Council. One of our next steps will be to recruit, select, and train members of our congregation to be Stephen Ministers.

However for any Stephen Ministry program to be effective, congregational awareness, understanding, and support is vital. We need your help to identify potential care receivers; caregivers; and to understand the breadth and limitations of this program. To assist with this goal we will be hosting three information sessions regarding the Stephen Ministry program and invite you to attend one or more. The first information session is scheduled for Sunday October 22nd after the 10AM service; the second will be Thursday October 26th at 1 PM in the Schmale Lounge; the third will be Sunday October 29th between the 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM services. I also invite you to ask John, Lily, or myself any questions you may have regarding the program. We offer our thanks to the Member Care Ministry for the foresight to initiate this program here at Bethlehem Church.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Upcoming Events & Information (not listed elsewhere)



HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS

10/5: roll, bake, sales
(BY PREORDER ONLY, THIS MONTH)



PARKING LOT PRETZELS

Order deadline: 10/24
Friday, 10/27: roll, bake, sales



Mark Your Calendars for Football Parking!

Calling all Bethlehem members to help with this important fundraiser! Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office to help park cars for Michigan football home games:

- Oct 7** TBA (vs. Michigan State)
- Oct 28** at noon (vs. Rutgers)
- Nov 4** TBA (vs. Minnesota)
- Nov 25** at noon (vs. Ohio State)



Sunday School Schedule

First Sunday of the Month
Family & Communion Sunday
with school-age youth in the sanctuary

Second through Fifth Sundays
Grades K-5, lower-level classrooms

Every Sunday
Nursery and preschool



Third Sundays: Walk & Talk to downtown for middle- and high-school youth. We pick up the tab.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM Upcoming Events (stay tuned for details)

- Friday, Oct 6:** 2nd Annual Oktoberfest, 6–9 p.m.
(see page 11 for details)
- Wed, Nov 1** All Saints Day: Hops and Hallelujahs at Conor O’Neill’s
- Sunday, Nov 12** Veterans’ Lunch after church
- Friday, Dec 1** Living Nativity at Bethlehem
- Saturday, Dec 2** Church Christmas Decorating
- Thursday, Dec 7** Women’s Advent Evening

Bethlehem Veterans’ Monthly Breakfast

Oct. 6, at 8:30 a.m.
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Rd.



OKTOBERFEST - OCTOBER 6

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$5 (age 10 and under)

****NO tickets will be sold at the door. Call the office to reserve or purchase tickets 734-665-6149.**

- Food Line:** 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- Live Music:** Stevie D and the Wannabes
- Picnic Dinner:** German Sausage or Hot Dog, German Potato Salad, Spatzen, Sauerkraut, Chips, Pies, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade
- Cash Bar:** Wine, Beer, German Pretzels

*Proceeds to benefit a local nonprofit
and our church facilities.*

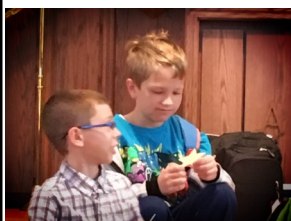
For lots more events, see Lily’s pages - page 5 and 10

Spiritual Growth and Development - September Highlights

Faith Formation Sunday



The 2017 school year is underway! Here at Bethlehem, we marked the new school year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. We commissioned our 2017 Sunday school teachers (SHINING STARS!!). We also celebrated the start of the school year with Bethlehem's students (of all ages) with a Blessing of the Backpacks. We hope your glow in the dark

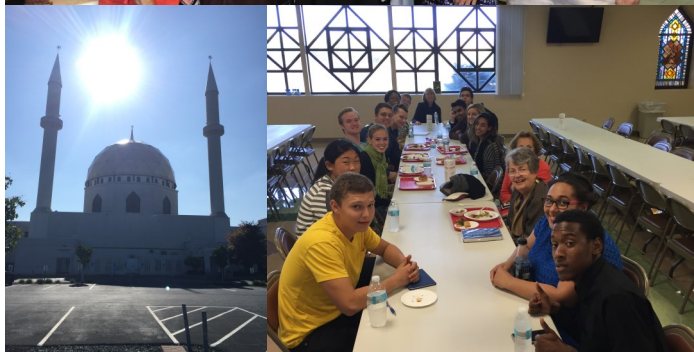


stars are reminding you of your shining light and of the love you can find here at Bethlehem. Finally, we lifted up thanks for the backpacks and school supplies

Bethlehem members donated for area children in need. Thanks to the Education Ministry Team for leading this effort, and thanks to all of you who brought generous donations. What a powerful way of showing Bethlehem's love to our community!

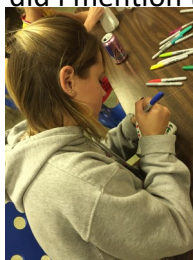
Visit to Islamic Center of Greater Toledo

On Sunday, September 24, Linda, Matt, and Lily drove to Toledo to join Jamie Dylenski's college class at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. It was a wonderful learning opportunity. We attended a prayer service, had a delicious lunch, toured the beautiful mosque, and attended a lecture and discussion with Dr. Fatima Al-Hayani, a friend and colleague of Jamie. We are grateful for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we received from Dr. Al-Hayani, and all at the Islamic Center. Thanks to Jamie for opening up this opportunity to Bethlehem members!



Youth Group

Here are pictures from our fall kickoff party (9/7) and from Maker Night (9/27)! October's youth group theme is **Climate Change: What's Faith Got to Do with It?!** We'll attend a talk by climate activist Bill McKibben and have discussions about Christians and other people of faith who are taking action to address climate change. And did I mention the Halloween Lock-In on Friday, October 27?!



Spiritual Growth and Development - Highlights & Looking Forward

Cake Auction and Brunch



Though later in the year this year, the Bethlehem community came together on September 17 to make this year's cake auction and brunch a huge success! We raised over \$2,000! Thank you! This will allow us to make donations to the organizations we worked with in Flint, and support future mission trips. Thanks to all who contributed to the preparations for the day, the brunch preparers, the cake (and baked good) bakers, the cake buyers, and to all who attended this wonderful Bethlehem event! Thanks again to Katie Rowan, Vicki Hoxie, Jesse Wilcox, Larissa Jaskiewicz, Jamie Rabb, John Schenk, Lily Tinker Fortel, and Pastor John Kennedy for going on the mission trip in August and organizing the Cake Auction!



Thank you to the 2017 Cake Auction Bakers and Brunch Makers!!

- Carol Aldrich
- Jan Eadie
- Harriette Ehnis
- Cheryl Grant
- Dindy Haab
- Vicki Hoxie (TWO cakes!)
- Larisa Jaskiewicz
- Carole Katz
- Julia Kennedy
- Angelika Lewis
- Wanda Modica
- Sue Muir
- Shannon O'Reilly
- Myrna Pancost
- Jamie Raab
- Pat O'Reilly
- Katie and Jim Rowan
- Chloe Schmerberg
- Jane Schmerberg
- Judi and Ken Tappe
- Lily Tinker Fortel
- Kathy Warner

Looking Forward — Spiritual Growth and Development events in October

October 1-7

- *Sunday 10/1 - First Sunday Worship - Children/Youth Sing with choir (rehearse at 9:15 a.m.)
- *Thursday, 10/5 - 11:30 - Bethlehem Prayer Circle - Lounge
- *Thursday, 10/5 - **5:00 p.m.** Youth Group to Bill McKibben Lecture

October 8-14

- *Sunday, 10/8 - 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. - ICPJ Skate Against Hate - Ann Arbor Skate Park
- *Wednesday, 10/11 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Practices Class - Lounge
- *Thursday, 10/12 - 10:00 a.m. - Mary Martha Bible Study
- *Thursday, 10/12 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Youth Group

October 15-21

- *Sunday, 10/15 - CROP Walk - 1:00 p.m. - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- *Tuesday, 10/17 - 10:00 a.m. - Auxiliary Mother's Study - CWS kits
- *Wednesday, 10/18 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Practices Class - Lounge
- *Thursday, 10/19 - 11:30 - Bethlehem Prayer Circle - Lounge
- *Thursday, 10/19 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Youth Group

October 22-31

- *Sunday, 10/22 - Blessing of the Pets - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - 5th Ave. Yard
- *Wednesday, 10/25 - 6:00 - 7:00 - Casual Worship
- *Thursday, 10/26 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Youth Group
- *Friday, 10/27 - Youth Group Halloween Lock-In

October 29-31

- *Sunday, 10/29 - not-so-Haunted House (after church)

(see event section for more details)

By Kurt Schmerberg

The Welcome Ministry Team has been busy this month. We hosted a welcome-back student pizza party in the rear yard on September 13. How could the outcome be anything but tremendous when the weather was wonderful and the food was delicious? We enjoyed hosting fun games and meeting many of our student neighbors.

Our Welcome Covenant is now on permanent display on the front of our building. We invite all church members to take a moment and view this lovely plaque that commemorates our commitment to God and ourselves. It is near the south narthex. The cost of the plaque has been partly funded from the Welcome Ministry special project fund. We are seeking additional donations from the congregation to help defray the cost of the plaque. Anyone interested in making a donation should contact me or someone from the ONA standing committee. Many thanks to Paul and Barb Marshall for coordinating the plaque order and to Jim Stadel for the installation.

We have also purchased a banner depicting

the Welcome Covenant that will be hung in the sanctuary along with other smaller signs that will be placed around the building. We are working with the Worship Ministry Team to formally commission these items once all have been installed.

A new awning over the Fifth Avenue entrance and a new front panel with identification lettering has been ordered for the Fourth Avenue awning. Both should be in place by the end of October. Please thank Gary Kade for his hard work in getting these items coordinated.

The Welcome Ministry Team is a very busy group and could use additional members. If you are interested in joining us in this ministry, please contact me. There is always more work to do!



BETHLEHEM GOLF OUTING 2017



The 2017 Bethlehem Fellowship Golf Outing was another success with 40 golfers (plus 4 non-golfers) participating. **Winner:** The winner once again, was the team of: John Schneider, Ray Doads and Jim and Mary Lutz. **Closest to the pin** was Gary Dresselhouse and **closest to the rope** was Sallie Stadel and Gary.



Special prizes: Rookie of the year trophy went to Lily Tinker Fortel. The Green Jacket was awarded to Jim Stadel and the special Pray Shawl was presented to Sue Buday from Harriette Ehnis. Several prizes were awarded from our drawings, including dinner certificates.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations: Knights steakhouse, Metzger's restaurant, Holidays restaurant (2), Uptown Coney Island and Classic Cup Cafe. John and Jane Schnieder for gift cards to Panara Bread, Several Other items were donated from members of the Tuesday Golf groups. **A special Thank You** to Chuck and Patty Judson for donating and putting together the 40 gift bags for each golfer. Also to Mike Johnson, Brookside Golf, for donating golf certificates and making sure the course was ready. Thank you Jane Ziesemer and Patti Maki for taking photos.

It is always a pleasure to take part in this fun event. *Tom Ziesemer*



2017 CROP WALK

Sunday, October 15th at 2:00 pm

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) hosts the local CROP Hunger Walk on behalf of Church World Service and once again Bethlehem Church is proud to be participating and supporting this important local and global need.

CROP stands for **Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.**

Local congregations, organizations, school and community groups, individuals and families are welcome to participate in walking 1 mile or 5 mile walk to raise funds to make an impact on local and global hunger.

The location is Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor
1:00 pm registration, 2:00 pm walk, with a community meal following the walk

Please join our awesome team **The Bethlehem Fjords**
 contact **Lily Tinker-Fortel** lily@bethlehem-ucc.org

To donate please go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/BethlehemFjords>
 or
 write a check to **CWS/CROP (Church World Service)** and give to Lily.

Bethlehem Church Ongoing Outreach Opportunities

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



FOOD GATHERERS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

October 1 & November 5 (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.)

Oct 24 (fourth Tuesday of each month, 2:30–4:45 p.m.)

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

October 1, 6:30 (dinner) & 6:45 (after-dinner kids' activities)

Make dinner and help with activities for families who are using Alpha House for temporary shelter, food, and support services.



Every Knee Should Bow
 Rev. John Kennedy
 (Continued from page 1)

Taking a knee with the coach is a way to call time out before the game begins. It is a time when the coach helps us focus on the bigger picture, not just winning a game, but being a good “sportsman”. It is about character and core values that go beyond, parochial traditions. We’re talking about values that are not limited to or owned by any nation, state, or city.

What values do we hold sacred as people of God, that go beyond race, creed, nationality?
 There are good people of God in every nation. There are Christians in almost every nation. What comes first, our identity as people of God or nation? What do we do when a country fails to live into its sacred values as “One Nation UNDER God”? Do we abandon it and “throw the baby out with the bath-water”? Do we stand to celebrate the good? Do we sometimes “take a knee” as well and say, let’s talk about what’s going on and what’s about to happen. When we and our children go out onto the “field of life” what are the most important core values that we want to model and live? Does it put God’s values first? Does it represent the highest value that our country is said to hold dear. I don’t know what other think....but I know that when I risked my life, I didn’t do it for a city or a state, I did for people and for values? If we take a knee to refocus, perhaps then we can all stand to celebrate? If we stand **only** for a nation we will fail, but if we stand for the values no matter where we are we can never fail. I don’t have the answer but perhaps if we take a knee in prayer perhaps the answers will come from the One who has the answers, and makes a way out of no way.

A Just World for All
 United in Christ’s Love!

Pastor John

*A celebration took place on
 September 24 for our wonderful
 church organist Gail Jennings,
 to celebrate 25 years of dedicated service
 and gorgeous music at Bethlehem.*



A Thank-You from Food Gatherers

from, Sebastian Wreford

Manager of Food Donor Relations, Food Gatherers

The beautiful produce from your Faith and Food and Plant a Row Community Gardens provided healthy snacks for kids in our Summer Food Service Program, was converted into easy-to-cook portions by our Produce Conversion Projects, and was distributed through more than a hundred other hunger relief programs in Washtenaw County. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness in growing the best kinds of food for those who need it most.



Remember the Solar Eclipse in August?

Well, our awesome Prayer Shawl Ministry knitting group was not about to miss it. After coming into the office to watch NASA’s photos of the full eclipse in Oregon, Carol, Donna, and the knitters headed to the parking lot with 2 large poster boards. Laying them under a tree, we were able to glimpse a lot of partial eclipse “crescents” as the eclipsing sun shone through the leaves. As the wind blew, our crescents danced.



We decided the only thing that could have made this eclipse event more fun would be if we were snacking of “Crescent Rolls” and “Moon Pies”

Living Nativity by Tom Ziesemer

Get ready, Bethlehem, to usher in Advent this year with a Living Nativity on Friday, December 1! There will be live animals, Wise Men, the baby Jesus, shepherds, and more. We will be looking for volunteers to sing, narrate, act out parts, and help in other ways. Please plan to join in the fun and excitement as we reenact Christ’s birth!



October Spiritual Growth and Development Events

Fun for Kids and The Young-at-Heart

Sunday, 10/8 - 2:00-6:00 p.m. **Skate Against Hate** at the Ann Arbor Skate Park. Let's celebrate the good things—diversity, community, fun!

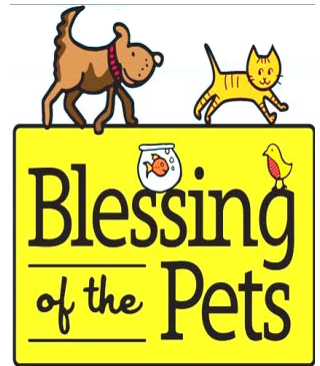
Sunday, 10/15 - 1:00 p.m. - **CROP Walk!!** Join the Bethlehem Fjords team for Crop walk!

Sunday, October 29 - After Church - The not-so-**Haunted House!** Come to the "Haunted" House created by the Youth Group!

Blessing of the Pets!

Sunday, 10/22 - 2 - 4 p.m.

Come one, come all! Bring your furry friends, your feathery friends, your scaly friends, and your beloved pets!! We'll have a little service celebrating and blessing our pet companions.



Evening Events



Spiritual Practices Class - Wednesdays 10/11 and 10/18 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Evening Worship Wednesday, 10/26 - 6:00-7:00 p.m. Chapel. This will be a simple, casual, and organic worship. All are welcome!

During the Day



Prayer Shawl Ministry - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Mondays - Lounge

Prayer Circle in the Lounge.

Thursdays 10/5 & 10/19 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Mary Martha Bible Study - Thursday 10/12 - 10:00 a.m.

Mother's Auxiliary Study - CWS Kits assembly, Oct 17 and 18

Community Outings

Join BUCC Members as we learn from and with members of our broader community!

***Special Event* Climate Activist and Expert Bill McKibben** Thurs. 10/5. Hill Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. The youth group is attending and may have extra tickets. Please contact Lily if you'd like to attend.

Skate Against Hate - A celebration of the things we love, and a fundraiser for area organizations. Hosted by ICPJ and the Ann Arbor Skate Park - 2:00-6:00 p.m.

CROP Walk - Sunday 10/15 - see flyer elsewhere in Visitor.



In addition to these events, The Outreach Ministry Team has monthly opportunities for community engagement through service!

UTH Group -

October Theme: Climate Change: What's Faith Got to Do With It?!

Thursdays

Thursday, October 5 - ***Special Event* Climate Activist and Expert Bill McKibben** is speaking at Hill Auditorium and we have tickets!!! We will meet at Bethlehem at 4:15 and walk to Hill (or you can meet us at 4:45 there). The event is scheduled to end at 6:30 - we'll be back at Bethlehem by 7:00. Please let Lily know if you will attend.

Thursdays 10/12, 10/19, 10/26 - Youth Group at Bethlehem 6:30-8:30

Other Events!

Sunday, October 8 - **Skate Against Hate** - A celebration sponsored by ICPJ and the Ann Arbor Skate Park. Runs from 2-6 p.m. www.skateagainsthate.org

Sunday, October 15 - CROP Walk - 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 22 - Blessing of the Pets - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friday, October 27 - **Youth Group Halloween**

Lock-In!! 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. at Bethlehem.



Lessons in Spirituality from a Golf Pro Rookie of the Year

By Lily Tinker Fortel

Anything can become a spiritual practice once you are willing to approach it that way—once you let it bring you to your knees and show you what is real, including who you really are, who other people are, and how near God can be when you have lost your way.
~Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*

I had a blast participating in the Bethlehem Golf Scramble on September 10! My first golf lesson was in the 5th Ave. Yard with Tom Zieseimer in late August. Patti laughed as I reviewed the names of the different clubs...irons (what are they called?!) in the church office and practiced my putting with a golf-sized wiffle ball in the hallway. My second lesson was at the driving range with Mike Haab and Tom. A friend got me a copy of some golf magazine and I read driving tips one morning over breakfast. And on the Saturday before the golf outing, I spent an afternoon at the driving range. So, let's just say I was basically a pro by the time the Scramble rolled around! ;) Well, not exactly. But like I said, I had a blast! Being brand new to the experience reminded me of the importance of fun and fundamentals. I think there are some connections to spirituality here, so without further ado, here are some takeaways from your very own 2017 Bethlehem UCC Fellowship Golf Outing Rookie of the Year.



Have a Sense of Adventure (and a sense of humor!)

Spirituality is living process! I believe life is full of spiritual experiences just waiting to be embraced! If it weren't for a sense of adventure and a sense of humor, I might never have tried golf. I might have been too worried about failing. Having new experiences, and seeing familiar experiences with fresh eyes can be such a gift! I'm grateful my teammates had a sense of adventure (and a sense of humor!) - they might not have drafted me in the first round otherwise!

Rookie Tip: Try something new today! Have Fun!



When all else fails, get Back to the Basics - Focus on the Fundamentals

Sometimes, when I'm feeling stuck spiritually or otherwise, it can be very helpful to focus on the most basic aspects of living - drinking enough water, eating well, breathing deep, journaling, singing, saying thank you for the many things for which I am grateful. Being a beginner in anything requires focus on the basics - your stance, your grip on the club, breathing, focus, the height of your swing, keeping your eye on the ball, just relax into the swing. Guess what?! Pros focus on the fundamentals, too!

Rookie Tip: Don't underestimate the importance of day-to-day, minute-to-minute spiritual practices.



Find a Good Team and Good Coaches

This won't come as a surprise, because we've all come together around a common "Coach" (aka Jesus) here at Bethlehem - and we've found a team in the community of Bethlehem. I'm reminded of how important it is to find leaders and teammates you can trust and lean on. People who will lend you their set of clubs, or their favorite golf glove, or awesome glow-in-the-dark-neon golf balls! Find leaders, teammates, and community who will give you solid advice. Find teammates who will cheer you on when you do something well, tell you "that's alright," when you hit the ball into the woods, say "nice practice swing" when you're tee'd up (and keep missing the ball despite your very best efforts), and make you a Rookie of the Year trophy when you're the only rookie around! And be that teammate for others.

Rookie Tip: Who are your teammates in life? Find a way to tell them thank you!



Don't Leave Yourself Behind

Before the scramble, I told myself it would be un-cool to search for other people's golf balls when I lost mine in the woods, or to hunt for full tees at the green. But it's not un-cool; I know this because the coolest teammates around did just that at the Scramble. We're unique, wonderful human beings with great ideas, silly quirks, and unique and powerful passions, talents, and gifts! Whatever you do when you start something new, don't leave yourself behind!

Rookie Tip: Celebrate yourself today!! You are wonderfully made (Psalm 139: 14).

Education Ministry Team

Youth Mission Project

Each year our youth have a mission project where we partner with the church and our community and the world. Our 2016–17 project was with Washtenaw Refugee Welcome. We are still getting thank-you notes from WRW. Rita Toderan sent along pictures of some of the children who received bikes from us.

Rita has asked if our members could donate hats and scarves again this year like we did last year at Advent. The people loved our hand-knit hats and scarves. She said the women especially appreciated long scarves. She said shawls would also be appreciated. So, knitters, please take note and start knitting before we put up our Mitten Tree at Advent. She said the needs are great as these families try to lift themselves out of poverty.

For 2017–18, we have chosen projects to help marginalized and homeless youth. Our youth suggested the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit. We will also partner with Ann Arbor’s Ozone House, which has many of the same services. We will continue to work with Alpha House. We donated the school supplies we collected on Rally Day to refugees and to Alpha House. Thank you!

We will be working on ways to contribute to the Ruth Ellis Center and Ozone House. Please let us know if you have ideas about ways that we can help and contribute. Here is some information about these organizations that we can share with the congregation and try to raise awareness.

From the Ozone website:

*Ozone House helps youth lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. **We are the only agency in Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and the surrounding areas) that provides free, confidential, and voluntary shelter and support services to homeless youth including runaways and high-risk youth ages 10-20 and their families.***

From the Ruth Ellis website:

The Ruth Ellis Center (REC), incorporated in 1999, is a youth social services agency with a mission “to provide short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless, and at-risk lesbian, gay, bi-attractational, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.”

As LGBTQ youth continue to be disproportionately affected by homelessness, the Ruth Ellis Center remains dedicated to ensuring that these vulnerable youth and young adults receive the services and inherent protections available to all citizens. While the Center emphasizes serving LGBTQ youth who are often ostracized, shamed, and denied services by other agencies, no youth, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, is turned away or denied services.

The Ruth Ellis Center currently operates four core services: (1) our residential housing program—Ruth’s House; (2) Second Stories Drop-In Center, providing low-barrier access to safety-net services like food, clothing, showers, laundry, and case management; (3) Second Stories Outpatient Mental Health Services; and (4) Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). Through the application of positive youth development programming, facilitated psycho-educational peer support groups, structured mentoring programs, and the provision of core and adjunct services, either on-site or through referrals, we seek to provide life-enhancing and life-sustaining services designed to improve the health outcomes of homeless LGBTQ youth and encourage thriving behavior.

**Thank you again for all your donations.
Together we can do so much.**

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome Bike Project



"Bikes = happiness for this Dad and his two sons from Afghanistan."

Photos from Rita Toderan of Washtenaw Refugee Welcome

"The bike project continues to spread joy. I think it will end for this season in a few more days. Everyone loved their bike. Even the littlest children learned to ride.

2017-18 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Peace
Neighborhood
Center



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 2:45-4:45 pm Please sign up on bulletin board by Office Peace Neighborhood Center 1111 N. Maple Road Ann Arbor 48103

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:am-12:00noon It's not necessary to sign up....just come when you

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Norm & Helen Grob Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

John E Nimz Memorial

RADIO FUND

Alethea Helbig Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
September 30, 2017



***Come join the choir!!!
You may even get ice cream after practice!!***



***More golf outing
pictures.***

***Sure looks like
they had a
good time
with lots of
great
fellowship!***



November Visitor Deadline



**Deadline
to submit
articles and
photos is
October 30.**

August, 2017	Year to Date	YTD Target	2017 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$282,995	\$300,648	\$450,972
Expenses	\$342,607	\$369,025	\$553,537
Net	(\$59,612)	(\$68,377)	(\$102,565)

FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD

It has been a busy spring and summer at Bethlehem Cemetery as improvements to the infrastructure continue to be made. Since a windstorm in March, damaged trees have been removed, and the perimeter fence along Jackson Avenue has been repaired. A new wood fence has been built near the cemetery office to hide items stored outdoors. DTE has run a new electrical feed line to the building, and the shop portion of the building has been rewired and a new electrical panel installed. Currently, bids are being gathered to replace the crumbling asphalt drives. Plans are under way to plant new trees in designated areas of the cemetery in 2018. Other improvements and repairs will be considered as they arise.

Of course, all these projects cost money. Insurance covered part of the tree and fence damage repairs, with the cemetery paying the deductible amount.

But everything else has been paid for with cemetery funds. This is where we could really use some help. As 2017 draws to a close, many people are looking for additional charitable donations to make. Please be aware that the monthly envelope packet contains an envelope to designate funds for the cemetery. Your tax-deductible donation can easily be made using this envelope along with your usual church donation. Donations can also be made through the church office at any time.

***We hope you will consider
helping us keep
Bethlehem Cemetery
a beautiful place for your
loved ones' ever-after home.***

Veterans' Breakfast Group

The monthly Bethlehem veterans' breakfast was very special last month as we said goodbye to Grant Spreece, a 31-year veteran/chaplain and minister of St. Andrew UCC in Dexter. He will be relocating to a UCC church in Illinois.

We also had a great presentation from Kate Melcher and James Dempsey from Fisher House Foundation Michigan. Our veterans' group is discussing ways we can support this important mission.

Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major U.S. military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, dining room, and living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures there is never a fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veteran families an estimated \$200 million for lodging and transportation.

Ann Arbor is scheduled to have a home built in 2019. There will be a fundraising concert at Hill Auditorium on November 8. Bethlehem will be providing our sanctuary for the rehearsals.



**Stories of Service:
An Evening with Veterans at
Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, Nov. 8, 2017
7-9pm (doors open at 6:30)**

Spanning nearly a century of service from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan, Veterans share their stories onstage at Hill Auditorium, featuring live music and performances by student Veterans from UofM, EMU and WCC in an extraordinary collaboration produced by Fisher House Michigan, directed by Maija Garcia and hosted by Noah Galloway - Celebrating all veterans, their families and friends. This will be a night to remember!

Bethlehem's Star Bazaar



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

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

Beef or Turkey, Assorted Salads, Pies
\$12 Beef or Turkey-\$8 Salad only-\$5 child
Tickets on sale at Church Office beginning October 15
Call 734-665-6149 to reserve tickets-only 50 sold at door

Fundraiser for Peace Neighborhood Center, Alpha House,
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
- ★RECYCLED CHRISTMAS SCARVES
- JEWELRY
- ★CRAFTS
- ★QUILT DISPLAY



NOVEMBER
10

Bazaar Room
Donations:

- *Recycled Christmas decorations**
- *Scarves**
- *Jewelry**

Drop them off
in the Gallery!

Fall Luncheon & Bazaar

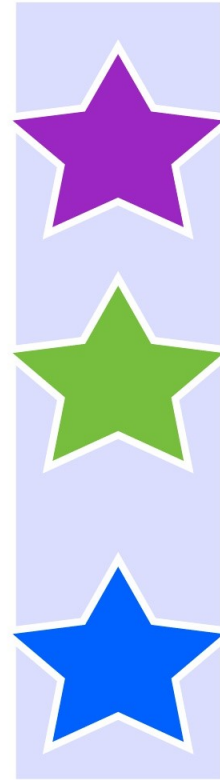
Luncheon Tickets
go on sale October 15.
Please purchase your tickets soon
and invite friends to attend!!

Pat O'Reilly's contribution of her
handmade quilt will be raffled off.

We need pies for the Luncheon,
help serving in the dining room
and kitchen, setup and take down,
baked goods for the Bake Sale
Room, and donations for the
Bazaar Room!

Sign up sheets coming soon!

Women of Bethlehem



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!!**

**Proceeds from this year event
will benefit:**
**Property Improvement at Bethlehem
Alpha House
Peace Neighborhood Center
Women's Treasury**
Please consider volunteering your time and
attending in this event! You will make a difference!



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 Church—Our Core Values

- ♦ **Growing** spiritually in our faith journey together
- ♦ **Worshipping** together to seek and share God's love
- ♦ **Connecting** with God and each other in a supportive, nurturing way
- ♦ **Reaching out** to our members, community, country, and the world through support and service

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.