

# MARCH

# The Visitor

March 2021  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

## Leaders, Looking for God's Light

Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not." - 2 Kings 2: 8-10

In this story Elijah and Elisha are standing at the River Jordan, and Elijah is about to ascend into heaven in a chariot of fire and light. Elijah is considered the greatest of all prophets, and his understudy Elisha will be left to be a prophet in Elijah's absence. How will Elisha fill Elijah's shoes and do the work that needs to be done on behalf of God as a prophet. Elisha asks Elijah, for a double-portion of God's spirit to guide and fortify him. Elisha will now have to be God's prophet to the leaders/kings of Israel.

Prophets have a tough role because they always have to deliver hard messages. Seldom are God's messengers fully embraced by God's own people, until after they are gone. In the Bible, prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Elijah speak words meant to open our eyes, awaken us and guide us into God's light. Now it will be Elisha's turn and he needs a double-portion of God's light to do so.

In all times, God finds prophets among us, people who are imperfect but who are willing to be open to God for wisdom and light. Each messenger is a flesh and blood human just like you. In fact, it could be you! To be God's messengers, we have to be open and willing enough to be guided unto the path where God's light is shining and not unto our own path. Jesus said that sometimes even our own families will not understand why we are on a path that seems to lead away from their path. Even wonderful people and nations can find themselves on a wrong path but who will lead them/us back to a healthier one.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Deadline for the  
April Edition of the Visitor is  
Monday, March 15**



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## Office Hours

Due to the  
COVID-19  
Pandemic, the  
office is currently  
closed.

(continued from page 1)

There are still prophets among us if we look. I believe Dr. Fauci has done the work of a prophet. Israel just awarded Dr. Fauci an award with 1-million dollars for “Speaking Truth to Power, Amid the Pandemic”. It is not enough to see God’s light- we have to reflect and shine that light that we have not hidden under a bushel. This reminds me of a quote by Leslie Fieger, “Any fool can run towards the light. It takes a master with courage to turn and face the darkness and shine her/his own light into the darkness”.

Darkness and evil can be subversive and tricky and even present itself as light to Godly people. During WW 2, millions of German Christians ignored Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s prophetic words while following Hitler into the darkness and destruction. God did not turn God’s back to the people, the people turned their backs to God’s light.

Like Elisha, we need a double –portion of God’s light and spirit, perhaps even a triple-portion to shine light into our times. The more we are willing to be agents and messengers of light, the more God will grant us God’s spirit to face our times. I invite all of us this Lenten season to open ourselves to God’s light and ask for a triple-potion of God’s spirit. We don’t need to change anyone, we just need to shine our light with compassion and courage, wherever you are or go. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

God loves us all with no take-backs!

Pastor John



## Looking for Light

Our worship theme this year is “Looking for Light”. The last 12-14 months have been difficult for all of us, but in different ways. On top of the pandemic we have been trying to find our way through racial injustice, political divide, economic uncertainty, hunger, grief, loneliness, loss of “normal”, climate and weather disasters. I find myself thinking, it must get better from here, right? And then another news story breaks. As the

Worship Ministry Team prepared for our Lenten services, we read the Scriptures and prayerfully discerned how to make this season meaningful to our members. While we considered many options, we all gravitated towards the theme of light. We felt that what our community needs most is the light to help guide us out of the darkness.

What has created darkness in your life? If you have come out of darkness previously, what light were you able to follow? What did you learn from a previous crisis that can pull you or someone you love out this time? We will be exploring these ideas through Lent and we welcome conversation with you. As you experience Lent and the messages from our Scripture lessons, I pray that it calls us to recognize our dark places but also the light around us. It could be a friend checking in, a walk outside in the sun, our children or pets counting on us, a new skill learned, one more day sober, a win at work, a nurse knowing what you need before having to ask, a creative project that brings a moment of joy. It doesn’t have to be bright like the sun or explosive like fireworks. Sometimes it’s small like a candle. That could be all you need to retrieve something you lost, to see yourself in the mirror, or to find your way out.

In addition to Sunday services, we hope you will consider joining us for Roundtable Pulpit Tuesdays, Antiracism Discussion Group on Wednesdays, Fellowship Hour on Sundays, Happy Hour 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, or Yoga on Tuesdays. Connecting with others during this period of extended limitations may be that candle in the window to light your way.

--Jennifer Vasquez  
Worship Ministry Team Chair

Dear Members of our Bethlehem UCC Family,

This letter is to inform you that on February 12, 2021, I received Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel's letter of resignation from her position as The Minister of Spiritual Growth & Development, effective March 15, 2021.

I expressed to Pastor Lily that we have all been blessed by her many gifts and talents on her spiritual journey. I know that all of us who love Pastor Lily, wish her and Steve, all the best as they embark on the next adventure in their journey.

More information will be shared as plans are developed to celebrate Lily's ministry with Bethlehem U.C.C.

God loves us all with no take-backs!

Pastor John

## From Your President's Desk



Life is change. Pastor Lily's resignation is a big change in the life of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. I've been processing it for a couple days as the deadline for this issue of the Visitor approaches.

Over the past couple decades, I've been involved with a lot of clergy turn-over both at Bethlehem and my prior Disciples church. Because of the unique relationship pastors have with their flocks, saying goodbye to a pastor rates up there with a divorce or the death of a loved one—at least for me. It's not easy!

While I certainly wish Pastor Lily well, wherever her ministry takes her, I'll certainly miss her intellect, enthusiasm, and cheerfulness. There is never a perfect time to end a ministry: contemplated action, things in motion, things only dreamt of: the inbox is never empty! I can only imagine how difficult making this decision must have been.

Now is the time we need to remind ourselves the church is not one person (well, except our Lord and Savior!) This is not the end of the story, as our denomination likes to remind us: "God is still speaking."

The path forward is (never) completely clear. Certainly, the Leadership Council meeting this month will focus on this change and how to meet it.

At a time like this, it is important to face this loss, celebrate Pastor Lily's unique contributions to our church's story, pray, and think clearly about how to proceed. While there is no right answer, wrong ones abound, include yielding to despair, turning away or rushing to fill the void as quickly as possible.

In the coming while, I encourage you to share your thoughts, feeling, and hopes: we are a community and need to listen to and support one another at all time, especially now.

Peace,  
John Samford

January 2021	Year to Date	YTD Target	2020/2021 Budget
<b>Offerings and Income</b>	\$299,536	\$278,972	\$418,458
<b>Expenses</b>	\$293,297	\$316,318	\$474,477
<b>Net</b>	\$6,238	(\$37,346)	(\$56,019)

## We Would Like Your Help!

Dear BUCC Members and Visitors,

Are you missing in-person church services and celebrations? For many, if not all of us, this past year has presented many challenges. The BUCC Covid-19 task force (Pastors John and Lily, Julie-Parish Administrator, myself) has been monitoring the pandemic spread and national, state and local restrictions and recommendations since the beginning. At the beginning of this pandemic the decision was made by our Leadership Council with input from our ministry teams and some church members to close our building, moving all services to online, in an effort to avoid spreading of the virus. Although this decision was difficult, in our opinion it was correct.

The development and distribution of multiple vaccines allows all of us to be hopeful. Hopeful that soon, we may reach a point where we will be allowed to worship together to share in-person church activities. All of us on the task force have heard the question "when will Bethlehem open for in-person services?" At present, state restrictions prevent in-person, non-family, indoor gatherings. Our task force is working on recommendations for a safe re-opening when state and national restrictions allow.

To assist our efforts, we would like to survey our congregation to understand your interest for in-person services and develop a snapshot of our current congregation-wide vaccination status. Listed below is a link to a short survey. You do not need to provide your name when completing this survey. Your responses will be confidential although we will summarize the results and send those aggregated results back to our congregation. The link will remain active until March 6<sup>th</sup>.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ijYUAsn3YnD2vn0mH4xBY8SpRMjh74twrHMWeiT6\\_EU/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ijYUAsn3YnD2vn0mH4xBY8SpRMjh74twrHMWeiT6_EU/edit)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Your answers are very important to our planning for re-opening of our church.

Peace and health to all,

Ron Dechert

Lead-BUCC Covid-19 Task Force



**LENT 2021**

**THEME: LOOKING FOR GOD'S LIGHT**

### **2021 Holy Week Schedule**

- Apr 1**      **Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM via Facebook Live**
- Apr 2**      **Good Friday Service— 7:00 PM via Facebook Live**
- Apr 4**      **\*\*9:00 AM Easter Morning Service Outdoors @ Bethlehem Cemetery (\*\*COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING)**  
**10:00 AM Easter Worship via Radio Broadcast and Facebook Live and YouTube**

### **FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD**

This is the first winter for our cross in the cemetery and for some, it is the first winter without a loved one. There are times when we search for a place to find peace to reflect, pray and feel God's presence. Please consider taking a peaceful walk through Bethlehem Cemetery, watching the sun reflect from the grave stones and from our cross... Pause at the cross to share a prayer with God.



Bethlehem Cemetery reminder:  
Please remove Fall/Holiday decorations by April 1, 2021.





## Hello Bethlehem families and youth,

This year for our Lenten Project, the Educational Ministry team has chosen to raise funds to assist the Ozone House in providing free, confidential, and voluntary shelter and support services to homeless youth (in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti) including runaways and high-risk youth ages 10-20 and their families. We are also inviting all youth from Bethlehem to help us create posters to broadcast during weekly services. All of those who have attended Sunday

School lessons in the past know how much I ADORE crafts, and this is a great opportunity for us to all craft together for a wonderful cause! Please find testimonials from past homeless youth as well as pictures and services offered here: <https://ozonehouse.org/>. Please email pictures of your posters to [kmpostle@umich.edu](mailto:kmpostle@umich.edu) anytime until Easter Sunday. We would love to have you join us in promoting the wonderful things Ozone House does in our community!

It is strange to think about how just how many fluffy socks, fleece jackets, blankets, and in general “fuzzy things” I have acquired over the past year since the pandemic hit. After I rushed outside five minutes after taking a shower the other day, my long hair froze into hairy-ice-chunks. Don’t know what in the world I am talking about?

(Look at <http://hairfreezingcontest.com/gallery> for some more ice-in-your hair inspiration. Sadly, mine did not look THIS good!)

Surprisingly enough, this made me think about all the beauty that God so evidently displays for us during the winter. Ducks swimming together in the last bits of unfrozen water in ponds. Intricate, one-of-a-kind snowflakes catching softly on the windshields of cars. The sun peeking ever-so slightly out from behind a cluster of clouds. The faint footprints tracking everyone’s paths to and from their homes. With that, I wanted to share a poem by Margaret Fishback Powers:

### “Footprints”

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

“Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I’m aware that during the most troublesome times of my life, there is only one set of footprints. I just don’t understand why, when I need You the most, You leave me.

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you”.

How many times in our lives do we find ourselves lost and seemingly all alone? How often do we mistakenly convince ourselves that being alone is something to be ashamed of? To be remedied as quickly as possible? I challenge you to take pride in spending time alone with our God, perhaps being carried by Him if needed. Maybe it is during your lunchtime walk. Maybe it is after tucking in your loved ones for the night. Maybe it is after you have rushed outside with wet hair and noticed ice crystals form. Be alone sometimes in the beautiful world God created for us.

Miss Helsey ♡

# GRATEFUL

*From Lily*



Last week I resigned as Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development. My last day on staff will be March 15. As I prepare to leave my position, I am holding on to what a joy it has been to walk alongside YOU, members of Bethlehem of all ages, over the past almost-four years.

I will miss Bethlehem dearly. I am sad. I am also grateful for having had the opportunity to walk with you. There will be more opportunities for me to say thank you and for us to share reflections. For now, I want to share with you a few of the countless things that stand out for me as I reflect on these four years. Some bright LIGHTS of the journey, to borrow this year's Lenten theme.

**Giving and Service:** Bethlehem, your generosity in giving your time and treasure to help others has been a constant source of inspiration. As I've said so many times now, I am ever-amazed, but never surprised.

**Worship:** Leading worship and working with members of all ages to take active leadership roles in your worship services has been a sincere joy.

**Learning Together:** SO many adult faith formation classes and experiences! Your courage and vulnerability and your desire to grow spiritually is a light. Most recently, I have been deeply encouraged by the 30+ members who initiated and/or participated in our three anti-racism classes last fall and this winter.

**Youth and Children:** You all are the brightest lights. I am ever-grateful to your adults for trusting Bethlehem with your care. Seeing you grow up over these years has been a wonder to me, just as each of you is a wonder.

My heart is full with gratitude for the time we've had together. I look forward to conversations with as many of you as possible in the coming weeks. My phone number is 734.999.0262. My email address is [lily@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:lily@bethlehem-ucc.org). Please do reach out.





# JANUARY & FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

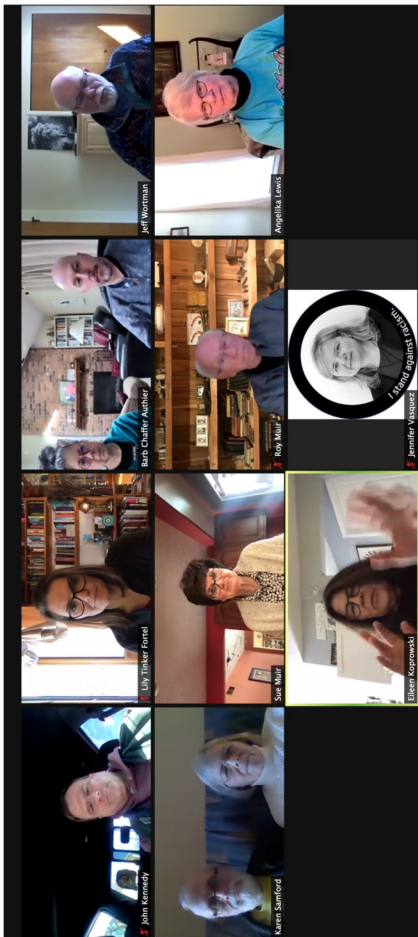
*Spiritual Growth and Development from Lily*



*Anti-Racism Discussion Group 2.10*



*Fellowship Hour 2.14*



## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

*by Katie Rowan*

Warm Greetings from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team! The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team has been busy finding creative ways to connect and engage our youth during the past months. Here's what we've been up to.

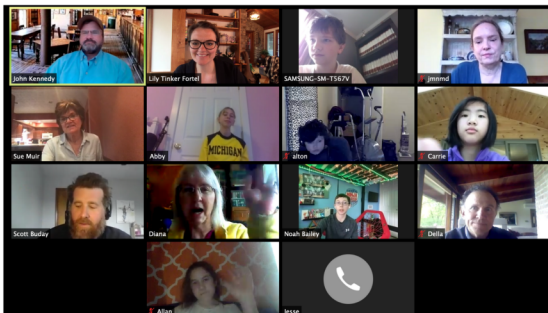
**Gatherings:** Lots of ZOOM! When COVID first hit, youth were in the middle of confirmation and this was continued virtually. During the summer, zoom YOUTH GROUP happened every few weeks and every two weeks in the fall. The highlight of the fall was our IN PERSON masked and socially distanced HALLOWEEN PARTY. We met in the church yard for games, prizes, and a fire pit.

**BUCCuleles:** We started a UKULELE BAND open to all Bethlehem Youth and Adults! Ukuleles were provided to all youth. Our youth and college age musicians collaborated in the initial planning and leadership, creating weekly instructional videos and zoom sessions. Weekly JAM SESSIONS are ongoing.

**Deliveries:** To show our youth that their church loves them, we made various deliveries including summer WATER BALLOONS, Halloween SPINYATAS (a kind of pinyata that spins, spewing candy and providing a fun alternative to trick-or-treating!), chocolate ADVENT CALENDARS, BUCCulele SONGBOOKS, Exploration Curriculum and Faithful Families Advent BOOKS, and CHRISTMAS EVE KITS with glow stick candles, hot chocolate, and a toy. Mailings included postcards and letters from Pastor Lily, and Christmas ornaments and crafts from the Education Ministry Team.

**Worship:** We strive to integrate the youth into every aspect of church life, and they have contributed to our worship videos in many ways. They have been LITURGISTS, and have made MUSICAL contributions and OUTREACH announcements. They have provided LEADERSHIP in the MOTHER'S DAY service, on CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, and in the BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS service. We have learned from them as they and their mentors shared with us the confirmation journey they experienced together, and as they shared their school experiences during COVID.

**Check-Ins:** Youth were asked for feedback on scheduling and programming for Fall 2020. Pastor Lily checks in with the Youth Group members by email and text, and has offered her availability as a resource as needed.



### **YYA NEEDS YOU!**

It takes a village to raise our youth! You are invited to be part of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team!!! We are excited about the energy and great ideas that came from the Brainstorming Sessions. If you have suggestions to add to the list, and especially if you would like to join the YYA Ministry Team, please contact Katie: [rowank55@gmail.com](mailto:rowank55@gmail.com)



## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM ...CON'T

**Brainstorming!** In early February, the YYA Ministry Team held two Listening/Brainstorming Sessions on Zoom to hear what programming ideas youth, their parents, and congregation members have as we plan for the rest of the year. Many ideas for creative activities were suggested, including expanding zoom activities, as well as envisioning safe, socially distanced, in-person possibilities. Here are just some of the suggestions. **GAMES!!!** Skribblio, 20 questions, trivia, in home scavenger hunt - ZOOM GAME NIGHTLEARNING/SKILL SHARING: Baking, engineering kits, language and culture, technology. **SERVICE:** "Progressive" CARE packages for college students - each family adds an item **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:** Sledding, bike rides, park challenge **FUN:** Movie watch party. **WORSHIP:** Weekly featured youth segment, Youth produced service - by youth for youth. We'll be exploring these more in the coming weeks and months.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN LENT

### BETHLEHEM'S 2021 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Promises, Promises is a devotional from the *stillspeaking writer's group* of the UCC. We hope it will provide meaningful spiritual grounding and reflection throughout Lent.

All are invited to gather via phone or video for a time of prayer and reflection each week during Lent. If you haven't already received a devotional but want one, contact Lily.



- Thursday, February 18. 12:00-12:30pm
- Thursday, February 25. 5:00-5:30pm
- Thursday, March 4. 12:00-12:30pm
- Thursday, March 11. 5:00-5:30pm
- Thursday, March 18. 12:00-12:30pm
- Thursday, March 25. 5:00-5:30pm
- Thursday, April 1. 12:00-12:30pm

Join using computer.

[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join) When prompted, enter **Meeting ID:** 501 731 3201#

Join using Phone.

**Dial:** 1-312-626-6799 When prompted, enter **Meeting ID:** 501 731 3201#

### WEEKLY SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN MARCH

**Roundtable Pulpit Bible Study.** Tuesdays. 12noon. Join your pastors for a study of the coming Sunday's scripture lesson. Zoom link available upon request.

**Exploration of the Criminal (in)justice System.** Thru March 10. Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00. Led by Chloe Schmerberg.

**BUCCuleles Jam Session.** Wednesdays at 4pm.

**Gentle Yoga.** Join Lily for very gentle meditative yoga practice via Zoom. Tuesdays March 2&9. Fellowship Hour Sundays from 11:00-11:30 on Zoom. See Friday group emails for link.

**Weekly Lenten Prayer Check-In.** Beginning February 18. Thursdays. (see above).

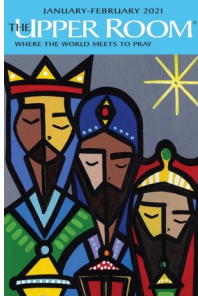
**Prayer Circle.** First Thursdays (3/4) at 12noon

**Second Sunday School.** 3/14. Zoom 11:00-11:30. Details via email.



## Upper Room Devotional

The Upper Room has made their daily devotionals available as PDF for subscribing churches. Email Lily [lily@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:lily@bethlehem-ucc.org) if you'd like to receive a copy of the devotional via email.



You may access a PDF copy from the church website by clicking [here](#). The PDF can also be located at: [www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org) under the events tab at the top of the page.

## Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received thru January 31, 2021

**General Memorial Fund**  
Tom Folk Memorial

**Radio Fund**  
Laura & Joseph O'Reilly Memorial

Gifts listed were received through  
January 31, 2021

**Radio Sponsorship**  
Jan. 10 - In memory of Betty Marshall  
Jan. 24 - In memory of Bob Dylinski



## Your Facilities Ministry Team at Work!

As you are aware, since March 2020 (Covid19) our Bethlehem building is being used on a limited basis. This use includes office operations, the U of M nurses conducting a medical study with a limited registered group and a small Groundcover staff using the room in the lower level. Groundcover vendors pick up papers and are given clothing/supplies outside the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave door area. Both groups sanitize their indoor areas daily.

We are grateful to the facility team members and volunteers that have done daily walkthroughs to make sure the building is secure and identify any maintenance or repair concerns.

Some of those concerns have included leaky steam pipes, a radiator leak in the sanctuary and plumbing issues. Other items were thermostats that had to be calibrated and/or replaced, various lights inside and outdoors replaced, electrical switches replaced, repair of a leaky boiler condensation pump, faulty office AC, air circulation unit replaced and identified a foundation leak under the south exit by the fellowship hall. The heating system in the fellowship hall is not functioning properly. CMR, the installer, is working to get this corrected.

Both parsonages required some repairs/upgrades including a new furnace/hot water heater in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave parsonage as well as electrical repair, a storm door replaced and the front steps replaced.

### Roof

Grunwell & Cashero repaired several areas of failed stone/mortar on the 1895 building that were identified last spring. These areas directly impact the sanctuary and were critical to preserving it. We also had Butcher and Butcher repair areas on the roof connecting stone/tiles/downspouts/scupper boxes on the south side of the sanctuary and between the sanctuary and 1933 building. Due to the weather, they will return in the spring.

Even though building usage has been limited and worship/meetings postponed, our beautiful building continues to need care.

We thank the congregation for your support and gracious donations to the Property Improvement fund.

The FMT

Tom Z, Michelle Loukotka, Steve Darr, Ron Dechert - LC

Invited Guests John Irwin, Jim Stadel, Bob Loukotka, Mike Haab, Jim Judson.

Julie Rhodes, Parish Admin.



## Outreach Ministry Team News

### UPDATE FROM THE ANN ARBOR CROP WALK 2020



Thank you, Bethlehem contributors and walkers, for your part in CROP Walk 2020!

### A message from Fritz & Evelyn Port

*Thank you all who helped with your contributions totaling \$4,680.37 for  
**Easy Water for Everyone.***

*These funds are sufficient to provide unlimited water for two villages that currently suffer from effects of chronically infected water.*

*These funds will suffice for the next five years.*

Be sure to check elsewhere in this Visitor for important information about the  
**Lenten Mission Project: Ozone House**



**HouseN2Home**  
*Creating spaces for*

**This new nonprofit is helping many ALPHA HOUSE families furnish their new homes.**

**Follow this link to find out more:**

<https://www.housen2home.org/>

**This is a great resource for Bethlehem members, who have furnishings to give away or provide, a different kind of volunteer**



**HOUSE BY THE  
SIDE OF THE ROAD**

**House by the Side of the Road is in need of clothing, linens, and small household appliances for their clients, free of charge. For additional information, visit their website:**

[https://  
www.housebythesideoftheroad.org/](https://www.housebythesideoftheroad.org/)

**HouseN2Home and House by the Side of the Road are two great outreach opportunities for our congregation!**



## 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:** Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel  
**Financial Administrator:** Betty Clark  
**Parish Administrator:** Julie Rhodes  
**Administrative Assistant:** Gwenda Mayes  
**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:** Jennifer Vasquez  
**Member Care:** Jenny Foster  
**Welcome:** Jane Schmerberg  
**Outreach:** Sue Muir/Roy Muir  
**Fellowship:** Jan Eadie  
**Youth & Young Adult:** Katie Rowan  
**Bethlehem Cemetery:** Sue Buday  
**Nominations Committee:** Cresson Slotten

### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**President:** John Samford  
**Vice President:** Ron Dechert  
**Secretary:** Tim Authier  
**Treasurer:** Jim Rowan  
**At-Large Members:**  
 Dindy Haab  
 Pat Huibregtse  
 Pam Rutledge  
**Ex Officio:** Rev. John Kennedy