



The Visitor

June 2018

Bethlehem
United Church of Christ

A Building with a Mission, and a Mission with a Building

Rev. John Kennedy

On the first day of the sixth month of the second year in the reign of King Darius of Persia, GOD's Message was delivered by the prophet Haggai to the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel, and to the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak. A Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies: "The people procrastinate. They say this isn't the right time to rebuild my Temple, the Temple of GOD." Then GOD said: "Here's what I want you to do: Climb into the hills and cut some timber. Bring it down and rebuild the Temple. Do it just for me. Honor me. Haggai 1:1-9 (selected verses)

Often when we hear the name of a church, we think of the physical building. What foundational images come to mind when you hear or read

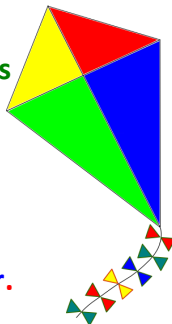
"Bethlehem United Church of Christ"? Do you think of the beautiful red/charcoal-colored granite stones? Do you see the magnificent sanctuary with its huge impressive wooden beams, the stained glass, or the chancel area with our impressive organ and the wood carved figure of Christ? Perhaps images of familiar faces or cherished memories come to mind. When we hear the name "Bethlehem United Church of Christ," are there also clear images of our identity and sense of mission?

When congregations (and denominations) are formed, they are connected around a common communal concept of what they are "all about" in their mission and sense of "calling." When God leads a group of believers to form a congregation,

(Continued on page 10)

JULY Submission Deadline

Articles and photos
need to be
submitted by
Tuesday, June 25,
in order to be
published
in the July 1 Visitor.



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

From Your President's Desk...

My desk says, "Stop piling things on me just for a minute!" I say, "Let me share some things I know..."

Phoenix Construction presented us with their final proposal, including drawings and a schedule, for work in Willimann Fellowship Hall: adding new restrooms on the south ("Serrv") side, new lighting, flooring, air conditioning both the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and more. They learned the city would **not** require an expensive fire-suppression system.

Members have or soon will receive a letter calling a Congregational Meeting to affirm the Governing Body's (the members') desire for leadership to carry on with the many details of executing this next phase in our vision of improvements already in progress. The drawings and a high-level presentation will be made at the meeting after worship on Fathers' Day, June 17.



Leadership Council held a retreat on May 5 at Journey of Faith Disciples of Christ Church here in town and had time for songs (thanks, Thomas!), discussion of our relatively new Leadership Council and ministries governance, food and fellowship (thanks, office staff!), worship, reflection and an interesting talk Pastor John made on "Triangulation," which Wikipedia defines as *"a manipulation tactic where one person will not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay communication to the second, thus forming a triangle."*

Pastor John, Lily, and I have met twice to debrief about the retreat and continue efforts to "equip the saints" whom we've called to lead us. Look for further installments, both of Leadership Retreats (the next is the last Saturday morning in September) and other Family Dynamics (the church is a family) talks by Pastor John.

\$6000 Opportunity!

You can make money for Bethlehem United Church of Christ! No stuffing envelopes at home in your spare time. No scratch-off lottery tickets. No inventory to buy at exorbitant prices. No tiresome "parties" in your home for your friends.

The topic is: **Parking:**
Football Parking - - - Art Fair Parking - - - Soccer parking



And you're not being asked to "do it all"! You're being asked to *coordinate* others' doing it all. Yes: a position in upper management can be yours, if you act quickly.

This year's operating budget has an income line, "Parking Fund Raising" with an entry of \$6000. The bulk of that income opportunity comes with the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Thursday, July 19, through Sunday, July 22, and from University of Michigan football parking, starting Saturday September 1. There's also an international soccer game at the stadium Saturday, July 28.

Historically, youth handled this part of church life and the proceeds went to their separate budget. Bethlehem now has a line item in the church's budget, "Youth & Young Adult Ministry," funded by *all* income sources, not just parking. In that unified vein, Leadership Council wants to give *all* Bethlehem members and friends permission to step up to help keep the \$6000 promise we made ourselves.

Volunteer to organize *all* parking efforts! Volunteer to organize only Art Fair Parking, or only Football Saturday Parking, or only one football Saturday parking. This is a perfect opportunity to add to Bethlehem's income without having to spend anything but your time (which, of course, is priceless).

We have a great parking resource, close to the stadium, alongside a green space, with tail-gating opportunities, restrooms, and a loyal clientele of parkers. We plan to improve our parking lot: Let's get full use out of it!

Beat the rush. Volunteer *now* to fill an organizational role. If you can't organize, be ready to cooperate with organizers when they ask you to take a shift. Contact anyone on Leadership Council for details! Thank you!

*Spiritual Growth and Development
events are on pages 12-13*

For Outreach events, see page 4

HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS FINAL ORDER UNTIL FALL

Call 734-665-6149 to preorder.

Saturday, June 8

Pretzel rolling begins at 9 a.m., sales from 10:30–12



BETHLEHEM VETERANS' MONTHLY BREAKFAST

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

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.

Sponsored by BUCC
Member Care Ministry Team

10 Early Signs and
Symptoms of Alzheimer's

A Workshop presented by the
Alzheimer's Association

Monday, June 18, 7-8 p.m.

In the Schmale Lounge

Advanced registration is
required. 800-272-3900.

alzheimer's association®

KNOW the
10 SIGNS

EARLY DETECTION MATTERS



49 Bells

Love in unison, June 12, 2018 12pm

www.49Bells.org

At noon on Tuesday, June 12

the bells at Bethlehem UCC will ring 49 times

in memory of the 49 lives lost on June 12, 2016 in Orlando Florida.

49 people lost their lives and 68 people were physically injured June 12, 2016, following the shooting at Pulse Night Club (Orlando, FL) during Pride on Latin Night. Mothers of many of the victims have asked that we (the Christian community) remember their children by ringing our church bells once for each life lost at noon (local time). They are asking our support in spreading love. Last year, 323 churches signed up for this remembrance and 1/3 of those were UCC churches, including Bethlehem UCC.



American Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethlehem

Saturday, June 30, 2018

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the

Schmale Lounge

To schedule an appointment go to
redcrossblood.org

(sponsor code is: Washtenaw Dairy)

Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

COFFEE CONNECTION CHANGES

We will have one coffee hour **between services** in the lounge from **July 1—September 2.**

This is a perfect opportunity to spend time with people attending both services!



Outreach Ministry

Service is a community-wide reality at Bethlehem UCC!

LOVE GROW SERVE



VOLUNTEER

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 sign up now
August 9
October 7



Upcoming Opportunities

June 3
June 10 Grillin'
July 1
August 5
September 2

Upcoming Opportunities



Summer Break!
Enjoy!

2018 Bethlehem Habitat Service Trip for ages 12+

There is still time to join our 2018 Service Trip to Flint. This year we will be working with Habitat for Humanity & Eastern Michigan Food Bank.

Interested? Sign up on the hallway bulletin board.

Questions? Lily Tinker Fortel



2018

SERVICE TRIP

6/25- 6/28 FLINT, MI

DO
JUSTICE

LOVE
KINDNESS

WALK
HUMBLY

MICAH 6:8

2018 Mother's Day Memorials and Honorariums for flowers and landscaping at Bethlehem Church



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS IN HONOR OF:

Nancy Gentner
Gale Blendin
Erin Katz
Jacquie Katz
Jenny Foster
Jeanne Opperman
Judy Fidh
The Mothers of my Grandchildren
Beth Wenner and Erin Katz
Tracy Faught
Jill Schwartz
Carole ("Maw-Maw") Katz
Gert Eisele
Nancy Thibault
Jennifer McCabe
Jennifer Vasquez
Pat Rounds and Carol Austin
Sheila Paton
Cheryl Grant
Karen Slotten
Marie Slotten
Sandy Kim
Carole, Jill and Julie

GIVEN BY:

Pat and Shannon
Mark, Erin and Family
Mark, Ellen, Sam, Page, Rachel and Meredith Katz
Mark, Erin and Family
Dan, David, Erin and Andrew Foster
Judy Coucouvanis
The Sulkowski Family
Marie Slotten
Jay and Jacquie Katz
Nancy Gentner
Steve, Katie and Carrie Schwartz
Jill, Steve, Katie and Carrie Schwartz
Dindy Haab
Paul and the McCabe Family
Mom
EJ, Ellie and Edgar Vasquez
EJ, Ellie, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez
Her Family
Her Family
CJ and Jenna Slotten
Cress and Karen Slotten
Karen and Cress Slotten
Larry Katz

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF:

Julia Kennedy
Lillian Hanson
Almeta Koeble
Laura O'Reilly
Joan Perros
Barbara VanderHart and Ann Foster
Jean Raab
Our Parents
Ica Schaffer, Ruth Grant and Bernice Higgins
Esther Lentz (My Godmother)
Matilda O'Reilly
Luella Weber
Betty Boman
Aletta Kulenkamp
Elida Vasquez
Bernice Kearney
Emma Mast
Polly, Kaileen and Martha
Helen Grob

GIVEN BY:

Dave Kennedy and Dick Hanson Families
Dick Hanson Family
Don and Sandi Koeble
Pat and Shannon
Matt Perros
Dan and Jenny Foster
Mary Jean and Chuck Raab
Roy and Sue Muir
Bob and Cheryl Grant
Judi Tappe
Nancy Gentner
Norm and Kathy Cole Family and Jim and Joann Weber
Nancy, Greg, Kelly and Brian Gotham
Paul and Nancy
EJ, Ellie, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez
Donna Kearney
Hilda Ward
Carole and Larry Katz
Norma and Conrad Foster

2018 Mother's Day Memorials and Honorariums for Bethlehem Cemetery Trees



MOTHER'S DAY CEMETERY TREES IN HONOR OF:

Dindy Haab
All Mothers who participate in the Holy Rollers
Theresa Hilberer and Sharon Landers
Harriett Holzapfel
Patsy Hentz

GIVEN BY:

Mike Haab
Anonymous
Harriett Holzapfel
Sharon Landers and Theresa Hilberer
Terri Hoag

MOTHER'S DAY CEMETERY TREES IN MEMORY OF:

Hazel Dittmar
Roberta Fidh
Helen Sulkowski
Elizabeth Lambarth
Martha Holliday
Eleanor Seyfried
Selma Haab
Our Parents
Geraldine Paul, Gladys Saunders
Laura May and Lillian Goforth Stallard
Marian H. Cope
Eleanora Gardner and Martha Holzapfel
Ica Schaffer, Ruth Grant and Bernice Higgins
Marie Zahn and Bernice Tappe
Card and Kay Eldridge
Mothers - Laura Edwards and Isabella Donaldson
Dorothy Irwin and Virginia Reppenhagen
Helen Grob

GIVEN BY:

The Sulkowski Family
The Sulkowski Family
The Sulkowski Family
Joe and Jan Eadie
Jay and Jacquie Katz
Dindy and Mike Haab
Mike and Dindy Haab
Roy and Sue Muir
Mary Friend
The Goforth Family
Barbara J. Cope
Harriett Holzapfel
Bob and Cheryl Grant
Ken and Judi Tappe
Patti Eldridge Maki
Kennyon and Violet Edwards
John and Susan Irwin
Norma and Conrad Foster

After 7 1/2 years of pretzel rolling, the Friday Parking Lot Pretzels group has decided to end its rolling. This was not an easy decision, as this group had always maintained a solid, steady customer base, and we know many of our customers are sad because we are no longer going to be making pretzels. However, while our customers have remained steady, we found that the number of people who were coming to roll pretzels was decreasing, and we were having trouble producing the number of pretzels that were ordered with the smaller number of rollers. Needless to say, we began feeling a bit stressed. We totally understand that our volunteers have many other commitments and family obligations, and when interest in coming to pretzel rolling began to wane, we started to realize that maybe we needed to let it go, so that is what we are doing. We had a great time at our final rolling, and we ended on a high note, with lots of rollers, lots of laughter, and amazing fellowship! And we made and totally sold out of 158 dozen pretzels!

A little history about the group: Friday Parking Lot Pretzels was started in February 2011 when Pastor Martha Brunell came to the Welcome team and suggested that we start another pretzel group designed as an outreach to the community, targeting people outside the church as potential customers. So, that is what we did. Initially, we sold the pretzels out the back door of the church. However, as word spread about our amazing pretzels, people started calling us to preorder, and production soon doubled. Our first year, in 2011, we made and sold 621 dozen pretzels (7452 pretzels) and made \$4100 for the church. The second year, our production doubled, and we saw a profit of over \$8400. Needless to say, we knew we were onto something! Our production kept increasing, and our largest ever single rolling was 222 dozen (2664 pretzels)!

Although many of our customers have been Bethlehem members, probably 2/3 of our pretzels typically went to customers who are *not* members. Many of our customers work at the U-M, the Ann Arbor library, and other places downtown. They would come on their lunch hour and often pick up 8-10 dozen to take back to their coworkers. Also, a fair number of our rollers have not been mem-

bers of Bethlehem, but friends of our rollers who are members. We welcomed everyone, and it was great fun!

Here are some stats that are pretty astounding. Since 2011, we have made a total of 9378 dozen pretzels, and that means we rolled almost 113,000 pretzels! We had a total of 65 rollings, and after this final rolling in May 2018, our overall profit was almost \$67,000, which means we averaged over \$1000 profit per rolling! This money has allowed us to do many things around Bethlehem for which no money had been allotted. These include the front and back canopies, the digital monitors, new lighting, new elevator carpeting and painting, maintenance of the kitchen in accordance with health department requirements, purchase of extra bowls and cooling racks, and replacement of kitchen items as needed.

We want to thank anyone and everyone who helped in any way with Friday Parking Lot Pretzels. As the saying goes, "it takes a village" to make things happen, and we had a great village of people who allowed us to have such huge success. We are thrilled to have seen the fun and fellowship that blossomed within the group, and we will always remember that we did make a difference to the life of Bethlehem UCC. Please remember that the Holy Rollers will continue to roll pretzels on the second Saturday of the month, so if you need your pretzel fix, please contact them. Again, our sincere thanks to EVERYONE for allowing this ministry to happen and to be so successful!

With gratitude,
Paul and Barb Marshall



FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD

The Bethlehem Cemetery Board gives a hearty thank-you to all those who dedicated their Mothers' Day flower offerings to the cemetery. The cemetery received over \$1000. We have set aside the gifts in a special fund and will use the money when we buy trees this fall. Trees and/or shrubs will be planted depending on where there is a need. Once again: THANK YOU!

We also thank American Legion Post 46 for placing flags at veterans' graves for Memorial Day. For the future, we are attempting to identify and put in our database all those whose remains are buried at the cemetery who were veterans. This will help Post 46 members in the future with their endeavors to decorate every veteran's grave with a flag on Memorial Day.

Submitted by Marilyn B. Pearson



Peace Neighborhood Center Outreach 2017-18



As the 2017-18 school year draws to a close, I want to thank all of the Bethlehem volunteers who volunteered at Peace Neighborhood Center.

The After-School Program volunteers were:

Jacquie Katz
Harriette & Mike Ehnis
Carole Katz
Pam Widmayer
Roy & Sue Muir
Julie Feldkamp
Harriett Holzapfel
Katie Rowan
Lily Tinker Fortel

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

Kathy Warner
Dave Gilmore
Robyn Warner Lachman
Diann Pytlak
Sue Muir
Katie Rowan

Thank you again to all of these volunteers! Your commitments to our outreach ministries in our community are commendable. Later in August, I will begin posting information for the 2018-19 school year opportunities at Peace Neighborhood Center

Sue Muir

COME CELEBRATE WORLD REFUGEE DAY



In honor of World Refugee Day, join us for a community potluck and get-together with fellow WRW volunteers and refugees. Help us celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of our new community members as we strive as an organization to promote inclusivity and hospitality. All you need to do is bring a dish to share.

DETAILS

WHEN: Wednesday, June 20th

6:00-8:00PM

WHERE: Holy Faith Church

6299 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.

Saline, MI 48176

RSVP: to wrwhospitality@gmail.com by Wednesday, June 13th.

SEE YOU THERE!!





Combining classrooms for the summer



CAKE
AUCTION
FUN



Staff and Office Volunteers
working side by side -
TEAM WORK!



Ministry Team Retreat - May 5th



ONA Plaque Dedication



A Building with a Mission, and a Mission with a Building (Continued from page 1)

they do so first out of a sense of:

- “Who is God?” (our description of God says more about us, than it does about God)
- “Who are we?”
- “Who is our neighbor?”
- “Who is God calling us to be in this time and in this location?”
- “What is our unique reason for being a “church”?”
- “Who is God calling us to ‘reach’?”
- “What gifts and resources do we have and which are still needed?”

The actual building of a “physical structure” and the “location” that it is built on are dependent on our communal answers to these questions. A church building/structure should serve the needs of “God’s mission” for our congregation. The same is true for significant renovations.

In the two-page story of Haggai, Haggai is instructed by God to tell the people to rebuild the temple that was destroyed during Babylonia’s conquest of Jerusalem. The people had been kidnapped and lived in exile in a foreign land for nearly 70 years. King Darius had released the Jews and allowed them to return home and rebuild their temple. But the people did not rebuild the temple; they focused on their own personal lives and rebuilding their own homes. God knew the Jewish remnant no longer functioned as a community and no longer held common values and goals that bonded them together as God’s people. Not only did the temple lie in ruins, but the people’s individual efforts were failing. God instructed Haggai to say, *“You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses”* (Haggai 1:9). God didn’t just want them to rebuild the temple; he wanted them to rebuild their identity, community, and God’s “calling” as a people.

As a United Church of Christ, Bethlehem has valuable guides and touchstones regarding identity and mission if we know where to look. In 1987, 31 years ago (over 11 years before Orval Willimann retired), UCC clergy and laity came together across our entire denomination to draft a statement of mission. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the UCC Statement of Mission, 1987, was

drafted in Houston, Texas. Representatives from all communities in the church—including evangelicals, liberals, and others—tried to find common ground. The statement was affirmed by General Synod XVI later that year. The assembled body arrived at this statement through the use of **Prayer, Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason, and more Prayer.**

UCC STATEMENT OF MISSION

As people of the United Church of Christ, affirming our Statement of Faith, we seek within the Church Universal to participate in God’s mission and to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and commit ourselves:

- To praise God, confess our sin, and joyfully accept God’s forgiveness;
- To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our suffering world;
- To embody God’s Love for all people;
- To hear and give voice to creation’s cry for justice and peace;
- To name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;
- To repent our silence and complicity with the forces of chaos and death;
- To preach and teach with the power of the living Word;
- To join oppressed and troubled people in the struggle for liberation;
- To work for justice, healing, and wholeness of life;
- To embrace the unity of Christ’s church;
- To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God.

In 2016, a **UCC purpose statement** was inspired by the Gospel of Matthew: ***To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*** A clear **UCC Vision** was cast: ***United in Christ’s love, a just world for all.*** Our **Mission Statement** was summed up in the words:

United in Spirit and inspired by God’s grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

These values embody the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. These testimonies are touchstones that guide us forward in the 21st century, as Christians and as a United Church of Christ.

(Continued on page 11)

A Building with a Mission, and a Mission with a Building (Continued from page 10)



These values are not new—they are over 2000 years old—and yet are speaking to us in a distinct and clear way. We know these values pass the test of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Bethlehem UCC now has a “plumb line” to which we can prayerfully lift and evaluate all our endeavors. How we choose to do worship, grow spiritually, create authentic community, reach out to our community, and commit to serve in the wider mission field can be tested by the 11 bullet points in our Statement of Mission. Our Mission Statement will guide all our decisions and actions and help us as individuals and as a church to grow. Our worship, preaching, spiritual growth, fellowship, member care, and building improvements will show we are “Jesus followers.”

Since at least 2003, Bethlehem UCC has explored three options:

- Should we sell our building (for perhaps \$5 million) and build again in another location?
- Should we stay in our location and do nothing to improve our aging building?
- Should we stay in our location and implement improvements?

In 2003, 2006, 2011, and 2016, the answer was and has always been the same: **“Stay at our current location as a church in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor and improve our facilities.”** Many events contributed to the delay of making these much needed and exciting improvements (and other objectives): the death of a beloved pastor and several short pastoral tenures.

Our Leadership Council and our worship have led us as a congregation to explore more deeply the many questions stated above: Who is God; who is my neighbor; and *what does it mean for Bethlehem UCC to be “United in Spirit, inspired by God’s grace, where we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all”?*

As a congregation, we approved a new governance structure in 2015, became an Open and Affirming congregation in 2016, and launched Stephen Ministries. Our Outreach Ministry Team rebooted and refocused its objectives and priorities. We hired a Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development, and we have hired a new Director of Music. Our many ministry teams—Welcome, Worship, Education, Fellowship, Member Care, Outreach, Youth and Young Adult, Finance, and Facilities—have already been accomplishing so many goals visible throughout Bethlehem UCC. The accomplishments have led to transparency, accountability, and improvements throughout our congregation and facilities. We have recently leased space to two organizations that will bring us nearly \$65,600 in yearly income. We are discovering that there is a high demand for rental space for not-for-profit organizations, and with physical improvements to our facilities, we can attract new members, launch new ministries, and receive new rental income.

We need your continued help and prayers. As we continue to update and improve our facilities, we are looking to install air conditioning in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. We hope to install new bathrooms in the fellowship hall and remodel it.

On Sunday, June 17, we will have a congregational meeting where we will be sharing exciting new possibilities and opportunities. We seek your prayers as we listen to God by listening to different voices. Let us remember what God says to the people through the Prophet Haggai, as they begin to follow God’s plans to rebuild their temple: *“Then Haggai, God’s messenger, gave the people the message from God, ‘I am with you says the Lord’ (Haggai 1:13). So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God’s people. They began to work on the house of their God.”*

God loves us all with no take-backs!

Pastor John

Spiritual Growth and Development

Lily Tinker Fortel

Poor People's Campaign Class

Fifteen people joined the Poor People's Campaign classes in May. The two groups met Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons and we had so much fun that we're continuing the discussions into June. We'll meet Tuesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. All are invited!

In our class we've explored the staggering statistics about poverty in America. We've learned about the Poor People's Campaign that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., started with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in December 1967, and that continued after his assassination in April 1968. We've read about and discussed the work of Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis in building the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival over the past several years. We've shared our own stories and our personal passions for working to stop poverty and other injustices in America. We've talked about approaches to creating meaningful, lasting change. We've talked about the moral values that informed the founding of our American democracy and that are the foundation of our Christian faith. We've talked about Jesus' vision, and ours, for the realization of "Heaven on Earth." We've explored the teachings of Jesus in the Greek Bible (aka New Testament) and the teachings of the Hebrew Bible (aka Old Testament) and how they connect with what we're learning. Thanks to all participants for their wonderful contributions to the class!



All are invited to join us as we continue the exploration in June!

Congratulations to our 2018 Graduates! Well done!

Jacob Paton, son of Brian and Sheila Paton, is graduating from Canton High School with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. He plans to matriculate to the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business in the fall of 2018.

Kelly Gotham, daughter of Nancy and Greg Gotham, is graduating from Tecumseh High School and will be attending Hope College to study Environmental Science.



***A HUGE thank-you to our
Sunday school teachers and youth leaders***



Sunday School Teachers

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

Nursery/Toddler

Sunday School Teacher

Kelsey Postler

Youth Group Leaders

Sarah Herwick
CJ Slotten

Spiritual Growth and Development

Lily Tinker Fortel

June Spiritual Growth and Development Opportunities at a Glance

Saturday, June 2	Wear Orange - Moms Demand Action on Gun Control Event - Liberty Plaza
Sunday, June 3	Graduate Recognition, Teacher Appreciation, End-of-Year Party
Monday, June 4	Optional PPC Class experience - Travel to Lansing
Tuesday, June 5	7:00 p.m. - PPC Class, Week 4
Wednesday, June 6	1:00 p.m. - PPC Class, Week 4
Thursday, June 7	11:30 a.m. - Prayer Circle
Tuesday, June 12	8:30 a.m. - Gardening and Coffee in the Fifth Ave. Yard
Tuesday, June 12	12 noon - 49 Bells - Pulse Nightclub Shooting Commemoration - ONA
Wed., June 13	11:30 - Wellness Wednesday
Thursday, June 14	6:30 p.m. - End-of-Year Youth Group Party
Thursday, June 21	11:30 a.m. - Prayer Circle
Thursday, June 21	6:30 p.m. - BBQ and Garden in Fifth Ave. Yard - with Youth - all welcome!
June 25-June 28	BUCC Service Trip to Flint

Gardening in the Fifth Ave. Yard

This summer, we'll have two small raised beds in the southeast corner of the Fifth Ave. yard. Each month we'll have two opportunities for Bethlehem members of all ages to garden together, share food, and explore our faith. We'll gather one Tuesday morning each month from 8:30-9:30 a.m. for coffee, breakfast treats, and on one Thursday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for BBQ dinner.

June dates are Tuesday, June 12 @ 8:30 a.m. AND Thursday, June 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mustard Seed Bible Study Beginning June 24

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."
Matthew 13:31-32



Inspired by a Bible study by Cory Pechan Driver in the May 2018 issue of *Sojourners*, we will have a summer-long, experiential exploration of the Mustard Seed Parable (Matthew 13:31-32) in the Fifth Ave. Yard. As Cory Pechan Driver writes in the Bible study, "Part of the genius of Jesus' parables was to speak on multiple levels to multiple groups with the same words."

This Bible study will be self-guided with several stations in the Fifth Ave. Yard. Each month, you'll have the opportunity to explore what the Mustard Seed Parable might have meant to a different group of people Jesus was addressing. You'll also have the opportunity to explore what it means to you. And what it might mean for our world today.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will gather at 6:30 June 7, 14, and 21.
We will not meet June 28.

On July 5-8, Youth Group will travel to the UCC's Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (RYE) in Elmhurst, Illinois! We are excited for this opportunity for Bethlehem's youth to connect with other youth around the country!

Prayer Circle

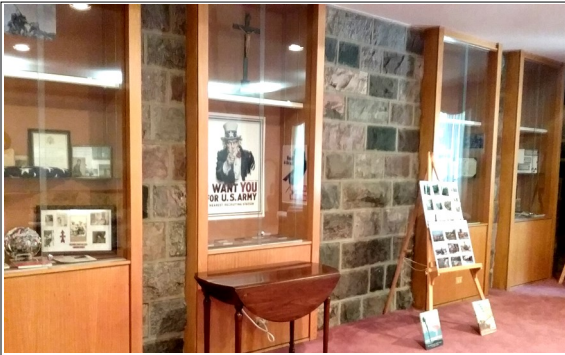
Bethlehem Prayer Circles will continue at 11:30 a.m. on the **first and third Thursdays this summer. All are invited to join us.**

Wellness Wednesdays



Join us here at Bethlehem for a once-monthly exploration on wellness and an activity for people of all ages and physical abilities. You can also sign up to receive the email and practice at home. Following our activity, we'll share a light, healthy lunch!

Wellness Wednesday in June is the 13th at 11:30 a.m.



Veterans' Memorial Day Display

With the help of the Bethlehem archive group and Jim Judson, the Memorial Day military display is in the Schmale Lounge.

Many of our Bethlehem vets and families have brought in photos, medals, and memorabilia from their own experiences as well as items from other family members over many years and conflicts.

We invite anyone who would still like to add to the display to please drop items off at the church office. We plan on having the display stay up in the Schmale Lounge until the end of June. Please stop by! Thank you. /Tom Zieseemer



Many thanks to these volunteers for helping with the Mother's Day flower planting:

Jacquie Katz
Michelle Loukotka
Caroline Ashenfelter
Henry Ashenfelter

Many thanks!
Jenny Foster



Please help us keep the gardens looking great! Sign up by the office (or call the office) if you can adopt a day to water the flowers. Thanks!

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

CEMETERY TREE FUND

Patsy Hentz Honorarium

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Martha Holliday Memorial

Kevin Paul Wenk Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Paul & Barb Marshall Honorarium

Jane & Kurt Schmerberg Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

John & Gertrude Fischer's 65th Anniversary Honorarium

Betty Marshall Memorial

John E. Nimz Memorial

RADIO FUND

Pauline Hawkins Memorial

Betty Marshall Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
May 31, 2018

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP

May 20 In memory of **Frederick J. Seyfried** and his daughter **Nancy Lynn Seyfried**, with love from Marion L. Seyfried.

May 27 Sponsored by Pat Hentz in memory of her husband, **Gary Hentz**.

PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

Bethlehem member **Ilse Wolf**
passed away on May 19, 2018.

STAFFING CHANGES

THOMAS BURTON

It is with great joy that we welcome Thomas Burton to Bethlehem UCC as our permanent Director of Music. Thomas has been acting as our Interim Director of Music since February of 2018. Thomas is pursuing his master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Michigan. Welcome to Bethlehem - we are so glad to have you here sharing you many musical gifts and talents with us!

CAROL LEYSHOCK

It is with great sadness that we prepare to say goodbye to Carol Leyshock, who has been our Parish Administrator since July 2013. Carol will be retiring at the end of July and looks forward to being able to spend more time with her grandchildren. Carol has served Bethlehem well and will be leaving behind big shoes to fill!

A special heartfelt thank-you from Paul and Barb Marshall to everyone who came to the visitation and/or funeral, sent cards, or just offered support and prayers to us after the recent passing of Paul's mom, Betty. We certainly felt the love and caring of our Bethlehem family at a time when we needed it the most.

Thank you for helping us celebrate an amazing woman who lived a full life to age 98. We feel very blessed to have so many caring people in our lives.



April 2018	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
Offerings & Income	\$185,237	\$148,910	\$446,732
Expenses	\$197,563	\$179,151	\$537,454
Net	(\$12,326)	(\$30,240)	(\$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

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.