



The Visitor

May 2018

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

“Touchstones”

Rev. John Kennedy

This is what the Lord says:

“Stop at the crossroads and look around.

Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it.

Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls.

But you reply, ‘No, that’s not the road we want!’”

Jeremiah 6:16

The first book study I lead at Bethlehem in 2015 was “A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life—Welcoming the Soul and Weaving Community in a Wounded World” by Dr. Parker Palmer. Parker Palmer is a well-known teacher and author who was greatly influenced by Henri Nouwen and Fr. Thomas Merton. These teachers are considered Christian Contemplatives (or Mystics) who focus on the needs of the human soul (and on this earth we are all embodied souls).

We travel this world created in the image of God and with human needs that are physical, emotional, relational, sexual, and spiritual. When one area of our life is wounded and hurting it affects the other areas of our lives. When certain areas of our lives experience grace or healing, we are led to feel more whole and centered.

Without a doubt we travel in our world aware of blessings, but we are also painfully aware of a divided and wounded world. In our life journeys, no one travels in a Disney-like escape from reality. Our Biblical heroes, prophets, disciples, and Jesus himself were blessed and yet painfully tormented by loneliness and tempted by the lure of the easy way out, and there are no shortcuts or “easy ways out.”

(Continued on page 4)

JUNE Submission Deadline

Articles and photos need to be submitted by Tuesday, May 28, in order to be published in the June 3 Visitor.



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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Phone 734-665-6149 Fax 734-665-3399



www.bethlehem-ucc.org

www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

CARING CORNER

Meet the Member Care Ministry Team!

Our goal is to make sure members are cared for and involved in the life of the Bethlehem Church.

If you would like to join our team or help with any of our caring ministries, please contact us!

Jenny Foster 734-646-8441 or jen.foster@comcast.net

Jacquie Katz 734-649-8193 or jaqjay2@aol.com

Mary Jean Raab 734-395-5589 or raabmj@aol.com

Sue Buday 734-709-5840 or suelbuday@gmail.com

Gary Maki 734-481-1884 or garymaki@comcast.net

Care Cards

Know someone in the church who could use a note of encouragement? Let us know and we will send them a card to let them know they are cared for!

Care Notes

Helpful pamphlets are located in a literature rack located outside the small kitchen by the Schmale Lounge on the main floor of the church. Topics include "Facing Cancer as a Family," "Walking with God through Grief and Loss," etc. We are working on expanding the topics so there is something for everyone. Help yourself—they're FREE!

Care Meals

Do you need support with meals after an illness, injury, loss of a family member, birth of a child, etc.? Contact the church office or Jacquie Katz to request assistance with meals or to volunteer to provide a meal!

Stephen Ministry

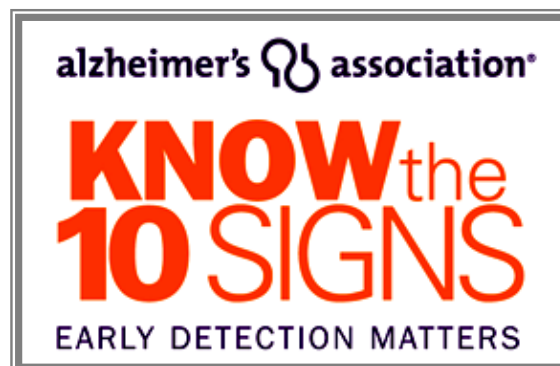
Information and updates coming in the June *Visitor*.

Member Care Education Series

Thirteen BUCC members recently attended the **Life Choices** presentation by EHM Senior Solutions. Life Choices is a membership program for individuals over 50 who want to maximize their health, guarantee their financial future against unexpected healthcare costs, and remain independent in their own homes. If you missed the meeting and are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Tracey Long 734-277-5231 or longt@ehmsolutions.org.

Save the Date!

June 18, 7:00 p.m., in the gallery. See page 10 for more info.



From Your President's Desk...

My desk says, "Hello!"
I say, "Let me update you with things I know..."

It's "old news," but the Congregational Meeting on April 15 heard Annual Report presentations and voted to authorize spending up to \$30,000 to renovate the women's restroom across from the office.

A number of folks in leadership met in mid-April with Phoenix Construction, which is preparing a proposal to renovate the Willimann Fellowship Hall. The company alerted us to the possibility that the city may require a fire suppression system (not just an alarm system but sprinklers). Phoenix will present those plans to the city on May 4 for a decision. Stay tuned!



At its last meeting, Leadership Council established a "Rental Task Force" to recommend to Council ways to continue sharpening our rental policies and procedures, revisit our rates, and set long-term rental directions. We're doing very well in this area, and this "fine tuning" can only help.

Because I write this the first day of May and the *Visitor* doesn't come out until May 6, the Leadership Retreat on Saturday, May 5, will have already happened. I can't tell you here how it went, but know that Pastor John, Lily, and I planned what we feel is a good day with the theme "Possibilities and Opportunities."

Council President,
John Samford

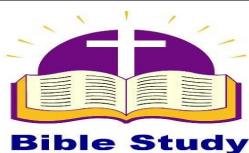
Regular Monthly Events at Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM PRAYER CIRCLE

May 17, June 7 & 21, 11:30–12:15

Join us in the lounge as we pray for our church, our community, our world.



MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, May 8
(2nd Tuesday of each month)
10:00 a.m. in the library



PRETZELS

Call 734-665-6149 to preorder.

HOLY ROLLERS: Saturday, May 11 & June 8
Pretzel rolling begins at 9 a.m., sales from 10:30–12

PARKING LOT PRETZELS: Friday, May 25
Pretzel rolling begins at 7 a.m., sales from 11–1



BETHLEHEM VETERANS' MONTHLY BREAKFAST



June 1,
8:30 a.m.,
Classic Cup
Café,
Jackson Rd.

*For Outreach events,
see page 11*



AUXILIARY/ MOTHERS' STUDY

Wednesday, May 16, 1 p.m., gallery
Potluck Birthday Celebration

*Spiritual Growth and Development
events are on pages 6-9*

(Continued from page 1)

Many of you may remember the lyrics, *“Every form of refuge has its price”* (The Eagles, *“You Can’t Hide Your Lying Eyes,”* 1974).

God created humans to need relationship—relationship with God and with others. And not just relationships, but healthy relationships. Without relationships, no single human would come into existence or survive beyond one day without caring relationships. No human is self-made or self-sustaining at all. But what helps make healthy relationships? How do we get to know our own souls and the souls of others? How do we foster communities that are nurturing, creative, joyous, and safe so we can find welcome for our souls, the souls of others, weave community, and help be healed and healers in a wounded world?

Parker Palmer has given us some helpful touchstones to remind us how to find our way back so that we can find our way forward:

Circles of Trust Touchstones

Extend and receive welcome. People learn best in hospitable spaces. In this circle, we support each other’s learning by giving and receiving hospitality.

Be present as fully as possible. Be here with your doubts, fears, and failings as well as your convictions, joys, and successes, your listening as well as your speaking.

What is offered in the circle is by invitation not demand. This is not a “share or die” event! During this retreat, do whatever your soul calls for, and know that you do it with our support. Your soul knows your needs better than we do.

Speak your truth in ways that respect other people’s truth. Our views of reality may differ, but speaking one’s truth in a circle of trust does *not* mean interpreting, correcting, or debating what others say. Speak from your center to the center of the circle, using **“I” statements**, trusting people to do their own sifting and winnowing.

No fixing, no saving, no advising, and no setting each other straight. This is one of the hardest guidelines for those of us in the helping professions. But it is one of the most vital rules if we wish to make a space that welcomes the soul, the inner teacher.

Learn to respond to others with honest, open questions instead of counsel or correction. With such questions, we help “hear each other into deeper speech.”

When the going gets rough, turn to wonder. If you feel judgmental or defensive, ask yourself, “I wonder what might have brought her to this belief?” or “What is he feeling right now?” or “What does my reaction teach me about myself?” Set aside judgment to listen to others—and to yourself—more deeply.

Attend to your own inner teacher. We learn from others, of course. But as we explore poems, stories, questions, and silence in a circle of trust, we have a special opportunity to learn from within. So pay close attention to your own reactions and responses, to your most important teacher.

Trust and learn from silence. Silence is a gift in our noisy world and a way of knowing in itself. Treat silence as a member of the group. After someone has spoken, take time to reflect without immediately filling the space with words.

Observe deep confidentiality. Trust comes from knowing that group members honor confidences and take seriously the ethics of privacy and discretion.

Know that it’s possible to leave the circle with whatever it was that you needed when you arrived. Know that the seeds planted here can keep growing in the days ahead.

Which of these touchstones are most important to you? How would you prioritize these touchstones to create Circles of Trust at Bethlehem UCC? Trust what your soul teaches you!

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

I am interested in teaching this course once again. Interested? Please let me know.

God loves us all with no takebacks!
Pastor John

DO
JUSTICELOVE
KINDNESSWALK
HUMBLY

MICAHA 6:8

2018

SERVICE TRIP

6/25- 6/28 FLINT, MI

2018 Bethlehem Habitat Service Trip for ages 12+

Interested?

Sign up on the
hallway bulletin board.

Attend/Support

Cake Auction - Sunday, May 6
(after 10:00 service)

Come to Info Meeting

Monday, May 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Questions?

Lily Tinker Fortel



Give Back Program



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Bethlehem on June 12.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which are a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

For every signup Bethlehem Church generates, we will get back a \$25 donation! To receive exclusive member pricing and count toward this special program, you must preregister by one of these methods: Call 888-814-0416 or go to www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

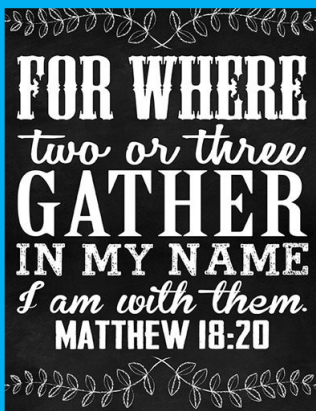
In addition, we have in the church office **4 coupons for a Complimentary Screening**. These are available for pickup during office hours, or they can be mailed to your home if requested.

Spiritual Growth & Development - April Highlights

Lily Tinker Fortel

Prayer Circle

We continued our twice monthly prayer circles on April 5, April 19, and May 3. Thanks to Dindy for leading the April 19 prayer circle! Consider coming to upcoming prayer circles on 5/17, 6/7, 6/21 at 11:30 in the lounge!



Interfaith Roundtable

Bethlehem was excited to host April's Day Forum of the Interfaith Roundtable. This rotating monthly event is a "multi-religious community" of professional, designated, and lay religious leaders who share meals and discussion on a variety of topics. Pastor John and Lily participated.



Poor People's Campaign

Mass Meeting

150+ people from Washtenaw County gathered on Sunday, April 8, for the local launch of the Poor People's Campaign! It was a great afternoon where people shared powerful stories and learned about the Poor People's Campaign. (See Lily's Visitor article and flyer on pages 8-9 for more info on the Poor People's Campaign.)



ONA Movie Night

Thanks to the ONA committee for hosting a screening of *Gender Revolution: a Journey with Katie Couric* on April 19. Thanks to all, including BUCC youth, who came to watch the documentary and contributed to a wonderful discussion following.



Jesus Seminar



on the Road

Jesus Seminar on the Road

Lily and Ben Hollenbach attended the Westar Institute "Jesus Seminar on the Road" on April 27-28. The seminar explored the life and times of Jesus. It was a great learning experience with Drs. Art Dewey and Celene Lillie. About 150 people from all over attended the weekend sessions hosted at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing.

March
for Our
Lives
March 23,
Ann Arbor



Spiritual Growth & Development - Looking Forward

Lily Tinker Fortel



Family Fun Night

Friday, May 25

6:00–8:30

All are invited to join us for May's Family Fun night! We'll share pizza dinner, have fun activities, and watch a good movie together!

Sunday, June 3 End of School Year Awesomeness!!



Join us for Sunday services honoring Bethlehem's graduates and thanking our Sunday School teachers. After church, we'll continue the party with an all-church picnic, games, and good times! ***Please contact the office if you have a graduate you wish to honor.***

♦ Weekly Youth Group

Youth group continues in May, every Thursday from 6:30–8:30!

♦ Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 3 at the 10:00 service

♦ End-of-Year Youth Group BBQ

Thursday, June 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at BUCC

♦ Habitat Trip: June 25–28. All Bethlehem members age 12+ are invited to join us for this year's Habitat Service Trip to Flint! Sign up on the bulletin board by the office or contact Lily! *See page 5 for more info.*

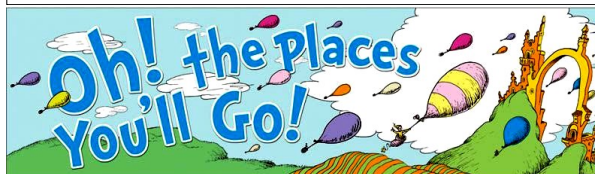
♦ Regional Youth Event

Elmhurst, Illinois, July 5–8, ***"A Just World for All—Your Voice Matters!"*** It's time to register! Please be in touch with Lily if you want to come!

♦ Interfaith Roundtable Day Forum

Topic: **Addressing Gun Violence. Tuesday, May 15**, from 12–2 p.m. The IRT has invited area students to join this discussion. Contact Lily for more information!

YOUTH



Adults

♦ Poor People's Campaign, May 15–June 4 (*see Lily's Visitor articles on pages 8–9*)

♦ Prayer Circles, Thursdays, May 17 and June 7 & 21. Join us as we lift up prayers for those on our prayer list and explore our faith.

♦ Habitat Trip: June 25–28. All Bethlehem members age 12+ are invited to join us for this year's Habitat Service Trip to Flint!! Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Lily! *See page 5 for more info.*

Looking Forward—Put It on Your Radar

Bible 101 Let's get back to basics! A four-week class with Lily in June and early July. Dates TBD. Interested? Sign up on the bulletin board in the office hallway!

Wellness Wednesdays June 13 and July 11 at 11:30 a.m.

Starting in June on the second Wednesdays, join us here at Bethlehem for an exploration on wellness and an activity for people of all ages and physical abilities, or sign up to receive the info so you can practice at home. Following our activity, we'll share a light, healthy lunch. **Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.**

UCC 101 A six-week exploration of the UCC with Lily in July and August. Dates TBD.



The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

by Lily Tinker Fortel

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:37-40

Matthew 25:31-46 is often summarized as "The Judgment of the Nations." As Pastor John preaches, this scripture is about how nations (in Jesus' case, empires) treat people. In other words, this can be read as a verse that compels societies and governments to implement programs and structures that care for the "least of these" among us.

For most of my life, I understood the words attributed to Jesus in Matthew 25 as an individual imperative. That is, I, as an individual, must treat the oppressed in society with dignity; that I must take actions in my day-to-day life to show my care for the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, the lonely, the poor, the hungry. I still believe this. I've also come to believe that the teachings of Jesus compel us to find ways to transform oppressive systems. The Poor People's Campaign is embodying the teachings of Jesus (and many other faiths) by professing in word and action that our nation can do right by the "least of these" and by inviting us all to be a part of making it so!

Led by Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) is uniting people across political parties, issues, identities, faiths, and life experiences, to revive Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, 1968 Poor People's Campaign.

"We believe," the PPC's *Covenant of Nonviolence* reads, "that a moral revival is necessary to save the heart and soul of our democracy."

The Michigan Conference of the UCC has endorsed the Poor People's Campaign. On May 14, PPC is launching 40 days of "nonviolent moral fusion direct action" in cities across the country. This month, I invite you to join me in a faith-rooted exploration of the Poor People's Campaign. Details of the three-part series are printed below. Obviously, I'm a fan, but I'd like to learn with you and explore your questions.

Regardless of whether or not you join the course, I wish you the ongoing beauty and joy of daily actions that align with the prayer we say together each Sunday: *"Thy kin-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."* As Jesus walked on this earth, he professed that another way of being in community was possible. Jesus preached that oppression and injustice can be transcended. I wish you the imagination and sense of possibility that Jesus embodied through his actions—to believe that we are *"The Body of Christ"*—that *our* actions do make a difference. I wish you the audacity to believe that the lowliest people in an oppressive empire—even an exiled baby born in a stable who became a man executed on a cross—can change the world. Our voices matter. Our actions matter. May we use them for Love.



A National Call for Moral Revival A Faith-Rooted Exploration

Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis are leading the new Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

The Poor People's Campaign is strong in Michigan. The Michigan Conference UCC has endorsed it. On Monday, May 14, the Poor People's Campaign will launch 40 days of Direct Action across the country.

Let's learn together about this "National Call for Moral Revival," inspired by the Poor People's Campaign launched by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 50 years ago in 1968. We'll explore how the teachings of the Bible inspire this campaign and some of its leaders. We'll discuss "Nonviolent Moral Fusion"—a key concept of the campaign. We'll discuss the "Third Reconstruction" put forward by campaign leaders. We'll explore how our beliefs inform our way of being in the world.

Questions? Contact Lily Tinker Fortel

Three –Part Series with Lily

Week 1

**Tues. May 15
7:00-8:30 or
Wed. May 16
1:30-3:00**

Week 2

**Tues. May 22
7:00-8:30 or
Wed. May 23
1:30-3:00**

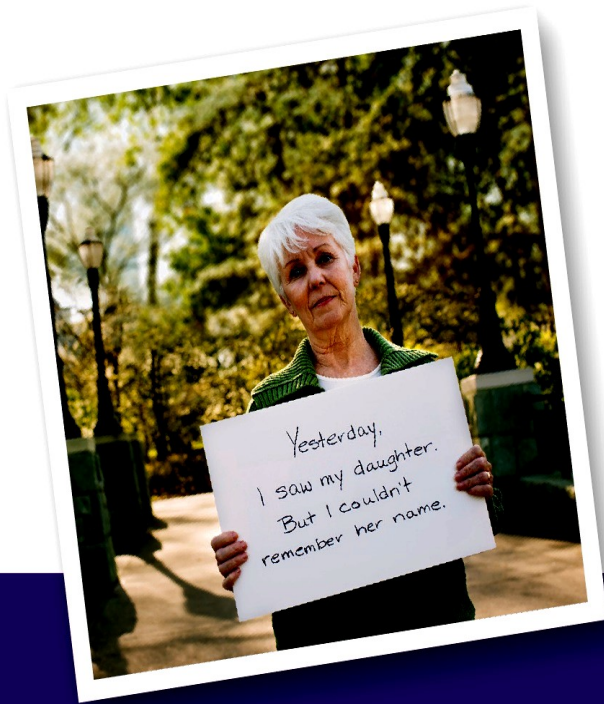
Week 3

**Tues. May 29
7:00-8:30 or
Wed. May 30
1:30-3:00**

Optional - Mon. June 4

***Attend day of Nonviolent Moral
Fusion Action in Lansing***

Know the 10 Signs Early Detection Matters



A workshop
presented by the
Alzheimer's Association®

alzheimer's  association®

KNOWthe
10 SIGNS

EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

Know the 10 signs

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's disease.

alz.org/10Signs
800.272.3900

Generously offered by: Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Date: Monday, June 18

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: 423 S. 4th Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Advanced registration is required. Please call 800-272-3900 to register.

BETHLEHEM UCC

MAY 2018

Outreach Ministry

Service is a community-wide reality at Bethlehem UCC!



Reaching Out to our members, community, country, and the world through support and service is one of Bethlehem's Core Values. Bethlehem is an active church that reaches out to the community in a spirit of love, justice, and fellowship. The Outreach Ministry Team supports the congregation in fulfilling this Christian responsibility.

JOIN US! Contact information at <https://bethlehem-ucc.org/outreach/>

1

ALPHA HOUSE/IHN

Prepare and serve dinner for families at Alpha House; stay for the fun kid's activities

2

FOOD GATHERERS

Prepare meals at the Community Kitchen; donate fresh produce and non-perishables

3

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Serve after school snacks; distribute fresh produce



Upcoming Opportunities

June 7
August 9
October 7



Upcoming Opportunities

May 6
June 3
July 1
August 5
September 2

Upcoming Opportunities



May 22 and
May 4, 11, 18, 25

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR OPPORTUNITIES AT PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Tuesday, May 22:

Two more volunteers are needed for the After-School Feeding Program from 2:45-4:45 pm at Peace. Signup is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Fridays: May 11, 18, 25; June 1, 8

Volunteers are needed to help with Food Distribution at Peace from 9:00-11:30 am (or any part of that time). No signup necessary.

Questions?

suemuir@comcast.net or 734-761-9795

**The All-Church Work Day on April 21 was a great success!
We thank the following for sharing their time and talents
to help make Bethlehem UCC a beautiful place.**

- **Fred Castenholz and Pam Widmayer** cleaned the Cinema Room and Serrv case.
- **Harriette Ehnis and Michelle Loukotka** cleaned the Schmale kitchen.
- **Jennifer Vasquez, Kathy Warner, and Brian Paton** cleaned the sanctuary woodwork.
- **Sallie Stadel** worked in the chapel.
- **Jim Stadel and Dave Gilmore** did painting and worked in the light room.
- **Mike Haab, Scott Lovelace, Kris Lovelace, Joe Eadie, and Tom Ziesemer** worked on the outside sheds, hoses, boiler steps, yard chairs and tables, lawn application, and removed recycled items.



**Mike Haab and Joe Eadie
tending to the outdoor areas.**



**Brian Paton, Jennifer Vasquez, and Kathy Warner
polishing the woodwork in the sanctuary**



**Scott Lovelace, setting up tables
for the summer**



**Jim Stadel and Dave Gilmore,
the painters**



**ON ANOTHER NOTE:
Congratulations to John Irwin,
the winner of the
2018 Tuesday Golf
2019 March Madness contest!**

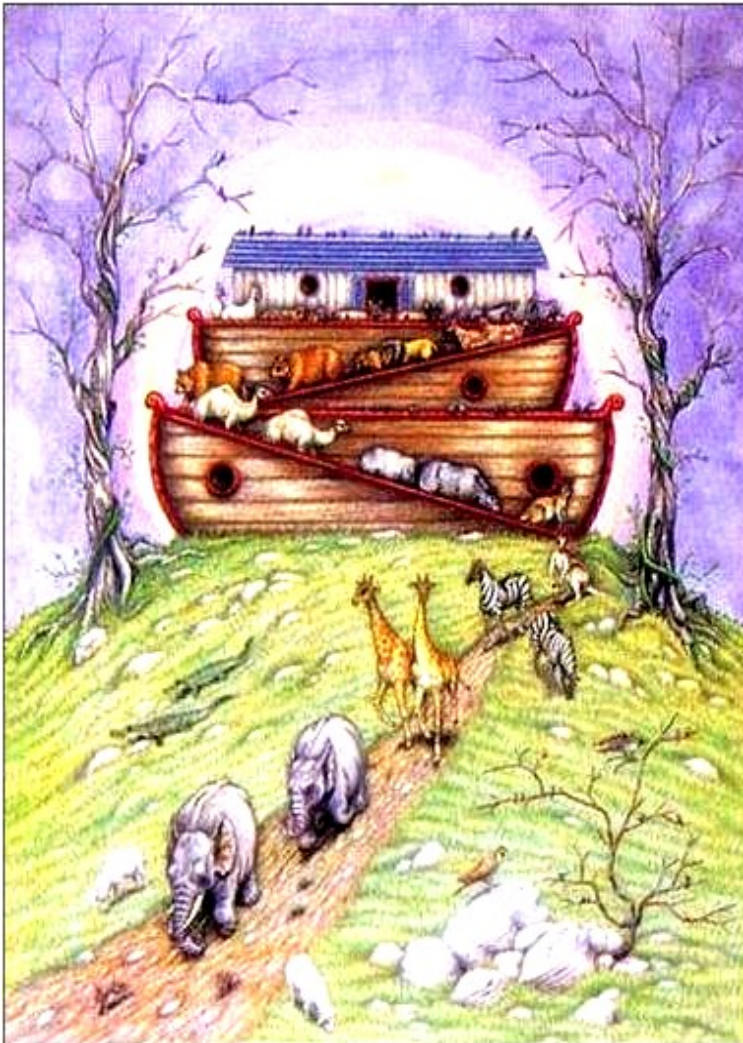
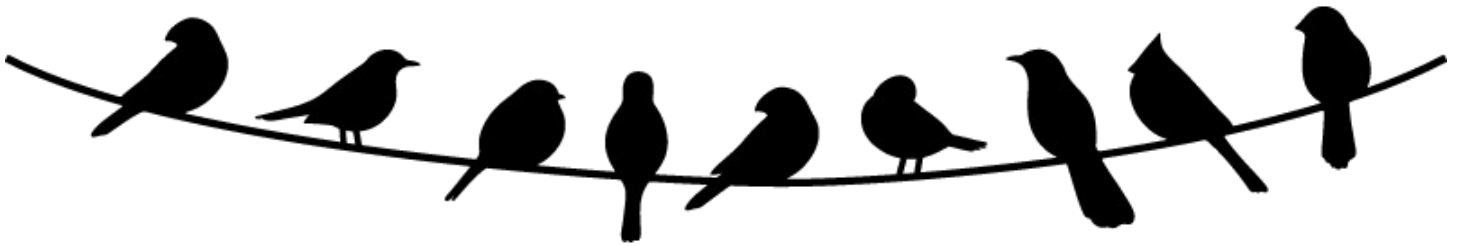
Planning Ahead for Summer!

2018 Bethlehem Church Tigers Outing, July 29

We have a block of excellent seats reserved for the Tigers game against the Cleveland Indians on Sunday, July 29. Scheduled game time is 1:10 p.m. We plan to depart from the church following the 10:00 a.m. service and return to Bethlehem right after the game.

Your \$45 ticket gets you a ride to and from Comerica Park in a luxury coach, your game ticket, lunch and beverages aboard the bus on the way to the game, other special items, and fantastic fellowship.

Contact Brian Paton to make your reservation: bapaton@hotmail.com or 734-635-9204. We have one bus with 52 available seats; your payment reserves your seat.



Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

- ONE:** Don't miss the boat.
- TWO:** Remember that we are all in the same boat!
- THREE:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- FOUR:** Stay fit. When you're 80 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- FIVE:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- SIX:** Build your future on high ground.
- SEVEN:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- EIGHT:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- NINE:** When you're stressed, float awhile.
- TEN:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- ELEVEN:** No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.



Veterans' Memorial Day Display

We are in the gathering stages for a Memorial Day display in the Schmale Lounge. We have five display cases available to share photos or items of remembrance from your years of military service. Also, if you have parents or relatives who served and you would like to share an item from their service days, you are invited to do so. All items can be brought to the church during the early part of May.

We ask that items be easily identified (clear photos) and include a short note with the name, service, location, and year on display. ***Please contact Jim Judson or Tom Ziesemer if you have questions.***

FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD

Spring is really about to begin at Bethlehem Cemetery, so Brad Bouchie has begun tidying the grounds in preparation for mowing. The board is also planning improvements to be done during the upcoming growing season such as planting trees and relandscaping the Memorial Garden, among many other things. If any church member has ideas for the Memorial Garden, please contact Marilyn Pearson within the next month.



When the Cemetery Board took over active management of the cemetery eight years ago, we found that we (the church) had neglected our duties of planning and oversight. The cemetery is an ongoing business as well as a historical part of Ann Arbor and a cherished part of Bethlehem's heritage, and we must keep that in mind for the future. We wish to thank the many church members and board members who have worked diligently during the past eight years to correct that problem. They have shown their love for the cemetery with many hours of work, including gardening and planting, relandscaping, cleaning, computer programming, road repairing roads and water lines, making improvements to the building, redoing or adding signage, creating brochures, and proposing new ideas that have helped Bethlehem Church in the revitalization of its cemetery.

The current board is continuing this important work. We urge everyone to visit the cemetery and look at our website to see how we are doing.

From Marilyn Pearson, board member and past president

RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Please remember that a lot of folks count on the weekly Radio Broadcast of our 10 o'clock worship service. 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? A weekly Radio Sponsorship is \$230. In addition, general donations of any amount are appreciated. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

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. Tell the office how you want your sponsorship listed in the bulletin and read on-air.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

CURRENT FUND

Godfrey Keppler Memorial

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Bee Bates Memorial

Norm & Helen Grob Memorial

Fritz Rentschler Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Ron & Alice Dechert Honorarium

Roy & Sue Muir Honorarium

Jane & Tom Zieseemer Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

John E. Nimz Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
April 30, 2018

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP

April 1 In memory of **Lloyd and Gerry Seyfried**
from Marty and Laura Seyfried

April 8 In memory of **Frederick and Lela**
Keppler from "the kids"

PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

Betty Marshall, mother of Paul Marshall,
passed away on April 27.



EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

***The Bethlehem 2018 Scholarship Application is available
now on our website. Deadline for filing is May 31.***

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

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



March 2018	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
Offerings & Income	\$139,319	\$111,683	\$446,732
Expenses	\$152,693	\$134,363	\$537,454
Net	(\$13,374)	(\$22,680)	(\$90,722)



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.