

The Visitor

April 2019

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



“A Celebration of Renewal for Bethlehem” by Rev. John Kennedy

Thank you, God, for all that you have been and are doing through Bethlehem United Church of Christ and its people. Thank you to every member of Bethlehem who is participating in what God is doing in our hearts, minds, and entire lives. We are praying, strategically planning, and stepping out in faith, knowing that you, God, go before us. Together in solidarity we rededicated our Bethlehem facilities “to the Glory of God” on April 7, 2019. Thank you to all who did so much! Let us remember why we are doing all of these new things.

A prayer from our rededication service:

We dedicate this building to the glory of God.

- For the worship of God in prayer and praise, for the preaching of the Word, for the celebration of the holy sacraments.
- For the comfort of those who mourn, for the help of those who are perplexed, for the guidance of those who seek strength.
- For the support and nurture of families, for the guidance of children, for the calling of youth to a life of service.

(Continued on page 4)

**COMBINED
MAY-JUNE Visitor
Deadline is May 13**

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UNITED
in Christ's love,
a **JUST** world for all.

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

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



I hope you were able to attend the rededication of the Willimann Fellowship Hall on "Homecoming" Sunday. It was a fine celebration of the culmination of refurbishing and installing air conditioning.



Now that the work is done and we've received the final bill, there's **very good news**: We won't have to borrow as much as the congregation authorized. Rather than the \$120,000 the governing body authorized borrowing, we shall have to borrow about \$67,000!

This windfall is due in part to lower costs (and thus less contingency spending built into the estimate) and in part to those who have already donated or pledged to the capital campaign. Thanks to all!

Our Covenant Association held its spring meeting Saturday, March 30, at Bethlehem. I thank all those who had a hand in making that event a success: individuals from the Welcome, Fellowship, and Member Care ministry teams; our organist, pastor, and various other volunteers. (Rather than offend only a few folks by omitting their names, I chose to list no names!)

One attendee, Pat Barnes-McConnell from East Lansing, shared a mantra from the Carol J. Greer Community Learning Center. She has found it is a great way to focus children's attention and energy. When she says "123!" the children immediately stop what they're doing and respond with:

I MUST:

Dream big

Because I don't have to settle for less;

Work hard

Because I want to be among the best;

Have self-discipline

Because achieving my dream depends on it;

I can do all these things because I am intricately and wonderfully made, and so are you.

Perhaps we all need to say "123!" to ourselves more often!

Meet Our New Parish Administrator

It is with great joy that we welcome Julie Rhodes to Bethlehem as our new Parish Administrator.



Julie started on April 9 and has already been a wonderful presence around the office and the church. The pretzel rollers were happy to have her come down to the Fellowship Hall and see what pretzel rolling is all about, and the folks helping with a funeral luncheon that same day were grateful when she came down to lend a helping hand. Great job jumping right in!

Julie comes to us with 11 years of arts and education nonprofit work experience and decades of volunteer efforts. She lives in Tecumseh with her husband, Bob, and is happy to have her children and grandchildren nearby. Stop by the office and give Julie a warm Bethlehem welcome!

Bethlehem's Tree of Life

Spring is in the air! Time to tend to our beautiful "Tree of Life" located at the Fourth Avenue canopy entrance of our church.

Our "Tree of Life" is not just a memorial for loved ones; it is also a great way to honor special occasions in life. Think graduations, weddings, baptisms, and anniversaries. If you are looking for a personal and meaningful gift for a special occasion or person, please consider the purchase of a leaf on our Tree of Life.



Your leaf will commemorate a life event and also create a history of our times together here at Bethlehem, as well as help fund special projects and needs. Order forms are available in the church office; at the 4th Avenue Welcome Center; or by emailing

info@bethlehem-ucc.org.

APRIL is the month to renew your KROGER GROCERY REWARD for Bethlehem

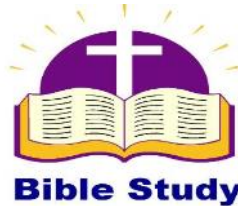
All shoppers must reenroll during the month of April in the Kroger Community



Rewards Program to designate BUCC as their organization to receive funds. Go to Kroger.com, sign in, click on My Account, click on Community Rewards, and then designate Bethlehem United Church of Christ as your organization. Questions? Linda Young 734-223-5105.



AUXILIARY/MOTHER'S STUDY
Wednesday, May 15, 1 p.m.
In the gallery
Potluck Birthday Celebration



MARY MARTHA BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday, May 14
(2nd Tuesday of each month)
10:00 a.m. in the library



HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS



Final pretzels until fall.
May 4 and June 1
10:30 - 12:30



Please preorder at
734-665-6149

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ **Food Gatherers Volunteer Day at the Delonis Center**
May 5, 12-2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Peace Neighborhood Volunteer Day**
Tuesday, April 23 & May 28, 2:45 p.m.
Bethlehem helps serve an afternoon snack/meal to area students who come for afternoon programming.



Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast
July 7, at 8:30 a.m.

Classic Cup Café on Jackson Rd.

If you are a military veteran, please join us for breakfast on the first Friday of every month at the Classic Cup Café.



Lent Build
40 days of prayer, service and sacrifice



Many thanks to ALL who participated in our Lenten Mission Projects.

See page 6 to see how much money you helped raise.

(Continued from page 1)

"A Celebration of Renewal for Bethlehem"
by Rev. John Kennedy

- For guarding against evil, for fostering faithfulness, for promoting peace and justice in all the earth.
- For the opening of minds to your truth, for the care of the needy, for the giving of hope and courage.
- For the unity of all believers in Christ, for the carrying of the Gospel into all the world, for the furtherance of the unity of all people.
- For the consecration of life and service, in grateful remembrance of those who have gone before us, and in gratitude for our life together in this church.
- We rededicate this building to the glory of God, to the honor of Jesus Christ, and to the praise of the Holy Spirit.
- We dedicate the Orval Willimann Fellowship Hall and our entire Bethlehem building to you, God. May the meaning we see in this building of worship live in us so that each time we see it or use it, we may be reminded of your Holy presence. May we pass on to our children and our children's children the significance of this house of God so that their journey of faith may grow and blossom. God has done great things for us, and we rejoice. Let us go forth from this place to do great things in the name of Christ, whose call leads us to restoration and new life. Amen.

See pages 10-11 for photos of our celebration

God loves us *all* with no take-backs!
Pastor John



Homecoming Brunch Thank-You & Mark Your Calendars

The Homecoming Brunch was over-the-top successful. I believe we had about 160 folks in attendance. We collected \$501 in the freewill offering and ham sales, which will go to the Habitat Project. A huge thank-you to all who provided dishes. I don't think anyone went away hungry. As I said to my wonderful team of helpers, it takes a community of amazing people to make an event successful, and you were all a part of that community.

Special thanks to my team: Jan Eadie, Susan and John Irwin, Sue and Roy Muir, Tom Ziesemer, Jan Burnham, Kathy Warner, Jim Stadel, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez, and Cresson Slotten. Thank you, Paul and Barb, for adding the ham-carving table this year. The ham was delicious and enjoyed by all. So professional-looking, too.



TACO BAR



Please mark your calendars for the Fiesta Taco Brunch on Sunday, May 5, after the 10:00 service (see poster on page 7). This is in conjunction with the Cake Auction fundraiser for the Habitat trip. We all know how wonderful this event is to attend. Hope to see you there.

Many, many thanks!
Jane, Fellowship Ministry Chair

Fisher House Michigan Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The Fisher House Michigan spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sunday, March 31, was enjoyed by all. The fundraiser was attended by 270, including members of Bethlehem, and raised \$11,392. The funds will help support the building of a house that will be used by military and veterans' families in need of a place to stay while loved ones are being cared for at the VA hospital.

The event was sponsored by Knight's Steakhouse, Stevie D and the Wannabes, and Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

I would like to thank those Bethlehem members and friends who volunteered during the event: Steve and Martha Darr, Brian Paton, Mark Fisher,

Dennis Huibregtse, Abby Bowers, Jim Stadel, Sue and Brian Buday, Jan Eadie, Kathy Warner, Dave Gilmore, Rob Robbins, Mike Haab, Jesse Wilcox, Marty and Laura Seyfried, Mary Jean Raab, and Jane Zieseemer.

I would also like to thank the 16 students from AA Pioneer Rising Scholars, the U of M students who volunteered, and Dr. Karen Kerry and Suzanne Schaffrath from Fisher House.

We want to especially thank Don Knight and his amazing staff for donating their time and facility to make this event a success.

Tom Zieseemer





Lenten Mission Project

This year we wanted to raise money to help buy the materials to make cooking stoves for families in Guatemala in Central America. The response has been fantastic! So far we had raised \$2000 by the time this article went to print. Thank you, Bethlehem! This mission project shows us how we can work together to do Christ's calling to help those in most need. We are proud of our youth for leading this effort and grateful for the response from our entire congregation.

Our mission project this year is a project brought to our attention by Della DiPietro. She came and spoke to the youth group last fall and explained the project. Many families in Guatemala have only a pit in the middle of a dirt floor as their only source of heat and a place to cook. It is inefficient, and wood smoke fills the room, causing health issues because there is no ventilation.

Della has been involved with a group called Michigan Helps for many years. A group of physicians, nurses, and support volunteers go to Guatemala to perform surgeries for some of the poorest individuals. The surgeries are varied—repairs of cleft lips and palates, club feet, and eye surgeries, for example. The patients come from villages far and wide, and all the expenses are covered. It takes a large team of people (including Della and her husband, Gary Kade) to make these trips possible.

Over the years, Michigan Helps volunteers identified a concern that affected many of the families. Although the surgeries were lifechanging, patients were being sent back to unhealthy homes. The fire pits lead to health problems. One volunteer came up with a design for a simple stove. Now volunteers go into the homes and set up these stoves: \$250 covers the cost of materials and installation.



So far, our fundraising efforts have included:

GUATEMALA STOVE PROJECT (as of April 14)

- Halloween Treats, \$70
- Cookie Sales for St. Patrick's Day, \$443.31
- All Church Game Night, \$78
- ***The above events PLUS Congregational donations brings the Guatemala Stove Project donations to a total of over \$2100.***

HABITAT LENT BUILDS (as of April 17)

- Habitat Lent Builds Boxes \$682.70
- Homecoming free will offering \$501.00

The response has been heartwarming. Thank-you to everyone who donated and to all our youth for their efforts.



Walk and Talk

On the third Sunday of most months, our high-school and sometimes middle-school youth go for an outing during the service. We typically walk to one of the nearby coffee shops and get some drinks and snacks. We try to catch up with one another and sometimes talk about things like current events, church concerns, or whatever is on our minds. We have been to several coffee spots, including the Cloverleaf, Avalon, RoosRoast, Starbucks, Café Felix, and Sweetwaters. We welcome all of our youth, and it can be a fun time to bring a friend. The coffee is on us.

At our last outing to RoosRoast, there were suggestions typed up and placed on a coffee bag on each table. They were suggestions on ways to avoid using laptops on Sunday mornings. One suggestion was to “write poetry,” so we did.

Here is a haiku poem that the youth created:

Walk and Talk Sunday
Drinking Coffee is so fun.
RoosRoast is awesome.



And these poems:

W e l c o m e	&	T h i r d S u n d a y
A w e s o m e		A l l i n !
L o t o f f u n		L o v i n g n e s s
K i n d n e s s		K o n n e c t e d

Questions about Sunday school or Walk & Talk?
Ask Jane Schmerberg: 734-223-04

Fiesta Taco Brunch & Cake Auction and Bake Sale

Join us Sunday, May 5 following worship for this fun-filled Bethlehem tradition!

Calling all bakers (of cakes and bake sale items!) - sign-up sheet is in the office hallway.

**Sunday, May 5
at Bethlehem
Church**

**Mark your
calendars and sign
up by the office.**

**Fiesta Taco Brunch
&
Cake Auction
and Bake Sale**

**Proceeds support
the 2019 Habitat
Trip to Flint**



ANNUAL CAKE AUCTION AND BAKE SALE SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019, 11:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL



WHERE'S THE MONEY GO???
TO SUPPORT THE 2019 MISSION TRIP!

DETAILS OF WHEN AND WHERE ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT

All cake and bake sale donations should be dropped off in the fellowship hall prior to the 10am Worship Service. All trip participants are encouraged to bring a cake!

Don't wish to buy a cake but want to help?
Donating a cake, or pre-portioned baked goods or volunteering to help man the bake sale table or showing off cakes during the auction are other ways to help. Free will offerings are also accepted and greatly appreciated as well!!!



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION TRIP???
HAVE A YOUTH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND???
WE ARE STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES SO PLEASE LET US KNOW SO YOU CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING EMAILS AND MEETINGS
CAKE AUCTION / TRIP CONTACT
CRYSTAL WILCOX 734-904-1313, STARRCULP@GMAIL.COM



BONUS...

Fellowship Ministries is sponsoring a **TACO FIESTA BRUNCH** to coincide with the Cake Auction



Spiritual Growth and Development

Lily Tinker Fortel - Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

Youth Group — Welcome!

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

April 25 Makers' Night —
Succulents

May 2 Free Speech



Watch your email for info on other our May dates.



ALL CHURCH — ALL AGES
Dinner and Board Game Night
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth
Thursday — May 9
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!!

LOOKING AHEAD

June 9
Grad Sunday

June 2
End of year picnic



Join Bethlehem's
Prayer Circle Ministry!
May 2 and May 16

1st and 3rd
Thursdays at 11:30



Gentle Yoga
at Bethlehem
In the Gallery

Tuesdays
April 23, 30 & May 14
at 5:15 p.m. in the gallery



BOOK OF THE MONTH Join us for monthly book discussions!

MAY BOOK:
Evicted by Matthew Desmond

Desmond is the keynote speaker at this year's UCC General Synod.

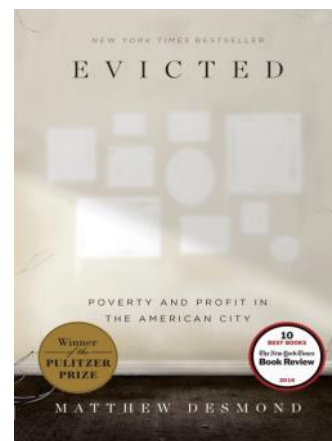
Let's read his award winning book, *Evicted, together.*

About *Evicted*:

"Desmond's book introduces readers to eight families struggling to make ends meet. Arleen is a single mother trying to raise her two sons on the \$20 a month she has left after paying for their rundown apartment. Scott is a nurse consumed by a heroin addiction. Lamar, a man with no legs and a neighborhood full of boys to look after, tries to work his way out of debt. Vanetta participates in a botched stickup after her hours are cut. All are spending almost everything they have on shelter, and all have fallen behind.

The fates of these families are in the hands of two landlords: Sherrena Tarver, a former schoolteacher turned inner-city entrepreneur, and Tobin Charney, who runs one of the worst trailer parks in Milwaukee. While they are fond of some of their tenants, as Tarver puts it, "Love don't pay the bills." She moves to evict Arleen and her boys a few days before Christmas."

Read more here: http://www.ucc.org/news_introducing_general_synod_32_keynote_speaker_all_church_read_author_03192019



Habitat Mission Trip 2019 - June 16-20

INFO SESSION ON Sunday, May 19

**Info Session for those interested in joining our
2019 Habitat Mission Trip—June 16 - June 20 - in Flint!**

Join us as we work with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and
build houses with Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County.

**Also on May 19, Greg Hull, Development Director for Genesee
County Habitat for Humanity will be at Bethlehem
to talk about the work of Habitat for Humanity in Flint.**

Please let Lily know by June 2 if you wish to attend,
or have questions. Participants must be 16 or older.



Sunday, May 5

**Cake Auction and Bake Sale
to raise funds for our Habitat Trip**

Can You Help?

We're looking for youth and parents who can
help with the bake sale, circulating cakes,
and other aspects of this year's Cake Auction!

Please let me know if you can help!
(see poster on page 7 for more info)



The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County held their April meeting at Bethlehem. We are thankful for this committed group that strives to better our understanding of the diverse religious/spiritual communities we have in Washtenaw County.



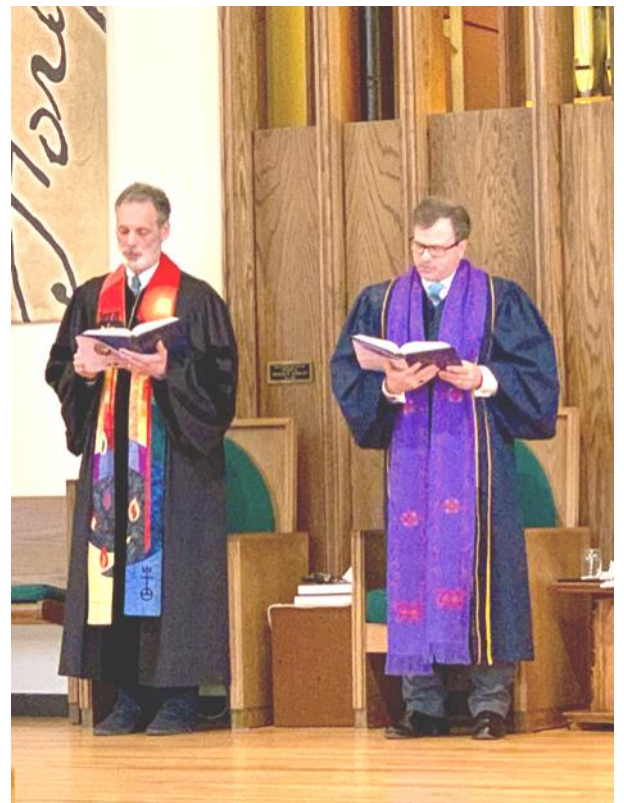
REV. DR. ORVAL L.E. WILLIMANN
 Fellowship Hall

*Rededicated to the glory of God
 in honor of the ministry of Pastor Emeritus
 Rev. Dr. Orval L.E. Willimann
 and his wife, Ruth.*

*Pastor Willimann faithfully served with dedication
 and distinction as Senior Pastor from 1974 to 1998.*

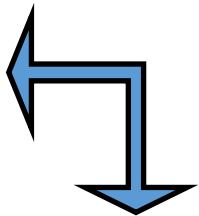
**Bethlehem United Church of Christ
 April 7, 2019**







**Gatherings in
the Youth Room:
Game Night and
Care Packages**



Homecoming and Rededication 2019



FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD

Spring is on the way! Time to shake off the winter doldrums and look ahead to warmer weather. At Bethlehem Cemetery this means spring clean-up time. All winter decorations will be removed beginning April 1. Over the winter, our sexton, Brad Bouchie, and his crew have been trimming bushes and overhanging tree limbs, and DTE trimmed the trees below the power lines.

This year, rain or shine, an Easter sunrise service will be held at the Memorial Garden beginning at 6:45 a.m. This service is open to everyone. If you are able to attend, please dress for the weather conditions.

Again this year Mother's Day flower donations can be designated for the cemetery. These funds were used last year to purchase new trees. A portion of the funds raised this year will be used to add plants to the front of the cemetery office and to refurbish the Memorial Garden.

The Ann Arbor Youth Chorale rehearses weekly at Bethlehem.

Come out and experience their wonderful gift of music.



Ann Arbor Youth Chorale
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN'S PREMIER
CHILDREN'S CHORUS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Spring Concert

Saturday, May 4 | 4 pm

descant choir
Shayla Powell, Director

concert choir
Bonnie Kidd, Director

\$10 adults | \$5 seniors/children
Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 S 4th Ave, Ann Arbor



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**.**
- 4. Tell the office how you want your sponsorship listed in the bulletin and read on-air.**

BUCC OUTREACH MINISTRY April 2019

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer to prepare a dinner for Alpha House residents in June.

Blessing Basket supplies are being collected in the BUCC Library along with new large-sized, clear plastic storage totes with lids.

ALPHA HOUSE

Fresh produce collections will take place on the third Sunday 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

*“The smallest act of
kindness is worth more
than the grandest
Intention.”*

—Occar Wilde

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 bethlehem-ucc.org/outreach for more details or contact information. You can also elect to participate in our 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

Members of the Outreach Ministry Team, along with others from Bethlehem, partnered 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. It was a rousing success with great food and entertainment bringing in over \$10,000 in donations from ticket sales and contributions! Details and photos by Tom Ziesemer included elsewhere in this Visitor.

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 \$250 contributed a safe and efficient cookstove will be purchased and installed in a rural Guatemalan home. Read more about the kid's exceeding their goal of raising \$1,000 for the project along with an additional fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity in the EMT section.

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

APRIL MEMORIALS & GIFTS

OUTREACH MINISTRY

New Members of Bethlehem Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Elsie Lovelace Memorial

RADIO FUND

Fritz Kienzle Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
March 31, 2019

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP

- March 10** Sponsored by Jamie and Bob Dylenski in memory of Jamie's grandmother **Bertha Nachtigal Hartley**.
- March 17** sponsored by Sue Canfield in loving memory of her brother-in-law **Ron Jaworowski**, and in memory of the March 17 birthdays of her niece **Laura Ann Jaworowski**, who would be 48 today, and her friend **Wilma Wahl**, who would be 102 today.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS from BETHLEHEM CHURCH

Applications for college scholarships are now available on the church website. **Completed paperwork must be returned to the church office by Sunday, May 26.**



MARCH PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

John Schneider
March 9, 2049

Wil Leonard
March 21, 2019

Bev Hanselman
April 3, 2019

Jane Straith-Rose
April 8, 2019

HOLY BAPTISM

Dylan Kind, son of Laura and Phillip Kind.
March 10, 2019

Christopher Kirk Bavery, son of Ryan Christopher Bavery and Ashley Campbell Johnson Bavery.
March 17, 2019



March 2019	Year to Date	YTD Target	2019 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$109,994	\$103,120	\$171,867
Expenses	\$129,474	\$146,493.60	\$244,156
Net	(\$19,480)	(\$43,373.40)	(\$72,289)

WELCOME MINISTRY TEAM

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 a meal or sign up to provide a meal.



Thank You!

Many thanks to Julie Seitz for bringing the Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care, Hospice, and Gift of Life panel discussion to Bethlehem on March 10! Over 30 people attended and benefited from this informative discussion.

Mother's Day Is May 12

Sign ups for purchasing plants and flowers will be up after Easter.

Please help provide beautiful plants and trees for our church grounds and the Bethlehem Cemetery Memorial Garden, in honor or memory of a loved one. A donation sheet will be available soon on the bulletin board near the office. Choose a monetary donation of any amount and we will purchase the appropriate plants or landscaping items.

THIS YEAR your donations will go toward:

1. Flowers and landscaping for the church grounds.
2. Plants for the front of the cemetery office.
3. Refurbishing the Memorial Garden at the cemetery.



On Mother's Day, a selection of the flowers will be at each worship service, and a memorial and honorarium list will be in the bulletin and in the Visitor.

Planting Day for Mother's Day Flowers Monday, May 13 at 9 a.m.

If anyone is interested in helping to plant flowers on Monday, May 13, at 9 a.m., please contact Jenny Foster at Jen.foster@comcast.net or 734-646-8441. A sign-up sheet will be posted near the office for help with planting as well as watering. Lots of folks pass by our church daily, and it "takes a village" to keep our grounds looking good.





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 Administrator: Julie Rhodes
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