

The Visitor

October 2019
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Three cheers for our Bethlehem kids and all who work with them!




**Deadline for the
November Visitor is
Friday, October 25**



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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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

From Your President's Desk:

Yet another restroom has been refurbished at BUCC: the room previously known as "Men's" across the hall from the church office. Even before the new tile, fixtures, and paint were in place, it had been dubbed a "Family Restroom" and now is open to all.



As one who has made use of that room many times during my ten year tenure at Bethlehem, I appreciate the upgrade and feel more "at home." Yes, as I am named "John," I was keenly aware early in life that my name was a somewhat impolite way of referring to "the facilities." When we had our special guest preacher from Germany this summer who is about to become a Lutheran Bishop, he mentioned it was a good bet to address any random male at BUCC as "John." I taught him the second American slang meaning of this name and feel I advanced the cause of our Christian brotherhood accordingly.

Seriously, I did want to take a moment and reflect on this latest step in our stewardship of our physical facilities. The cost of refurbishing this restroom was estimated at around \$10,000 and while it was not in our annual budget (and shouldn't have been) nor was it included in the Fellowship Hall/air-conditioning effort, Leadership Council approved it as the next item on a long list of "to do's." Sometimes, ya gotta have faith!

Fear not: this is not a kick-off of a mini-fund-raiser! It's been paid for! We received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 earmarked for this effort, just as it was being completed. As Pastor John continually points out (and it is a point worth remaking), we are a generous group of people. Seeing the evidence of that generosity literally around every corner at Bethlehem is an inspiring reminder and challenge to look and see how we also can be generous. It doesn't have to be at the \$10,000 level (for which you get a tote bag), and it doesn't have to be monetary. Making generosity a way of life really is its own reward.

As one of life's little coincidences, my wife and I are reading Gary Chapman's fine book "Love as a Way of Life" and last night, our study group discussed chapter seven, "Generosity." I recommend the book.

Lily Tinker-Fortel Granted "Lay Ministry Standing"

In the winter of 2018, Lily Tinker Fortel, Bethlehem's Minister of Spiritual Growth & Develop-



ment, began the Member in Discernment (MID) (also known as In-Care) process.

She came to Bethlehem United Church of Christ already with a Master Degree in Divinity. She took Clinical Pastoral Education and a UCC Heritage & Polity course. She has a Pastor/Mentor in Rev. Joe Jefferys of Chelsea First Congregational United Church of Christ and she has met with the UCC Church & Ministry Team (Covenant Association) in East Lansing which Joe chairs and our Pastor John Kennedy serves.

At the request of our Leadership Council, that committee has unanimously granted Lily "Lay Ministry Standing" This "standing" authorizes Lily to officiate at weddings, funerals, and lead/bless the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion at Bethlehem UCC at the request and direction of the pastor. Licensing is always authorized for the maximum of 1- year at a time and can be renewed each year.

As a part of the newly revised UCC practice with Members in Discernment, Leadership Council has approved a "Local Church Discernment Committee" (LCDC), to help shepherd Lily in her journey: that group is Patti Maki, Jane Ziesemer, Sue Muir, and Jenell Buday.

Referring to Lily as "Pastor Lily" is very appropriate. Lily may also wear a clergy collar, robe or alb, if she so chooses. A stole is presented at ordination. (For those who have inquired, the title of "Reverend" (Rev.) is granted to ordained clergy. Stoles are worn by ordained clergy).

Lily's new status will be recognized as a part of the 10 AM worship service some Sunday in October, to be determined, followed by a special gluten-free Coffee Connection in Fellowship Hall.

Please watch for the date and plan to be in worship to celebrate this milestone both in Lily's spiritual journey and in Bethlehem's proud tradition of lifting up those called to ministry.

Open and Affirming (ONA) NEWS & EVENTS

October 17

Spirit Day

&

October 20

Wear PURPLE to church



SPIRIT DAY is a means of speaking out against LGBTQ bullying and standing with LGBTQ youth, who disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities.

Pledging to "go purple" on Spirit Day is a way for everyone to visibly show solidarity with LGBTQ youth and to take part in the largest anti-bullying campaign in the world.

Thursday, October 17, 6:30PM

The Youth Group invites the entire congregation to a joint event with ONA. Together we will watch **Queer Eye Season Two, "God Bless Gay"**

We will discuss how churches can and have been harmful to LGBTQ individuals and how we can all do better.

Sunday, October 20 - Wear PURPLE

We are inviting the congregation to wear purple to worship on Sunday October 20 to visibly show solidarity with LGBTQ youth and to take part in an anti-bullying campaign,

On Thursday, **October 17th** there will be showing of an episode of Queer Eye, Season Two, titled "God Bless Gay" which will be held in the Youth Room along with Youth Night. The congregation is invited to come for pizza and to watch and discuss it with the youth.

October 17th is called "Spirit Day" for the LGBTQ community. "Spirit Day is an annual LGBTQ awareness day observed on the third Thursday in October. Started in 2010 by Canadian teenager Brittany McMillan, it was initially created in response to a rash of widely publicized bullying-related suicides of gay school students in 2010, including that of Tyler Clementi." Each year on Spirit Day, millions go purple to support LGBTQ youth.

October 20th – WEAR PURPLE. We are inviting the congregation to wear PURPLE to church on Sunday October 20 to observe "Spirit Day".

On **Friday, November 1**, the Penny Stamps Speaker Series at U-M is holding a special event at Bethlehem Church, "John Cameron Mitchell in Conversation" Mitchell's creative work proudly focuses on explorations of sexuality and gender, celebrating nuance and individuality in all of its many forms." "Best known for his double Tony Award-winning rock opera and 2001 film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Mitchell is an actor, playwright, screenwriter, and director. Off the stage, Mitchell works in the realm of feature film, documentaries, and advertising for Dior and Agent Provocateur. He has appeared in numerous acting roles in film and television, including a recurring character on the HBO series *Girls*, as Andy Warhol in the 2016 season of HBO's *Vinyl*, and recently as a series cast member in Hulu's *Shrill*. The following night, on **November 2**, Mitchell will be at Hill Auditorium to revisit songs from *Hedwig* and preview songs from his upcoming musical podcast *Anthem*.

Happenings

Calling All Members of Bethlehem (not just youth!)

Service Day at the Food Gatherers warehouse

Saturday, Oct. 19, 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.



AUXILIARY/MOTHER'S STUDY

Wednesday, October 16

1:00 in the gallery

With a violin performance by Val Jaskiewicz



ALL CHURCH — ALL AGES
Dinner and Board Game Night,
Hosted by Bethlehem Youth

Thursday – October 10, 6:30–8:30 in the youth room

HOLY ROLLERS PRETZELS

Thursday Nov 7

Rolling at 8 a.m., sales from 11–1
(Call 734-665-6149 to preorder.)



ALPHA HOUSE VOLUNTEER DAY—Sunday, October 6

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, contact Laura at LLSeyfried@hotmail.com.

Bethlehem Veterans' Monthly Breakfast

Friday, Nov 1, 8:30 a.m.

Classic Cup Café, Jackson Rd.

Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer



Sunday, October 6 & November 3
Food Gatherers Volunteer Day@ Delonis Center
12–2:30 p.m., Sign up near the office.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Wednesdays from 1–3 in the lounge

A weekly gathering—join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 8,22,29 Gentle Yoga with Lily
- Oct 10 All Church Game Night
- Oct 11-12 Michigan UCC Annual Conference
- Oct 12 Bahamas Hurricane relief (pg. 7)
- Oct 16 Auxiliary Mother's Study
- Oct 17 Prayer Circle
- Oct 17 Youth Group + ONA watch party:
"God Bless Gay" Queer Eye, season 2
- Oct 19 Special Service day, Food Gatherers
- Oct 20 Wear purple to church to show support for LGBTQ and anti-bullying
- Oct 22 Peace Neighborhood day (pg. 11)
- Oct 23 Book Discussion - The Burning Case for a Green New Deal
- Oct 25-26 Youth Group Halloween Lock In
- Oct 26 Football parking at church
- Oct 27 Wear your costumes to church day + Halloween fellowship hour

LOOKING AHEAD TO EARLY NOVEMBER:

- Nov 1 ONA Speaker Series
- Nov 3 Totenfest Memorial Service
- Nov 3 Turn clocks back!
- Nov 6 "Stories of Service" (pg. 7)
- Nov 7 Pretzel sales
- Nov 8 Fall Bazaar and Luncheon
- Nov 23 Hanging of the Greens

FOOTBALL PARKING fundraiser

Signup sheets are outside the office. Online signups are also available on our events page at bethlehem-ucc.org

These games still need volunteers: Oct. 26 & Nov. 30

Youth Group MEAL TRAIN



Youth Group gathers on Thursday evenings! Although we love to eat pizza, we love eating delicious meals with Bethlehem folks even more!

If you're able to support the Youth Group by preparing or ordering a dinner, please sign up here! We hope you'll join us for dinner so we can chat and get to know you better! mealtrain.com/k7d4mr

Bethlehem Prayer Circle - Please join us

October 17 & November 21

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Join us in the Schmale Lounge as we lift up prayers and share a spiritual exercise.





Halloween Sunday at Bethlehem Sunday, October 27

Kids of all ages are invited to come to church in their Halloween costumes.

After church there will be a special Fellowship Hour with a Halloween Photo Booth, donuts and cider, and Halloween activities.

Totenfest Memorial Service

Sunday, November 3, at both worship services



At our Totenfest Memorial service everyone will be invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

In addition, we will have a special insert remembering all who have passed away since our last Totenfest in November 2019.

Please contact the church office and let us know of any immediate family members you would like listed on our Totenfest Memorial insert.

ALSO

This year, in addition to names, we would like a picture of your loved one. If you want a picture other than the one from their obituary please let the office know. Thank you.



Bethlehem Book Group Discussions

Wednesday, October 23 &
Wednesday, November 13
5:30-7:00pm.

It's not too late to sign up!

Please let Lily know ASAP if you're interested in joining the upcoming book discussion of

On Fire:

The Burning Case for a Green New Deal
by Naomi Klein

We'll learn more about the Green New Deal and the UCC General Synod's resolution endorsing the Green New Deal.

Bethlehem will purchase books for a discounted rate from a local bookstore.



Gentle Yoga at Bethlehem

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

October 8, 22, 29

* very gentle * all welcome * free * we have mats for those who need them *

* Bethlehem United Church of Christ * 423 S. Fourth Ave. * Questions? Call Lily 734.665.6149 *

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 8

Bethlehem's Star Bazaar



Bethlehem's Star Bazaar will be back this year on November 8. We will again have our Bake Sale, Crafters and our traditional beef or turkey luncheon prepared by Paul Marshall.

There are many opportunities for you to help with this event. In addition to pies and baked goods, we are asking for salad donations this year. However, the salads will need to be prepared in the Bethlehem kitchen. Watch for sign up sheets outside the office.

We will also have our Christmas resale shop. Is it time to recycle some of your Christmas decorations? Watch for additional information in the coming weeks.

Activities chosen by Youth

Group could include:

ESCAPE ROOM

SARDINES

MOVIE

HALLOWEEN

CRAFTS

Halloween LOCK-IN

FRIDAY, Oct. 25 @ 7pm -

SATURDAY, Oct. 26 @ 8am

BETHLEHEM UCC - Ann Arbor

grades 6-12

OUR FOOD BARREL IS HUNGRY

Our Food Gatherers barrel for nonperishables is located in the library. Please remember to gather extras each time you shop. Items most in need are soup, canned meat or vegetables, pasta, beans, rice, cereal, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly, baby food, formula, diapers, and toiletries.



Save the date: Dec. 6

Our annual Living Nativity will take place on the front lawn of Bethlehem on Friday, December 6 from 6:00 - 8:30. Watch for more info to come. We will need lots of volunteers and actors to make this wonderful event a success for our community.



There's still time to fill out your time and talent surveys. They are available in the office or online at bethlehem-ucc.org. Simply click on "About Us" at the top of the website home page, and then click on the link provided. **We appreciate all of our current volunteers and look forward to continuing to build our church community through our various ministries.**

Interested in meeting other Bethlehem folks in small groups at mealtime? Could be dinner, could be brunch!



Join our **Supper Club** by filling out a form (on the bulletin board in the office hallway) and dropping it at the office, or contact Jennifer Vasquez (see below).

We are actively seeking parents with younger kids who might want to meet as family gatherings. 734-658-6692 (cell/text) or jenniferavasquez29@gmail.com

November Grateful



Church World Service Kits

News from the Education Ministry Team!

It's only October, but it's never too early to start! During the month of November, Bethlehem will collect supplies for Church World Service school and hygiene kits.

We hope this will be a time of joyful giving, rooted in gratitude for all we have to be thankful for!

Please bring your items to worship on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, November 3. Bethlehem's children and youth will assemble the kits on Sunday, November 24.

Financial donations made to Bethlehem Church with "CWS Kits" in the memo line will be used to purchase supplies for the kits.



School Kits

Spiral Notebook – 70 pages
12-inch Ruler
#2 Pencils
Pencil Sharpener (with cover to catch shavings)
Crayons (24-count)

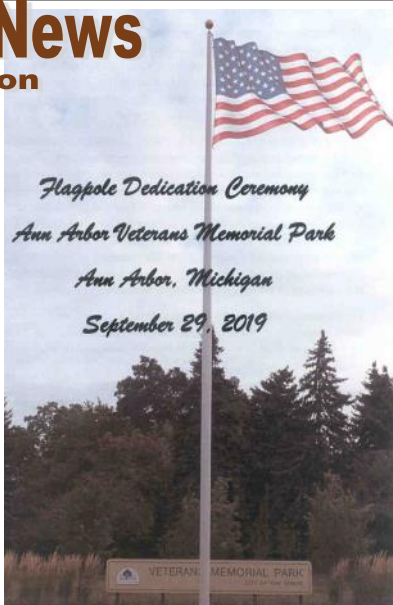
Hygiene Kits

Hand towel
Washcloth
Wide-tooth comb
Toothbrush
Fingernail Clippers
Band-Aids
Bar Soap (bath size in original package-not cardboard)

Veterans News

by Jim Judson

The flagpole ceremony proceeded on time, in inclement weather under a tent at Veteran's Park, on Sunday, September 29 at 2pm. Bethlehem attendees included: Tom Ziesemer, Mary Friend, John Schmale and Jim Judson. The crowd included the Mayor of Ann Arbor, many important veterans of the greater Ann Arbor area and young Sheriff Department Ranger Scouts handing out programs.



A special moment occurred in the program when Kate Melcher interrupted her speech to acknowledge Tom Ziesemer in the audience. She told him she was glad to see him in better health. As you might imagine, Tom's face lit up like the midday sun. I believe this represented their friendship and of all of the hard work Tom put into raising money for Fisher House. The other people from Bethlehem who helped in this effort should accept this as a thank you to them as well. A classy gesture from an extraordinary young woman!

FISHER HOUSE MICHIGAN presents



Please join us.

Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor

November 6, 2019 - 7:00 PM

Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Our veterans serve our country selflessly,
often in the face of great sacrifice and suffering.

We seek to honor that service.

Please join us at 7:00 PM, November 6th for an engaging evening of story-telling and music at the Michigan Theater.

Tickets \$15

www.fisherhousemichigan.org/StoriesOfService

BENEFIT FOR THE BAHAMAS

Hurricane Dorian Relief



CWS
Church World Service



Saturday, October 12, 8 PM (stop in earlier for dinner)

Chela's Restaurant in Dexter

7065 Dexter-Ann Arbor rd. 734-580-2149

STEVIE D AND THE WANNABES



Join us for an evening of friendship, live music and great food, as we help our sisters and brothers in the Bahamas. Come early and buy a great Chela's dinner. A portion of food revenues will be donated by Chela's for Bahamas relief. Then, relax and enjoy classic Rock 'n Roll favorites, brought to you by Stevie D and the Wannabes!

The evenings proceeds will be forwarded to Church World Service for Hurricane Dorian Bahamas relief.



BETHLEHEM UCC Golf Outing

The Bethlehem Golf Outing was once again a success, with 25 golfers participating.

- The winning team: Jim/Mary Lutz and Mary Jean Raab and John Boyer.
- Closest to the pin was Sallie Stadel and Vinnie Moreno
- Closest to the line was John Boyer.
- The Green Jacket was presented to Jim Lutz
- The Prayer Shawl was presented to Sallie Stadel.

We thank Mike and Matt from Brookside Golf club for there help in making our event a special time for our Bethlehem family.



BUCC

OUTREACH

MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2019

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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 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 afterschool snack on the fourth Tuesday each month during the school year, or help with produce distribution each Friday morning.

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

*"We all do better when
we all do better."*

-the late Sen. Paul Wellstone
of Minnesota

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://bethlehemucc.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 50th Annual CROP Hunger Walk is coming to Ann Arbor on Sunday, October 6th! Join the Pillamas of Bethlehem UCC along with other neighboring congregations in the greater Ann Arbor area in Church World Service's walk to raise funds to relieve hunger around the world, and right here in our own community.

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/Team/View/116450/Bethlehem-Pillamas>



MORE ABOUT THE OMT...

The Outreach Ministry Team meets occasionally to discuss annual outreach giving, mission partnerships with fellow ministry teams, community volunteer opportunities, social justice activities and outreach fundraising events. Our mission is successful because of our congregation's generosity of self and financial support.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Martha Holliday Memorial

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Marie Slotten Memorial

OUTREACH

Michelle and Bob Loukotka Honorarium

Lily Tinker-Fortel "Licensed Local Pastor" Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Gary Hentz Memorial

Matilda O'Reilly Memorial

RADIO FUND

Fritz Kienzle Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
September 30, 2019

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.

A sign up is located near the office, or simply call the office at 734-665-6149.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our 2019
McKay Scholarship recipients.



Your Bethlehem friends and family appreciate all you have done for your church and your community. Good luck with all your pursue this year. You are in our hearts and prayers.

- **Andrew Foster**
University of Michigan
- **Kelly Gotham**
Hope College
- **Caroline Lesemann-Elliott**
Royal Holloway University of London
- **Adrienne Paton**
University of Michigan
- **Jacob Paton**
University of Michigan
- **Chloe Schmerberg**
University of San Francisco

Bethlehem's Tree of Life

If you are looking for a personal and meaningful gift for a loved one or a special occasion, please consider the purchase of a leaf on our Tree of Life. The Tree of Life is located in the lobby of the 4th Avenue canopy entrance of Bethlehem.

Your leaf will commemorate what is important in your life and the lives of those you love and care about. It will also create a history of our times together here at Bethlehem and help to fund special projects and needs. Info & order forms are available at the 4th avenue entrance.



August 2019	Year to Date	YTD Target	2019/2020 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$114,367	\$119,852	\$479,406
Expenses	\$98,707	\$133,034	\$532,136
Net	\$15,660	(\$13,183)	(\$52,730)

From the Cemetery Board

Summer may be coming to an end but improvements at the cemetery continue. This summer, asphalt millings were applied to portions of the dirt roadways and other sections of the paved road were seal coated. The City of Ann Arbor completed sidewalk repairs along Jackson Road at the front of the cemetery. Two storm damaged trees were removed and head stones affected were uprighted and repaired. Arrangements can be made to repair damaged headstones by contacting the church office. These repairs are made at the expense of the owner.



Due to monetary constraints, a planned refurbishing of the Memorial Garden was not done. Instead, the sexton, Brad Bouchie, has begun removing the overgrown bushes around the garden and the memorial plaque has been moved to the center of the area. Currently there is one bench in the garden but there are places for more benches and a large cross. If you are interested in donating any of these please contact a member of the Cemetery Board.

**A reminder that all seasonal decorations should be removed by November 1.
Anything not removed by the owner will be discarded.**

2019 - 2020 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES at PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



**Friday Food Distribution
starts September 13!**

2019

9/24
10/22
11/26



2020

1/28
3/24
4/28
5/26



PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed on the **4th Tuesday of September through May** to serve elementary school children nutritional snacks before going into a tutoring program.

Commitment is 2:45-4:45.

Signup is outside the Bethlehem office.

Peace Neighborhood Center
1111 N. Maple Road, Ann Arbor 48103

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD FRIDAY FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Friday Fresh Food distribution takes place September through May. Volunteers are needed on Fridays to help sort and then distribute fresh produce, provided by Food Gatherers, to families eligible to take part in this program.

Commitment: Any time between 9 a.m. and noon.
No signup necessary. Just come when you can!

This also takes place at Peace Neighborhood Center

Questions? Contact Sue Muir at suemuir@comcast.net or 734-604-6128



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: David Hahn
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