

# **The Visitor** SPECIAL EDITION

## **January 2019**

### **Bethlehem United Church of Christ**

***Sowing our seeds  
for growth and renewal***



As a congregation, BUCC has made a commitment over the years to stay as a “downtown church.” This requires ongoing support for our staff and facilities through leadership, stewardship, and involvement from our governing body—YOU!

This special issue is dedicated to the review of our current renovation project: a complete make-over of the Orval Willimann Fellowship Hall and installation of air conditioning in our sanctuary.

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## In the Beginning:

During 2017, our Facilities Ministry Team and Leadership Council identified a need to renovate many areas in our church. These areas required attention to create a more open, comfortable, and safe environment for worship and church life engagement.

One area determined by the Leadership Council as a high priority was the Willimann Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful area of our church building that we, as a congregation, utilize frequently. The fellowship hall is used weekly for coffee hour following our services, special events that support our church family, and potential rental space for outside groups.

Our Leadership Council supported evaluating plans to renovate the fellowship hall. At the same time, Bethlehem received a generous gift that directed money for installation of air conditioning in our sanctuary.

The Leadership Council hired Phoenix Construction, LLC to create a plan that would identify the estimated cost for both of these projects (fellowship hall renovation and air conditioning of the sanctuary).

In early 2018, the Phoenix group presented its ideas and a preliminary estimate to the Facilities and Finance ministry teams, as well as the Leadership Council.

As a part of their original work, Phoenix provided a concept drawing (see below) of our future fellowship hall based on the estimates provided.



## Next Steps

In June 2018, a special congregational meeting was called to allow Leadership and Finance to review our proposed plans for the fellowship hall renovation and sanctuary air conditioning projects. Specifically, we were seeking endorsement from the congregation to proceed working with Phoenix LLC for the development of detailed construction drawings and a finalized cost proposal. The congregation approved continuing to move forward with Phoenix.

During July and August, the architect, working with Phoenix, developed detailed construction drawings, and Phoenix sent out requests for bids for various subcontracting portions of the project. It was agreed between BUCC and Phoenix that we would not sign a contract before presenting final cost to our congregation for approval.

In September 2018, a second special congregational meeting was called to request endorsement for the total construction cost (see Table 1) and the proposed funding sources identified by our Finance Ministry Team (see Table 2).

At the conclusion of the meeting, the congregation voted to support these projects and funding sources. In addition, the congregation authorized moving forward with a contract to Phoenix for the entire project.

Table 1: Final cost estimates for fellowship hall renovation and sanctuary air conditioning.

Work Item	Estimated Cost
Fellowship Hall renovation	\$356,323.91
Sanctuary air conditioning	\$173,586.00
Total	\$529,909.91

Table 2: Proposed funding sources for the combined projects.

Funding Source	Dollar Amount
Unrestricted funds	\$200,000.00
Gifts and donations	\$210,000.00
BOAA loan	\$120,000.00
Total	\$530,000.00

Following our September meeting, BUCC signed the contract with Phoenix LLC, and a construction schedule was developed with work scheduled to begin the week of October 22, 2018. The completion was targeted for early to mid-February 2019.



## THEN (October 2018)

One final event was planned for the old fellowship hall, our annual Oktoberfest.

The following pictures show you how the hall looked for the Oktoberfest celebration.





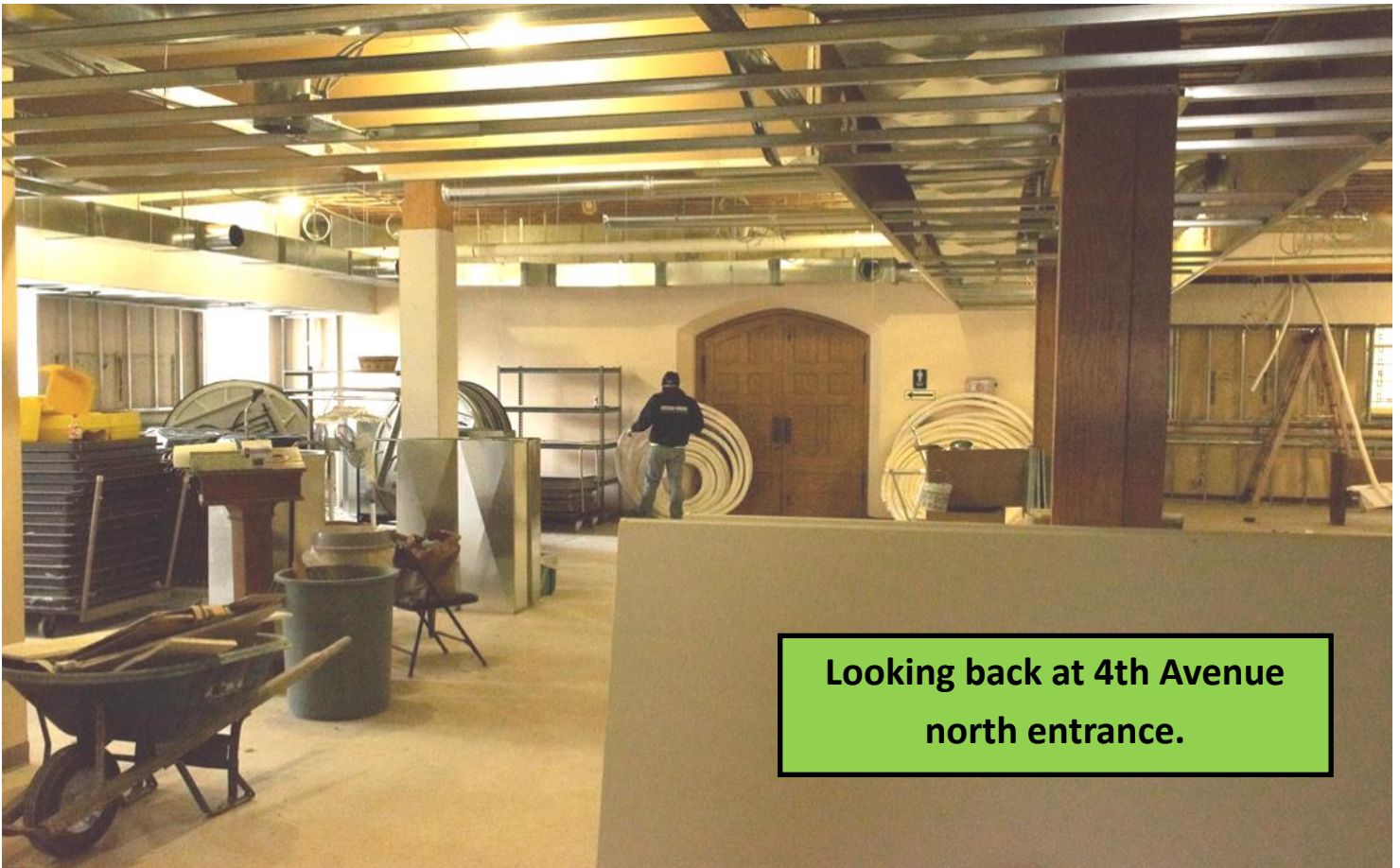
## **NOW** (December 2018)

Much activity has happened since our Oktoberfest celebration.

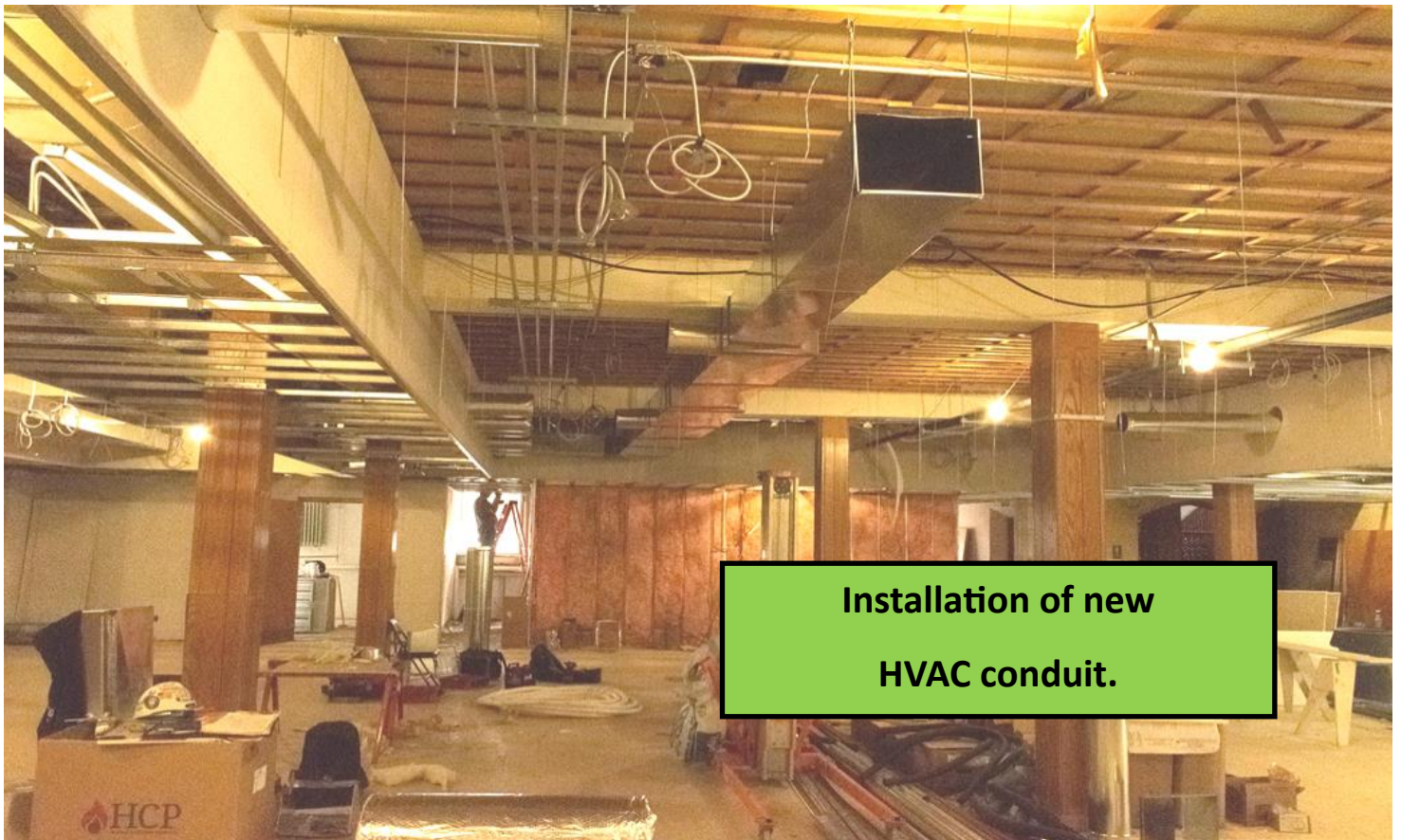
The following pictures show the progress in the fellowship hall and sanctuary.











# MOVING FORWARD

Much work remains before we will have our newly renovated hall available to enjoy once again. Our construction partners are on-schedule to date. We continue to look at the beginning of February to complete all work on both projects.

## *Upcoming Events*



### **"Hard Hat" early viewing Sunday, January 27**

We will be offering an early viewing of the fellowship hall immediately following our congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Please join us to walk through this area and see what all your support and encouragement have provided to revitalize our church community space.

### **Dedication of Fellowship Hall (tentative date Sunday, February 24)**

Several of our ministry teams and council are planning a dedication and celebration for this exciting project. We have picked a tentative date of Sunday, February 24, 2019. Please mark your calendars so you can join us in this celebration of renewal and growth. Additional details will be sent out to the congregation as plans are finalized.



### **Capital Funding Campaign (tentative date Sunday, February 24)**

From the beginning of this special project, we planned to initiate a special fundraising program to pay down and pay off the loan obtained from Bank of Ann Arbor. We will be launching that campaign at our dedication ceremony.

Our fundraising target is to raise \$150,000 over three years to pay off the loan including interest. Any donations collected in excess of the outstanding loan amount will be used to reimburse BUCC for funds taken from our unrestricted accounts.

Ron Dechert—Project Lead, Vice President

## **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.**

