

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

The Visitor

January
2018



"Rebirth & Renewal"

A Just World for All—United in Christ's Love
We Are Bethlehem UCC!

But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a path-way through the wilderness.

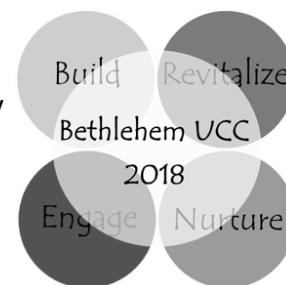
Isaiah 43:19

Dear Bethlehem Family,

Thank you, for sharing your many generous gifts and for returning your pledge to Bethlehem UCC. Thank you, for the love that inspires your gifts. God is good and so are you! The Holy Spirit is among us and God continues to renew and rebirth Bethlehem UCC.

Your commitments, time, and gifts will:

- Build Powerful Programs
- Revitalize Our Facilities to Connect with Our Community
- Engage in Service and Advocacy in Our Community
- Nurture Our National and International Outreach in Solidarity with the United Church of Christ.



Thank you, again, for sharing your resources and for returning your pledge. If you have not yet returned your pledge, know that God and Bethlehem will welcome it with open arms.

God's blessings for 2018!

God loves you with no-takebacks!

Pastor John

Submission Deadline

Articles and photos need to be submitted by
Monday, January 29
in order to be published in the
February Visitor.



IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor John Kennedy	Page 1	Youth Group	Page 11
LGBTQ guest speaker	Page 2	Music	Page 11
Stephen Ministry	Page 2	Parish Records & Thanks	Page 12
Upcoming events	Page 3	Memorials & Financials	Page 12
Advent Evening	Page 3	Fellowship	Page 13
Lily Tinker Fortel	Page 4-5	Cemetery Board	Page 13
Education Ministry	Page 6-7	Bazaar	Page 14
December Highlights	Page 8-9	Wreaths	Page 14
Spiritual Growth	Page 10	Outreach	Page 15
Worship Ministry	Page 10	Who We Are	Page 16

UNITED
in Christ's love,
a **JUST** world for all.



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www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2



STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10a

Congratulations and
THANK YOU to Vicki Hoxie,
Eileen Koprowski, Jane
Nicholson Schmerberg

and Liechen Escott. Together with trainers Kurt Schmerberg, Lily Tinker Fortel, and Pastor John, these individuals comprise Bethlehem's first Stephen Ministry training cohort!

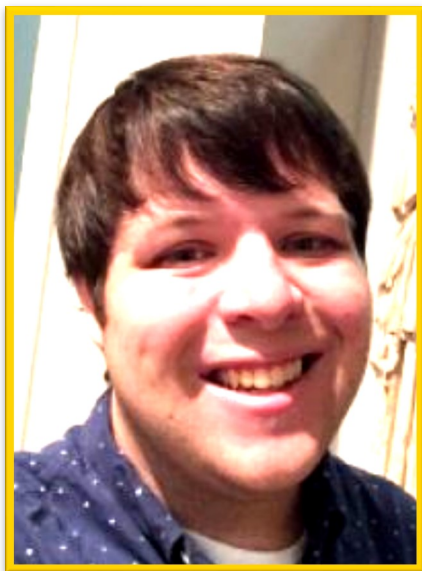
We are looking forward to a great training program over the next two months! Our first training session was Tuesday, January 9. We'll meet most Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings now through mid-March.

Your prayers are deeply appreciated as we endeavor on this exciting journey!
Check-in and ask us how it's going! We'll grow as individuals
and we'll shape this powerful new ministry
of lay-led Christian care at Bethlehem.



TO HAVE LIFE ABUNDANT: ACCOMPLISHING LGBTQ INCLUSION IN THE CHURCH

**February 11 at 11:30
Fellowship Hall**



The ONA Standing Committee is hosting our
U-M grad-student friend Ben Hollenbach
for a lively discussion after the
10 o'clock worship on February 11.

Ben will present a range of topics on
LGBTQ inclusion at church
and in the wider community.

A light lunch will be provided.
We'd love to have you join us!

Upcoming Events:



January 21 Farewell reception for Arianne
 January 21 Walk and Talk Youth Outing
 January 21 Fresh Produce collection
 January 23 Peace Neighborhood volunteer day
 January 23 Stephen Ministry Training
 (also 1/27, 2/6, 2/10, 2/17, 2/20, 2/27, 3/3, 3/6, 3/10, 3/13)
 January 26 All Church All Ages Fun Night
 January 27 Red Cross Blood Drive
 January 28 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
 January 29 New Testament class (Mon. thru 2/26)

February 1
 February 2-4
 February 2
 February 4
 February 4
 February 4
 February 10
 February 11
 February 13
 February 13
 February 14
 February 15
 February 18
 February 18
 February 18
 February 21
 February 23
 February 23
 February 27

Bethlehem Prayer Circle
 Youth to Winterfest
 Veterans' monthly breakfast
 Installation of new officers
 Food Gatherers volunteer day
 Alpha House volunteer day
 Holy Rollers pretzel sales
 ONA Special Guest speaker
 Hops and Hallelujahs
 Mary Martha Bible study
 Ash Wednesday services, 12 & 7
 Bethlehem Prayer Circle
 Fresh Produce collection
 Walk & Talk youth outing
 Groundcover benefit concert
 Auxiliary Mothers' study
 Parking Lot Pretzels sales
 All Church All Ages Fun Night
 Peace Neighborhood day

Women's Advent Evening

The evening was another huge success and enjoyed by over 90 wonderful women. I first want to thank the following for hosting a table: Jamie Dylenski, Lily Tinker-Fortel, Karen Goforth, Carole Katz, Karen Kennedy, Michele Loukoutka, Kris Lovelace, Sue Muir, Nancy Nicholson, MJ Raab, Jane Schmerberg, Sallie Stadel, Linda Young and myself. The tables once again were over the top beautiful. Along with the lights made possible by Kris and Scott Lovelace and Pam Widmayer, it was a magical evening. Thank you to all those who provided appetizers and desserts. I know no one went away hungry. A special thank you to Sue Muir for providing the fliers for church, the programs, food tents, name tags and Host Lists. She is a real professional. To the wonderful men who helped - Jim Goforth, Paul Marshall, Jim Stadel, Greg Gothem and my husband Tom Ziesemer, a huge thank you! We ended the evening with the help of Gail Jennings on piano and PJ Lindemann sharing her lovely voice as they led us in Christmas carols and a special solo, Oh Holy Night. A perfect ending for a great evening.



Appreciating Water as Spiritual Practice

Lily Tinker Fortel

Happy New Year, Bethlehem! As I've thought about intentions (aka the "R-word"...resolutions) for the New Year, I've been reminded of one of my core beliefs about spirituality: I believe that even the most basic or seemingly mundane of our daily activities can be incorporated as part of our spiritual practices. I strive to understand my life in an inter-connected, holistic way. My physical health is connected to my emotional health is connected to my spiritual health.

One of my intentions this year is to drink more water! In 2016, "Water is Life" became the rallying cry of individuals protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. This spiritual man-

tra offered by the American Indian Nations leading the struggle was a blessing for me. It reminded me of the foundational importance of water in my individual existence and of the need to protect our water for the sake of our collective well-being. This summer, as I joined Bethlehem's Flint Habitat trip, I was reminded again that "Water is Life."

Water is Life. Therefore, it is no surprise that water is a central component of so many religious traditions, including Christianity. We could spend many hours exploring water's significance in Christianity and in life processes. In this article, though, I want to offer a simple prayer/meditation that could transform the simple act of drinking a glass of water each morning to be part of our daily spiritual practice.

Merriam-Webster SINCE 1828 MENU

⚡ SEE WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

Definition of HOLISTIC

- 1 : of or relating to **holism**
- 2 : relating to or concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the **analysis** of, treatment of, or dissection into parts
 - *holistic* medicine attempts to treat both the mind and the body
 - *holistic* ecology views humans and the environment as a single system

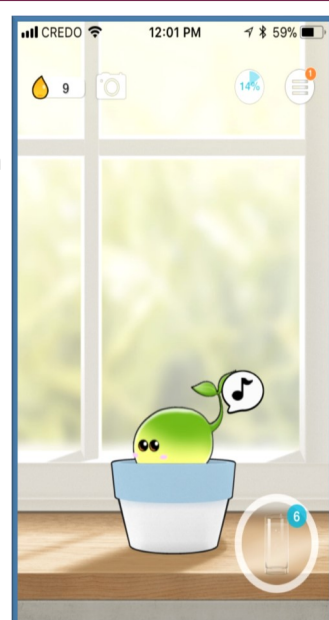
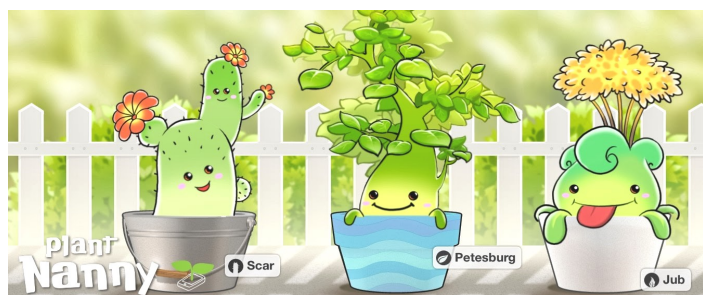


There's a BUCC Youth Group approved app for that !

This article was inspired by discussions in Youth Group. Though this is not an official endorsement, there's an app for encouraging and tracking daily water consumption that the youth group enjoys! **It's called Plant Nanny**

Plant Nanny - Water Reminder with Cute Plants by Fourdesire

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/plant-nanny-water-reminder-with-cute-plants/id590216134?mt=8>



A Prayer for Water

In the morning, as you prepare to fill a glass of water,
notice your breath - the Spirit - moving in and through you.

When you turn on the faucet:

- Notice the water filling your cup.
- What do you see? Bubbles, clear water?
- Today, your cup is full! In the words of Psalm 23:5: Your cup runneth over!

Before you drink the water:

- Imagine where the water has been -
 - In clouds and rivers and streams. Think about the wonders of the Earth, and the many ways in which it is all connected by water.
 - Give thanks for the water, and the ways in which we are connected.
- Think about the way the water got into your home, into your cup.
 - Through pipes and filters.
 - Give thanks for the people who made the pipes and filters; for the metals from the Earth, which made them possible. Give thanks for the public infrastructure and city employees who maintain the pipes, and the policies and standards that ensure the water is safe for our consumption.



As you drink the water:

- Imagine how the water - which has traveled atmosphere, Earth, and community - will travel through your body. Into your mouth, down your esophagus, to your stomach, and beyond.
 - Give thanks for the ways in which it will refresh and cleanse you. For the ways in which the oxygen from the water sustains, nourishes, and replenishes your cells. The building blocks of life.

As you finish your water, say a prayer of thanksgiving, name your gratitudes, set your positive intentions for the day. Today, my cup is full! My cup runneth over! Psalm 23:5

Then, immediately, drink your coffee ;)

*I imagine this will take a few minutes at most. Modify it to work for you!

Can you Find It?!

Can you identify where this image of water is located in Bethlehem?

If so, cut out this box and to be entered
in a drawing for a water bottle!

Location: _____

Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

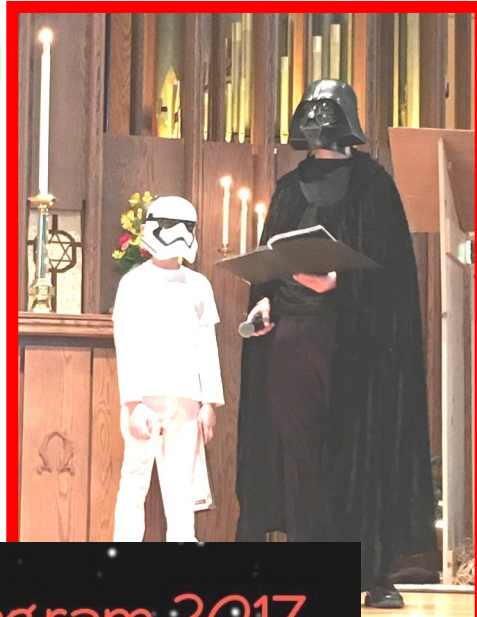
Also - see reverse side for a crossword puzzle!



NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

What a wonderful generous congregation we have. During the Advent Season we had so much giving of time, talent, money, gift cards, clothing that we shared with our congregation and our community.



The Visitor

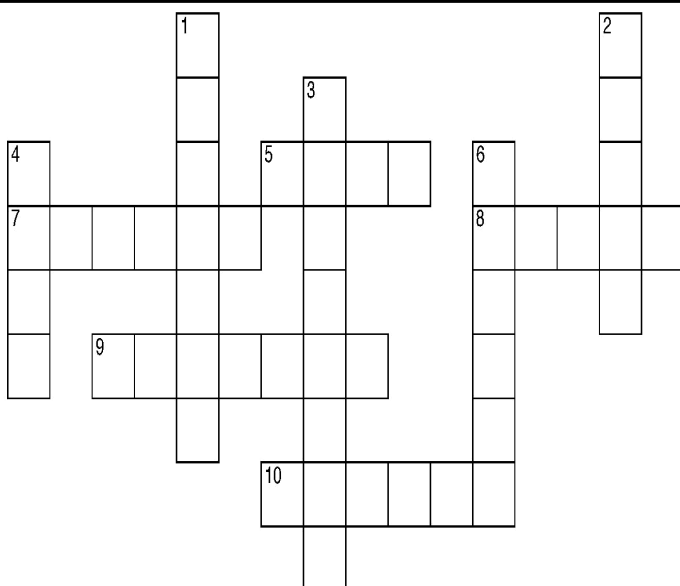
Our **Advent Program** on December 10 was awesome! Thank-you to Sarah Herwick and CJ Slotten (our directors) Lily Tinker Fortel (our producer) and the

Education Ministry Team for the behind the scenes work. Thank-you to the many youth and parents who gave of their time to put on an inspiring program. Who knew that Star Wars and the Christmas story could be blended together for a fun, inspirational story? It was a heart-warming production.

(Continued on page 7)

BUCC Youth Advent Program 2017 presents

STAR TRIP Our FAITH AWAKENS!



ACROSS

www.puzzle-maker.com/crossword_FreePuzzle.cgi

- 5 ____ The Baptist Baptized Jesus in the Wilderness. (Mark 1: 9-11)
- 7 Water helps deliver ____ all over the body.
- 8 Up to 60% of the human adult body is made up of _____. (water.usgs.gov)
- 9 "those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be ____" John 4:14
- 10 "As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's ____ shall flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:38

DOWN

- 1 "And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so." ____ 1:9
- 2 "You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the ____ of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it." (Psalm 65:9)
- 3 "God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered ____ God called the Seas. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:10
- 4 Babies and kids have ____ water (as a percentage) than adults. (water.usgs.gov)
- 6 "Wherever the river goes, every living creature that ____ will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there" Ezekiel 47:9

(Continued from page 6)

The **Advent Workshop and Potluck** was well-attended and a lot of fun. Thank-you to Nancy Pieske and her team of helpers for all of the crafts. Thank-you to Jan Eadie and helpers for pulling together a festive potluck enjoyed by many. The money we collected from the free-will offering went to the youth mission project, **The Ruth Ellis Center**.



The **Mitten Tree** was a huge success. We had well over 200 items including hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, and shawls and more than a third were hand-made! Thank-you to all of you for putting so much love into these hand-knitted items. We gave many of our hand-knitted items to **Washtenaw Refugee Welcome** since they told us how much appreciated them from last year. We

gave the remaining items to **Peace Neighborhood Center** to add to their holiday gifts.

In addition, we collected gift cards, cash and a big box of toys for **Peace Neighborhood Center**. With our green-envelope-giving, we collected \$635 worth of gift cards and \$825 cash that Peace could share with the children and families that need it the most. No doubt we helped to spread some Christmas cheer. Thank-you to Eileen Koprowski and Sue Muir for getting our donations there.

The Ruth Ellis Center youth mission project donations were over-the-top! We were able to give numerous sweat-shirts, pants, and other items of clothing and dozens of socks and underwear. Thank-you to Edgar Vasquez for dropping the numerous boxes and bags to the center. We had more than \$500 to donate to the center. These donations will go to some of the neediest youth. The center was very grateful and we are grateful to all of you who stepped up and donated. Stay tuned for our Lenten project for the Ruth Ellis Center. It will be posted in the February Visitor.

From Jane Nicholson Schmerberg, Chairperson, Educational Ministry Team



The Baptism
of
Logan
Wilk Krell

Son of
Christian
Wilk
&
Thomas
Krell



Spiritual Growth and Development - December Highlights

Lily Tinker Fortel

Gratitude

At our November evening worship, we explored the theme of gratitude as a spiritual practice. We began a Bethlehem art project - writing things for which we are grateful on a canvass. In December, the youth group continued the creation. Now, you are invited to join in! On Sundays in January and February, a table with the our community gratitude art project will be in the back of the sanctuary - Let's fill the canvass! Please stop by and add some of things for which you're grateful!



Family Fun Night (November 30)

We had lots of fun with pizza, crafting, VeggieTales movies, and popcorn at the Family Fun Night. All Bethlehem members are invited to our next family fun night on Friday, January 26 from 6:00-8:30 - this is a great opportunity for **intergenerational community building and fun!** Please join us!!



Decorating for Christmas

Thanks to people of all generations who helped decorate Bethlehem for the Advent Season! This year, some of Bethlehem's youngest members helped with the decorations (and played fun games with Lily) in a tradition we hope will continue in the years to come!



Christmas Program

A special thanks to all who made this year's Star Wars-themed Christmas program a success. See EMT article for more info! Thanks to our fantastic actors, thanks to the chorus members, to our directors CJ Slotten and Sarah Herwick, to the EMT members, and to all Bethlehem members who attended the program! What fun!



Living Advent Wreath

Bethlehem's children brought much joy to the congregation and had lots of fun building a living advent wreath on Sundays during advent! Thanks to the church members who consulted with costume design and helped with logistics, and to the children who breathed life into this wonderful Advent ritual!



Lily Tinker Fortel

Youth Group at Women's Advent Celebration

Thanks to the Women's Advent committee for welcoming women of the youth group and their mother's to this year's celebration! Jane Schmerberg, Karen Kennedy, and Lily Tinker Fortel hosted 6 members of the youth group and their moms. Thanks to Brian Gotham for helping behind the scenes!

*Youth Group Helps**with Bethlehem's Christmas decorating*

We joined up with other members of Bethlehem to deliver boxes of Christmas decorations to various locations in the church! Thanks to Fellowship for the delicious pizza!

*Youth Group Service Project*

Each year, the youth group supplies Bethlehem's office with bags of food and supplies for people in need. This year's bags included hearty protein snacks, applesauce, tasty treats, drinks, and optional hand warmers. The project included some heavy lifting, a fun assembly line, good discussion, and lots of smiles as we worked on this meaningful service project!

Youth group Christmas Lock-In

The Christmas Lock-In was a blast! It included an ugly Christmas sweater competition, cards and games, scavenger hunt Christmas cookie making, Christmas crafts, hot chocolate with peppermint marshmallows (thanks to the Bowers family for this treat!), movie watching and an early morning wake up!

*Christmas Party at Lily's*

On December 22, we had our Youth Group Christmas party at Lily's house. The festivities included a white elephant gift exchange, cheese and chocolate fondue (including cheese-in-chocolate fondue!), delicious veggie burgers and salads, and lots of laughs! Thanks to all who attended!

Spiritual Growth and Development - Looking Forward

Lily Tinker Fortel

NEW TESTAMENT CLASS WITH JAMIE DYLENSKI

Monday's from 7:00-8:30 in January and February

A huge thank you to Jamie Dylenski for offering this class! We had an informative first class, which explored the history of Jerusalem's significance in Christianity and in Judaism and Islam. All are welcome!

GRATITUDE ART

All are invited to contribute to our gratitude art project!

On Sundays in January and February, you'll find a table with the our community gratitude art project will be in the back of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall. On weekdays, this canvass will be in Schmale Lounge. Let's fill the canvass! Please stop by and add some of things for which you're grateful!



NEW TESTAMENT CLASS



Jamie Dylenski will be teaching a New Testament class in January and February. **Plan now to be a part of this class Monday evenings in the lounge from 7:00–8:30 p.m. January 8 through February 26.**

PRAYER CIRCLES

On the first and third Thursday of each month, Bethlehem's prayer circle meets in Schmale lounge from 11:30 - 12:15. All are welcome to join us in person as we pray for individuals on our prayer list, for our communities, and for our world. If you can't join us in person, considering pausing for a few moments during your day to join us in spirit. Upcoming prayer circles: February 1 and February 15.



Worship Ministry Team – Thank you!

On behalf of the Worship Ministry Team to all those who have so graciously accepted our request to serve as lay liturgists. This past year, fourteen individuals "answered the call". The congregation has responded positively to lay participation and as a whole say "thank you". Materials for participation are always available the Friday prior to Sunday services so that one can prepare. Anyone willing to serve in this ministry are asked to speak to any member of the Worship Ministry Team.

To those of you who "lit the advent candles", thanks also. This is always a meaningful ritual in our worship services leading up to Christmas. The Worship Team also wants to acknowledge those individuals who have faithfully manned the sound board this past year. Their dedication to preparing for the service, making sure that our valued radio broadcast is carried out. This is an ongoing learning experience and challenge for these individuals based on all the various aspects of our worship services.

Thank you. Harriette Ehnis



Youth Group - Looking Forward

Lily Tinker Fortel

Youth Group Thursdays

Our theme for January is Visions! Among other things, we'll explore:

- Our hopes for 2018
- The power of dreams - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's famous "I Have a Dream Speech" and the connection between faith and historic and contemporary work for justice.
- Our dreams for our own futures as we create care packages for Bethlehem's college students.
- Our hopes for Youth Group at Bethlehem and some updates to the Youth Room in 2018.

Upcoming Youth Group Outings

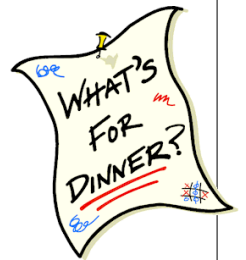
WinterFest February 2-4 - At Big Rapids UCC!

Youth Group Trip Winter Fest 2018 at United Church of Big Rapids. Join us for this awesome opportunity to hang out with people from all over Michigan! There will be activities for everyone and all interests. Live music, skiing, snowboarding, crafting, and more! We will leave Friday, Feb. 2, after school and return Sunday, Feb. 4, in the afternoon! Contact Lily to sign up: lily@bethlehem-ucc.org



Get to know your Youth Group!

Are you willing to prepare a meal and for youth group? We'd greatly appreciate your help - and would love it if you'd join us for dinner so we can get to know you! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Lily can provide more information! Thank you in advance!



Thank you to all the musicians
who brought such beautiful music
to Bethlehem during the
Advent and Christmas seasons.



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Carolyn Ferri Memorial
Norma & Conrad Foster Honorarium
Norm and Helen Grob Memorial
Martha Holliday Memorial
Fred & Lela Keppler Memorial
Vera & Harold Kleinschmidt Memorial
Elsie Lovelace Memorial
Joan Perros Memorial
Charles Schlanderer Memorial
L. Dean Steinaway Memorial
David Zahn Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Betty Diuble Memorial
Bill Fellenberger Memorial
Eldean & Lillian Hanson Memorial
Ron & Julia Kennedy Memorial
Elsie Lovelace Memorial
Hilda McLaughlin Memorial

RADIO FUND

Waldo & Norma Eisemann Memorial
Lois Haeussler Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
December 31, 2017

RADIO BROADCASTS

DECEMBER 10

Sponsored by **Evelyn & Fritz Port**

DECEMBER 31

In memory of **Art and Erna Jahnke**
and **Shorty and Mary Jahnke**.
Sponsored by **Wayne and Karen Jahnke**.

PARISH RECORDS

Deaths

January 7, 2018

Brad Gabriel

(Brad was our facility caretaker)

New Members

Dec. 17, 2017



Welcome!

**Christian Wilk
&
Thomas Krell
&
Baby Logan Wilk Krell**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all who have returned the "Pledge Card" and "Time & Talent" sheet.

As of January 11 we have received 123 Pledge Cards for a total of \$256,992.

If you have not returned your Pledge Card or your Time and Talent sheet, please do so as soon as you are able. Call the office if you need additional forms. Thank you for all you do to support Bethlehem Church!

*Thank
You*

To our wonderful Bethlehem family, Jim and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, the blessings and the prayers during my illness. We could feel the love all the way to Texas. Love and Blessings. Jim and Karen Goforth.

**To the Bethlehem Fellowship
Ministry Team and individual donors**

On behalf of the entire family here at Fisher House Michigan, we want to thank you for your donation.

Kathy Hay and the Fisher House Michigan Team



December, 2017	Year to Date	YTD Target	2017 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$426,951	\$450,972	\$450,972
Expenses	\$515,478	\$553,537	\$553,537
Net	(\$88,527)	(\$102,565)	(\$102,565)

CEMETERY BOARD

Sallie Stadel

Happy New Year! The Board would like to acknowledge the anonymous gift of \$20,000 made late in 2017. These funds will help us continue to make improvements at the cemetery.

Rates at the cemetery are being increased beginning January 1, 2018. This increase is necessary to help cover rising costs associated with burials. A price list can be obtained from the Church office.

In the coming year plans are being made to plant trees in the new block of the cemetery and to replace trees lost to old age and damage from last year's windstorm. As always, anyone wishing to give a gift of a tree in memory of a loved one is encouraged to contact the church office or a member of the cemetery Board. We have a list of trees deemed appropriate for a cemetery. The Board and the cemetery sexton, Brad Bouchie, will help the donor decide a suitable place to plant it.

New signs will be installed at the cemetery including information on the Find-a-grave application. This will help enable people to locate the graves of their loved ones. The Cemetery web sight will be updated in the coming weeks as well.

We look forward to another busy year. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact any of the Cemetery Board members.

Jim Goforth
Susan Irwin
Jim Lutz
Marilyn Pearson
Sallie Stadel
Jerry Sutfin



Fellowship Thank You

Fellowship Chair, Jane Ziesemer

A BIG Thank You to the following who helped take down all our beautiful Christmas decorations Saturday, January 6, and a special thank you to Kris Lovelace for adorning our altar area with a beautiful winter wonderland. Bethlehem sure has lots of wonderful volunteers for which I am very grateful.

- Pam Widmayer and Fred Castenholz
- Jan and Joe Eadie
- Sallie and Jim Stadel
- Jessie Wilcox
- Kris and Scott Lovelace
- Julie Feldkamp
- Sheila, Brian Adrienne and Jacob Paton
- Kathy Warner and Dave Gilmore
- John Irwin
- Michele and Bob Loukoutka
- Tom Ziesemer



STAR BAZAAR – FINANCIAL NEWS

Women of Bethlehem would like to share the good news about how the money was distributed from the BAZAAR that took place in November. After tallying all the income and expenses we made a profit of \$3,174.66.

We gave 50% to Bethlehem for the Property Improvement Fund	\$1,587.33
We gave 15% to Peace Neighborhood Center	\$ 476.20
We gave 15% to Alpha House	\$ 476.20
20% we kept for Women of Bethlehem operations	\$ 634.93

70% of the money raised will be used here at Bethlehem. **THANK YOU** for all your support of our annual BAZAAR and LUNCHEON. It was a great event and, in case you missed, the lunch was OUTSTANDING. Dindy Haab, Women's Fellowship Treasurer

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

At our last veterans breakfast Dave Gilmore shared his experience with placing wreaths on graves at Arlington Cemetery. In our December Visitor article it explained how this annual event began. Wreaths were donated to make sure every veteran had a wreath to honor their service and sacrifice. As a result of that article several Bethlehem members and friends made donations.

On December 16, 2017, 65 semi trucks drove from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery, stopping at schools, monuments and various communities along the way to Respect, Honor and Teach. 244,700 wreaths were laid at Arlington by more than 75,000 volunteers – largest crowd to ever participate. It took 7 weeks to make the wreaths. They were placed in under 2 hours. Over 500 trucks volunteer to go to 1,422 participating locations around the country. Volunteers in all states placed 1,565,000 wreaths this year. Wreaths are not placed to 'decorate' the markers



but to respect and honor, not the death, but the life of the veteran. Eligibility for in-ground and Columbarium burial at Arlington National Cemetery may be found on Arlington's website: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. January 20, 2018 is clean-up day which is also done by volunteers. Everything in this program is done by either donation and/or volunteers. There are no government funds used for anything. December 15, 2018 is the date for next year's

event. A donation of \$15.00/wreath may be made on their website www.wreathscrossamerica.org. Remembrance Tree Program – another way to remember a veteran with a living memorial – a Free Program. Give the information about a loved one and they create a dog tag. Pick out an evergreen in their forest, the dog tag is placed at the trunk of the tree. Tips of the tree are harvested every three years and used to make the wreaths each December.

Thanks Dave

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



FOOD GATHERERS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

February 4 & March 4 (first Sunday of each month)

Please sign up in the office hallway for 12–2:30 cooking shift.

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (111 N. Maple Rd.)

January 23 & February 27 (4th Tuesday of month, 2:30–4:45 p.m.)

Fresh Produce distribution, Fridays from 9–12.



ALPHA HOUSE February 4 - 6:30 (dinner) & 7:00 (activities)

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

FOOD GATHERERS FOOD BARREL, ongoing

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



2018 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES WITH 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 can! This also takes place at Peace Neighborhood Center. **Questions? Contact Sue Muir at suemuir@comcast.net or 734-761-9795**



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.