

The Visitor

March 2019

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



“Built and Building in Christ’s Love” by Rev. John Kennedy

Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?
(1st Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16)

Time marches on and things can change so quickly; lives, communities, countries, and even a whole world in the blink of an eye. Like Dorothy from the “Wizard of Oz” we have all ridden storms and realized “we are not in Kansas anymore”. In our crazy world, we have seen dark storms come and go; in the form of recessions, revolutions, wars, inquisitions, reformations, cold wars, and more. Time marches on, sometimes in a gentle breeze and sometimes in the raging storm. God is with us in all times and God is with us now.

(Continued on page 6)

**April Visitor
DEADLINE**
Monday, March 25.

*The
April Visitor
will be
available
Sunday,
April 7.*



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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Phone 734-665-6149 Fax 734-665-3399



www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Dear Bethlehem UCC Family,

It is with sadness that I inform you that our Parish Administrator, Mary Cantor, formally resigned this week. Mary served in this position for the last 6 months. Mary expressed that she enjoyed her work at Bethlehem UCC and that her only reason for resignation was due to two events that frightened her, and both occurred on the same day. The two individuals involved are not members of our congregation but are connected with the homeless population with which we and other downtown churches are familiar. No one was injured but the incidents never-the-less were frightening. Mary has been and is receiving our full support.

The Ann Arbor Police were notified, and both individuals involved have been given criminal trespass warnings. The office hours have been changed and the office will now be open Tues, Weds, Thurs, and Fri and closed on Mondays. There will be the same number of work-hours each week but the hours will be worked together on the same days and hours (2 staff members and 1 volunteer).

As a former police officer/detective, safety and security is a high priority to me that I see as a sacred responsibility. It is important to our Leadership Team and to you. There are usually many small changes that can be applied to make a big overall difference. Facilities has been tasked with performing a safety audit to recommend practical safety practices. Positive solutions include repairing locks that have been disabled (such as the doors leading to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors via the 5th Ave staircase); rekeying old locks that have been the same for many decades; limiting the number of locks that one key can open, for example a master key from 40 years-ago can unlock too many doors. A person who needs a key to the gym, doesn't necessarily need that same key to open the youth-room, sanctuary, classrooms, chapel, lounge, choir room, Donna's office and the copy room, etc. A person who was issued a key 35-years ago, because they held a volunteer, elected or staff position does not necessarily still need that key. Keys should be signed-out, and signed-in, as needed and while there is a valid need. Parking lot traffic safety and fire-lanes should be in accordance with city ordinances and fire-code. We will also continue to use safe-church practices such as background checks for those who work with children or handle money, and financial audits are being maintained.

Prompt action has been taken and a proactive strategy is being taken to insure that Bethlehem UCC continues to be a place of extravagant welcome and a place of sanctuary (safety) for all. Many of our downtown churches, libraries, schools, and business continue to strive to find this balance as they serve our community in the heart of Ann Arbor.

Here is a brief excerpt from Mary's letter of resignation;

"Pastor John, Thank you, I so greatly appreciate your quick response to take care of the incidents, but mostly for talking with me about what happened. Your support and kind words gave me comfort. I will greatly miss you, Lily, and Donna. All three of you were so caring and supportive. I will greatly miss the members of Bethlehem Church. Thank you, again for your support and for all you did after the incidents"... Mary

Your concerns and ideas are important. If you have questions related to staffing or administration, please contact me as Pastor/Head of Staff. If you have questions regarding visioning or governance please contact John Samford, President of Bethlehem UCC.

God loves us all with no take-backs!

Pastor John

Ministry Teams Working Together to Plan a New Experience at Bethlehem!

The Worship, Fellowship, Member Care and Welcome ministries here at Bethlehem have banded together to plan a fantastic event for the rededication of the Willimann Fellowship Hall.

Homecoming Sunday will take place on April 7th.

Special celebrants at the 10 AM worship service will be Michigan Conference Minister Campbell Lovett, and Pastor Emeritus Orval Willimann sharing the pulpit with Pastor John. Thomas Burton and the Music ministry have promised another day of fantastic music as a part of this special experience.

Following worship, brunch in our newly remodeled fellowship hall will be offered and the rededication of Willimann Fellowship Hall will take place. The Member Care ministry is encouraging all members to reconnect with Bethlehem on this special Sunday by attending worship and enjoying brunch. Come, bring your friends and be a witness to the new direction the Spirit is leading us here at Bethlehem.

The archive group at Bethlehem plans a display of historical images, and other artifacts from their collection as a part of the rededication ceremony. We invite you to bring your favorite photo of church life at Bethlehem for the display and share your memories with us.

The Homecoming brunch will replace the brunch formerly held on Palm Sunday. Fellowship ministry will once again have sign-up sheets outside the office beginning March 17 for Egg Casseroles, Breakfast Sides, Baked Goods, and Fruit. New this year will be a carving table serving ham. Fellowship thanks you for sharing in this celebration.



From your President's Desk:

As you have read from Pastor John, elsewhere in this issue of the Visitor, we lost a valued staff member, Parish Administrator Mary Cantor, because of 2 back-to-back incidents when individuals from outside our congregation made her feel unsafe working alone in the church office. We will miss Mary's professional contributions to our church and her friendly demeanor.

Bethlehem leaders are shocked, outraged, and saddened that something happened in our church building to Mary which has compromised her feeling safe here and we recognize our responsibility to improve safety and security on our grounds and in our buildings for all staff, members and friends of this church.

Leadership Council has voted to recommend the church office be closed on Mondays so that during the rest of the working week there will always be at least two individuals in the office at all times. Leadership Council is also looking into other safety issues and policies to promote safety and security in our church buildings and church grounds. We are suggesting Facilities Ministry Team invite the Ann Arbor Police department to meet with them to help them evaluate ways of better securing areas within the church.

This incident underscores the responsibility we all share to make our facilities a safe place for all:

Outside business hours, unlock outside doors only as long as necessary (i.e. don't unlock for an evening meeting and leave the doors open for the duration of the meeting)

Don't hold the office door open for folks you don't know if the building is locked

Offer the "right hand of fellowship" to folks you don't recognize, not only to welcome them but to assist them, if they have legitimate business

We're all responsible for making BUCC a welcoming, safe place.

DID YOU KNOW? Bethlehem is part of the Michigan UCC Covenant Association, along with 40 other churches in the middle part of the Lower Peninsula?



**The Covenant Association
2019 SPRING MEETING
is being held at BETHLEHEM this year
Saturday, March 30**

There will be lots of folks
from lots of churches here.
We need volunteers to help this run
smoothly and welcome our many visitors.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY THE OFFICE. THANK YOU!

New Office Hours
Monday—CLOSED
Tuesday—Friday OPEN 9-3

LENT AND EASTER SEASON



April 14 - PALM SUNDAY

8:30 Worship, Chapel
10:00 Worship + Palm Parade

April 18 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service plus a light meal, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

April 19 - GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL

7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Chapel

April 19 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

12 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 21 - EASTER SUNDAY

6:45 a.m. Sunrise service, Bethlehem Cemetery
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship, Sanctuary

OTHER HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Meditation and Prayer Labyrinth, in the gym for Good Friday.
DeGrazia's Way of the Cross, art display with audio.



Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast April 5, 8:30 a.m.

On Friday, April 5th the BUCC Veterans breakfast will have visitors from the American Legion (Dexter) and the VA Hospital. They will share with us information about the VA services and what we can do to support these important programs.

This will take place at our BUCC Veterans breakfast at the Classic Cup Cafe on Jackson rd. 8:30 a.m. Please feel free to join us.



Auxiliary/Mothers Study Circle March 20, 1 p.m., gallery

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship as we enjoy a wonderful music program by Katie & Jim Rowan.



HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS ARE RETURNING!!!

Baking and sale dates are:
March 16, April 13, May 4, and June 1

Pretzel rolling begins at 9 a.m.
Pretzel sales 10:30-12:30

(Call 734-665-6149 to preorder.)

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Food Gatherers Volunteer Day at the Delonis Center.**
April 7, 12-2:30
- ◆ **Fresh Produce Sunday** March 17 and April 21 (Easter) at both services
- ◆ **Peace Neighborhood Volunteer Day**
Tuesday, April 23, 2:45 p.m.
Bethlehem helps serve an afternoon snack/meal to the area students who come for afternoon programming.



"Built and Building in Christ's Love"

by Rev. John Kennedy

(Continued from page 1)

In the story of the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy thinks she has to go "somewhere over the rainbow" to escape her current troubles to find courage, heart, and wisdom. She believes that she can't find "home" in bleak Kansas during the Depression. Yet, she discovers that all those things already exist right in her midst. Dorothy's family, and community are her "home", and home is home, because of who's in it. In Dorothy's home there is a family of incredible courage, heart, and wisdom, and together they are stronger.

In the 1st century world of Paul, in the town of Corinth there was a little church. This church family was made up of converted Jews, and many more Gentiles. Conditions were scary and overwhelming. The Jews realized they were not in the temple anymore, and the Gentiles were not amongst their other gods anymore. They started a new family and home in Jesus. The life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus became the bedrock and solid foundation of their community. Little did they realize that the faithful decisions that they were making each day were leading to a movement that was changing the world forever. A small church trusting God, following Christ's footsteps of love and peace, was paying off in a movement that was weaving them in

solidarity. They were braver, they were calmer, they were more focused, and they were growing in joy and confidence. They were not fighting the Roman Empire on the empire's terms. They were building a home with the subversive techniques of love, justice, mercy, and humility, and the empire could not stop them.

In Ann Arbor, Jesus has come to Bethlehem! We hear Jesus' voice, and have been building our community and opening our building in love to our community. We are remaking our building, building new ministries, adding new faith formation opportunities, and focusing our Outreach efforts. "Do you realize that all of you together are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God, lives in you?" Because of God's grace to us, Jesus has laid the foundation like an expert builder and now Bethlehem is building on it. Jesus will never leave our side.

There will always be storms but they will not stop our growing in God's love or our building a Just World for All. We know what real justice, mercy, and humility do not look like! We know what real justice, mercy, and humility do look like and we will keep building.

God loves us all with no take-backs!

Pastor John

Bethlehem is well represented at Brecon Village!

Karen Samford spotted this on the bulletin board at Brecon Village.

Look at all the Bethlehem folks that are on the council!



 Brecon Village Resident Council 2018-19	
Orval Willimann	President
Joe Sharrar	Vice President
Ruth Willimann	Secretary
Mary Lou Wenk	Spiritual Life Committee Chair
Marie Slotten	Welcome Committee Chair
Norma Marshall	Library Committee Chair
Bill Friedrichs	Member at Large
Jim Mangi	Condo Representative
Cathy Caron	Primrose Representative

Sharon Seay

I was born in Ann Arbor Michigan and grew up in Clinton, Michigan. Graduated from Clinton High School in 1984 and began working at Travis Pointe Country Club that summer. I work in the accounting department of Travis Pointe and have worked there for 35 years. I have two sons, Andrew (AJ) 27 and Avery 25. I have two sisters, Sherry and Charlene. My parents are David and Judy Stentzel, mom passed away from Alzheimer's in 2015.

I have a lifelong passion for cooking and baking. It's my Zen. From a very young age my dad taught me to cook and mom taught me to bake and decorate cakes. I have been decorating wedding cakes for about 30 years and I bake homemade desserts for the restaurant at Travis Pointe Country Club each week. Other hobbies and interests include the love of pets (welcoming two new beagle puppies last fall), gardening, vacationing at the beach, and reading. I look forward to a bright future and the rest of my life with my wonderful partner of 18 years, Sandy.

Sandy Stafford

Sandy was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. She attended Irmo High School and Winthrop College where she earned her teaching degree in Physical Education with a science minor. She is employed by Saline Schools and works as the district's Aquatics Director and coaches middle school cross country. Her family is still spread across the southern states and, as an only child, she visits the sunshine states as often as possible; her favorite is Edisto Beach, S.C. Growing up, she attended East Minister Presbyterian Church where her family was very active and has many fond memories of Sunday school, vacation bible school and quality time with her parents and grandparents. Sandy is an avid runner, loves all sports and currently trains for and competes in triathlons.

Sandy is happy to have found a church family that has such a beautiful message, provides a calm and peaceful environment for everyone and makes all feel welcome. I look forward to becoming an active member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ and meeting everyone in my new church family.

Terri Teegaden

I was born in Tecumseh MI in 1960 and still live there. Am the youngest of five. Biggest influence in my everyday life and my Christian life was my loving mom and Aunt, (Mom's Sister). I was baptized in 2000. I Work at Pro-Face America in Ann Arbor. I am a big sports fan. Favorite sport is watching University of MI women's softball. LOVE auto racing especially Nascar. I like to play golf but I'm a better spectator than player. LOVE the beautiful blue ocean and beaches. And a big animal lover.

Welcome to Bethlehem



Tim Authier & Barb Chaffer Authier and their children Allan and Mira also joined Bethlehem recently. Their bios will be in the April Visitor.

March Youth Group - Welcome!

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

- March 7 Care Packages for BUCC College Students
- March 14 3.14 Pi Day Board Game Night
Fundraiser for Michigan Helps
- March 21 Maker's Night - Succulents
- March 28 TBD



COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!



Sunday, March 17

Young and old, and even parents, are welcome at this fun frosting event. The cookies will be sold during the Coffee Connection. Donations will go toward our Lenten Mission Project. We will have 36 dozen to sell.

ALL CHURCH - ALL AGES
Dinner and Board Game Night
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth
Thursday - March 14
Thursday - April 11
6:30-8:30 in the youth room.

BUCC Youth love board games and we'd love to share them with the broader Bethlehem community! Join us for pizza dinner and board games for all ages!!

Gentle Yoga
at Bethlehem
In the Gallery

Tue. March 19, 5:15-6:15

Tue. April 2 - 11:00-12:00



BOOK OF THE MONTH

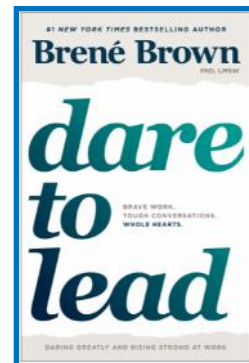
Join us for monthly book discussions!

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.

Song of the Month
Just for fun!

I Am Light
by India Arie

Check it out
 and let me know
 what you think.

Join Bethlehem's
Prayer Circle
Ministry!
March 21, April 4

1st and 3rd
 Thursdays at
 11:30 in the
 lounge.

21 day Meditation with

Oprah and Deepak

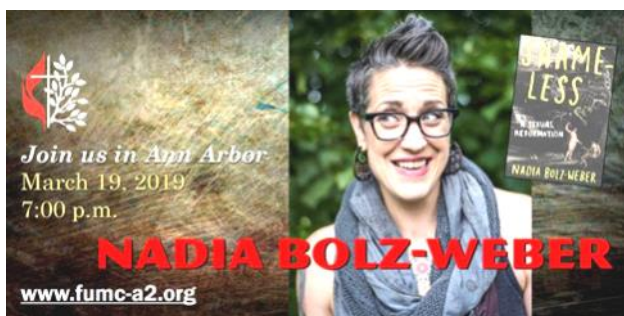
March 25 - April 14

Inspired by the notion that it takes 21 days to create a habit. In this 21-Day Meditation Experience, Oprah and Deepak guide you on a free online journey to enjoy the life-changing benefits of meditation in an easy and inspiring way. More details to come. See Lily with questions.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday,
 March 19,
 7:00 p.m.
 Nadia
 Bolz-
 Weber
 at First
 United
 Methodist



Nadia Bolz-Weber talks about meeting the neighbors in "Outside the Walls: Bringing the Church into the Community". She will also introduce us to her new book "Shameless: The Sexual Reformation". More info at

www.fumc-a2.org/Nadia

Guatemalan Stoves

Gary and I recently returned from an inspiring trip to the Guatemalan Highlands with Michigan HELPS. Our team of 102 people provided medical care to about 1,200 patients of which nearly 200 received surgeries.



Another 40 families received cook stoves and water filtration systems. These stoves replaced fire pits in villager's small smoke-filled houses.

My job was surgery scheduler, so I had lots of time with the roughly 200 surgery patients, including Jobel who colored pictures as he awaited surgery. Michigan HELPS is a non-profit that organizes annual trips to Guatemala.

Our dear friend and my former husband, Dr. Jack Wagoner, has led Michigan HELPS teams for a dozen years, and he served as an anesthesiologist for nearly 40 earlier trips. He was honored by the Michigan Medical Society for his service a few years ago. I joined him on several trips some 20 years ago during our marriage, and this was my first trip back.

What first struck me was how many people from those earlier trips remained part of this amazing team. It reminded me that our Lord calls us to be in service, not just as individuals, but as a team!

Here Jack is introducing a spunky woman to the new wheelchair he made available. She came to us on February 6 on a rubber mat which she used as a sled powered by her calloused hands.

If you are wondering how Gary and I came to be ongoing, caring friends with Jack, feel free to ask us.

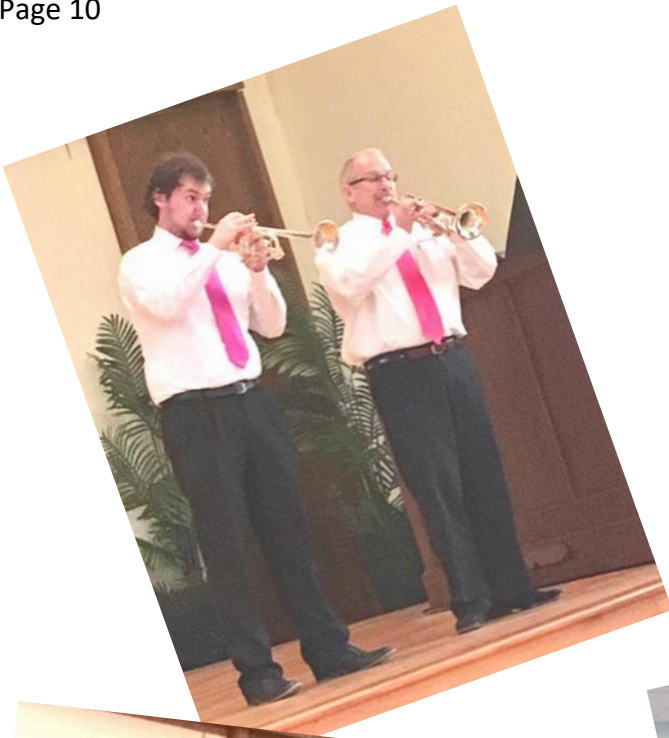
Gary was part of the Stoves Team, and that is where we're asking Bethlehem to join in. A donation of \$250 provides a new stove for a family, which includes a pre-visit to set up the family and a post-visit to ensure proper utilization. It also includes a water filtration system. The labor for installation comes from volunteers like Gary. The stove uses much less wood than traditional fire pits in their dirt-floor homes, which is an environmental benefit, and provides ventilation, which vastly improves the home's air quality, especially for children and older family members.

Michigan HELPS gives life enhancing, even life saving assistance. Those of us who contribute get something much bigger – a connection at the most basic level inside God's plan for all of us.



We are pleased to join with the youth of BUCC to collect donations for these Guatemalan stoves. Please include "Michigan HELPS" as a note on your check for your donation for a stove.

Gary and I will be there next February to make sure they are installed with care!



Lent Build

40 days of prayer, service
and sacrifice



**Whether it is special music, renovations,
ashes at the bus station,
filling Lenten Banks for Habitat or
building stoves for Guatemala.
*Bethlehem has something for everyone!!***



2019 Bethlehem Builds Lenten Mission Project

Building a Just World for All from Flint to Guatemala



MICHIGANHELPS

Michigan Helps Guatemala Stove Project

Help Bethlehem's children and youth raise money to install stoves in Guatemala through Michigan Helps.

Bring your coins to church on Sundays in Lent for special offering. Participate in Education MT fund-raisers, including St. Patrick's Day cookies.

Goal: Raise \$1,000 to fund four stoves!



Genesee County

Habitat for Humanity®

Affiliate of Distinction 2015-2017

Habitat Lent Build 2019

Church wide Lenten Spiritual Practice

Sign up on the bulletin board to receive materials for this Lenten devotional practice.

Goals: Raise \$1,000 and have 50 participating Bethlehem households!

**FISHER HOUSE MICHIGAN
SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER
To support Military & Veterans' Families**

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST



Knights Steakhouse
2324 Dexter Rd. Ann Arbor

Tickets available at:

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 S. Fourth Ave., downtown Ann Arbor
734-665-6149

\$20 Adults (CASH BAR)

\$10 Children under 11 yrs.

2 Seating times: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Make your checks payable to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Put **Fisher House** on memo line



Menu: Spaghetti, Meatballs,
Rolls, Salad, Cookies



SPONSORED BY:

Knights Steakhouse
Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Stevie D and the Wannabes



**Mending the Gap - Why do so
many people feel left behind?**

**A program featuring Sister Simone
Campbell, of Nuns on the Bus and
Executive Director of NETWORK**

Reception to follow the program.

WHEN: Sunday, March 31st.

Doors open at 2:00 PM | Program at 2:30 PM

WHERE: Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 South 4th Ave., Ann Arbor

TICKETS: \$20 general admission; \$5 students.

Funds benefit RESULTS Educational Fund and our work to end
poverty. Learn more at www.RESULTS.org.

Scholarships are available, nobody will be turned away for inability
to pay.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit
<https://results.salsalabs.org/sistersimone>



**2 great events
on March 31**



**tickets available
at the Bethlehem office,
or online (info at left)**

BUCC OUTREACH MINISTRY 2019

MARCH

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer to prepare a dinner for Alpha House residents.

Blessing Basket supplies are being collected in the BUCC Library.

ALPHA HOUSE

Fresh produce collections will take place on the third Sundays through May 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. Sign up by the office or contact suemuir@comcast.net

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

*"You make a living by
what you get. You
make a life by what
you give."*

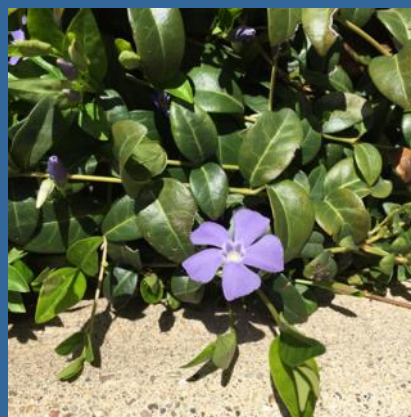
—Winston Churchill

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. You can also elect to participate in our 'Signup Genius' email list to be the first to know when volunteer help is needed .

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

Interested in joining the Outreach team? Let us know!



SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS...

The Outreach Ministry Team, along with other groups from Bethlehem, is partnering with Knight's Steakhouse, Fisher House of Michigan, and Stevie D and the Wannabes to host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in support of the upcoming Fisher House location in the Ann Arbor area. The dinner will be held at Knight's on Sunday, March 31st. Tickets available at Bethlehem. See poster on page 12.

Outreach Ministry Team will also be supporting the Education Ministry Team in their Lenten mission project of collecting funds for Michigan Helps' cookstove project. For every \$150 contributed, a safe and efficient cookstove will be purchased and installed in a rural Guatemalan home. Read about the recent first-hand experience of Bethlehem members and Michigan Helps volunteers Della & Gary in this edition of the Visitor (page 9).

Remember – you can now designate "Outreach Ministry" when making a donation to BUCC through the Memorials & Gifts Fund.

FEBRUARY MEMORIALS & GIFTS

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Martha Holliday Memorial
Rosemary Streiter Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Janet Chin Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT

Wilbert & Betty Diuble Memorial
Sandy Dotson Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
February 28, 2019

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP

February 17 Sponsored by Barbara Scherdt Hoppe and Karen Scherdt Moore in memory of their parents and grandparents, **Stanley & Betty Scherdt, Erwin & Lucille Scherdt, and Edward & Lenore Scherdt.**

CEMETERY NEWS

Please take note that all fall & holiday arrangements and decorations in the cemetery will be removed beginning April 1st.



FEBRUARY PARISH RECORDS

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Seay and Sandy Strafford
February 10, 2019

Terri Teegarden
February 10, 2019

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS from BETHLEHEM CHURCH

Applications for college scholarships
will be available on April 7th
and will be accepted until Sunday, May 26th.

More information available soon.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

During the past few months, following a bicycle crash, surgery and hospitalization at U of M, and then six long weeks at Redies Center, I have gained a new appreciation for the people that comprise the church here at Bethlehem. I was truly amazed at the number of cards, phone calls and visits received from the many friends I have made here. To all of you, a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Dennis Huibregtse

PS: A special shout-out goes to Gary Maki, whose frequent "pop-in" visits were so welcome and always brightened my day. Merci beaucoup, mon ami!

February 2019 giving update	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$68,220	\$68,747	\$171,867
Expenses	\$89,576	\$97,662	\$244,156
Net	(\$21,356)	(\$28,916)	(\$72,289)



THE Capital Campaign

REPAYING THE FELLOWSHIP HALL LOAN

3 Years: January 2019 – December 2021

Goal: \$ 120,000

- Goal: repay \$120,000 loan to partially finance refurbishing Willimann Fellowship Hall
- Extra will replenish funds taken out for this project
- Giving Options:
 - 1 time lump sum
 - 1 year pledge
 - 3 year pledge
- Will have annual Stewardship Campaign subcategory
- Early donations save on interest



SOME EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO GIVE:

One-time immediate gift:

- \$5,000 (saves \$900 Interest)

Annual giving over 3 years:

- \$1500/year = \$4,500

Monthly giving over 3 years:

- \$200/month = \$ 7,200
- \$100/month = \$ 3,600
- \$50/month = \$ 1,800

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.

I/We pledge to the Fellowship Hall Capital Campaign the amount of

\$_____ in 2019, \$_____ in 2020, \$_____ in 2021

Name: _____



**Please consider turning in your Pledge Form,
if you have not already done so.
(Or cut out and return this one)**

Thank you!



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
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
 Julie Feldkamp
Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy