



The Visitor

April 2020

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

What is Happening? by Rev. John Kennedy

*"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, **"Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, **"Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."*****

- Matthew 8:1-10

It's astounding how quickly circumstances can change. I went to the grocery store to pick up some basic food supplies for our family (eggs, milk, lunchmeat). As I began shopping, I noticed that the store was actually less crowded than usual. Many people were wearing protective masks as was I. The atmosphere seemed strange and out of balance to me. So many people had finished their shopping and were already hunkered down for the quarantine. They had already stocked up on all they might need (Karen and I, had also already purchased for the 5 people in our family who were home). As I passed by the deli section a young woman and employee called out to me, "Pastor, can I talk with you for a moment"?

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Deadline for the
May Visitor is
Monday, April 27



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

(continued from page 1)

I was about 50 feet away, and I began to walk towards her (we'll call her Pat, not her real name). We stopped about 10 feet apart from each other. We each slightly lowered our protective masks. There are many times when Pat (and other employees) had already engaged me in conversation. Often when I'm wearing a clergy collar, and a rainbow pin, it seems to start conversations (I think the rainbow pin seems to help people relax and let their guard down). Pat looked me in the eyes, with a look of trust (and searching) and said, "**Pastor, what is happening?**".

I was so moved by the authenticity and trust of Pat's question, because it was the question that almost everyone else has on their mind. I searched her eyes and expression, asking, "are you asking me if this is the End Time?" Pat gave no response but her face showed that this was on her mind. I said to Pat, "No, I do not believe this is the apocalypse or the End Times". Her face relaxed a bit, and she asked, "then what does this mean?" I said to Pat, "I don't know. For most people in our country we have never faced this kind of event that disrupts our lives so deeply. Many are used to seeing themselves as self. I do not think God has caused this virus, but I think God will use it for good. I think this means we are not in control. I think it means that we are going to have to realize we need each other. The only way we're going to get through this is to rely on God, and each other. We are going to have to realize how important and valuable each person is to our community. We are realizing we are all connected and have sacred worth

Pat did not have the option of staying home like many workers labeled as "essential workers". So many medical professionals and first responders are also in harm's way and do not have an option to work from home. But there is a bit of a difference for some workers like Pat, they do not get acknowledged. They are nameless people making minimum wage.

In most cases, the people who grow our food, pack it, ship it, and serve it, are folks that are already barely hanging onto what little they have. They're risking their lives while serving others with a humble smile, while many folks never notice or see them, or really look into their eyes and acknowledge them.

The first disciples to see Jesus risen were women like Pat, humble, caring, and bravely serving others. Jesus revealed himself to women, like Pat, and chose them to share the message of new life and resurrection. The women revealed the first news that Jesus was risen. I saw Jesus in Pat, she revealed him to me. The answer I gave to Pat was the message I needed to hear myself. "What is happening?" God is using this time to remind us that we need God, and each other. We can remember and focus on what is truly important. When we come out of our homes (like tombs) we can see Christ in all places and in all faces.

Hans Maier shared the following:

A Prayer for our Uncertain Times by Fr. Michael Graham

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen

Christ is risen! God loves you with no take-backs!

Pastor John



Please Help Us to Help Others

During this unprecedented time we are all challenged in many ways. While we have experienced some decline in offerings, we are so very grateful for the continued giving and the increased use of our online giving platform. Yet, the needs of our staff and their families, outreach to the community, and maintaining building operations remain priorities. I am especially appealing to those of us who still have work and/or other means. I am asking you to consider, not only to keep giving, but to give more than normal in order to offset for those who may be out of work or greatly impacted by COVID-19.

We have been rearranging staff duties to maintain the needed daily operations but have also developed creative ways to keep both our staff working and performing new and more appropriate duties that meet the present needs that we are all experiencing. We have focused heavily on spiritual enrichment offerings via ZOOM which includes: live-stream of Sunday Worship on Facebook, Tuesdays Roundtable Pulpit with Pastor Lily and myself, Café/Happy Hour on Wednesdays, Virtual Connect with Ms. Kelsey and Pastor Lily for our kids and youth on Sundays, and BUCCuleles, our ukulele band which encompasses a multi-generational community of Bethlehem members, but also individuals from outside our community just to name a few. We have also focused on outreach within our community to ascertain whether anything is needed or if care is being provided by family, neighbors, etc.

Please help us maintain the mission here at Bethlehem by giving as generously as you are able to our online giving by clicking [here](#) or by mailing in your donations to the church office.

God bless you for your generosity,

Pastor John

BUCC Outreach Ministry April 2020

submitted by Laura Seyfried, OMT leader



Outreach looks a lot different these days. Currently, agencies in our area are still working as “essential” service providers. However, they have adopted temporary procedures in the way they deliver programming to the families and individuals they assist. Many agencies are continuing to offer food, shelter, financial, technical, educational and emotional support but with minimal staff and volunteers. And this is just the beginning. Caseloads, like the virus itself, have increased exponentially. Budgets are being strained, and it's likely to get more challenging before it gets better.

We need to help because we can. There is great need in our community and world-wide, not just for food and temporary shelter, but also for mental health services, blood donations, personal protective equipment, and even toilet paper. These needs are not necessarily new but they have definitely increased during the time of COVID-19. Please consider an Outreach Ministry donation to support our local agencies who provide these services. You can donate by check or online at the [BUCC website](#). In addition, we are developing a specific “Bethlehem COVID-19 Emergency Response” plan and fundraising campaign. An option to direct donations to this campaign will be included in the BUCC donation link. We will keep you posted as information becomes available.

We need to help because we are called to do so. The people who serve and are served need our support. As “essential” service workers are still showing up each day, the physical and emotional strain is evident. Messaging and instruction from local, state and federal government seems to change from hour to hour. Programming and operations continue to evolve on a weekly, if not daily, basis. If we can ease this burden on those to work to help others in need, then we can ensure that they help will continue to be available for those who are suffering. This current call for support is in addition to the contributions we have already made during this fiscal year, and more recently since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Bethlehem's Outreach Ministry has given \$2,500 each to Alpha House, Food Gatherers, and Peace Neighborhood Center. In addition, donations have been made to SafeHouse Center (\$1,000 on 3/4/20), Peace Neighborhood Center (\$1,700 on 3/19/20), and Food Gatherers (\$1,000 on 3/23/20) through the Pastor's discretionary funds.

We need to help today in the most practical way possible. Donate dollars. This will allow our partner organizations and others to increase their capacity to help those in need by using our gifts to purchase more food and supplies, open more beds for people needing safety and shelter, create or expand programming that addresses the current needs of those recently unemployed, offer tools to staff that allow them to work safely and responsibly, and much more.

We are very fortunate here in Washtenaw County to have numerous organizations and agencies working to fulfill these needs for our community members. Bethlehem's Outreach Ministry continues to support the following local organizations through volunteering, financial and in-kind contributions. Learn more about their COVID-19 responses here:

[Alpha House Interfaith Hospitality Network](#)

[Food Gatherers](#) (Community Kitchen at Delonis Center and the Warehouse)

[Groundcover News](#)

[Peace Neighborhood Center](#)

Thank you for considering this request and stay tuned for more information on how you can help in future weekly emails. Stay safe and be well.

*In recent weeks, COVID-19 response fundraising opportunities have been created by United Way of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to support nonprofit human service agencies. Learn more here:

<https://www.uwwashtenaw.org/covid19>

<https://www.aaacf.org/About/News-Updates/All-News/ArticleId/88/support-for-our-community>

HAPPENINGS

Thank you!

I would like to thank the following for sharing their time and talents in making the church work day a great success. What we accomplished was OUTSTANDING and a tribute to our dedication to making OUR church a great and beautiful place. It was fun to work as a team and enjoy the fellowship.

John Irwin	Mike Haab
Scott Buday	Joe & Jan Eadie
Dave Gilmore	Kathy Warner
Jim Judson	Katie Rowan
Mary Friend	John Schmale
Marshal Rinke	Jane Schmerberg
Michelle Loukotka	John & Karen Samford
Jesse Wilcox	Mike & Harriette Ehnis
Julie & Bob Rhodes	Edgar & Jennifer Vasquez

Thank you Julie and Lily for your Leadership!

~Tom Ziesemer



2020 Bethlehem Church Tigers Bus Outing

The tradition continues! We have reserved a block of excellent seats at Comerica Park for the Sunday, August 2, 2020 game against the Kansas City Royals. Scheduled game time is 1:10 p.m. We plan to depart from the Church following 10:00 a.m. worship and return to the Church right after the game. Your \$50 ticket gets you a ride to and from Comerica Park in a luxury coach, your game ticket, lunch and beverages aboard the bus on the way to the game, other special items, and great fellowship. Contact Brian Paton to make your reservation, 734.635.9204, or bapaton@hotmail.com. First come, first served; your payment reserves your seat. Please join us!



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Food Distribution Program

Fridays, 9:00 am—12:00 pm



Volunteers needed to help sort and distribute fresh produce, provided by Food Gatherers, to families eligible to take part in this program. No signup necessary...just come when you can!

Rotating Shelter Program

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County runs a Rotating Shelter program in which faith-based organizations open their doors to men experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County during our harsh winters.

Congregations take a week at a time and host up to a couple dozen clients from “dusk to dawn,” offering a place to sleep, snacks, and hospitality. Generally, two or more hosts stay overnight with the guests.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ has participated in this program in the past, but as volunteers became fewer, had to withdraw.

The purpose of this article is to gauge whether there is sufficient interest in participating to allow BUCC to recommit to a week next fall/winter.

If you are interested in participating in Bethlehem’s part of Rotating Shelter program, please contact Leadership Council President John Samford through the church office.

Thank you for caring!

John Samford

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](https://www.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 at 734-223-5105.



From Your President's Desk



We are Still the Church

The work of Bethlehem United Church of Christ has **NOT** ground to a halt during this time of physical isolation! We are excited to see our congregation and leadership picking up the challenge and working to be present with members and friends of the church and community, just in different ways.

First, we continue to worship as a community, holding virtual Sunday services available through Facebook, YouTube, WAAM Radio and Podcasts. We may not have the best camera angle or sound but please be patient. We are all learning as we go! Our goal is to be there for each other and continue to worship and do God's work as a community.

Secondly, we are phoning one another. The Pastor and Member Care Ministry Team have done an exemplary job of identifying volunteers to check in with others and in so doing have started conversations between folks who might otherwise not speak, despite being BUCC members!

Thirdly, we support the community. Pastor John reports via email of checks being issued from BUCC's McKay Community Fund to Peace Neighborhood Center, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County Delonis Center, and Safe House.

Fourthly, church meetings continue. (How could they not? If a church is nothing else, it is a place to do the work of the church.) We've learned how to use Zoom to conduct meetings virtually. I've participated in several Worship Ministry Team meetings and Leadership Council meetings without having to leave my home.

It's exciting to see at least a half dozen Spiritual Growth and Development activities available on Zoom ranging from discussion the next week's lectionary, touching base in a virtual café, practicing yoga and for youngsters and youth to meeting with their Sunday School teachers and mentors. All this and more and we don't even have to leave home: BUCC is where we are.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 26

Leadership Council originally called and scheduled a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 15 which had to be postponed due to increased concerns about meetings scheduled during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the church's governing body (our members) about repairs to the church structure which pose possible leaks and safety issues due to mortar joints between stones. Since we voted to stay and care for this church building these issues are important to take care of so they don't become worse and cause further damage.

Grunwald-Cashero Restoration evaluated the problems regarding the exterior of the building and presented a clear display presentation of the work required. This presentation gave several options to subdivide these repairs into multiple smaller projects due to costs and time required. The quoted cost to accomplish all the necessary work was around \$60,000: certainly, requiring the congregational meeting.

At our March meeting, Leadership Council considered the option of authorizing only the first two sections for now, costing less than the threshold at which our Bylaws require Governing Body approval. After these exterior repairs, we would be able to have interior painting and plastering done to address our crumbling walls. As this is written, we await word back from the contractor as to whether they can proceed. I'd guess not, but it's good to be on their waiting list when they are allowed to work.

Taking the step to schedule building maintenance is a concrete (no pun intended) act of hope. Hope we'll gather again in our beautiful building. Hope Bethlehem United Church of Christ will persevere and be a physical as well as virtual presence.

Leadership Council has called a Congregation Meeting following worship on Sunday April 26, 2020 (2 weeks after Easter.) The meeting, like worship, will be virtual, using Facebook and/or Zoom. As complete information as possible will be distributed prior to the meeting: electronically to those with known email addresses and on paper through US Mail to those without. Those unable to "attend," for whatever reason, will be given "absentee ballots" to vote on the proposal prior to the "live" vote that Sunday. I suspect we shall have no difficulty getting a quorum.

This meeting will be an experiment. It will not go off without a hitch. It will be a test of our ability to cooperate, communicate and cohere. I suggest ahead of time that we make use of the "Raise a hand" feature in Zoom and being recognized before blurting out something while another is still talking. That will take self-discipline (talking to myself here!)

If this experimental congregational meeting goes well, we may hold the Annual Meeting on June 14 electronically, if need be.

Now: go wash your hands!

President Samford

Mother's Day Tributes

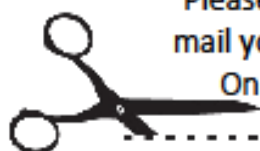
The meaning of being a mother is virtually endless. For many of us our mother figure is a protector, disciplinarian and friend. A selfless, loving human who must sacrifice many of their wants and needs for the wants and needs of their children. Someone who works hard to make sure their child is equipped with the knowledge, skills and abilities to make it as a competent human being. For many women, being a mother is perhaps the hardest, most rewarding job a woman will ever experience.

This Mother's Day, in lieu of garden flowers, we are presenting our Bethlehem members with the opportunity to pay tribute to the mother in their lives by making a gift, in their honor or memory, to two area organizations whose missions support women and families leading to self-sufficiency. These organizations are committed to the empowerment of all women and believe that all people should be valued without bias and should be treated with dignity and respect.

Mother's Day is May 10. Remember that special someone by making a monetary donation in honor or memory of a loved one to:



and/or



Please make your donation via our [online offering program](#) or mail your form below to the church office by **Tuesday, May 5th**.

On Mother's Day the tribute will be listed in the bulletin.

2020 Mother's Day Tribute Form

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of (please check one):

Name/Names: _____

Given by:

Name/Names: _____

Contact information: _____

I wish to donate towards (please check one):

☐ SAFE HOUSE

Amount: \$ _____

☐ PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Amount: \$ _____

Dearest Bethlehem,

What a journey we are on. In January and February, your Worship Ministry Team developed a theme for our worship services in Lent. The theme: *A Journey With Jesus*. We hoped Lent would be a time of individual spiritual growth and exploration, modeling Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness. As you've heard me say, we never could have imagined the wilderness would look quite like COVID-19. When we developed the theme of Journey with Jesus, we also wanted Bethlehem to be a communal space of holding and supporting individuals on our respective journeys. Jesus's journey was, after all, rooted in community. Christianity is rooted in community. Church is communal. These truths remain. I have been inspired to see you come together as community in creative and powerful ways over these past few weeks.

Right now, our Spiritual Growth and Development opportunities are taking place online and via Zoom. Zoom provides way to meet virtually using phones or computers. I know this is new to many of you. I want to support your engagement in these activities. I've included some information on how to join a Zoom meeting below. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Each day, your Bethlehem staff is working to adapt to COVID-19, and dreaming up ideas of how best to serve you during this time. Here, you'll find things we've tried this month and opportunities moving forward. I am grateful to those of you who have offered your suggestions and ideas over the past weeks. If you have ideas of how I can support your spiritual wellness and growth during this time, I would love to hear them. As always, I am available to you via phone, text, email.

I wish you and your loved ones good health. I wish you joy. I wish you comfort in Jesus's teachings that you are loved extravagantly and unconditionally. I wish you the reassurance that, whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome in the Bethlehem community. Take good care.

Sincerely,

Pastor Lily

734-999-0262

lily@bethlehem-ucc.org

Making Masks



Thank you to the Bethlehem members who are sewing masks! We've learned that St. Joe in Ann Arbor is accepting home-sewn masks. They prefer the Deaconess Pattern, which you can find below. Please let Pastor Lily know if you are making masks. Bethlehem members are making kits, others are willing to help deliver masks. Here are masks made by Bethlehem member Angie Lewis.

How to make a Face Mask

What you will need

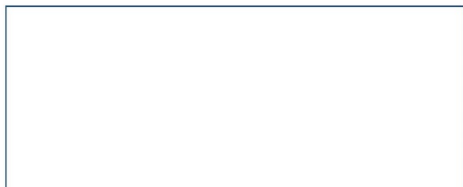
- Cotton fabric, a pretty print is best.
- Rope Elastic, beading cord elastic will work (you may also use 1/8" flat elastic)
- Cut the elastic 7" long and tie a knot at each end (DO NOT knot the ends of the flat)

You can make two sizes: Adult or Child

1. Put right sides of cotton fabric together
 - o Cut 9x6 (Adult) or 7.5 x 5 (Child)
2. Starting at the center of the bottom edge, sew to the first corner, stop. Sew the elastic with the edge out into the corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of the same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across that top of the mask to the next corner. Again put an elastic with the edge out.
5. Sew to the next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out.
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask. Make sure the tucks are the same direction
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.

It is so easy to make this.

Be sure any fabric design is placed horizontally.



How to Make an Adult Mask with Ties

Supplies for 1 mask:

- One (1) 8x14 inch piece of cotton fabric
- Two (2) 1.5 x34 inch strips
- Thread & sewing machine

Prepare the mask:

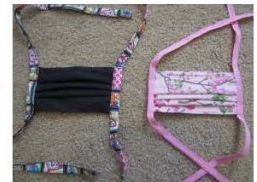
On 8/14 inch piece, right sides together, sew 1/4 inch seam, creating tube.

Turn right sides out, press seam and fabric.

Make 3 pleats, approx. 1 inch each in size, using steam or pins to hold. Mask will be approx. 3-3.5 inches in width.

Sew 1/4 inch seam on each side of mask, securing pleats.

Trim seam allowance.



Prepare the ties:

Fold in half and press (3/4 inch). Open tie back up.

Fold each edge in to meet middle (3/8 inch/0.375 inch) and press.

Fold in half again, securing raw edges inside and press. Each tie will be approx. 3/8 inch in width.

Assembly:

Align center of tie with side of mask, open tie so edge of mask fits snugly inside. Pin.

Sew tie to mask, seam will be very short, get as close as able while still catching all fabric. You are just attaching the mask to the tie at this point, not sewing the whole tie yet.

Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.

Sew down edges of tie, securing raw edges inside. Seam is very short. You will stitch over where mask is already attached. This is good because it helps reinforce.

Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.

Clip any stray fabric and enjoy ☺

Spiritual Growth and Development

Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel, Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

~ ~ MARCH HIGHLIGHTS ~ ~

“Everytime you feel the Spirit”



Second Sunday in Lent

Bethlehem's First Virtual Worship
Sunday, March 15.



Worship Team



Worship Leaders

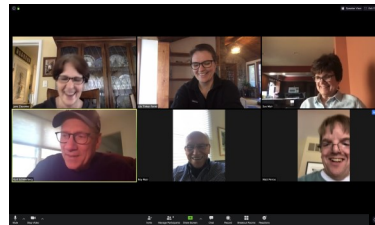
Zoom Meetings



**BUCculele Planning
March 20**



**Confirmation
Zoom meeting
March 22**



**Members Gather for
Zoom Café on March 25**



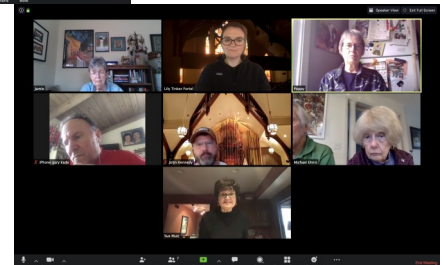
**Youth Group
March 26**



**Kids and Youth
Chat with Ms.
Kelsey on March 29**



**Worship Team
Meeting
March 31**



**Roundtable Pulpit
March 31**



Virtual Spiritual Growth & Development Opportunities during the COVID-19 Outbreak

Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel - Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development

All of the activities below can be accessed using the same Zoom Meeting ID: 501 731 3201

- Zoom on computer or smartphone: <https://zoom.us/j/5017313201> Meeting ID: 501 731 3201. *Note: These Zoom meetings can now be joined directly from your web browser, without having to download the Zoom app.*
- Dial in by phone: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 501 731 3201#
- +13126266799,,5017313201# US (Chicago)



Sundays.

- Connect with Kelsey. Sundays from 11:00-11:15.
For Bethlehem kids and youth. Join Ms. Kelsey and Pastor Lily via Zoom following our virtual worship this Sunday.

Tuesdays.

- Roundtable Pulpit. Tuesdays 12:00-1:30.
Pastor John and Pastor Lily will continue to host the roundtable pulpit via Zoom. Join us to explore the scripture reading for the upcoming Sunday.
- Yoga on Zoom. Tuesdays 5:30-6:00pm.
Join us for a very meditative practice via Zoom.

Wednesdays.

- Bethlehem Zoom Cafe/Happy Hour. Wednesdays 5-6pm.
This is an informal community check-in opportunity. Drop in to say hi and see friendly faces. Stay for as long (or short!) as you want.

Thursdays.

- First Thursdays: Prayer Circle. 12:00-12:30. Topic: Creating a sacred space in your home.
Join us for our monthly prayer circle. We'll pray for those on Bethlehem's prayer list, and discuss creating a sacred space in your home.
- Weekly: Youth Group. 6:30-7:30.
For Bethlehem's middle and high school youth.

Meditation

- Mindfulness meditation practices can be powerful and grounding in times such as these. Oprah Winfrey and Deepak Chopra are currently offering a 21-day meditation experience called "Hope in Uncertain Times." Learn more at <https://chopracentermeditation.com/>.

The BUCCuleles!

- We're starting a Bethlehem ukulele band! The **BUCCuleles**, if you will. So get yourself a ukulele or some maracas and contact Pastor Lily (lily@bethlehem-ucc.org) to let her know you'd like to join. Starting this week we'll post a weekly video tutorial and gather once a week via Zoom for practice. When we're able to worship in person together again, we'll bring music to worship! If you want to purchase a ukulele, we have a small number of Kala KA-15S ukuleles from a local music store for a discounted rate of \$45. Please let Lily know if you'd like to purchase one.

Bethlehem COVID-19 Giving

In March, Bethlehem made "emergency" donations using discretionary funds to a couple of organizations with whom we have existing partnerships.

Food Gatherers \$1000 (3/23)

Peace Neighborhood \$1700 (3/19)

In the coming weeks, we'll be launching a congregation-wide campaign - the Bethlehem COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Details are forthcoming, but if you feel compelled, you can donate today at <https://bit.ly/bucc-donate>.

Bethlehem's 2020 Summer Mission Trip - Everyone's Invited

- **Who:** You! The guest house accommodates 14 people and we're hoping to fill as many spots as possible! Ages HS to adult are definitely welcome (and younger a possibility). Please let us know if you have any questions.
- **What:** Supporting their Summer Youth Program by working with children, preparing meals, and doing various projects around the church and in the neighborhood. We'll stay in an on-site guest house (no camping this year!).
- **When:** Sunday, June 21 - Friday, June 26
- **Where:** Washington UCC - Cincinnati, OH.
- **Why:** Service is an important way of putting our faith into action! This is an amazing opportunity to support another UCC congregation and learn about the wonderful work they are doing in their community! Mission trips always provide lots of opportunities for fellowship and relationship building with other Bethlehem members. And did we mention: NO camping this year!
- **How:** Let Lily know if you're interested in joining this summer's service trip



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.**

CELEBRATE
CLASS OF
2020

Celebrating Graduates

Bethlehem wants to do all we can to celebrate graduates this year! Please email Pastor Lily (Lily@bethlehem-ucc.org) if there's a high school or college (undergrad or advanced degree graduate in your life.

Please include:

- ♦ Graduate's name
- ♦ School
- ♦ Degree is applicable
- ♦ Email and phone number for both you and the graduate

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR CORONAVIRUS

Keeping yourself and your family safe around respiratory illnesses



WASH YOUR HANDS

It's important. Most of us don't do it enough or aren't good at it. Scrub for 20 seconds. If you can't wash, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

If you need medical care and think you may have been exposed to coronavirus, call your medical provider for instructions before going in.



KEEP GERMS OUT OF THE AIR

Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands. Or, use a tissue and throw it away.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Someone coughing? Move away - 6 feet or more.



DISINFECT SURFACES

Clean frequently-touched surfaces at home. Wash your hands after visiting public spaces.



ALWAYS BE READY

Risk of exposure remains low. But, start thinking about general, daily supplies - water and food staples or medications, for example. Visit www.ready.gov for suggestions.



MASKS

Masks are not a good prevention tool for healthy people. If you are sick, masks can help prevent the spread of germs. Health care workers or others caring for sick people should wear appropriately fitted masks (such as N95 respirators).



KEEP RISK IN PERSPECTIVE

Flu is actively circulating in Washtenaw County. Novel coronavirus is not. Practice good prevention (handwashing, staying home if sick, etc.). Get a flu shot if you haven't.



RELIABLE INFORMATION

Make sure you're getting accurate information. Bookmark www.washtenaw.org/health and follow the Washtenaw County Health Department on social media.

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/washtenawcountyhealth) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/washtenawcountyhealth) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/washtenawcountyhealth) @wcpubhealth





As the Worship Ministry Team (WMT) gathered together in February to plan a meaningful Lenten season for all of us at Bethlehem, little did we know that our "Lent 2020: A Journey with Jesus" would find us in this current wilderness. Worshiping in community has always been important to many of us at Bethlehem. Prior to the "shelter in place" order, our team was energetically working to provide a meaningful Lenten journey for all of us. We are continuing to meet weekly via Zoom to assist with the planning of our worship services. So far,

the on-site team producing our virtual worship service has been limited to essential roles only but the voices from the entire WMT can be heard.

The team is so grateful to Pastors John and Lily for their commitment to provide spiritual support to our Bethlehem community and to the community at large. David Hahn and Gail Jennings are also working hard to provide the musical components of our service. Music has been and will continue to be an important part of worship.

The Worship Ministry Team and Sound Techs are seeking new ways to bring worship to our congregation and to friends online. If you have skills in the area of audio/video recording and streaming technologies, please reach out to our pastors, a member of the WMT, or our Sound Techs. While we hope to have portions of the services from our beautiful sanctuary, we may be limited in how we produce segments in order to maintain physical distance from other people and to limit exposure to multiple environments. Our goal is to continue providing an online service as well as the radio broadcast every Sunday morning.

Our team wants to thank other BUCC members who have pitched in to help us: Jim Stadel, Kurt Schmerberg, and Edgar Vasquez. We recognize that we are all in this together and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and support us during these difficult times.



FROM THE BETHLEHEM CEMETERY BOARD

Please note the picture of the NEW historical marker at the cemetery. We send a special thank-you to Mary Friend for working with the Washtenaw Historic District Commission in getting the sign correctly worded and made for us. A big thanks

goes to Jim Stadel also for mounting the sign in front of the building.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the cemetery tree and shrub fund, to enhance common areas, you may do so [online](#) or by mailing a check to the church office with the notation "cemetery tree/shrub fund" in the memo. Please have donations submitted by May 20.

Although we were disappointed that Bethlehem Cemetery was not be able to host the Easter Sunrise service this year, we wish Easter Blessings to everyone as we all "Stay Home and Stay Safe."



An Important Message from Peace:

Peace Family,
Our response to the Covid-19 national emergency is at this time focused on mitigating the effects this will have on our families in these three major areas:

Food Insecurity Academic Support Lost Wages and Emergency Assistance

If you are inclined to help, donations made through the PayPal link on **Peace's** website will help assist our families with food insecurity, continued academic support during the school shut down and, perhaps most importantly, to aid those families facing lost wages due to childcare and other factors to avoid possible eviction or utility shutoff with emergency funds provided through our case management.

Peace's Website to Donate:
www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org

MARCH 2020	Year to Date	YTD Target	2019/2020 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$335,914	\$399,505	\$479,406
Expenses	\$430,612	\$443,447	\$532,136
Net	(\$94,698)	(\$43,942)	(\$52,730)



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

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP COUNCIL</u>
Pastor: Rev. John Kennedy	Finance: Karen Samford	President: John Samford
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann	Facilities: Tom Ziesemer	Vice President: Ron Dechert
Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development: Lily Tinker Fortel	Education: Eileen Koprowski	Secretary: Sue Wortman
Financial Administrator: Betty Clark	Worship: Harriette Ehnis	Treasurer: Jim Rowan
Parish Administrator: Julie Rhodes	Member Care: Jenny Foster	At-Large Members:
Administrative Assistant: Gwenda Mayes	Welcome: Kurt Schmerberg	Judy Coucouvanis
Director of Music: David Hahn	Outreach: Laura Seyfried	Pat Huibregtse
Organist: Gail Jennings	Fellowship: Jan Eadie	Pam Rutledge
Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan	Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan	Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy
Sunday School Nursery Teacher: Kelsey Postler	Bethlehem Cemetery: Susan Irwin	
	Nominations Committee: Cresson Sloten	