

The Visitor

January-February 2019

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



“The Journey is the Destination, and the Destination is Relationship”
by Rev. John Kennedy

*My child, never forget the things I have taught you.
Store my commands in your heart.
Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.
Write them deep within your heart.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek God’s will in all you do,
and God will show you which path to take.
Do not be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
Then you will have healing for your body
and strength for your bones.” —Proverbs 3*

All of life is a journey. Journeys begin with a starting point and move toward a destination and require planning and resources. A journey begins with a first step—sometimes not an actual foot-step but a step of faith that occurs when we move beyond what may be stopping us from fulfilling our destination/destiny.

Rev. Martin Luther King, stated, *“Faith is taking the first step even when we cannot see the whole [winding] staircase.”*

(Continued on page 4)

**March Visitor DEADLINE
is Monday, February 25.**

**The March Visitor will be
available on Sunday, March 3.**



In This Issue

Rev. John Kennedy	Page 1	Christmas memories	Page 12
From the President	Page 2	Education Ministry	Page 13
Upcoming Events	Page 3	Outreach	Page 14
Christmas memories	Page 5	Thank you	Page 14
Spiritual Growth & Dev.	Pp. 6-7	Memorials and Gifts	Page 15
Outreach events	Page 8	Christmas Wreaths	Page 15
Outreach and book sale	Page 9	Records & Financials	Page 15
Thank you	Page 10	Who We Are	Page 16
Nativity & Carolling	Page 11	Staff and Teams	Page 16



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

From your President's Desk:

It's been a couple months since my last *Visitor* column, interrupted by Advent and Christmas. As usual, Bethlehem as a special place during that period and it was my pleasure to attend three Christmas Eve services. The story begins to sink in...

Despite the usual practice of having a combined January and February issue of the *Visitor*, Leadership Council felt we "had a story to tell" that couldn't wait. By now I hope you've seen the photos in the *Special January Visitor* showing progress on the fellowship hall renovation. Of course, it is even further along than when those pictures were made.

As I write this, yet another congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 27, to present the budget that Leadership Council recommends the congregation adopt for the first five months of 2019. Putting this partial year budget together was an interesting exercise since many of the church's expenses are "front-loaded." I thank all those who pledged for this period; we came close to our goal. We intend to have a "high key" (if that's the opposite of "low key") Stewardship campaign for the new fiscal year starting June 1, 2019.

I am looking forward to exploring the new fellowship hall after the congregational meeting for a "hard hat" tour to which all are invited to see the latest work and hear about the three-year capital campaign we are kicking off to pay back the loan the church took from the Bank of Ann Arbor to partly pay for the renovation.

I also eagerly anticipate the concert by Luther College's Nordic Choir the following week and thank all those who helped make it possible, both hosting singers and preparing chili for the cook-off/banquet.

As I write this, my wife and I are starting to pack for England as we go in February to be with our daughter who is about to present us with another granddaughter. We hope we've timed the trip properly, and we'll be happy to share pictures when we return.

Cheerio!

From the Bethlehem Archive group:

With the current remodeling of the fellowship hall, the Bethlehem Archive group thought you would enjoy some pictures of this space from the early 1960s.

This area was used not only for social gatherings and meetings but also for confirmation and Sunday school classes.





Doing Our Own Work

An Anti-racism Seminar for White People

in Ann Arbor, Michigan

March 8 & 9, April 5 & 6, and May 10 & 11, 2019

There are spaces still available in the **Doing Our Own Work** seminar that begins in March at **Bethlehem Church**. If you are a white person ready to dive deep and come up stronger for the work of racial justice, now is the time to register.

DOING OUR OWN WORK provides a unique context for in-depth reflection, learning, and dialogue as participants work to deepen their knowledge of systemic racism, examine what it means to claim and embody an anti-racist white identity, offer each other support and accountability, and practice the skills of interrupting racism -- so that they can step up with courage, humility, and consistency to participate in movements led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. For information & registration: www.alliesforchange.org/doow-ann-arbor-2019

music.luther.edu

Nordic Choir
Andrew Last, conductor

2019 Great Lakes Tour

Saturday, February 2 • 7:30 p.m.
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Featuring:
"Praise the Name of the Lord" by Sergei Rachmaninoff
"Pater Noster" by Jacob Handl
"Psalm 50" by F. Melius Christiansen

Tickets available at the
Bethlehem office (734-665-6149)
or online at tickets.luther.edu
\$20 (\$15 for students)

**Auxiliary/Mothers
Study Circle
February 20,
1 p.m., lounge**

OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

- ♦ Kitchen shower for Alpha House
- ♦ Making Valentines for our shut-ins

Please join us!



See pages 6-7 for highlights of many of these events

- Feb 2 Nordic Choir & Chili CookOff
- Feb 2 Anti-Racism, off site
- Feb 3 Food Gatherers volunteer day
- Feb 3 Alpha House volunteer day
- Feb 7 Bethlehem Prayer Circle
- Feb 7 Youth Group 6:30
- Feb 8-10 Youth Outing: Winterfest
- Feb 14 Board Games and Pizza
- Feb 14 Youth Group 6:30
- Feb 17 Fresh Produce Sunday
- Feb 17 Walk & Talk youth outing
- Feb 17 Young Adult Brunch at Lily's,
- Feb 17 Adult Faith Formation, Lily's
- Feb 20 Auxiliary/Mother's Study
- Feb 21 Youth Group 6:30
- Feb 21 Bethlehem Prayer Circle
- Feb 22 Fourth Friday Fun Night
- Feb 25 Book Discussion
- Feb 26 Peace Neighborhood day
- Feb 27 Coffee & Canon at Lily's
- Feb 27 Yo Yo Ma at Hill Auditorium
- Feb 28 Youth Group 6:30

Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast
February 1, 8:30 a.m.
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Rd.



WALK & TALK YOUTH OUTING for grades 7-12
Sunday, Feb. 17, 10:15-11 a.m.

Youth and teachers will walk downtown for a snack/drink. We will pick up the tab.



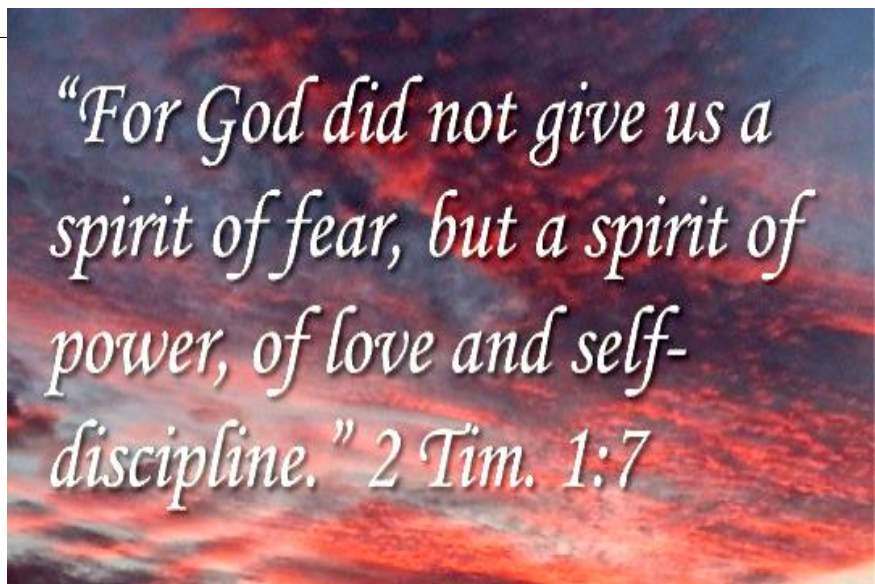
ANTI-RACISM TRAINING
Saturday, February 2, 2019
10 a.m.-4 p.m. (lunch included)
Lord of Light Lutheran Campus Ministry
801 S. Forest Ave., Ann Arbor www.lcm-um.org

"The Journey is the Destination,
and the Destination is Relationship"
by Rev. John Kennedy

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. King used the Exodus story of the Israelites to inspire people of color during the Civil Rights Movement. The stories of the Bible and especially the Exodus story are helpful on our many journeys. After 400 years of slavery, the Israelites were able to start on a fresh life-giving opportunity to a more promised place. God's leading is with them every step of the way, and all they need to do is follow the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Each time the Israelites meet a danger or obstacle, God provides what they cannot. When they reach the Red Sea and say, "Moses, why did you leave us out here to die?" God parts the Red Sea. We they become thirsty and hungry and begin to panic, God provides water and Manna. When they are lost and vulnerable, God provides a guiding cloud by day and a pillar of light by night to guide them. All of this is happening with them as a group or larger community. God is doing all of this despite the fear, panic, quarrelling, rumors, grumblings, and doubt of everyone involved. Moses, Miriam, Jethro, Caleb, Joshua—all test God and are yet vessels for God. God brings them through the journey in spite of their limitations. God uses their lives and gifts to the good of the collective group. No one is an island. No one is the guru of all wisdom or author of "Five Easy Steps to the Promised Land." God has brought each person to their role for a bigger purpose.

In every personal journey, there is a story that includes our journey connected to a bigger, more collective journey. From the time we are each conceived and born into this world, many people have been a part of our journey. A mother, father, nurses, doctors—all help us get here, sustain us, pro-



tect us, nurture, teach, and guide us. Our individual journeys can never be separated from the journeys of all the lives that God has connected to ours, and ours to theirs.

On every journey we rely on continual relationship with God and with one another. God is guiding. We are closer to where God is leading. There will always be new challenges and opportunities, and God will use those times to strengthen us and our church on a bigger journey.

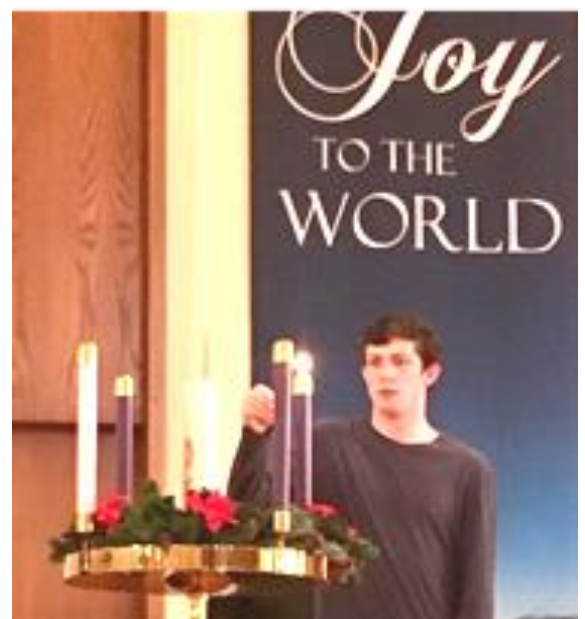
In closing, here are some inspiring words from God's word:

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."—Psalm 23:4

"I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."—Philippians 3:13-14

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind."—2 Timothy 1:7

God loves us all with no take-backs,
Pastor John



Spiritual Growth and Development

Page 6

Lily Tinker Fortel - Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

The Visitor

Youth Group Theme for February

LOVE: What's faith got to do with it?

This year, we'll focus on lifelong themes that impact our day-to-day lives. We'll talk about what these topics mean to us as individuals, what Christianity has to say about them, and what that all means in our world.

Thursday Youth Group: 6:30-8:30 at Bethlehem

- February 7 **1 Corinthians 13**
- February 14 **Valentine's Day**
Community Building - Board Game Night
- February 21 **Maker's Night - Succulents**
- February 28 **Sharing Love: Care Packages for Bethlehem College Students!**

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please get names and addresses to Lily by Friday, February 15.



YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Bethlehem youth heading to Winterfest!!! - February 8-10

Bethlehem Youth will join youth from around the state for a weekend of high adventure and fellowship at the United Church of Christ in Big Rapids. Stay tuned for updates on the fun!

Chili Cook Off and Concert Saturday, February 2

5:00 Chili and 7:30 Concert

Held up welcome the Nordic College Choir to Bethlehem with a Chili cook-off in the gym followed by a concert in the sanctuary.

Walk and Talk Sunday

February 17, 10:15-11:00.

Youth/teachers will walk downtown for a snack/drink & fellowship. We get the tab.

CALLING ALL 20 & 30-SOMETHINGS! YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY BRUNCH BUNCH

Sunday, February 17, 12 noon
Lily's House (437 S. Fourth Ave)

Join us for a Young Adult Brunch Bunch. Meal will include coffee, waffles, and other yummy treats! Come for chill hangout and discussion. Families, +1s are welcome! RSVP encouraged but not required for meal planning.

ALL CHURCH - ALL AGES

Dinner and Board Game Night
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth
Thursday - February 14
6:30-8:30 in the youth room.

Bethlehem youth love board games and **we'd love to share them with the broader Bethlehem community!** Join us for pizza dinner and board games on Valentine's Day - board games for all ages!!

COFFEE AND CANON & SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Faith Formation

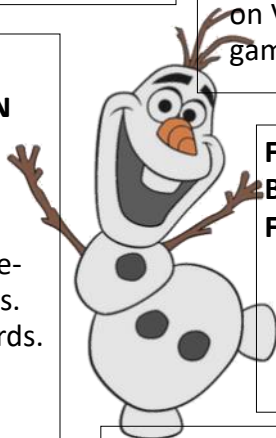
Sunday, February 17
3:30-5:30 at Lily's House

Join us as we learn about Luke-Acts! Afternoon tea and treats. Sign up on office bulletin boards.

Coffee and Canon

Wednesday, February 27
9:00 AM at Lily's House

A new monthly gathering at Lily's house. Canon: a collection or list of sacred books accepted as genuine. We'll have coffee from a local roaster (and tea) and light breakfast treats, and discuss a Bible verse. February's roast: Mighty Good's Ethiopian Sidamo. Sign-up on bulletin board encouraged but not required for planning.



Fourth Friday Fun Night is BACK!! Fun for everyone!

Friday, February 22, 6 - 8:30

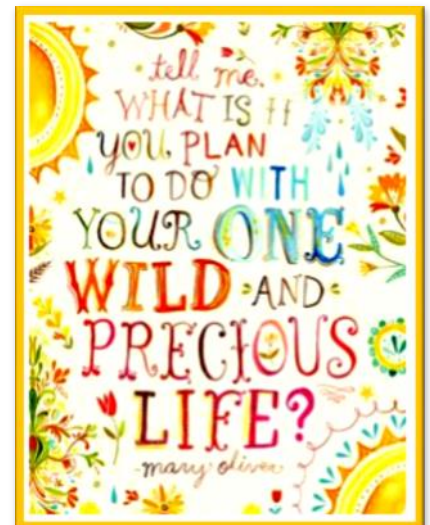
Mark your calendars and join us this month for dinner and Frozen!

Song of the Month Just for fun!

Love Wins by Carrie Underwood is my "song of the month" Check it out and let me know what you think.

*I, I believe you and me are sisters and brothers
And I, I believe we're made to be here for each other
And we'll never fall if we walk hand in hand. Put a world that seems broken together again
Yeah I, I believe in the end love wins*

© 2014 Lyrics



Sign up for the 2019 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group.

"Take Nothing with You"

Sign-up sheet by the office bulletin



Spiritual Growth and Development

January-
February 2019

Lily Tinker Fortel - Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

Page 7

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Join us for monthly book discussions!

FEBRUARY BOOK:

Reading with Patrick by Michelle Kuo

Discussion date is Monday, February 25,
7:00-8:00 in the lounge.

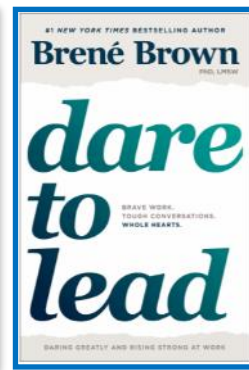
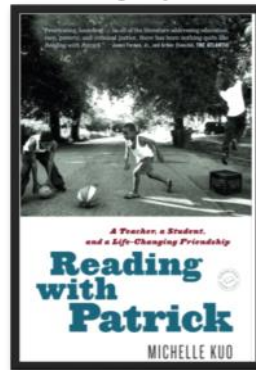
This book is the Ann Arbor District Library's 2019 Washtenaw Read book. Pick up your copy of the book and then join us on February 25 for a discussion led by Bethlehem member Sue Wortman.

MARCH BOOK:

Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.
by Brene Brown

Brene Brown is a New York Times Bestselling Author. Let's explore her newest book together.

Sign up outside the church office to join the email discussion group. We'll also meet in March to discuss the book in person.



Events listed on pages 6-7 are listed below

Mark your calendars and
we hope to see you there.

- Feb 2 Nordic Choir & Chili CookOff
- Feb 2 Anti-Racism, off site
- Feb 3 Food Gatherers volunteer day
- Feb 3 Alpha House volunteer day
- Feb 7 Bethlehem Prayer Circle
- Feb 7 Youth Group 6:30
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- Feb 27 Coffee & Canon at Lily's
- Feb 27 Yo Yo Ma at Hill Auditorium
- Feb 28 Youth Group 6:30

Join Bethlehem's Prayer Circle Ministry!

1st and 3rd Thursdays at
11:30 in the lounge.
Join us on February 7 & 21

IN THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, February 2, 10-4
Anti-Racism training at Lord
of Light/Lutheran Campus
Ministry.

RSVP: pastorelizabeth.lcm
@gmail.com

Saturday, February 2, 7:30
Luther College Nordic Choir
concert performance at
Bethlehem

This is an exciting community-wide event you won't want to miss!
Don't forget to join the Chili cook off prior!

Wednesday, February 27
University Musical Society
presents Yo-Yo Ma at Hill
Auditorium.

For talk and music: Culture, Understanding, and Survival. Tickets at ums.org

Join Lily for gentle yoga:
Tuesday Feb. 5, 11am -12noon
Tuesday Feb. 19, 5:15-6:15

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Food Gatherers Volunteer Day at the Delonis Center. Sunday, Feb. 3, 12-2:30
- ◆ Alpha House Volunteer Day Sunday, February 3, 5:30-8:00
- ◆ Fresh Produce Sunday Sunday, Feb. 17 at both Worship Services
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry Every Monday at 1:00 p.m. Join Bethlehem's prayer shawl ministry!
- ◆ Peace Neighborhood Volunteer Day Tuesday, February 26, 2:45 p.m. Bethlehem helps serve an afternoon snack/meal to the area students who come for afternoon programming.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Bethlehem will host Allies for Change's upcoming
"Doing Our Own Work anti-racism training"

- Bethlehem is excited to be home for this anti-racism training for white people.
- The 40+ hour training takes place:
March 8 and 9; April 5 and 6; and May 10 and 11
- More information:
www.alliesforchange.org/doow-ann-arbor-2019.
- We have arranged for two spots for Bethlehem members. Please let Lily know if you are interested in participating.



Our 2019 Peace Neighborhood volunteer dates are February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28

**SIGN-UP FOR TUESDAY
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**
TIME COMMITMENT IS 2:45-4:45PM

JANUARY 22:
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____

FEBRUARY 26:
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____

(NO MARCH DATE: AAP'S SPRING BREAK)
APRIL 23:
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____
Name _____ S-Mail _____

It's that time of year to sign up for
winter/spring volunteer opportunities
at Peace Neighborhood Center
for the After-School Feeding program.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board
outside the church office.

Questions? Contact Sue Muir at
suemuir@comcast.net.

Thanks for considering!

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD FRIDAY FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Now 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

OUR BLESSING BASKET PROJECT CONTINUES ...



Due to high demand, and great support from Bethlehem Church, our youth-led mission project for Alpha House will continue into 2019. Each family that passes through Alpha House is given a Blessing Basket of things a family would need when moving into a home. Thank you Bethlehem!!!

Collection baskets are in the library. Below is a list of popular items.

- Pillows, twin sheet sets, comforters, blankets, mattress covers
- Bathroom Mats/Rugs/Shower Curtains & Rings/Bath Towels
- Dishes, glassware, silverware sets, cups and glasses sets, dish clothes/towels
- Kitchen Supplies & cookware/Pots & Pans Sets
- Tool Kits/Mops/Brooms/Dustpans/Cleaning Supplies (soap, sponges, etc.)
- First Aid supplies/kits

Food Gatherers Barrel in the Bethlehem Library

Did you ever wonder what happens to the food and produce you donate to Food Gatherers through Bethlehem? We thought we would share that with you.

Produce Sundays are the third Sundays of the month from Thanksgiving to Easter. After church on produce Sundays, the produce is loaded into boxes and on Monday morning delivered to Food Gatherers. It is weighed and sorted. It's then scheduled to be delivered (sometimes on Monday) to any of the 150 or more agencies that Food Gatherers provides assistance through. Thanks to Bethlehem we provided 509 pounds of fresh produce in 2018.



FRESH PRODUCE COLLECTION FOR FOOD GATHERERS

Sunday, February 17
(every third Sunday until spring)

Please bring
your donations of
fresh produce
to either service
and place on the altar.



As for the Food Gatherers barrel in the LIBRARY, last year we collected 1052 pounds of cans and boxes of nonperishable food. When the barrel gets full, Food Gatherers comes to swap out the barrel, taking the full one and leaving an empty one. Please remember as you make donations: *no glass containers*.

Food Gatherers distributed 6.5 million pounds of food to neighbors in need last year. The organization has a 4-star rating (the highest) with Charity Navigator. **Thank you for your support of Food Gatherers through Bethlehem! (and don't forget fresh produce Sundays)**

Octoberfest Outreach to Fisher House

Tom Ziesemer, Jim Stadel, and Scott Lovelace presented Harvey Berman, a member of the board of directors of Fisher House Michigan, an \$1800 check. This check was in addition to \$500 previously donated by Bethlehem. The total amount donated to Fisher House from Oktoberfest was \$2300.

Thank you, Bethlehem, for supporting Oktoberfest and in turn Fisher House. As a reminder, Fisher House Michigan is a "home away from home" where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.

Jane Ziesemer, Fellowship Ministry Chair



Curl Up With A Good Book (or two)



Winter is here, the days are short and cold, so it's a good time to check out the used books for sale in the Bethlehem library to curl up with on a cold, cloudy day.

On the far right wall are books for children and young independent readers. Additional books are added regularly, so come check out what's there.

Books are \$1.00 each, and there is a cash box on the right wall as you walk into the library for payment.

If you are interested in donating books, we sell only *novels*. Please: no cookbooks, self-help, or instruction books. Just *novels*. There is a bin inside the door to place donated books.

Thank you Christmas decoration volunteers!

The church was once again beautiful for the holidays thanks to the wonderful folks who helped with pre-prep and decorating on November 29 and December 1. We certainly have lots of talented decorators in our church community.

November 29: Preparing to Decorate - Sarah Herwick, Jane Schmerberg, Abby Bowers, John Matthew Kennedy, Cresson Sloten, Jesse Wilcox, Brian Paton, Jim Judson, Jim Stadel, John Irwin, Jane & Tom Ziesemer.

December 1: Decorating Day! - Jan Eadie, Sue & Roy Muir, Sue & John Irwin, Jim & Sallie Stadel, Pam Widmayer, Fred Castenholz, Rob Robbins, Karen & Jim Goforth, Sally Wetzel, Jennifer & Edgar Vasquez, Michele & Bob Loukotka, and Jane & Tom Ziesemer.

January 12: The Clean-Up Crew - Of course, decorating also means putting everything away at the end of the holiday. This took place on Saturday, January 12, with the wonderful help of the following folks: Jan Eadie, Kris Lovelace, Sue Irwin, Michelle Loukotka, Sheila & Brian Paton, Jim & Sallie Stadel, Jesse Wilcox, Mike Haab, Kurt Schmerberg, Cresson Sloten, and Jane & Tom Ziesemer.

Thank you, one and all! *Jane Ziesemer, Fellowship Ministry Chair*

We had another wonderful Living Nativity!

**Thank you
for taking part in
Bethlehem's
Living Nativity
&
Thank you
for sharing your
Time and Talent**

CHOIR

Caroline Ashenfelter
Janelle Buday
Thomas Burton
Harriette Ehnis
Karen Kennedy
Gretchen Korzuck
Ele Kotowski
Angelika Lewis
Bob Loukotka
Michelle Loukotka
Marsha Rinke
John Samford
Sue Wortman
Linda Young

READERS

Sue Buday
Judy Coucouvanis
Jennifer Vasquez

CAST

Kai Buday
Sofia Buday
Jan Eadie
Mike Ehnis
Dave Gilmore
John Irwin
Julia Kennedy
Nancy Nicholson
Matt Perros
John Schenk
Marty Seyfried
Tom Krell
Christina Wilk
Logan Wilk-Krell

PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS

Fred Castenholz
Jim Judson
Pam Widmayer

BAND

Abby Bowers
Gordie Darr
Steve Darr
E.J. Vasquez

SUPPORT STAFF

Scott Buday
Harriette Ehnis (script)
Rev. John Kennedy
Eileen Koprowski (photos)
Pat O'Reilly
Shannon O'Reilly
Gary Rogers (advertising)
Karen Samford
Jane Schmerberg
Jim Stadel (sound)
Lily Tinker-Fortel (advertising)
Edger Vasquez
Kathy Warner
Norm Wetzel
Donna Whitney (staff)
Tom Ziesemer (director)

PRETZELS & WELCOME BAGS

(Welcome Ministry Team)
Barb Marshall
Paul Marshall
Kurt Schmerberg
Sally Wetzel

HOT CHOCOLATE

(Fellowship Ministry Team)
Susan Irwin
Sallie Stadel
Jane Ziesemer

Whether it is a nativity
on 4th Ave. or singing at the
Evangelical Home,
Bethlehem brings joy to
the larger community.





**Welcome Doors
Advent crafts
Living Advent Wreaths
&
Pageants!
There is something
for EVERYONE
at Bethlehem UCC**



NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRIES TEAM

Thank-you to everyone who helped make such a wonderful Advent & Christmas at Bethlehem. It was truly a season of caring, sharing and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank-you to everyone who participated in the Children's Christmas Program. Thank-you to all of our talented youth who performed. Decorations, shopping and presents can often out shadow the Christmas message. The youth provided a fun play that showed us the true meaning of Christmas. We have many talented youth that were speakers, actors and singers. How wonderful that Abby could honor our church's German heritage by singing Silent Night in German.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who made the Christmas program and Advent Workshop possible. Thank-you to Sarah Herwick for directing. Thanks for all the volunteers that helped including our sound team (Gary Rogers & Kurt Schmerberg), Gail Jennings, our parent helpers (and actors!), Lily Tinker-Fortel and all the members of the Education Ministry Team.

Thank-you to everyone who made Christmas cards. We were able to bring them to folks when we went Christmas caroling. It was a loving touch for many of our members who cannot get to church.

The mitten tree was a huge success as always! We had well over 200 items including hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and mittens. Many items were handmade. This year we gave some to Peace Neighborhood Center and also some to our friends at Groundcover. The donations were enthusiastically appreciated.

In addition, we gave two big boxes of toys to Peace Neighborhood Center. Peace Neighborhood Center is amazing at getting the toys, cards and donations to the people who need them the most. Sue Muir dropped off the gift cards we collected as well as a check with our monetary donation. (See the article from the Outreach Ministries Team).

Over at Alpha House, the director was overwhelmed by the generosity of our church. She said there is a constant need for donations and we gave them a good start for the year. The blessings baskets were overflowing with dishes, silverware, towels, bedding, kitchen supplies and more. We also collected \$190 worth of gift cards and \$680 for a check. Thank-you to our youth for spearheading this effort and thank-you to all of you for your donations.

Given the continued needs of Alpha House, we have decided to continue our Blessings Baskets collection through the remainder of the year. We will continue to partner with the Outreach Committee who has designated Alpha House as a focus for Bethlehem. The collection baskets will remain in the library. Donations can include anything that a family may need as they move into a new home. (Also, see list on page 8)

Stay tuned for the Youth Lenten Project. We will be continuing our efforts to support a charity that provides wood stoves to families in Guatemala. The youth group learned about this need last fall and already raised some money with a Halloween fundraiser. Our hope is to teach our congregation about this need and raise additional funds.



Angels we have
heard on high



A
STAR
IS BORN



BUCC

OUTREACH MINISTRY 2019

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer to prepare and serve dinner for Alpha House residents on Sunday, February 3rd.

Blessing Basket supplies still being collected in the BUCC Library.

ALPHA HOUSE

Fresh produce collections will take place on the third Sundays in February and March during both church services.

Volunteer to prepare dinner at the Community Kitchen on the first Sunday of each month.

FOOD GATHERERS

Volunteer at PNC to prepare the after-school snack on the fourth Tuesday each month during the school year, or help with produce distribution each Friday morning.

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

**BE THE CHANGE THAT
YOU WANT TO SEE IN
THE WORLD.**

Mahatma Ghandi



Interested in volunteering but not sure where to start? There are sign-up sheets located on the church bulletin board near the office for many current activities. Visit our web page, <https://bethlehem-ucc.org/outreach/> for more details or contact information.

Interested in championing an Outreach activity on behalf of Bethlehem? Please contact us to see how we can help coordinate the effort.

BETHLEHEM GIVES . . .

Not only does BUCC support local and worldwide agencies through volunteering and donations of goods, we also fund organizations here in our community who work for provide food, shelter and emergency assistance to people in need of basic services. In 2018, three organizations were granted budgeted funds - Food Gatherers (designated for improvements at the Community Kitchen), Alpha House and Peace Neighborhood Center. Friends in Deed (designated for household heat assistance) and Evangelical Homes of Michigan (Saline) were also selected to receive outreach funds from sources outside the Outreach budget.

New option – you can now designate “Outreach Ministry” when making a donation to BUCC through the Memorials & Gifts Fund.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ABOUND . . .

Thank you to all of the BUCC ministry teams and individuals in our congregation who fundraise and volunteer for additional outreach activities throughout the year. Organizations who have benefitted include Church World Service, Fisher House, Washtenaw Refugee Welcome, Habitat for Humanity, and more. Ministry teams who have led these efforts include Education, Youth & Young Adult, Fellowship, Women of Bethlehem as well as the numerous individuals who share their time, talents and treasures with those in our wider community.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Received through January 31

CURRENT FUND

Norma & Conrad Foster Honorarium
Fred & Lela Keppler Memorial
Vera & Harold Kleinschmidt Memorial

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Lois Haeussler Memorial
Martha Holliday Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Bethlehem Office Staff Honorarium
Pastor John and Family Honorarium
New Year Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Bill Fellenberger Memorial
Eldean & Lillian Hanson Memorial
Ron & Julia Kennedy Memorial
Hilda McLaughlin Memorial
Bill Fellenberger & Hilda McLaughlin Memorial
John E Nimz Memorial

RADIO FUND

Norm & Helen Grob Memorial

PARISH RECORDS

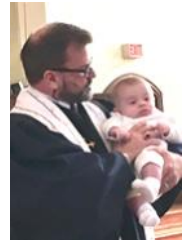


DEATHS

Janet Allen Chin
long time Bethlehem member
December 22, 2018

BAPTISM

Salvatore Michael Baiocco
Son of William and Eva Baiocco
January 13, 2019



RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIPS

December 2

In memory of
Stanley Finkbeiner
on what would have
been his 94th birth-
day, from his wife,
Arlene, and family.

December 2

In memory of **Art
and Erna Jahnke**
and **Harold "Shorty"
and Mary Jahnke**,
from Wayne and
Karen Jahnke.

2018 Christmas Wreaths

SMALL WREATHS DONATED BY:

Judy Coucouvanis
Roy & Sue Muir
Mike F. Ehnis Family
Jan Eadie
Donna Kearney
Marty & Laura Seyfried
Nancy Thibault
Jim & Karen Goforth



LARGE WREATHS DONATED BY:

Chuck & Mary Raab
Marty & Laura Seyfried
Bob & Michelle Loukotka
Tom & Jane Ziesemer
Jim & Mary Lutz
Denise Gregg
Evelyn Port



IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF:

In honor of the Bethlehem Youth
In honor of Paul & Barb Marshall
In memory of Virginia Seitz
In memory of Raymond & Elizabeth Lambarth
In memory of Lawrence Marshall
In memory of Lloyd & Gerry Seyfried
In memory of Bill & Aletta Kulenkamp
In memory of Kellie Goforth

IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF:

In memory of Carl & Jean Raab
In memory of Lloyd & Gerry Seyfried
In honor of our children and grandchildren
In honor of our grandchildren
In honor of our grandchildren
In memory of Norman and Helen Grob
For Bethlehem Church

December 2018 giving update	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$450,157	\$446,732.00	\$446,732
Expenses	\$512,549	\$537,454.00	\$537,454
Net	(\$62,392)	(\$90,722.00)	(\$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.

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