

The Visitor

February 2018

Bethlehem
United Church of Christ

Pastor John Kennedy will be having back surgery on February 8. Subsequently he will be out of the office for approximately 4 weeks. Pastor John and his family would appreciate your prayers throughout his recovery. During his absence he has made the following arrangements so that members and friends of Bethlehem are supported:

Guest Preachers:

February 11 - Lily Tinker Fortel, Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development at Bethlehem UCC

February 18 - Rev. Dr. Campbell Lovett, Michigan Conference UCC Minister

February 25 - Lily Tinker Fortel, Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development at Bethlehem UCC

March 4 - Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund - UCC Minister, Teacher, Administrator, and Church Historian.

Hospitalizations

Lily Tinker Fortel will be doing hospital visits. Please contact the office.

Funerals

If you need to make funeral arrangements please contact the office directly.

Two ministers (Rev. Diane White and Rev. Judy Jahnke) are available to officiate funerals during this time.

As the work of the church continues to move forward, please do not hesitate to contact the office staff for assistance.

See page 3 for bios of our guest preachers.

Submission Deadline

Articles and photos need to be submitted by **Monday, February 26** in order to be published in the **March Visitor**.

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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

John 21:16b

Did You Know*...

Retired NFL Football coach Bill Arnsparger is a Stephen Minister. After spending 23 seasons as an NFL coach in Baltimore, New York, Miami, and San Diego, Arnsparger became a Stephen Minister at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla California.

Of his experience as a Stephen Minister, Arnsparger says: "I find serving as a Stephen Minister very rewarding. It's an opportunity to work with people and really help them. Each care receiver inspires me to build my faith. I always benefit from our time together."



*Information from this article comes from a 2013 Stephen Ministries article titled "Stephen Ministry Matches Super Bowl Experience."

Stephen Ministry Training at Bethlehem is on a roll!

Bethlehem's first cohort of Stephen Ministers are hard at work learning the theory and skills of Stephen Ministry, and deepening our relationships with one another. We are on track to complete the training and be commissioned by Palm Sunday!



TO HAVE LIFE ABUNDANT: ACCOMPLISHING LGBTQ INCLUSION IN THE CHURCH February 11 at 11:30 in the 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!



Many thanks to those who are filling the pulpit while Pastor John is away.

Campbell Lovett
Sunday, February 18



Campbell Lovett, a third-generation pastor, is the Conference Minister of the Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ. Before beginning his Michigan ministry in 2012, Campbell served as an Interim Minister, Pastor, Co-Pastor, and Senior Minister at both historic and new churches in New England and North Carolina. In addition to leadership positions at Association, Conference and National settings of the UCC, Campbell has served on the boards of agencies promoting food independence and community organizing.

His work with the Michigan Conference is in providing associations, churches, clergy and laity with an extensive support system, while challenging them to a deeper vision of Christian ministry; strengthening them in their efforts to be faithful in mission; and linking them to the wider church and to each other.

Campbell and his spouse, Eileen, a regional sales representative and quilter, reside in Haslett, Michigan and are the parents of two grown sons, Samuel, a university chaplain in Worcester, Massachusetts; and Nathan, a lawyer in Washington, DC.

Lily Tinker Fortel
Sunday, February 11 and 25



Lily is Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development at Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor, MI. Lily is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (Master of Divinity, 2015) and Earlham College

(Peace and Global Studies, 2006). At Union, Lily studied the intersections of religion and social transformation. Lily has worked with children and youth in volunteer programs, churches, camps, and schools in New York, Ohio, Texas, Indiana, and Missouri. From 2006-2012, Lily worked with intergenerational community-rooted non-profit organizations in Missouri to advance peace and social justice. Lily has planned direct actions, facilitated workshops, and spoken locally and nationally. Raised Methodist and Quaker, Lily delights in honoring the sacred in everyone through building paths to holistic and sustainable healing in our world.

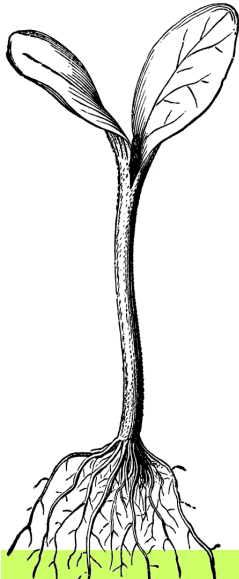
Lily has traveled nationally and internationally to advance and study secular and interfaith work for peace and justice. In 2013, Lily was awarded a Luce Foundation Fellowship to study interreligious and cross-cultural studies at Gadjah Mada University in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. Lily co-coordinated the April 2013 International Buddhist Christian Conference: A Dialogue Between Engaged Buddhists and Liberation Theologians, and co-organized Every Valley: The Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Community Economic Empowerment in April 2014. In April/May 2008, Lily was part of a 19-member civilian diplomacy delegation to Iran, organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Lily is a board member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA.

Barbara Brown Zikmund,
(often called "BBZ")
Sunday, March 4



Barbara was born in Ann Arbor and grew up in Detroit. She went to seminary and is an ordained minister in the UCC. She has taught and held teaching and administrative positions in various theological schools all over the country. As a church historian she writes extensively about the United Church of Christ and in the 1990s she was the president of Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. After retirement she taught in an American Studies program in Japan and lived in Washington, DC part of each year. In 2013, in order to be nearer family, Barbara and her husband Joe moved to into a retirement community named Silver Maples of Chelsea. Their son is on the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Barbara and Joe are active members of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Chelsea.

Lily Tinker Fortel, Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development



...Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

This month, I continue my focus on transforming the most routine of day-to-day activities into spiritual acts.

I remember the first time I saw mustard plants that had gone to seed. Months earlier, I'd planted (literally scattered) teeny mustard seeds in the corner of a garden. The seeds were old, and I wasn't sure they would take. But they did! I enjoyed the greens when the plant was young. Then, as the summer weeks went on, the plants in the garden continued to grow. The mustard plants grew tall and wide; their reach in the garden became a wonder to me! I came to a new appreciation of Jesus's mustard seed stories and analogies. Planting and spending time with that garden in the months before I moved to Manhattan to start seminary was transformative for me. I felt deeply connected with the wonder and mystery of life. I still remember how I talked about the experience with friends and family:

"The garden grew me," I'd proclaim, "Saying, 'I grew the garden' would be a misstatement."

This month, I started growing sprouts in a sprouter. The sprouter is simple - a glass jar with a wire mesh lid. Sprouting the seeds only takes five days! On Day One, I soak a couple tablespoons of seeds in the water for several hours. Then, I drain the water and put the sprouter and seeds in a dark place. Each subsequent day, I rinse the seeds. By Day Four, the sprouts are ready to be exposed to sunshine. The chlorophyll helps their little leaves turn green. Then, the delicious sprouts are ready to eat. Time-and-again, I am amazed at how those tiny seeds turn to sprouts, and *could* become full-grown plants.



On Saturday, during a Stephen Ministry training session break, I ate a delicious nectarine. When I got to the seed, I thought, "*This seed could be planted and become a tree, which would produce hundreds more nectarines.*" I marveled!

"The garden grew me"

Each week, I eat fruits and vegetables countless times. Each time could present an opportunity to experience this wonder and to express gratitude for fruits and vegetables, and the beauties of life.

A Prayer for Eating Fruits and Vegetables By Lily Tinker Fortel

Here's a brief meditation/prayer for appreciating fruits and vegetables.

I imagine this could take less than a minute. Think of each bullet point below as a breath in and out.

- Take notice of the beauty of what you are about to eat. The color, the texture.
 - Say thank you for the art of nature, which is present all around us.
- Think about the journey this plant has taken - from a seed in the soil to a plant, which produces fruit. Think about the the soil, sun, water that helped it grow.
 - Say thank you for the wonder of life, which is present everywhere.
- Think about the human hands and technology that helped nurture the plant into a food you could consume.
 - Say thank you for the human family with which we are intimately connected.
- Notice the friends and family (if any) with whom you share this moment.
 - Say thank you for the "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) who have been a part of your journey thus far.
- As you bite into the fruit or vegetable, think about about the ways in which it will nurture your body and give you energy for all you will do today.
 - Say thank you for the nourishment and comfort this fruit or vegetable is giving your body and soul.

Enjoy!

*This prayer is no doubt influenced by Thich Nhat Hanh's work. For more reading, you might check out the book *Savor: Mindful Eating, Mindful Life*, in which Thich Nhat Hanh and Lilian Cheung explore mindful eating.



**What happened?
Is it seriously almost the Lenten season?
My Christmas decorations are still up!**

Well, at least the kids and youth at Bethlehem are on schedule! Below are details for their annual "Youth Mission Lenten Project"

***** YOUTH MISSION LENTEN PROJECT – Ruth Ellis Center *****

Please bring non-perishable foods to our COLLECTION BOX in the Bethlehem Library.

We are continuing our efforts to help the Ruth Ellis Center who serves marginalized and homeless youth. During lent we are collecting non-perishable food items. The center creates "Grab-n-Go" packs of food. For some, this may be the only food that they get. All foods need to be in individualized packets that can be easily used. They especially want some foods that can serve as a meal, like easy-open mac-n-cheese, soups or cans of tuna, for example. Please help us fill our boxes.

Pretzels at Bethlehem UCC

**Pretzels are made at Bethlehem UCC
monthly from September to June**

Below is the schedule for February - June, 2018

<p><u>HOLY ROLLER PRETZELS</u> Once a month on Saturday. Pick up time is 10:30 - 12:00 To pre-order call 734-665-6149.</p> <p>Saturday, February 10, 2018 Saturday, March 17, 2018 Saturday, April 14, 2018 Saturday, May 12, 2018 Saturday, June 9, 2018</p> <p><i>Pretzels resume in the fall.</i></p>	<p><u>PARKING LOT PRETZELS</u> Once a month on Friday. Pick up time is 11:00 - 2:00 To pre-order call 734-665-6149.</p> <p>Friday, February 23, 2018 Friday, March 23, 2018 Friday, April 27, 2018 Friday, May 25, 2018</p> <p><i>Pretzels resume in the fall.</i></p>
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Welcome Aboard all newly elected Chairs of our Leadership Council, Ministry Teams, Committee, and Board.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

John Samford, President: John joined BUCC about ten years ago, transferring membership from The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - the “people of the parenthesis!” He moved to Ann Arbor from southern Illinois in 1969 to major in mathematics and earn a M.S. in Computer Science. John was first a salaried and then a free-lance computer application developer, and taught software development at Washtenaw Community College for the last eight years. He is retiring in early 2018 and sees BUCC as a place to focus retirement energy. He previously headed the Pastoral Relations and Pastoral Search Committees – and he sings in the choir, helps maintain the church web-site, and uploads a recording of the 10 am service to the internet.

Sue Wortman, Secretary: Sue has been an active member of BUCC for nearly 20 years, serving on a number of ministry teams including Christian Education, Outreach Ministry Team, and most recently on Leadership Council as a Member-at-Large. Music has always played an important role in Sue's life. She earned an Undergraduate Degree specializing in Music Education and has sung in the church and community choirs for years. Until retiring in 2016, Sue worked as a University of Michigan librarian, responsible for purchasing resources and helping researchers with information and research related to social work. Sue has been married to her loving husband Jeff for 41 years and they have 2 adult daughters, Katy Bedjeti and Jennifer Wortman. She and Jeff are looking forward to the new role of grandparents, as Katy and husband Edmond are expecting a child in March.

Shannon O'Reilly, Treasurer: Shannon was baptized and confirmed at BUCC and has been active except for those know-it-all teenage years. After college, she taught Sunday School with Tom Brewster for many years. She has played in the Handbell Choir since 1980 and been part of a small group that has been going strong for 15 years. Other leadership roles include Council, Women's Fellowship Executive Board and former head cook for the Sauerkraut Supper. Professionally, she is an accountant for Resource Recycling Systems, a consulting firm that works with companies and organizations on recycling, sustainability and waste management. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, quilting, reading and her beautiful, long-haired calico cat named Callie Jane Elizabeth O'Reilly.

Julie Feldkamp, Member At Large: Julie was confirmed at BUCC in the early 60's but drifted away for a few years. She returned when her two daughters were young and gradually became more involved. She has served as an Elder, Chair of Christian Education, and member of Church Council – and taught Sunday school, which she still does, as well as serves on the Education Ministry Team. She retired from University of Michigan six years ago. Today she volunteers in the Saline Schools and with BUCC outreach opportunities – and she enjoys spending time with her five grandchildren.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Della DiPietro, Chair: , Della joined BUCC in 2005 and has served as Congregational President and Chair of Church Growth (now Welcome Ministry). She recently completed more than 30 years as an executive and consultant with Ford Motor Company, and has served in elected office in Ann Arbor Township for 21 years. Currently she works as the Township Treasurer and as a Communication Course Leader for Landmark Worldwide, a global training and development company. She and husband Gary Kade have two daughters: Carly and husband Adam (Phoenix) and Kristy and husband Wayne (Wash. D.C.).

Welcome Aboard all newly elected Chairs of our Leadership Council, Ministry Teams, Committee, and Board.

CEMETERY BOARD

Jim Lutz, Elected Member: Jim is a lifelong resident of Ann Arbor and a third generation member at BUCC. He and wife Mary have been members since 1977. Both are retired, and they have two children: Jeff (Atlanta.) and Mike (Louisville), and three grandchildren. He helps with pretzel making, and has served as a money counter for 20+ years, along with Mary. Jim previously served on the Cemetery Board in the 1990's, and is looking forward to doing so again.

Jerry Sutfin, Elected Member: Jerry joined BUCC in 1964. He and Sandra got married at BUCC 57 years ago. They have a son, Scott; and a daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Rick Stites, and two beautiful granddaughters: Sydney Stites who is a Grand Valley State University sophomore, and Taylor Stites, who is a Skyline High School freshman. Jerry was employed at Hutzel & Co. for more than 40 years as a Journeyman Plumber and is now retired. He has served as an usher for more than 30 years and currently is an Usher Captain. He also has served on the Memorial Committee, as a Deacon, and on several prior terms on the Cemetery Board.

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Karen Samford, Elected Member: Karen re-joined BUCC about ten years ago after attending Memorial Christian Church with husband John. Her son Aaron was confirmed at BUCC and his son Noah regularly worships with his grandparents. She was born in Saline and grew up at St. Paul UCC where her 94-year-old mother maintains her membership. Karen makes phone calls and trips to Saline to help her mother continue to live independently. She worked at University of Michigan mostly for 40+ years mostly doing financial work. This month she is completing a term as Leadership Council Secretary, and she continues to serve as a member of the Education Ministry Team and a church office volunteer.

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Jenny Foster, Chair: Jenny and husband, Dan, have been BUCC members for 20+ years. They have 3 children: David (23), Erin (20) and Andrew (18). She grew up in Sleepy Hollow, NY, and attended the First Reformed Church, where her Dad served as Minister and her Mom as Organist/Choir Director. She graduated from Hope College in Holland where she met Dan. For the past 10 years she has worked as the Event Planner at Lake Forest Golf Club in Ann Arbor. She enjoys gardening, reading, traveling, golfing and biking. Jenny has served BUCC as a 5th grade Sunday school teacher, coffee hour helper, and member of the Pastoral Search and Pastoral Relations Committees.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Katie Rowan, Chair: Katie has been a BUCC member since 1987. She has participated in several Habitat trips and currently is a member of the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and Bethlehem String Quartet. She also enjoys outreach volunteer opportunities. She recently retired from Ann Arbor Public Schools where she taught orchestra and instrumental music for 30 years. She and husband Jim have two children, Mike and Tina.

Spiritual Growth and Development - January Highlights

Lily Tinker Fortel

Prayer Circles

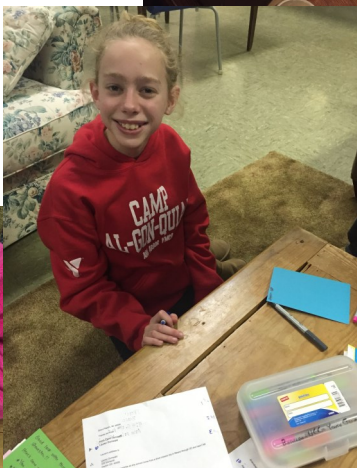
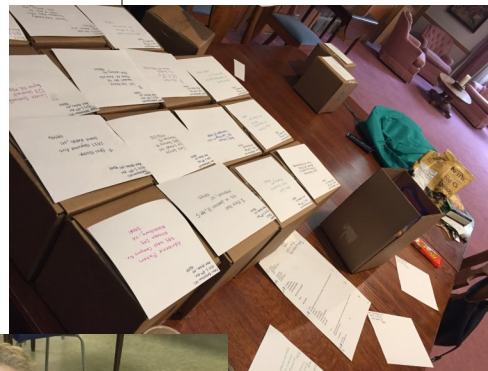


Thanks to all who joined our Prayer Circles in January. We will continue to meet at 11:30 on the first and third Thursdays, in the Schmale Lounge.

Youth Group

The Youth Group's focus for January was Visions and Dreams! We talked about New Year's resolutions and our dreams for our own lives in the coming year. We listened to, and discussed, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful *I Have a Dream Speech*. We talked about our dreams for the world, and connected those dreams with Jesus's vision for "Heaven on Earth." We discussed the ways in which Bethlehem is already building toward those dreams. We also talked about the role of the youth group in bringing about those visions.

Finally, we made care packages for college students and talked about how to make the most out of day-to-day life. In all, we sent 18 care packages to Bethlehem's college students, and to Peace Neighborhood Student's college students. Thanks to parents and family members who submitted names of Bethlehem's college students for this important service project.



Praying with our Feet

Bethlehem members had a wonderful time at the Women's March in Ann Arbor on Saturday, January 20! Thanks to all who came out for a fun, and meaningful afternoon!



Family Fun Night

Thanks to all who came out for January's Family Fun Night! We had delicious pizza, an intense rice cracker race (see photo), made balloon animals, and had popcorn while we watched Moana!

All Bethlehem members are invited to February's Fourth Friday Family Fun Festivities -

Friday, February 23 from 6:00-8:30 p.m.



Spiritual Growth and Development - Looking Forward

Lily Tinker Fortel



Prayer Circle

Thursdays 2/16, 3/1, 3/15
from 11:30-12:15.

Help with Youth Group Meals!

Do you love to cook? Do you love Bethlehem's Youth? This is a great opportunity to help us out! Call the office at 734-665-6149 or email Lily directly at lily@bethlehem-ucc.org. You can also sign up directly on Sign Up Genius by typing in: signupgenius.com/go/5080f44a5ae23a4ff2-spring



New Testament Class

With Jamie Dylenski

Jamie Dylenski's New Testament Class Continues on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30! Thanks to Jamie for offering this course!

Hops & Hallelujahs Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 13
6:00–8:30 p.m. (music begins at 6:30)



Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor

Come join us for singing, celebration, and community as we take worship downtown.

Youth Group

Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:30 at Bethlehem.
Join us and bring a friend!

- Feb. 1 Game Night!
- Feb. 8 Pop Culture Night
- Feb. 15 Discussion Night
- Feb. 22 Maker night with Sarah!
- March 1 TBD



Ash Wednesday

February 14

At Bethlehem UCC
&

First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor



6–8 AM Imposition of Ashes (walk-in), in the chapel, led by Lily Tinker Fortel

12 PM Worship Service and Imposition of Ashes, in the chapel, led by Lily Tinker Fortel

EVENING ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE—We have been invited to join in the Ecumenical Service at First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw Ave.:

5 PM Family Worship, 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian.

6 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner at First Presbyterian in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$8 per person if you sign up and pay by Monday, February 12, by 10:00 p.m. If you pay at the door, the cost is \$10 per person. Register online or call 734-662-4466.

7:30 PM Ecumenical Taizé Worship Service at First Presbyterian. Includes scripture, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France. Childcare will be available.

Additional Youth Group Activities in February

Friday, Feb. 2

Ellie's Basketball Game!
Leave BUCC at 5:30



Saturday Feb. 3

Camille and Chloe dance showcase!
Leave BUCC at 4:30



Tuesday Feb. 13

Hops and Hallelujahs 6:00 p.m.
(we'll cover youth group dinner!)



Friday, February 23

Fourth Friday Fun Night at BUCC
6:00 p.m.



Arianne's Farewell Reception - January 21



This is Our Song (Arianne-dia)

This is our Song for you dear Arianne
Some loving words before we say adieu
We've shared so much, from comma, through to coda
From a new hubby to a baby too.
But you must go to share your gifts with others
And now we have these parting words for you



Before you came, we sang like Michiganders;
Our As were flat, we had a nasal twang.
Our vowels were wrong, we lengthened ev'ry diphthong;
"I", "ay", "ow", "arrrrr" were syllables we sang.
You showed us how to turn our "that" to "that";
You've been our friend, "Best Wishes" from the gang.

So now we say goodbye to our dear friend
Know that we love you every day God brings
And while it's hard to move to different places
You're in our hearts with every song we sing
May you go forth, enveloped with our love
To live, and grow, and do amazing things



Lyrics by: Sarah and Angie

Welcome to our new Interim Director of Music

With the departure of Arianne Abela, our Director of Music until January 21, 2018, we are pleased to announce that Thomas Burton has accepted the position of Interim Director of Music. During this interim period, a group will be formed to begin the search process for a permanent Director of Music.

Welcome Thomas!
We are glad to have you here
sharing your gifts with Bethlehem UCC.

Raised in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Thomas Burton grew up with choral music as his bread and butter. A recent graduate of McGill University's Orchestral Training Program, Thomas has performed as a trombonist with such groups as the McGill Symphony Orchestra, and l'Orchestre Symphonique de l'Agora. He has enjoyed singing as a tenor with some of Canada's finest ensembles, including the acclaimed group Voces Boreales and the National Youth Choir of Canada.

While at McGill Thomas acted as Musical Director and Chorusmaster of the McGill Savoy Society, conducting the society's full cast and orchestra in several light opera productions. He served as musical director of the pop group Soulstice A Cappella from 2015-2017, and has been guest conductor of the McGill Wind Symphony and the McGill Schulich Singers.



Recently, Thomas appeared as Conducting Fellow of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra and as Assistant Conductor of the Nova Scotia Adult Choir Camp. He currently works as Musical Director of the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society; America's oldest collegiate G&S company. A recipient of the Iwan Edwards Prize in Choral Conducting and the Kenneth Elloway Award for Classical Performance, Thomas is pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Jerry Blackstone.

We hope you can find time on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m. to attend this wonderful Benefit Concert.

Go to:
geminichildrensmusic.com
 for a 5 minute sample video of their music.

You will fall in love!

This concert supports Groundcover News. Groundcover News is a street newspaper organization that exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people, while taking action to end homelessness and poverty. Bethlehem is the home of the Groundcover office.

GROUNDCOVER Benefit Concert

Sunday, Feb. 18 - 2pm @ Trinity Church
 1400 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor

Advance tickets and premium seating
 available online now at:
groundcovernews.org/gemini



Advance tickets:
 \$20 Premium Seating
 \$12 General Admission

At the door:
 \$10 Cash Only

Support Groundcover News while enjoying children's music and folk songs - a great Valentine's Day gift!

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Joseph & Laura O'Reilly Memorial
Jackie Opperman Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
January 31, 2018



ELECTRONIC GIVING

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH

Thank you for pledging your support to
Bethlehem UCC for 2018.

You can now make your contributions online
(one-time, weekly, or monthly), or you can
sign up to have your donations automatically deducted from
your bank or credit card. Go to Bethlehem-ucc.org and click on
DONATIONS to access the Online Giving option or the Direct
Payment Authorization form.

**SIGN UP
TODAY**

Please remember that a lot of folks
count on the weekly Radio Broadcast
of our 10 o'clock Worship Service
on WAAM Radio 1600.

This program is funded by weekly radio
sponsorships, memorials, and special
donations. Have you sponsored a Radio
Broadcast lately? Are you looking for a
way to honor or remember a friend or
family member?

1. Pick a date you want to sponsor.
2. Sign up on the bulletin board in the office hallway, or call the office
at 734-665-6149.
3. You can even donate online at bethlehem-ucc.org.
4. Let the office know how you want your sponsorship listed in the bulletin
and read on-air.

A weekly Radio Sponsorship is \$230.

In addition, general donations of
any amount are appreciated.

Thank you for supporting
this important ministry!





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. The Tree of Life is located in the lobby of the 4th Avenue canopy entrance of Bethlehem.

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 in the church office; at the 4th Avenue Welcome Center; or by emailing info@bethlehem-ucc.org

AUXILIARY/MOTHERS' STUDY

Wednesday, February 21, 1 p.m., gallery

Our program will be an inspirational documentary entitled "I'll Push You" about a man who pushes his best friend in a wheelchair across the 500-mile Camino de Santiago trail in Spain.



Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast

March 2, 8:30 a.m.
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Rd.



FRESH PRODUCE COLLECTION

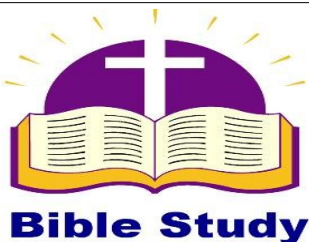
February 18

(every third Sunday until spring)

Please bring your donations of fresh produce and place them on the altar.



150 pounds were collected in January. Great job, Bethlehem!



MARTHA BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, February 13
(2nd Tuesday of each month)
10:00 a.m. in the library

CEMETERY BOARD

The Cemetery Board was very active in 2017. As noted in the Annual Report, the Cemetery Board continued planning for capital improvements. During the year, two long sections of roadway were replaced and the website for the cemetery was completed as was a website called find-a-grave. A new pamphlet for the cemetery was designed and distributed to local funeral homes and nursing administrators. The pamphlet is also available at various places in the church. A new sexton, Brad Bouchie, was hired in September and has already made improvements to the grounds.



In 2018 the Board is preparing to plant trees in the new block of the cemetery and in areas where trees were lost due to damage or age. If you have suggestions for other improvements we encourage you to contact a member of the cemetery board.

At its last meeting, the Board thanked Mike Haab for his years of service as a board member and welcomed Jerry Sutfin as a new board member. Officers for the coming year are:

President	Susan Irwin
Vice President	Jim Lutz
Treasurer	Jim Goforth
Secretary	Sallie Stadel
Members at Large	Marilyn Pearson, Jerry Sutfin

Both Jim Lutz and Jerry Sutfin bring experience as prior board members. We look forward to another busy year at the cemetery.

Volunteer Opportunities with IHN Alpha House

Laura Seyfried, Outreach Ministry Team chairperson

Alpha House is one of the local outreach programs that Bethlehem volunteers at. After our February 4 "Super Bowl" Dinner, our next dinner/activities volunteer day will be in June.

Until then - there are PLENTY of other opportunities. Not interested in cooking or serving food? Childcare not your thing? IHN Alpha House has other needs you may be able to help with:

- Redecorating or remodeling? Gently used furniture is needed for families moving out of temporary housing at Alpha House and into their own rental homes.
- Do you drive a truck? Alpha House is putting together a list of volunteers with trucks who are able to assist families with moving their furnishings into their new homes.
- Do you own a home in Washtenaw County that you are thinking of converting to a rental property? The Rapid Rehousing program at Alpha House is looking to partner with more local property owners to increase the number of available rental homes for their temporary residents to move into.
- For more information about these opportunities, please contact IHN Alpha House directly at: (734) 822-0220 - 4290 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 - alphahouse-ihn.org



Our mission is to end family homelessness in Washtenaw County.

We provide temporary shelter, food, and support services in a caring atmosphere of dignity and safety. More than providing just a bed and a roof for families, our goal is to support the families in securing and maintaining their own home.

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 food preparation.

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (111 N. Maple Rd.)

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
Thomas Burton	Interim Director of Music
Gail Jennings	Organist
Jim Rowan	Director of Handbells

The ***Visitor***
is printed 12 times a year.

Our Mission

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