

The Visitor

May-June 2019
Bethlehem United Church of Christ



“Remembering to Celebrate”

by Rev. John Kennedy

“I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the

place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.”—Ephesians 1:16-20

Sometimes I struggle to express in writing what it is I want to communicate in person. I can speak the words, but writing them can seem like an exhausting wrestling match with God, and my own soul. “I am thankful for so many things but mostly God,. Without God, I’d have nothing else to be thankful for.” If I was speaking with you face to face, I would say, **“Thank God! Thank you, Bethlehem, you’re doing great!”**

(Continued on page 4)

Deadline for the
July Visitor
is July 8



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



As this issue of the Visitor goes to press, we are about to begin our first fiscal year starting on June 1. Some leadership positions are changing as terms end and new ones begin. I

thank all those who have served and those who have agreed to do so. At this time, I think it is appropriate to make a few suggestions to leaders and members of ways I see to keep things running smoothly.

Communicate: early and often! When decisions are made or action taken, let others know. Bodies publishing minutes should make sure those minutes are accurate and complete and are given to Julie, our parish administrator, to include in the following month's "packet" in a timely fashion. It is *much* better to submit unapproved minutes than waiting until after they are approved at the next meeting. Promptness helps folks find a group's minutes in the packet covering the meeting time frame before they are "stale."

These packets, ostensibly for Leadership Council, are available on the church's website [Church Governance page](#) beneath "Leadership Council Packets" for anyone to read.

Don't rely on folks reading the minutes! If someone needs to know something, tell them *directly*! If a ministry team meets and the Leadership Council's liaison to that group is not in attendance, please inform the Council president or vice president of any decisions or issues requiring Council's attention.

Don't rely on second-hand information! If you wonder about some aspect of our church or hear something which sounds "too good" or "too bad" to be true, rather than repeat it, go to a member of leadership and ask for accurate information. If you hear inaccurate information, you have my blessing to "set the record straight!"

One aspect of communication is [our church website](#). If you are part of a ministry team or group represented on the site, take some time to look over what it says about your group. Is it accurate, complete, up-to-date, in need of change? Ministry teams and groups should offer the church webmaster concrete suggestions. We are always in the market for new pictures.

Schedule: When planning an event, check [the church calendar](#), available through the website's "Events" menu item. Try not to pick days or times when other events are already scheduled if the same folks might want to attend both or if our parking facilities would be strained.

Contact our parish assistant, Donna Whitney, in the church office to place an item on our calendar as soon as possible so other's know your plans.

Be especially careful not to schedule meetings to begin at the time Ann Arbor Youth Chorale parents are dropping off or picking up children. If your event strains parking, ask the church office to contact Muehlig funeral chapel to ask if their parking lot could be used; they won't know for certain until close to the time of the event. Our office can also arrange a couple hours' street parking on 4th Ave.

Starting Thursday, June 27, Leadership Council will meet at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month, a change from past meeting times earlier in the month. Accordingly, most ministry teams will now be meeting *prior* in the month to Council, a fact which might impact decision-making.



Art Fair Parking Fundraiser – HELP NEEDED!

Sign up next to the office or online at [Bethlehem-ucc.org](#) (click on *Events*).

***** July 18, 19, 20 & 21 *****

Adults and youth needed for each shift:

7/18 - 7/20 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (to 6:30pm)

7/21 (Sunday) 11:30am - 3pm, fair closes at 6pm

On Sunday, we will need an attendant outside at 8 a.m. to monitor the lot during our church services.

Week of July 4th OFFICE HOURS

Monday, July 1–Wednesday, July 3 OFFICE IS OPEN

Thursday, July 4–Friday, July 5 OFFICE IS CLOSED



Bethlehem Church Tigers Outing August 11



We have a block of excellent seats reserved for the Sunday, August 11, Tigers game against the Kansas City Royals. Scheduled game time is 1:10 p.m. We will depart from the church following 10:00 a.m. worship and return to the church right after the game.

Your \$46 ticket gets you a ride to and from Comerica Park in a luxury coach, your game ticket, lunch and beverages on the bus on the way to the game, other special items, and fantastic fellowship. We have one bus with 52 available seats; your payment reserves your seat. Contact Brian Paton at 734.635.9204 or bapaton@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Our annual book sale in the library has begun and runs through Labor Day. Please feel free to take advantage of the sale where books will be priced



4 for \$1. After Labor Day, the price of books will return to \$1 each, which is still a bargain.

Have you checked out the selection of books recently? There are novels for adults as well as young reader and children's picture books too. There are even a few LARGE PRINT books and Audiobooks that are located on top of the bookcase toward the back of the room on the left side.

The youth books and children's books are located on the right side of the room. They are arranged from bottom to top in order of reading ability. Young children's books are on the bottom shelves. Independent reader books and young adult books advance upward.

If you are interested in donating books, there is a bin inside the library door for you to place your donated books. We will be glad to shelve them. Here are some reminders about donations: We collect books for **reading entertainment**. Therefore, we are seeking donations of only novels and children's books. Please remember that we **do not want or accept** textbooks, cookbooks, self-help books, devotional/spiritual books, or nonfiction books. There are other donation sites in Ann Arbor for those sorts of books, such as the Ann Arbor District Library and the Ann Arbor ReUse Center.

Join Bethlehem's Prayer Circle Ministry! June 20, July 18

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



ALL CHURCH — ALL AGES
Dinner and Board Game Night
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth
Thursday–July 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!



Sunday, July 7
Food Gatherers Volunteer Day
Delonis Center
12–2:30 p.m., food preparation
Sign up near the office. Thank you!



Bethlehem Veterans'
Monthly Breakfast
July 5, 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.

**THE WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

"Remembering to Celebrate" by Rev. John Kennedy

(Continued from page 1)

Well done, good and faithful disciples! I am so thankful for God's gift of grace upon grace, my family, and for you. God is accomplishing so much in us and through us.

I watch with a glad heart as we grow spiritually and in relationship with God and each other. In hope and faith we have plowed the ground, moved stones, tilled the soil, and planted fresh new seeds. The seeds have burst open, the roots have gone down, and now the shoots of green have broken ground and are growing. Rather than comfort and familiarity, we have hoped, taken risks, and ventured into new journeys of faith. Every time we celebrate communion and hear the words "This is my body broken for you, and this is my blood shed for you," we remember and give thanks that Christ risked so much because of God's love for you and the whole world. The same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead is doing wonderful things in you and through you! Thank God! Thank you, Bethlehem UCC! Well done, good and faithful disciples!

It fills my heart to see so many of you providing leadership. You are fellow ministers, and you are leading with your gifts, creativity, energy, and faith. Thank you for the many things that you are living and doing.

Taco Bar, Cake Auction, & Bake Sale a HUGE success!

On the first Sunday in May, we held our combination Taco Bar, Bake Sale, and Cake Auction fundraiser for the 2019 Habitat Mission Trip. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a success and so much fun! We raised over \$2500.

The Fellowship Ministry Team wishes to acknowledge those who helped with the Taco Bar: Jan Eadie, Susan and John Irwin, Sue Muir, Edgar Vasquez, and Tom Ziesemer. Lots of fun for all, and no one went away hungry.



Farewell & Thank You

Thank you to Thomas Burton, our Director of Music, for his service here at Bethlehem. Congratulations on his graduation, and we wish Thomas well on his next adventure in life.



WORK DAY CREW

(Minus Sallie Stadel who was taking the picture!)

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all your help with cleanup day on May 11. We accomplished a lot, and it only happened because of YOU sharing your time and talent.

Thanks to Jim and Sallie Stadel, Mike Haab. John Irwin, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez, Jan Eadie, Lilly Tinker Fortel and Pastor John.



PLANTING CREW

A BIG **THANK YOU** to the following people who helped plant our Mother's Day flowers:

Jacquie Katz
Pam Widmayer
Michelle Loukotka
David Foster
Erin Foster
Jenny Foster
Chloe Bestward
Gerry Vander Hart



From Lily's desk

Bethlehem's September 2018 Visitor included a full page of opportunities for service under the heading *Loving Our Neighbor*. As the 2018-19 school year draws to an end, I am celebrating the abundance of your generosity, just as we celebrate the abundance of God's Love each week in worship. Bethlehem, in the past nine months, you have answered the call to service and giving countless times. Of your generosity and care for neighbor, I often say, "I am never surprised, but ever amazed." This couldn't ring more true now. As members of the Bethlehem community, I hope you feel deeply the power and beauty of your generosity. I hope you will continue to celebrate. I hope Bethlehem will continue cultivating a sense of communal identity around a frame of "Loving Our Neighbor" and inviting others into the joy that it brings.

Starting last fall, Bethlehem endeavored on a series of service/mission projects to serve our neighbors locally and globally.

- Led by Auxiliary/Mothers Study, you sent and brought school supplies and hygiene products to build Church World Service kits.



- We collected school supplies for distribution at Peace Neighborhood Center.
- The Youth Group led Bethlehem's participation in CROP Walk.
- In the fall, led by the Outreach and Education ministry teams, Bethlehem gathered supplies to make "blessing baskets" for distribution at Alpha House. Blessing Baskets include household items to support individuals and families moving into new homes.
- During Lent, led by Bethlehem's children and youth and the Education Ministry Team, the entire congregation joined the effort of "Bethlehem Builds."



- At home, you gathered donations for Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County's "Lent Builds" project.
- Here at church on Sunday mornings, the children collected your coins as we raised money for the Guatemala Stove Project through Michigan Helps.
- Immediately following Lent, you gathered for our annual Cake Auction fundraiser for this year's 2019 Service Trip to Flint.



From Lily's desk

As a brief (and incomplete) recap, other service at Bethlehem includes:

- Outreach Ministry Team's ongoing volunteer efforts at Peace Neighborhood Center, Delonis Center, and Alpha House. Outreach Ministry Team also stewards annual donations to each of these organizations on behalf of Bethlehem.
- Auxiliary/Mother's Study makes care bags for distribution at Mott Children's Hospital.
- In March, the veteran's group cohosted a fundraiser for Fisher House for military families.
- We continue to house Groundcover News, and we are opening our doors more and more to community organizations.
- On June 15, the Youth Group will begin a recurring service day at Food Gatherers. All are welcome to join!



- Also in June, a group of Bethlehem members and friends will travel to Flint for our 2019 Service Trip with Habitat for Humanity and Foodbank of Eastern Michigan.

These efforts take a village. Countless people make all this possible with direct public leadership and with working behind the scenes from week-to-week. Fellowship Ministry Team has donated proceeds from freewill offerings to these causes. You set up tables and projectors, baked cakes and cookies, cleared tables, and cleaned up messes. You clipped coupons for the best prices on school supplies. You sewed, and knit, and packed, and shipped. You collected coins. And counted coins. You constructed posters and bulletin boards and model stoves. The list goes on. With every service project or opportunity to give, you come together as a community and exceed any goals that had been ambitiously set. Bethlehem, I am never surprised, but ever amazed! Finally, on Stewardship Sunday, June 2, we celebrat-

ed the gifts we bring to our community. Of course Stewardship Sunday and the pledges that come with it are centered on gifts of treasure. Still, we also take the opportunity to celebrate our gifts of time and talent and to honor your visions, hopes, and prayers for the congregation moving forward. Stewardship is about abundance and responsibility. We are called to be responsible stewards of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We are called to cultivate an awareness of the needs in the world—and to act with intention, internally and externally.

As we end this academic year and prepare to begin our new fiscal year, I invite you into a mindset of abundance. I invite you to let the celebration of your generosity continue. In the Spiritual Growth & Development section of this Visitor, I've included photos and specifics of the love of neighbor you've demonstrated this spring. In the midst of the pain in the world—vast emotional and physical needs that are present for people here in Ann Arbor and everywhere—Bethlehem says:

"We will continue to love our neighbor." In the midst of the questions about what 'Church' everywhere is becoming, Bethlehem says, "We will continue to love our neighbor." In the midst of so much rejection and hate, you say, "We will continue to love our neighbor." When doors are closed to so many, you open doors; you say, "We will continue to love our neighbor." It is true that the needs of the world are vast. I believe we still have beautiful strides to make in connecting our love for neighbor to shared hands-on relationship-building with, and shared hands-on service to, our neighbors. Still, as the trees bud fully and the abundance of life shows itself in the beauty of spring, I am celebrating that you, too, are showing abundance of life and love. Bethlehem, I hope you inspire you as much as you inspire me!

Onward, abundantly! Lily



Thank you - from Jan Leonard and family

A most grateful "thank you" for all the people who stayed in touch with Wil per phone call or written inspirational get-well wishes during his eight months of Hospice Care. A visit by Barb and Paul Marshall with their therapy dog Bella two days prior to Wil's transition to eternal life was greatly appreciated.

As a family we are very grateful for all the volunteers who helped at the funeral: our organist Gail Jennings; Jim Stadel for making a DVD; Patti Maki, Roy Muir, Ken Tappe, and Marty Seyfried for serving as ushers; and John Irwin who served as sexton.

A special "thank you" to Sue Muir, our luncheon coordinator. Sue's staff of Jacquie Katz, Carol Katz, Susan Irwin, Jan Eadie, and Judi Tappe did an excellent job.

A most super "thank you" to our precious Pastor John. He made the celebration of life so meaningful. We are so very thankful and grateful for a beautiful "celebration of life" for Wil.

Our love and thanks so much, Jan Leonard and Family



Thank you - from Carole Katz

There are no words to say how grateful I am for your support, cards and especially your prayers. Thank you Bethlehem family for all that you do.

Love, Carole Katz



Thank You

Thank You - from Orval and Ruth Willimann

Ruth joins me in thanking you for the honor you bestowed upon us in the rededication of the Willimann Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 7, and the placement of new plaques commemorating our ministry among you as you celebrated the occasion of the newly renovated dining room and restrooms.

Your innovative solution to new methods of heating and air conditioning portions of the church building is indicative of the spirit in which the congregation has been searching to renew itself and, in so doing, is becoming filled with Micah's longing for Bethlehem "to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

Pastor John gave me an assignment to speak following the brunch, but little did I think after all these years I would be so nervous. My throat dried up so much my mouth would hardly open. I was so nervous I could hardly find my voice, much less pull my thoughts together. There was so much I wanted to share with you, so little time to do it. It had to be left unsaid, but I have been amazed at the good work you have been doing around the community, within the state, and through our united missions.

Thus, I had to leave you with a simple "thank you." Remember always: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."

Grace and peace, Orval L.E. Willimann

Fun Times at Bethlehem



2nd Thursday Game Night



Apples to Apples with Ellie and Chloe



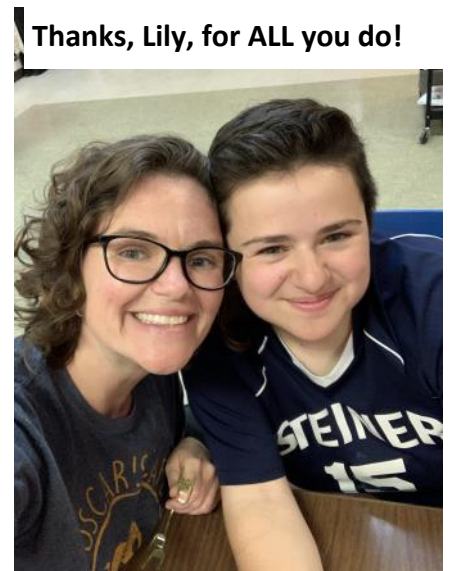
Time for Children with Special Guest



Thanks to Lily's aunt for visiting and inspiring our youth.



Youth Group dinner on the town.



Thanks, Lily, for ALL you do!

~ ~ CELEBRATING YOUR GENEROSITY ~ ~

Habitat Lent Builds

Over 70 Bethlehem households participated by taking home Habitat house banks.

We collected \$3310, most of which we presented in a check to Greg Hull, Development Director of Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County, in worship on May 19.



Guatemala Stove Project, Michigan Helps

During Lent, we collected coins, individual contributions, and donations during a variety of fundraisers for Michigan Helps.

On June 2, Bethlehem's children and youth presented a check for \$3622 to Dr. Jack Wagoner of Michigan Helps. We learned our contribution would support the installation of 15 stoves in homes in Guatemala.



Cake Auction

On May 5, you baked, bid, and bought cakes for Bethlehem's annual Cake Auction fundraiser to support this year's Bethlehem Service Trip to Flint. In total, you raised over \$2634!

"Out of This World" One Baker, One Cake, and TWO bidders...

Fun Cake Auction story by Sue Muir

Hi, Lily: At the Cake Auction, we "lost out" in bidding on Sharon Seay's spectacular chocolate peanut butter cake to George Wilcox! :) After the auction, Sharon told Roy that she would make another cake for him--and Roy said to her that we would make another contribution to the Cake Auction.

She showed up with the cake this last Sunday...and needless to say, it was the best Mother's Day dessert we have ever had! Our family was delighted! :)

*Roy and Sue (*published with permission, photo by Sue Muir)*



Succulent Sale!

Thanks to all who supported the Youth Group succulent sale on June 2!

We raised nearly \$350, which will be donated to Ozone House.



Lily Tinker Fortel - Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

~ ~ OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN AND SERVICE ~ ~

YOUTH GROUP + ALL CHURCH Food Gatherers Warehouse (Carrot Way) Saturday, June 15, 2-4 PM

All members are invited to join the youth group at our new volunteer day at Food Gatherers on Carrot Way.

Saturdays June 15, August 17,
and October 19 from 2-4 p.m.

Sign up on the office bulletin board!



ONE DAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We have a great group of participants heading to Flint June 16-20 for our 2019 Habitat Service Trip.

JOIN US FOR A ONE-DAY SERVICE DAY!

Monday, June 17 - 8:30-4:30

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Meet up with the campers for a fun day of sorting, weighing, and other meaningful activities at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.



Thursday, June 20 - 8:30-3:00

Habitat for Humanity

Join us for our last day at the build site! We understand we'll be working on a Habitat house this year! We'll work hard and play hard! Bring your work clothes and good work shoes!



*RSVP with Lily ASAP if you plan to participate in one of these opportunities!

board game night

hosted by
bethlehem
youth group.
Free - donations
will benefit
Michigan Helps.

**June 13
&
July 11
6:30-8:30**

YOGA

Are you missing
gentle yoga?!

Keep your eyes
out. We'll be back
after the Habitat Trip and General Synod!



UCC GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod, the UCC's national gathering, is taking place June 21-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You can follow along here: <https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019>



United Church of Christ
GENERAL SYNOD 32
June 21st - 25th, 2019

THANK
You
SO VERY
much

**A huge thank-you to the following volunteers
from our congregation who volunteered at
Peace Neighborhood Center
during the 2018-19 school year in both the
After-School Feeding Program and
Friday morning Food Distribution Food Bank.
These persons have made an impact on
many lives in our community.
Thank you!**

**Harriette Ehnis
Mike Ehnis
Julie Feldkamp
Dave Gilmore
Cheryl Grant
Jacquie Katz
Roy Muir
Sue Muir
Katie Rowan
Kathy Warner
Pam Widmayer
Sue Wortman**

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
Helen Keller*



Summer is upon us!

**Graduations, Father's Day,
weddings, memorials,
you name it.**

**Whatever special event is part
of YOUR life this summer,
keep the memory alive
with a bronze leaf
memorial/honorarium
on our 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. If you are looking for a per-
sonal 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 togeth-
er 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 Cen-
ter; or by emailing info@bethlehem-ucc.org.**



CEMETERY BOARD

We mourn the passing of our friend and board treasurer Jim Goforth. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Karen, and their family as they mourn him. We will miss Jim.

Thank you to Marilyn Pearson for eight years as a member of the board. Her dedication to the cemetery and hard work to preserve its history are greatly appreciated. Thank you also to those who made Mother's Day and Easter donations to the cemetery. Your kindness helps us maintain the beauty of our surroundings.

This season we continue to work on the infrastructure of the grounds. Repairs to the water system are ongoing as new leaks appear. Various sections of the paved roads will be seal-coated. Plans are being made to use asphalt millings on some dirt sections of the roadways. And new trees and bushes are replacing old ones. Your continued donations help us fund these and other improvements.

BUCC OUTREACH MINISTRY May/June 2019

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer to prepare a dinner for Alpha House residents on Thursday, August 8.

Alpha House is still collecting new, large clear plastic storage totes with lids. These are used for sorting and storing of extra clothing for the families they serve.



ALPHA HOUSE

Fresh produce will begin again in the fall. Thank you for your donations.

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



FOOD GATHERERS

After May 28, summer break is for volunteers, too! Consider joining in when school resumes in the fall.



PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

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

During our extended fiscal year of January through May 2019, the Outreach Ministry Team was able to fund a few more deserving organizations in our community. Each of the following received a \$1250 donation to continue the good work they do for people in need in our area.

Friends in Deed Helping People in Need; Building Community to End Poverty.

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Works to enrich Washtenaw County through a legacy of affordable homeownership for families of low-income.

Evangelical Homes of Michigan Foundation (Saline) Supports the heritage and mission of the organization by providing health care and an array of housing and home-based services to older adults. With its purpose to encourage charitable support for the people, programs, and projects of EHM, the Foundation provides stewardship of donor resources while honoring our clients, team members, and volunteers.

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

*"No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted."*

-Aesop

APRIL MEMORIALS & GIFTS

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Martha Holliday Memorial
Wil Leonard Memorial
Rosemary Strieter Memorial
Our Parents Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT

Wil Leonard Memorial
John Nimz Memorial

RADIO FUND

Wil Leonard Memorial
John Schneider Memorial

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

April 7 Sponsored in memory of **Frederick & Lela Keppler** and **Harold & Vera Kleinschmidt**, with love from the family.

Gifts listed were received through April 30, 2019.

MAY MEMORIALS & GIFTS

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

Jim Goforth Memorial
Godfrey Keppler Memorial

CEMETERY MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Jim Goforth Memorial

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Beverly Hanselman Memorial
Mary Richardson Payne Memorial
Franklin & Anna Richardson Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Beverly Hanselman Memorial
Pat O'Reilly Birthday Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT

Wil Leonard Memorial

RADIO FUND

Margaret Deverick Memorial
Jim Goforth Memorial
Wil Leonard Memorial
John Schneider Memorial

Gifts listed were received through May 31, 2019.

APRIL—MAY PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

Leon Eisman, March 7
Sylvia Kalmbach, April 23
Jim Goforth, April 25
Edith Rose, April 26

BIRTHS

Evelyn Rose Ashenfelter, May 15,
daughter of Caroline and Michael Ashenfelter

NEW MEMBERS

Edgar Vasquez, May 19
Rachel Hemp, May 19

Welcome to Bethlehem UCC. We are so glad you are here!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Gavin Tribble
Chloe Schmerberg
E.J. Vasquez
Camille Konrad

COLLEGE GRADS

Erin Foster
Jesse Wilcox

April 2019	Year to Date	YTD Target	2019 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$156,702	\$137,493	\$171,867
Expenses	\$178,912	\$195,324	\$244,156
Net	(\$22,210)	(\$57,831)	(\$72,289)

May 2019	Year to Date	YTD Target	2019 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$179,999	\$171,867	\$171,867
Expenses	\$236,810	\$244,156	\$244,156
Net	(\$56,811)	(\$72,289)	(\$72,289)

Holy Week and Easter

Easter Sunrise Service



Palm Sunday Parade



Easter morning



Palm Parade - Go Orville!!



Easter morning



Easter morning- Hallelujah Chorus



2019 Easter Gifts, in Memory of

The Visitor

**Daffodil in Memory of:**

Jackie Opperman
Nancy Heusel
Keith Boyd

Given by:

Judy & Dimitri Coucouvanis
Barb, Tim, Rachel, & John Schenk
Barb, Tim, Rachel, & John Schenk

Hyacinth in Memory of:

Claire Coucouvanis
Helen & Carl Stoll

Given by:

Judy & Dimitri Coucouvanis
Their Family

Lily in Memory of:

Erwin & Luella Weber
Daniel E. Weber
William & Aletta Kulenkamp
Gerry & Lloyd Seyfried
John Schneider

Given by:

Jim & Joann Weber and Norm & Kathy Cole
Jim & Joann Weber and Norm & Kathy Cole
Paul & Nancy Thibault
Marty & Laura Seyfried
Gale, Bill, & Jeffrey

Tulip in Memory of:

Jean & Carl Raab
Robert Opperman
Polly, Karlene, & Martha
Betty & Richard Boman
Anness Stafford
Elizabeth Scott
Judy Stentzel

Given by:

Mary Jean, Chuck, and Families
Judy & Dimitri Coucouvanis
Carole & Larry Katz
Nancy ,Greg, Kelly, & Brian Gotham
Sandy Stafford & Sharon Seay
Sandy Stafford & Sharon Seay
Sandy Stafford & Sharon Seay

Cemetery Memorial Garden in Memory of:

Norman and Helen Grob
Robert & Geraldine Paul
Alfred J. Paul
Our Parents
Oscar, Martha, & Ken Holzapfel
Ernest, Eleanora, & Robert Gardner
John & Selma Haab

Given by:

Norma and Conrad Foster
Mary Friend
Mary Friend
Susan & John Irwin
Harriett Holzapfel
Harriett Holzapfel
Mike & Dindy

Other Funds of Choice:

Radio Fund
Capital Campaign
Scholarship
Youth Memorial Fund
Property Improvement

In Memory of:

Ray & Marie Zahn
Joseph, Laura, & John O'Reilly
Ernie, Don, & John Gardner
John Schneider
Cal & Eleanor Seyfried

Given by:

Ken & Judi Tappe
Pat & Shannon
Harriett Holzapfel
Gale, Bill, & Jeffrey
Dindy & Mike

2019 Easter Gifts, in Honor of



Daffodil in Honor of:

Our Grandchildren

P.J. Lindemann

Robert Chaffer's 80th birthday

Given by:

Carole & Larry Katz

Barb, Tim, Rachel, & John Schenk

Barb Chaffer Authier

Hyacinth in Honor of:

Our Families

Jill Schwartz

Given by:

The Kennedy Family

Katie, Carrie, & Steve

Lily in Honor of:

Carole Katz

Given by:

Jill, Steve, Katie, & Carrie Schwartz

Tulip in Honor of:

Our Families

The McCabe Family

John & Nancy Schenk

Robert Chaffer's 80th birthday

Given by:

The Kennedy Family

Mom & Dad and Grandpa & Grandma

Barb, Tim, Rachel, & John Schenk

Barb Chaffer Authier

Radio Fund in Honor of:

Harriett Holzapfel

Given by:

Theresa Hilberer



Mother's Day Memorials and Honorariums for Flowers and Landscaping at Bethlehem Church & the Memorial Garden at Bethlehem Cemetery



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS IN HONOR OF:

Jennifer McCabe
Nancy Thibault
Grandma T.
Erin Katz
Beth Wenner
Jeanne Opperman
Dindy Haab
Mary Elizabeth Kennedy
Betty Beckman
Karen Kennedy
Sheila Paton
Jacquie Katz
Gale Blendin
Erin Katz
The mothers of my grandchildren

GIVEN BY:

Mom
Paul, Jen, & Kevin
Brecken, Ronan, & Evalee
Jay & Jacquie Katz
Jay & Jacquie Katz
Judy Coucouvanis
Mike
The Kennedy Family
The Kennedy Family
The Kennedy Family
Jacob Paton & Adrienne Paton
Mark & Erin Katz & Children
Mark & Erin Katz & Children
Mark Katz & Children
Marie Slotten

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF:

Barbara Vander Hart
Ann Foster
Martha Holliday
Mary Stanley
Daisy Kennedy
Hazel Edwards
Mary Beckman
Elizabeth Hutton
Shirley Lindstrom
Della Widmayer
Our mothers
Jean Raab
Betty Lutz
Virginia Seitz
Helen Grob
Lillian Hanson
Julia Kennedy

GIVEN BY:

Jenny & Dan Foster
Jenny & Dan Foster
Jay & Jacquie Katz
Jay & Jacquie Katz
The Kennedy Family
The Kennedy Family
The Kennedy Family
The Kennedy Family
Pamela Widmayer & Fred Castenholz
Pamela Widmayer & Fred Castenholz
Ken & Judi Tappe
Mary Jean & Chuck & Families
Jim & Mary Lutz
Julie Seitz
Norma & Conrad Foster
The Dick Hanson Family
The Dave Kennedy & Dick Hanson Families

MOTHER'S DAY CEMETERY GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Karen Samford

GIVEN BY:

Bethlehem Cemetery Board: Marilyn, Sallie, Susan,
Jim G., Jim L., & Brad

MOTHER'S DAY CEMETERY GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Elizabeth Lambarth
Frances Birch
Selma Haab
Eleanor Seyfried
Aletta Kulenkamp

GIVEN BY:

Joe & Jan Eadie
Gary & Marilyn Pearson
Mike & Dindy
Mike & Dindy
Paul & Nancy

**FATHER'S DAY MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
TO GO TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF TWO WIRELESS MICROPHONE UNITS
FOR THE NEWLY REFURBISHED FELLOWSHIP HALL**

IN HONOR OF:

Mike Ehnis

FROM:

Harriette Ehnis

IN MEMORY OF:

Rev. Robert Opperman

Richard Savage & Elmer Stadel

William Kulenkamp

Raymond Lambarth

Our fathers, Glenn Weber & Clarence Samford

FROM:

Judy Coucouvanis

Jim & Sallie Stadel

Paul & Nancy Thibault

Jan Eadie

John & Karen Samford

**MANY THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

Sunday School Teachers/Helpers

- Caroline Ashenfelter
- Janelle Buday
- Jan Eadie
- Julie Feldkamp
- Eileen Koprowski
- Wanda Modica
- Nancy Pieske
- Karen Samford
- Jane Schmerberg
- Jill Schwartz
- Diana Slaughter
- Jennifer Vasquez
- Christina Wilk

Nursery/Toddler Sunday School Teacher

- Kelsey Postler

Youth Group Leaders

- Eileen Koprowski
- Nancy Nicholson
- Katie Rowan
- Jesse Wilcox





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: Karen Samford
Facilities: Tom Ziesemer
Education: Eileen Koprowski
Worship: Harriette Ehnis
Member Care: Jenny Foster
Welcome: Kurt Schmerberg
Outreach: Laura Seyfried
Fellowship: Jan Eadie
Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan
Bethlehem Cemetery: Susan Irwin
Nominations Committee: Cresson Slotten

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

President: John Samford
Vice President: Ron Dechert
Secretary: Sue Wortman
Treasurer: Jim Rowan
At-Large Members:
 Judy Coucouvanis
 Pat Huibregtse
 Pam Rutledge
Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy