

# The Visitor

July 2019

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



## Service Trip 2019

A small but mighty group of volunteers consisting of Vicki Hoxie, Katie Rowan, Jesse Wilcox, Larisa Jaskiewicz, Kris Jaeger, Carol Aldrich, Jamie Raab and Lily Tinker Fortel ventured to Flint, MI for the fourth consecutive year for Bethlehem's annual service trip.

After an uplifting send-off during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 16, the group headed to their campsite at Outdoor Adventures in Davison.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Deadline for the  
August Visitor is  
Monday, August 12**



## In This Issue

|                    |          |                   |         |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| Service Trip 2019  | Page 1   | Memorials & Gifts | Page 10 |
| From the President | Page 2   | Parish records    | Page 10 |
| Self Assessment    | Page 2   | Thank you notes   | Page 10 |
| Happenings         | Page 3   | Fisher House      | Page 11 |
| Save the Date      | Page 5   | Tree of Life      | Page 11 |
| PHOTOS OF EVENTS   | Page 6-9 | Who We Are        | Page 12 |



**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](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

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



My phone's been ringing off the hook!  
My email in-box is overflowing! Carrier pigeons are flying into my windows!  
The congregation noticed: the President made a mistake!

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday June 9 I forgot to have the Governing Body approve the minutes of the past few Congregational Meetings (we had a few, since the last Annual Meeting!) "What?" you say? "I didn't contact the President about that. I didn't even notice the omission." Well, actually, you're right. No one contacted me. No phone calls, no emails and certainly no birds.

During my tenure as your President, I've presided over six Congregational Meetings: January 27, 2019, September 23, 2018, June 17, 2018, April 15, 2018, January 28, 2018, and June 9, 2019. All of these minutes are available on the Bethlehem website's "Church Governance" page, beneath the "About Us" menu item. On that page, there a link to [Congregational Meeting Minutes](#). One document listed, the minutes for the January 28, 2018 meeting, is different from all the others: it says the minutes from the previous three Congregational Meetings, including the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved.

I must be a "forward looking guy" because it never occurred to me to place that business on the agenda (nor to distribute an agenda!) For this failure in discharging my official duties, I humbly beg your forgiveness and announce a new policy, adopted at the June meeting of the newly reconstituted Leadership Council: henceforth, the Council will approve minutes from Congregational and Annual Meetings.

As "Robert's Rules for Dummies" says:

*"If the assembly isn't meeting again for a long time (if at all), such as in annual membership meetings or conventions of delegates, the process of approving the minutes is delegated to a special committee or an executive board. This practice produces an approved and legal record of the meeting shortly after the meeting closes but before memories of what occurred in the meeting fade."*

On a personal note, I want to thank the Bethlehem congregation and staff for your support for me and more especially my wife at the passing of her mother, Sylvia Weber. It was only recently I'd gotten a place on the "family photo" wall: after 20+ years, I'm sticking with the family! She was a fine lady.



## Church Member Self Assessment

An essential part of our BUCC evaluation process is a self-reflection, by church members and non-members, on the perceived spiritual health of our BUCC church family.

Before beginning to answer the self assessment, please take a few moments to reflect on your feelings for our church family, the current state of our congregation, and your vision for the future of BUCC. We appreciate your input through the completion of this self-reflection.

Please open the survey by clicking the above link (which is also available on [BUCC's web site "Church Government" page](#)), printing it, filling it out and returning to the church office. Thank you!

Copies are also available to pick up in the church office.

## COMING UP

- Aug 4 Food Gatherers volunteer day
- Aug 8 Alpha House volunteer day
- Aug 8 Board game night, all ages
- Aug 8 Marie Slotten memorial
- Aug 15 Prayer Circle
- Aug 11 Tiger baseball game
- Aug 17 Service day at Food Gatherers
- Sept 8 Bethlehem golf outing
- Sept 21 Pretzel sales begin
- Oct 4 Oktoberfest
- Oct 12 Red Cross blood drive

**Calling All Members of Bethlehem (not just youth!)  
Service Day at the Food Gatherers warehouse  
Saturday, August 17, 2–4 PM, 1 Carrot Way**

Youth and families are invited to this fun service opportunity. There is a sign up by the office, or just let Lily know. Can't make it? Mark your calendars for our next work day on October 19.



**Join Bethlehem's Prayer Circle Ministry!**

**August 1 and 15  
11:30 in the lounge**

1st and 3rd Thursdays



**ALL CHURCH — ALL AGES  
Dinner and Board Game Night  
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth  
Thursday – August 8  
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!



**ALPHA HOUSE VOLUNTEER DAY  
Thursday, August 8**

At 5:30 volunteers serve a meal for 25 residents, then from 7–8 p.m. volunteers help with kids' activities while parents enjoy a bit of down time.

If you can join us, please contact Laura Seyfried at [LLSeyfried@hotmail.com](mailto:LLSeyfried@hotmail.com).



**Sunday, August 4  
Food Gatherers Volunteer Day  
Delonis Center  
12–2:30 p.m., food preparation  
Sign up near the office. Thank you!**



## SUMMER BOOK SALE

Our summer book sale in the Bethlehem library 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.

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.

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

**Bethlehem Veterans'  
Monthly Breakfast**

**August 2, 8:30 a.m.  
Classic Cup Café  
on Jackson Rd.**



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY  
Wednesdays, 1-3, in the lounge**

Come join our knitting group as they gather weekly to knit or crochet the shawls that are received by our shut-ins, new members, baptized babies, and others, as needed.

*Note: One Wednesday each month, from September through May, a Mothers Study event takes the place of the Prayer Shawl Ministry)*



## Service Trip 2019

*(Continued from page 1)*

Many thanks to Carol Aldrich for providing this fun place for us to stay at no cost to the group!

On Monday, we volunteered at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan where we worked with other volunteer groups to sort through 11,000 pounds of produce/bread and 8,461 pounds of non-food items! Wow!! The Food Bank is always impressed with the efficiency and dedication of our group. Unfortunately, Lily's battle with an illness kept her from staying the whole week with the group, but she was able to tough it out enough to join us at the Food Bank this day. Carol's friend Sue joined us for the day as well!

On Tuesday, we met up with several other volunteers at a new build site in Gaines, MI to work together in putting trusses on the house (with the help of a crane). Kris enjoyed his first taglining experience!

On Wednesday, we gathered back at the worksite to begin building the base of the roof with OSB, but were unfortunately cut short due to storms headed our way. That night, Gaines experienced 3 inches of rain which created a giant mud pit at the worksite and unfortunately canceled our work day with Habitat on Thursday. Knowing that there is never a shortage of work back at the Food Bank, we checked in with them on Thursday morning and ended up helping out there instead— we were determined to work! We assisted in sorting many more pallets of frozen meats and goods.

In addition to our volunteer hours with Habitat and the Food Bank, Bethlehem was able to make a generous monetary donation to each organization.

Thanks to everyone who contributed financially to the trip! Despite some hot and rainy weather, we had a great time, got lots of work done, and represented Bethlehem well!



## RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIPS

A lot of folks count on our weekly Radio Broadcast and our homebound members enjoy keeping in touch with Bethlehem by listening to our weekly services.

Our radio ministry is funded by weekly radio sponsorships, memorials, and special donations. Have you sponsored a Radio Broadcast lately?

A sponsorship is a great way to honor or remember a special person, a special day, or a special event. A sponsorship is \$230 and is read on the radio and printed in the weekly bulletin and monthly Visitor newsletter. In addition, general donations of any amount are appreciated.

To sponsor one of our weekly Radio Broadcasts, call the church office or sign up on the calendar in the office hallway. You can also sign up on our website [bethlehem-ucc.org](http://bethlehem-ucc.org) by clicking on the donate button. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



### OKTOBERFEST

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 6:00**

Brats. German potato salad, sauerkraut, spatzens and more!



### 2019 Bethlehem Golf Outing

**Sunday, Sept. 8, 2 PM**  
Brookside Golf Club

A sign up for teams and individuals will start on August 11th. Great prizes, picnic style dinner and special fellowship.



### HOLY ROLLER PRETZELS

September 21  
October 3  
November 7  
December 7  
January 18  
February 15  
March 21  
April 18  
May 16  
June 6



## Bethlehem's Star Bazaar



### SAVE THE DATE-NOVEMBER 8

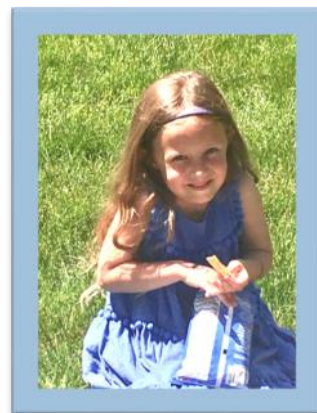
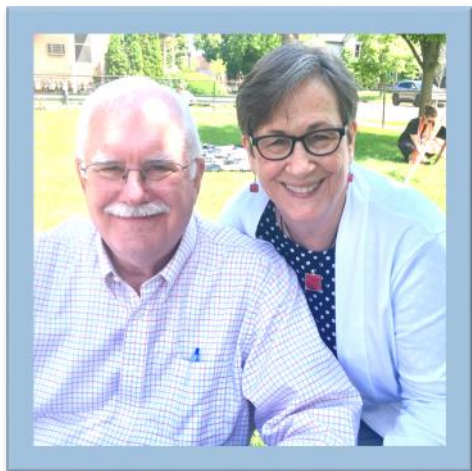
Due to construction and renovations in the Fellowship Hall last year, we were unable to hold our annual Fall Luncheon and Bazaar.

We look forward to returning this fall with our event in the newly renovated space on Friday, November 8th!

*Women of Bethlehem Board*



# PICNIC FUN





# MORE PICNIC FUN







## Youth presentation & Guatemalan Stove Project check presentation





# Thanking our Sunday school teachers

## Celebrating our graduates



**Thank you to our 2019 Art Fair parking volunteers who braved about every possible weather condition and helped bring in more that \$2500 for Bethlehem!**

John and Karen Samford, Katie and Jim Rowan, EJ, Ellie, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez (coordinators), Kris Jaeger, John Schenk, Jan and Samantha Eadie, Jenny, Erin and Andrew Foster, Mike and Dindy Haab, Kurt and Jane Schmerberg, Karen and Sarah Kennedy, Brian Paton, Christina Wilk and Tom Krell.



## JUNE MEMORIALS & GIFTS

### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

Jim Goforth Memorial

### CHURCH SCHOOL FUND

Harriet Fortel Memorial

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Beverly Hanselman Memorial

Sylvia Kalmbach Memorial

Edith Rose Memorial

Marie Slotten Memorial

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

Pastor John Kennedy Honorarium

Habitat Mission Trip Team Honorarium

### RADIO FUND

Sylvia Kalmbach Memorial

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Harriet Fortel Memorial

### WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

### AUXILIARY/MOTHER'S STUDY CIRCLE

Sylvia Kalmbach Memorial

### RADIO SPONSORSHIP

**June 9** in memory of **Frederick and Lela Keppler**  
from their children.

*Gifts listed were received through June 30, 2019.*

## JUNE PARISH RECORDS

### DEATHS

Marie Slotten, June 17

Rosalie Sue Hanselman, June 25

## A lovely visit

Mike and Harriette  
Ehnis together with  
Arlene Finkbeiner  
made a trip to Milwaukee to see Betty Hills, a longtime Bethlehem member who recently moved out of state. She has many fond memories of Bethlehem and she prays for our church.



## Many Thanks

Dear Bethlehem,  
Thank you for your expressions of care and sympathy after my grandmother died in May. I am deeply grateful to be a part of such a loving community.

Sincerely, Lily

Dear Bethlehem,  
Thank you to the many people at Bethlehem who came to the visitation, sent cards and offered support on the death of my Mother, Sylvia Weber.  
Karen and John Samford

## Thank you!

We would like to thank our Bethlehem congregation/friends and staff for the love and support you gave us and continue to give us during my illness.

The notes, emails, texts, cards and especially your prayers, gave us a huge lift when we needed it the most. The Bethlehem community is a tremendous part of our life and we are so lucky to be part of it. Thanks for always being there.

Tom and Jane Ziesemer



# Fisher House Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Friday, June 14, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the first Fisher House to be built in Michigan. The ceremony was held next to the Fisher House construction site located near the corner of Fuller Rd. and Fuller Court.

Thank you to Jim Judson for attending this important historical event for the Veteran community in Ann Arbor and the state of Michigan. Bethlehem Church participated generously in the fund raising effort with donations from last year's Oktoberfest and this year's Spaghetti Dinner event.



## Tree of Life

**Weddings, memorials, birthdays, 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 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 Ave. Welcome Center; or by emailing [info@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:info@bethlehem-ucc.org).





## 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