



# The Visitor

## August - September 2018

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

## "Faith in Action - Service"

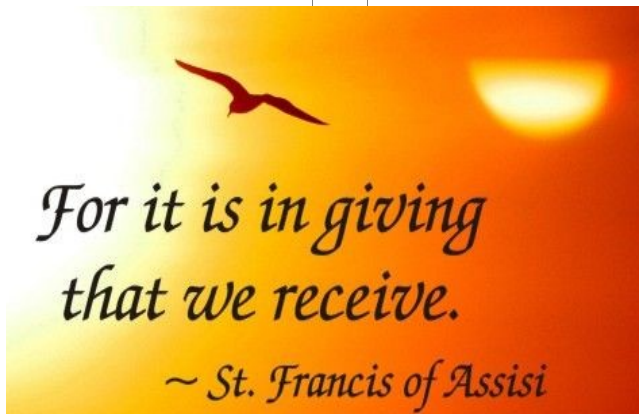
Lily Tinker Fortel

Service is a central part of our expression of faith. As usual, Bethlehem is bustling with service opportunities. As we move into the fall, I'm excited for the Bethlehem community to come together around local and global service opportunities. Serving others makes the world a better place. Furthermore, engaging in service enriches our lives and has the potential to enliven faith communities around common purpose.

Service takes many forms. I'm sure each of us—whatever our age—has engaged in countless acts of loving service during our lifetimes. Sometimes, we serve by helping a loved one, or by lending a listen-

ing ear. Sometimes, we serve neighbors we will never meet by giving them what they need. Those of us who have experienced the beauty of service know that the benefit is a two-way street!

(Continued on page 4)



### OCTOBER DEADLINE

Articles and photos  
need to be  
submitted by  
**Monday, September 24,**  
in order to be  
published  
in the October Visitor.



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[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

# From Your President's Desk...

## Notes from the President's Desk:

First let me address the rumor that I shouted at a member of Leadership Council at the August meeting: I did. It's not something I'm proud of and I've apologized to the member. I shall strive to conduct myself more as befits the President the congregation elected me to be.

We thank those who volunteered to help staff the parking lot during Art Fair—we took in \$2538! Add to that another \$900 the following Saturday when British soccer came to the Big House, and we're more than 50% of the way to the church's budgeted goal of \$6000 from parking.

Speaking of the remainder: It's not too soon to sign up for a football Saturday (thanks to those who already have!). There's a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office and an electronic version is available. Remember: Unlike Art Fair, you only have to stay until the lot is full!

Please be on the lookout for the final date decision, but there will be a Congregational Meeting after wor-

ship on September 16 or 23. We should know by the end of August how Phoenix Construction is doing getting bids based on the drawings the company shared with Leadership Council at our August meeting. (The drawings are on display in the Fellowship Hall.) An official letter to members announcing the meeting will be sent when the date is settled; the congregation will be presented with the drawings and the "bottom line" and then vote on accepting the Finance Ministry Team's funding proposal.

Part of this summer's Council work included a Pastoral review, as mandated by our bylaws. To improve this annual process for next year, we're studying a number of sources from the UCC, both nationally and regionally.

### Leaders :

**(you know who you are and you are many)**

**Please remember there's a half-day  
Leadership Retreat on Saturday, September 29,  
from 9 to noon at the church.  
There'll be coffee and donuts  
but no free lunch. (Just like life!)**

## Thank You!

*I want to thank our dear Bethlehem family for all of your good wishes, the beautiful sendoff gathering, and your amazing generosity as I move to a new chapter in my life. I'm looking forward to retirement, but I'll really miss Bethlehem and all the people I've come to know and love. Thank you, Pastor John, for being so kind, compassionate, and supportive of your staff. Thank you, Lily, for bringing a breath of fresh air to our lives. Thanks to Donna and Betty – I've been so incredibly lucky to have worked with both of*



*you for the past 5 years. Thanks to the rest of the staff and the wonderful volunteers who have brightened our days. It has been my honor and great pleasure to have served Bethlehem Church. I wish you all much joy in the days ahead.*

*Carol Leyshock,  
Parish Administrator*



## Goodbye and Welcome

In July, we said goodbye to our retiring Parish Administrator, Carol Leyshock, and in August, we welcomed our new Parish Administrator, Mary Cantor. Many thanks to Carol for coming back several days to train Mary.

***Please stop by the office and give a warm welcome to Mary. We are enjoying having her onboard. She is a wonderful addition to the Bethlehem staff.***

# Upcoming Events and "Save the Date" Events

*For Outreach and Spiritual Development events  
and Youth and Education Ministry events  
SEE PAGES 6-9 and 12-13*



**HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS**  
**Saturday, September 8**

Pretzel rolling begins at 9 a.m.,  
Pretzel sales from 10:30–12:00  
(Call 734-665-6149 to preorder.)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FALL LUNCHEON AND BAZAAR**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9**



**Leadership Retreat**

**Saturday, September 29,**  
**9 to 12 in the lounge.**

**Join us for coffee, donuts, and planning.**



**Bethlehem**  
**Prayer Circle**

**September 6 and 20**  
**11:30 a.m., lounge**

*Join us as we pray  
for our church,  
our community,  
our world.*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**2018 Bethlehem**  
**FELLOWSHIP GOLF OUTING**  
**9-Hole Scramble**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 9, 2:00 p.m., Brookside Golf Club**

Sign up on the board next to the church office, or if you  
have a group that would like to play together, let Tom  
Ziesemer know.

- ⇒ \$30 for the golf and picnic-style dinner
- ⇒ \$10 for the meal only (no golfing)

Make checks out to Bethlehem UCC and write the  
word "Golf" in the memo area **by Friday, September 7.**



**IT'S ALMOST UM FOOTBALL SEASON AND THAT MEANS...**  
**FOOTBALL PARKING IN OUR CHURCH LOT.**

Sign up by the office or online

[SignUpGenius.com/go/20f0849a9a72ba4f49-football1](http://SignUpGenius.com/go/20f0849a9a72ba4f49-football1)



**Check out these dates and join the fun!**

**Sept. 8, 15, 22**  
**Oct. 6, 13**  
**Nov. 3, 17**



**BETHLEHEM VETERANS'**  
**MONTHLY BREAKFAST**

**September 7, October 5**  
**8:30 a.m. Classic Cup Café**  
**Jackson Road**





**Faith in Action - Service**  
**Lily Tinker Fortel**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Service isn't a sacrifice or duty; it isn't simply a gift we bestow upon others. Service is an act of faith that enriches our lives. As St. Francis wrote in his Peace Prayer, "For it is in giving that we receive."

**Here are just some of the service opportunities I am excited to engage in with you this fall:**

**The Auxiliary/Mother's Study Circle** is continuing its beautiful tradition of making Church World Service (CWS) school and hygiene kits. In the *three weeks* since we announced this year's goal of 50 school kits and 100 hygiene kits, you have donated enough supplies to complete 41 school kits and 36 hygiene kits!

Your generosity is beautiful, and I'm sure the numbers will grow again this Sunday and every Sunday until mid October when the kits are assembled. *More on page 8.*

**The Education Ministry Team** will engage Bethlehem's youngest members in local service projects throughout the year. The first is a complement to the Auxiliary/Mother's Study Circle CWS kits effort. In addition to gathering school supplies, we are hoping to collect 50 backpacks for local service agencies in time for our Blessing of the Backpacks on September 9. *More on pages 12-13.*

**Members of the Youth Group** will lead Bethlehem's participation in CWS Ann Arbor CROP Walk this September 30. You'll hear more about the goals for both walkers and fundraising in the weeks to come. At our kickoff meeting in September, we'll assemble snack bags to give to people who visit the church

office during the week.

*More on page 8.*

**The Outreach Ministry Team** continues engagement with local service agencies. If you turn to pages 6-7, you'll find opportunities to serve at Peace Neighborhood Center, Alpha House, and Food Gatherers.

**And MORE!**

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** gathers in the Schmale Lounge weekly. There, they make beautiful prayer shawls and hats and mittens to distribute in our community. And every week, our building is alive with community groups, including **Groundcover News**, who use our space to fulfill their mission.

*(Continued on page 5)*



*From June 25-28, 11 people traveled to Flint on our annual Habitat Service Trip. We worked three days with Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County and one day at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Thanks to Bethlehem's generous fundraising support at the 2017 and 2018 Cake Auctions, we presented donations to three groups: Habitat, the Food Bank, and Woodside UCC.*



## Care Meals

Do you or does someone else at church need help with a meal or two after an illness, surgery, or transition in life? Contact the church office or Jacquie Katz to request or sign up to provide a meal.

## Transportation Issues

Do you have an issue with getting yourself to church on Sundays? The Member Care team wants to know if members are in need of transportation to Sunday church services. Let us know if you need a ride or if you are willing to give someone a ride! Contact the church office or Jenny Foster at [jen.foster@comcast.net](mailto:jen.foster@comcast.net).

## Member Enrichment

The Member Care team is looking for suggestions for topics that interest the congregation. We are planning presentations on Advance Care Directives and Planned Giving in the coming months. Please share your ideas with anyone on the Member Care team!

### Member Care Team:

Sue Buday  
Jenny Foster  
Jacquie Katz  
Gary Maki  
Mary Jean Raab

Member Care Ministry Team

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thanks,  
Jenny

### ***Faith in Action - Service*** ***Lily Tinker Fortel***

*(Continued from page 4)*

I am inspired by the countless ways you serve the community and our world as you put your faith into action. Each of these things makes a difference in people's lives! Each of these things enriches our faith! Each of these things provides opportunities to build community with one another! These are just a few of the opportunities coming this fall. I know so many of you participate in service that isn't mentioned here. This fall, there will be more conversations about the

Poor People's Campaign—a multifaith effort that is trying to change the realities that create poverty and inequalities in our world. Service and advocacy are connected!

In her book *A Simple Path*, Mother Teresa wrote: "The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever does great things. But we can all do small things with great love and together we can do something wonderful."

I am energized by the ways we will contribute to these projects in the months ahead. As we do small things with great love as individuals, we are coming together to do wonderful things. Thank you for sharing your great love with the world!

# 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/>

## Opportunities abound!

*Outreach Ministry Team (OMT) relies on the support of BUCC members and friends. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for all kinds of outreach activities to help make our community a better place for all. Current opportunities include kitchen work at Alpha House and the Delonis Center, Art Fair parking at BUCC, local advocacy work including CROP Walk planning and the Poor Peoples Campaign, donating groceries to Food Gatherers, purchasing Groundcover News, and much more.*

*If you aren't able to give your time, OMT also welcomes your Outreach-designated contributions. In addition to your ongoing support of BUCC, an extra contribution in honor of a friend, family member, or an acquaintance recognizing their good work in the community will add to the funds OMT is able to commit to local partner organizations to enhance the programs and services they offer to those needing some extra help managing their day-to-day lives.*

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



**Alpha House/IHN**  
**Upcoming Opportunities**  
October 7

**Food Gatherers**  
**Community Kitchen**  
**Upcoming Opportunities**  
September 2  
October 7

**Peace**  
**Neighborhood Center**  
**Upcoming Opportunities**  
September 25  
October 23

# 2018-19 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES at PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



Friday Food Distribution  
starts September 14!

## 2018

9/25  
10/23  
11/27



## 2019

1/22  
2/26  
4/23  
5/28



## PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD 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. Signup is outside the BUCC office.

Peace Neighborhood Center  
1111 N. Maple Road, Ann Arbor 48103

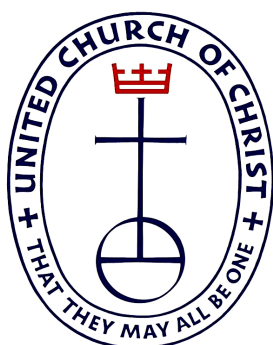
Questions? Contact Sue Muir at suemuir@comcast.net or 734-761-9795.

## PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD 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 a.m. and noon. No signup necessary. Just come when you can!

Location: Peace Neighborhood Center



*Did you  
know  
that  
Bethlehem  
is a  
5 for 5 church?*

Being **5 for 5** is one sign of congregational vitality in UCC churches that fully support Our Church's Wider Mission.

**5 for 5 churches**  
give to these  
five UCC Offerings:

1. **Basic Support** (year-round)
2. **One Great Hour of Sharing** takes place in March.
3. **Strengthen the Church** takes place in June.
4. **Neighbors in Need** takes place in October,
5. **The Christmas Fund** takes place in December.

**Thank you for your support!**





# loving our neighbors

## opportunities for service

**Church World Service (CWS)—Born in 1946, following WWII, 16 denominations came together to “do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” Each year, Bethlehem members engage in Church World Service opportunities!**

**Led by Auxiliary/Mother’s Study Circle, we are again assembling CWS School and Hygiene Kits.**

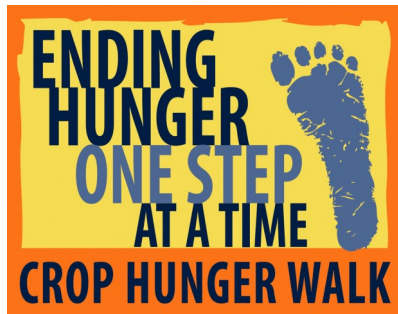
**Led by youth, we’re building a Bethlehem Team for the annual Ann Arbor CROP Walk, on Sunday, September 30!**

### CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS Auxiliary/Mother’s Study Circle

Carrying on a powerful tradition, help us meet the goal of 50 School Kits and 100 Hygiene Kits by mid-October.

Bring items to worship on Sundays or to the church office during the week.

Thanks to your donations, we are well on our way to meeting our goals! ➡



**CROP WALK  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1 PM**

**Calling All Walkers!  
Bethlehem is building our  
2018 CROP Walk Team.  
All ages welcome!**

Worried about distance?! This year’s walk is shorter than previous year’s—it’s a 2k walk (just under 1.25 miles). If you’re not up for walking, we could still use your help meeting our fundraising goal! More information to come. Pick up a packet at the church office.

CWS School Kits – GOAL 50		
Item	Tally as of 8/23/18	Complete?
Spiral Notebook	98/150	
12-Inch Ruler	57/50	YES!
#2 Pencil – Unsharpened	434/300	YES!
Pencil Sharpener w/cover	65/50	YES!
Crayons (24-count)	62/50	YES!
Scissors	41/50	
<b>TOTAL COMPLETED SCHOOL KITS as of 8/23 = 41!</b>		

CWS Hygiene Kits – GOAL 100		
Item	Tally as of 8/23/18	Complete?
Hand Towel	44/100	
Tooth Brush	44/100	
Fingernail Clippers	36/100	
Band aids	425/1000	
Bar Soap	73/100	
Combs	76/100	
Washcloth	90/100	
<b>TOTAL COMPLETED HYGIENE KITS as of 8/23 = 36!</b>		





## Youth Group in September

September Theme:  
Vision and Action

### Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Th. 9/6 Fall Youth Group Kickoff/Potluck!  
Service Night: Assemble snack bags
- Th. 9/13 Covenant Night & Makers Night:  
My Intent Bracelets  
([www.myintent.org](http://www.myintent.org))
- Th. 9/20 Game Night: Youth Group Choice
- Th. 9/27 Discussion Night: Philosophy

### Other September Events:

- \*Sun. 9/9 Blessing of Backpacks 10 a.m.
- \*Sun. 9/16 Walk & Talk 10 a.m.
- \*Sat. 9/22 Youth Group Football Parking,  
Time TBD
- \*Sun. 9/30 CROP Walk, 1 p.m.



# Youth Group

## Mark Your Calendar Fall/Winter 2018 Events\*

- \*Fri. 10/5 Oktoberfest
- \*Sun. 10/7 Alpha House Volunteering 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- \*Oct. 12-13 Michigan Conference Youth Gathering
- \*Fri. 10/26 Possible Halloween Lock-In
- \*Th. 11/1 Hops and Hallelujahs
- \*Sun. 11/18 Interfaith Roundtable Thanksgiving  
@ BUCC 7:00 p.m.
- \*Fri. 11/30 Living Nativity 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- \*Fri. 12/14 Possible Christmas Lock-In

## FALL SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH LILY

*Specific Dates and Times TBD*



### Bible 101—October

Let's get back to the basics! If you don't know much about the Bible, or if you just want a refresher, this might be the class for you! This no-pressure, no-intimidation, discussion-based session will explore the big-picture BASICS of the Bible—and some of the whos, whats, whens, wheres, and hows! We'll also explore some specific scriptures.

### Poor People's Campaign Info Sessions

In the spring, 17 Bethlehem members took part in a 5-class series exploring the Poor People's Campaign. This Fall, I'll offer overviews of the PPC on a couple of Sundays after the 10 am worship.

### UCC 101—November

As part of her ordination process, Lily completed a course titled "UCC History and Polity" through the Center for Progressive Renewal. This course will explore the history, theology, and structures of the United Church of Christ. We'll talk about how Bethlehem relates to the UCC and how the UCC is exploring the future of church in our world. We'll have opportunities to discuss what it all means to you on your personal faith journey!

### Yoga for Beginners

As part of my Yoga Teacher Training, I'll be offering a 5-week yoga class in October and November.

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

*As Pastor John announced in church on August 13, I will be completing 1 unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Michigan Medicine from September-December. This Internship is a requirement for ordination in the Michigan Conference of the UCC, and in many denominations.*

*CPE is a form of experiential theological education that "takes place not exclusively in academic classrooms, but also in clinical settings where ministry is being practiced."\* I'll be one of four "Interns" completing the part-time Level I unit of CPE. The 16-week program involves both classroom learning and hands-on chaplaincy training.*

*I would appreciate your thoughts and prayers as I embark on this training and learning opportunity. I am grateful to Pastor John, the Leadership Council, and the entire Bethlehem community for your support as I continue the ordination process. I look forward to sharing about my experiences with you.*

*\*[www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)*

# Funeral Luncheon Help Needed

A very meaningful ministry that women in our congregation have provided are funeral luncheons for families of our active membership at the time of the death of a loved one.

A Funeral Luncheon Coordinator works with church staff and the family to determine what food will be served at the luncheon. The coordinator also recruits volunteers from a provided database to help with set-up, serving, and providing some of the food.

We have reached a point where we are very much in need of additional people who would be willing to be a coordinator. We currently have four women who are coordinators, but there are times when no one is available. We would like to increase the number of coordinators to provide this leadership more consistently.

*Thanks to Barb Fisher and Marian Caswell, who were our coordinators for many years, we have information and guidelines for organizing the funeral luncheons. And, of course, current coordinators are happy to share their experiences.*

We always welcome more people who are willing to commit to this ministry. If you would consider adding your name to the list and/or you have questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Sue Muir

On behalf of Women of Bethlehem Board

[suemuir@comcast.net](mailto:suemuir@comcast.net) 734-761-9795

# News from Bethlehem Cemetery



Bethlehem Cemetery continues to catch up with maintenance and make improvements. If you have visited the cemetery lately, you will notice we have changed the signs within the cemetery to make them more readable and more attractive. Much of that work has been done by Jim and Sallie Stadel and Jim Lutz. Jim and Sallie Stadel also took down and refurbished the "Bethlehem Cemetery" sign made by Gert Eisele's now deceased husband. This beautiful sign is back in its place at the entrance.

Cemetery Board members and some of their spouses painted the windows and doors on the building a complementary shade to match the building's rocks (not the pink that Marilyn Pearson accidentally

chose before she left for the winter two years ago that shocked her when she arrived home in the spring.)

We will be purchasing trees and planting them this autumn. A shrub near the front corner of the building would be a nice addition to the landscape.

The memorial garden at the back of the cemetery where the Easter Sunrise service has been held the past few years will undergo a facelift. We plan to make space for two granite benches that any patron might like to donate to the cemetery. We will add some perennials on the inside of the garden around the circle and along an outside border to give the garden a lift. The garden has good "bones"; it just needs re-definition.

As one can see, we will make good use of the Mother's Day donations given this spring, but we can use more donations to complete our improvements.

Submitted by Marilyn Pearson,  
Board Member of Bethlehem Cemetery





### Picnic Dinner:

German Sausage  
(or Hot Dog),  
German Potato Salad,  
Spatzen, Sauerkraut,  
Chips, Pies,  
Coffee, Tea,  
Lemonade

### Cash Bar:

Wine, Beer,  
German Pretzels

### Proceeds:

Proceeds to benefit  
Fisher House,  
a nonprofit serving  
military and  
veteran families.

**OKTOBERFEST**  
**OCTOBER 5, 6-8:30 PM**  
**Food line: 6-7:30**

**Ticket sales begin September 9**

Purchase tickets at the church office or reserve by calling 734-665-6149. *(No tickets will be sold at the door.)*

**\$12 for adults    \$5 for kids 10 and under**

## MORE ABOUT OKTOBERFEST

If you're looking for a festive evening in early October, please mark your calendars for Friday, October 5. The BUCC Fellowship Ministry is once again hosting an Oktoberfest "picnic." It will run from 6:00 to 8:30 with the food line open from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We are serving brats/hotdogs, German potato salad, spatzen, sauerkraut, chips, pies, coffee, water, and lemonade. Beer, wine, and German pretzels will be available for cash purchase (no credit sales, please).

The success of Oktoberfest is made possible by our wonderful volunteers. Signup sheets for how you may help are outside the office.

Tickets go on sale September 9 between and after services, or at the church office during the week. We ask that you pay for your tickets at that time. You may also call the office to reserve tickets: 734-665-6149. **Ticket sales are limited to 230, and no tickets will be sold at the door.** It will be a wonderful evening!

# News from the Education Ministry Team

## Welcome-Back Sunday

Join us on September 9 for our Sunday school kick-off. We will meet in the sanctuary at the 10:00 service. During the Children's Moment, we will have a blessing of the backpacks. This blessing will be for the backpacks of our youth and for those we will be donating to youth who need them. (See page 13 for more details)



Youth can then go to Sunday school if they choose. At the Coffee Connection following the service, we will celebrate with Washtenaw Dairy donuts.

## Youth Mission Projects

Each year we choose a youth mission project. Our youth help select the projects and then throughout the year we have various collections and fundraisers supported by the whole church.

Our 2017–18 project was to work with the Ruth Ellis Center, which helps LGBTQ youth. We had a successful clothing drive during Advent when we filled a minivan with clothes. During Lent, we collected grab-'n-go foods. We collected money throughout the year, and the Palm Sunday brunch donations went into this fund. This summer, we mailed a check for \$2000 to the Ruth Ellis Center. We also contributed locally to Ozone House, whose work is similar to that of Ruth Ellis. They were both very grateful. Thank you to our youth for organizing this and to all in the congregation who contributed.

This year's mission project will entail learning more about the **Poor People's Campaign**. This campaign started in the '60s with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and is being revived. Lily Tinker Fortel held a series of talks about it last year and many of our members attended. Roy Muir was one of those who attended Lily's classes. At the Outreach Ministry

Team (OMT) Roy discussed some of what he learned and what he knew about local poverty. It is remarkable that in a city and county as ours, with so many resources and such abundance, there are many people, families, and children who live below the poverty line. What are the needs of our poorest neighbors? How can we, as a church, help?

Roy brought up these questions at the OMT meeting: "How can we at Bethlehem and OMT explore more about poverty in Washtenaw County? What things can we learn from the Poor People's Campaign and make a difference?" He brought this challenge to those of us on OMT, and we explored what some of the steps might be.

After consulting with the youth, we have chosen the theme of the mission project this year to be learning more about the Poor People's Campaign. We will ex-



plorate the challenge that Roy Muir put out for us. The youth will then choose fund drives and projects to help

the poor among us. Lily will continue education for our youth in Sunday school and in Children's Moments to help us all learn more about the Poor People's Campaign. She is also going to have more educational events open to the whole congregation throughout this year as part of her role as our Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development.

The Outreach Ministry Team (OMT) will continue its core commitments working with those in need. OMT has chosen to focus on Alpha House, the Washtenaw Shelter Association, Peace Neighborhood Center, and CROP Walk. We also have the Auxiliary/Mother's Study Circle, which contributes to projects and puts together the Church World Service Health Kits and School Kits. We believe together (our youth and our congregation) we can do more, so the youth will try to pick projects that will support these other missions of our church in line with the Poor People's Campaign.

# News from the Education Ministry Team

## Our first project is collecting school supplies and backpacks for Sunday, Sept. 9.



**Our goal is at least 50 backpacks! Please drop off backpacks at the office or bring to church on Sundays.**

They will be distributed to Peace Neighborhood Center and Ozone House. We will also be collecting school supplies. The school supplies can be any school supplies you choose. If they are ones on the list for the Church World Service kits (pencils, spiral notebooks, scissors, 24-count crayons, etc.), we will donate them to this cause. If you bring other supplies, we will donate them to Peace Neighborhood and Ozone House. They need donations throughout the year, but the fall is especially important as children head back to school. Please be generous.

## The Lois's Corner Project

Lois Haeussler was a beloved member of Bethlehem for many years. She was the church-school secretary and kept our Sunday school in order. Among other things, she went to our classrooms each week and collected the children's offerings and kept attendance. As she did this, she became known to generations of Bethlehem children. In her estate, money was left to the Education Ministry Team. After much deliberation, the EMT has chosen to create a space we will call Lois's Corner that will be in the back of the sanctuary underneath the balcony. We brought the project to the Leadership Council, and it was approved.

We worked with an interior designer, and the project will be unfolding this fall after we are able to purchase the furniture and carpet. The furniture will be Amish oak furniture that will be stained to match the oak of our pews. There will be a beautiful, durable soft carpet to define the space. We will have a small amount of oak chairs with soft cushions, two gliders, two oak side

tables, two oak bookshelves, and two small oak children's tables with chairs.



We hope to create a warm, calm space where individuals and families can sit and still be part of the worship service. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." With the generosity of Lois Haeussler, we will create a space that will indeed let the children come.

## Sunday School 2018-19

This year will be similar to last year. Children are always welcome to stay in the sanctuary during the service. (We hope to make this even more appealing as we create Lois's Corner.) During the first Sunday of each month, all youth are encouraged to stay with their families and friends so we can be together to learn and take communion.

- The nursery and preschool through kindergarten are staffed every week by Kelsey Postler and parent volunteers.
- Sunday-school grades 1-6 will be a one-room learning opportunity with teachers Jan Eadie, Julie Feldkamp, Jill Swartz, and Nancy Pieske and will be available for all Sundays after the first.
- Third-Sunday Walk & Talk for middle-school and high-school students. On these Sundays, youth will leave after the Children's Moment and head to a local coffee shop. This gives us a chance to catch up with one another and talk about current events in our lives.

We are looking forward to a great year of Sunday school at Bethlehem. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 734-223-0412.

Yours in Christ,  
Jane Schmerberg,  
Chair, Education Ministry Team





# Regional Youth Event

## *News from our time at the UCC Great Lakes Regional Youth Event in July.*

We traveled to Elmhurst College (IL) for the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event on July 5-8. There, we joined youth and leaders from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Wisconsin. It was a wonderful week with moving worship services, compelling speakers and workshops, and lots of fun and fellowship! This year's theme was "A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters." Daily worship services, keynote speakers, and workshops all focused on this theme.

### **Some highlights for our group:**

- Learning about the service organization Simply Smiles from founder Bryan Nurnberger.
- Learning from professional storyteller Valerie Tutson, who brought Bible stories and other stories to life in worship and workshops!
- Singing with Convergence Music Project musicians during worship - especially the theme song for the week "Your Voice Matters Now," written for GLRYE by Christopher Grundy.
- Conversations with our small group, where we shared ideas from our own youth groups, participated in the service project, and discussed topics of the week



## MEMORIALS & GIFTS

### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

Thomas Goetz Memorial

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Glenn Pfeiffle Memorial

Waldemar & Marianne Pollee Memorial

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

All Bethlehem Volunteers Honorarium

### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Sandy Dotson Memorial

Betty Marshall Memorial

John E. Nimz Memorial

Gifts listed were received through  
July 31, 2018

### RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIPS

#### July 1

In memory of **Margaret Keppler Deverick** from family and friends.

#### July 8 and July 22

Given by Pat Hentz in memory of her husband,  
**Gary Hentz**.

#### August 12

In memory of **Frederick and Lela Keppler** from their family.

#### August 26

In memory of our grandmother **Lorena Stein**, a life-long member of Bethlehem Church, with love from Chuck Raab and Mary Jean Raab.

## PARISH RECORDS

### DEATHS

**Nancy Crosby**

July 30, 2018

**Friedrich Fritz Bausch**

August 17, 2018

### RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIPS



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](http://bethlehem-ucc.org)**.
4. Tell the office how you want your sponsorship listed in the bulletin and read on-air.

July 2018	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
<b>Offerings &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$279,743</b>	<b>\$260,593</b>	<b>\$446,732</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$315,897</b>	<b>\$313,514</b>	<b>\$537,454</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$36,154)</b>	<b>(\$52,921.17)</b>	<b>(\$90,722)</b>



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Bethlehem United Church of Christ

## Staff, Ministry Team Chairs, and Leadership Council

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. John Kennedy  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann  
**Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:** Lily Tinker Fortel  
**Parish Administrator:** Mary Cantor  
**Financial Administrator:** Betty Clark  
**Parish Secretary:** Donna Whitney  
**Director of Music:** Thomas Burton  
**Organist:** Gail Jennings  
**Director of Handbells:** Jim Rowan  
**Sunday School Nursery Teacher:** Kelsey Postler

### MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

**Finance:** Jeff Wortman  
**Facilities:** Steve Darr  
**Education:** Jane Nicholson Schmerberg  
**Worship:** Caroline Ashenfelter  
**Member Care:** Jenny Foster  
**Welcome:** Kurt Schmerberg  
**Outreach:** Laura Seyfried  
**Fellowship:** Jane Ziesemer  
**Youth & Young Adult:** Katie Rowan  
**Bethlehem Cemetery:** Susan Irwin  
**Nominations Committee:** Della DiPietro

### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**President:** John Samford  
**Vice President:** Ron Dechert  
**Secretary:** Sue Wortman  
**Treasurer:** Shannon O'Reilly  
**At-Large Members:**  
 Judy Coucouvanis  
 Kris Lovelace  
 Julie Feldkamp  
**Ex Officio:** Rev. John Kennedy