

The Visitor

January

January 2022

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

Deadline for the February
Edition of the Visitor is
Saturday, January 15



In This Issue

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Member Care | Page 2 | Happenings | Page 4 |
| Christmas Wreath Donations | Page 2 | Youth & Young Adults | Page 4 |
| Budget | Page 2 | Memorials | Page 5 |
| Outreach | Page 3 | Who We Are | Page 6 |



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
Phone 734-665-6149 Fax 734-665-3399
www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2



Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
(the office is closed
on Mondays)



Member Care Ministry Team

Happy New Year from the Member Care Ministry Team! As we send out the old year and bring in the new, we want to reflect on where we have been as members of Bethlehem. Member care is really how members of our church family take care of each other. This has been especially needed in a full year of isolation. You all have done a wonderful job of doing that! Our Education team took care of our younger kids while the Youth and Young Adult team kept in touch with our junior and senior high schoolers and college students. Our Stephen Ministers visited and listened. Members who prayed, visited, sent cards, delivered advent calendars, etc. Thank you to our Worship Team who brought services to our members when we couldn't be together in person and connected us to each other. Thank you also to the many members who work behind the scenes to care for each other without wanting or needing thanks – THANK YOU!

We also want to thank our staff for taking care of our members during this crazy time. Pastor John who has led, visited, prayed, married, buried, etc. for all of us. David Hahn and Gail Jennings who continued to bring music into our lives. The office staff who kept us informed and in touch.

Member Care is a ministry team but it is also what we as a church family do for each other. Our prayer for the new year is that we continue to care for each other and to celebrate what we have done. As Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew. Well done, good and faithful servants! Blessings to everyone for a healthy and happy New Year!

Thank you to all who donated wreaths that decorated our outside windows during this Christmas season. Below are the names of those whose memory and/or honor they were given.

Christmas Wreaths Memorials and Honorariums

| IN MEMORY OF | FROM |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| David Beagle | Teresa Beagle |
| Chuck Raab | Mary Raab |
| Marianne Pollee | Jack & Angelika Lewis |
| Waldemar Pollee | Jack & Angelika Lewis |
| Our Parents | Mike & Dindy Haab |
| Kennyon Edwards | Violet Edwards & Family |
| Burt & Betty Lutz | Mary & Jim Lutz |
| Norm & Helen Grob | Norma & Conrad Foster |
| Elida & Oscar Vasquez | Jennifer & Edgar Vasquez |
| Raymond & Elizabeth Lambarth | Joe & Jan Eadie |
| Carl & Jean Raab | Mary Raab |
| | |
| IN HONOR OF | FROM |
| Mike & Harriette Ehnis | Arlene Finkbeiner |
| Doris Whitlock | Arlene Finkbeiner |



| November 2021 | Year to Date | YTD Target | 2020/2021 Budget |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Offerings and Income | \$258,380 | \$253,302 | \$506,604 |
| Expenses | \$203,489 | \$267,086 | \$534,171 |
| Net | \$54,891 | (\$13,784) | (\$27,567) |

OUTREACH MINISTRY PAGE

BETHLEHEM CHURCH WILL HOST THE ROTATING SHELTER PROGRAM MARCH 14-20, 2022

WHAT IS THE MEN'S ROTATING SHELTER?

An annual program for the winter months to provide overnight hosting for men when the number needing housing exceeds the capacity of the Delonis Center. It is sponsored by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC).

WHAT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BETHLEHEM?

Men will be screened and registered at the Delonis Center each evening, and will arrive by van at approximately 7:30 pm. Lights out will be at 10 pm. They will be picked up by the Shelter van at 8 am the next morning.

WHAT IS BETHLEHEM'S ROLE IN THE PROGRAM THIS YEAR?

Bethlehem Church will host approximately up to 25 men each night from March 14 to 20. Our participation is led by the Outreach Ministry Team, with the endorsement of the Leadership Council and other ministry teams. Mary Jean Raab, Sue Muir and Roy Muir are serving as co-chairs of the congregation's participation.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED, AND WHAT WILL THEIR ROLES BE?

We will seek to enlist at least 3 or 4 host volunteers who will serve to greet/welcome the men, stay overnight, provide information on where restrooms are and other questions.

WHAT IS OUR HISTORY IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS?

Bethlehem was a founding participant in hosting during the first year of the program in the 1980s, and continued as a host through 2017. We have committed to renew our participation for the present year.

WHERE WILL THE GUESTS SLEEP AT THE CHURCH?

A location at Bethlehem will be determined in collaboration with the Facilities Ministry Team. In past years men have slept in the youth room or other locations. Sleeping cots are provided by the Delonis Center.

WHAT OTHER CHURCHES ARE PARTICIPATING AS HOSTS?

Bethlehem is one of over a dozen Ann Arbor area congregations hosting for one or two weeks each. These include Zion Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, St. Luke Lutheran, Christian Reformed, St. Mary, First Presbyterian Saline, St. Francis, Calvary United Methodist and St. Claire/Temple Beth. The program has drawn wide participation from community denominations and congregations.

HOW CAN THOSE INTERESTED LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TO SERVE?

During January and February there will be regular information provided each Sunday and by email and mailings. Those interested can also contact:

Mary Jean Raab at raabmj@aol.com or 734-395-5589

Roy Muir at muirmich@comcast.net or 734-604-6098

Sue Muir at suemuir@comcast.net



HAPPENINGS

Cantata Photos



Youth at Bethlehem

Youth Group is now on Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. This month the Youth assembled cocoa mix gifts to be included with the Christmas Care Package deliveries to our youngest members. The most fun (?) part of the project was unwrapping 36 mini candy canes and crushing them to make the peppermint garnish. Also, many thanks to our guest, Kurt, who introduced the Youth to our new sound and streaming equipment.

Abby Bowers sang and played during worship on Thanksgiving weekend. Thanks for sharing your talents with us!



Habitat Welcome Basket

Many thanks to those who donated items or money to the Welcome Basket for the Patterson family. The total donated was \$620 which will be used to purchase a Target gift card. The basket will be presented to the family at the closing for their new home, which will be scheduled soon. Thank you so much for your generosity!



Bethlehem Veterans' & Friends Monthly Breakfast

Friday, January 7
at 8:30 am

Alpha Restaurant, Jackson Rd.
(formerly Classic Cup Café)

Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer
Email: ziesemertn@gmail.com



Roundtable Pulpit

All are invited to participate in a "Roundtable Pulpit" with Pastor John on Tuesdays from 12-1:30 pm via [ZOOM](#). Gather to study and discuss the coming week's scripture. Please click on the link above if you would like to participate.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the following people who gave their time and creativity to decorate our church for the Christmas season: Tom Ziesemer, Jim Stadel, Sallie Stadel, John Irwin, Jim Rowan, Nan Lefton, Teresa Beagle, Joe Eadie, Jan Eadie.

The lights shone bright once again in the Sanctuary. Fellowship would like to thank Jamie Dylenski for the donation of a Christmas Tree to Bethlehem Church.

BUCCuleles

Our very own ukulele band has started up again for jam sessions. We'll be meeting on Zoom, Wednesdays at 4:30PM.



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71073058780?pwd=bHBSbzdkNTBqTkFSWEN3b2hUL1IwUT09>

Meeting ID: 710 7305 8780

Passcode: X7E1dG



We are now live streaming our 10:00 am Worship Service on Sundays. You can click the link [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the BUCC website so that you can watch services.

Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received from November 16 - December 15, 2021

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Gerta Lipcaman Memorial

CURRENT FUND

Harriett Holzapfel Memorial

BETHLEHEM CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Gary Hentz Memorial
Harriett Holzapfel Memorial
Jane Santoro Honorarium

RADIO FUND

Harriett Holzapfel Memorial

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

December 19 - In Memory of Gary Hentz

**Gifts listed were received through
December 15, 2021**



January 15 is the deadline for items to be included in the February edition of the VISITOR newsletter. Please email submissions to: churchoffice@bethlehem-ucc.org

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.

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.





Our Core Values

- ## Our Mission

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Staff, Ministry Team Chairs, and Leadership Council

Pastor: Rev. John Kennedy
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann
Minister of Spiritual Growth
and Development:
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

Finance: Karen Samford
Facilities: Steve Darr
Education: Eileen Koprowski
Worship: Jennifer Vasquez
Member Care: Beth Wenner (co-chair)
 Karen Kennedy (co-chair)
Welcome: Jane Schmerberg
Outreach: Sue Muir/Roy Muir
Fellowship: Jan Eadie
Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan
Bethlehem Cemetery: Marty Seyfried
Nominations Committee: Cresson Slotten

President: Ron Dechert
Vice President: Jim Rowan
Secretary: Rachel Hemp
Treasurer: Pete Hendershot
At-Large Members:
Dindy Haab
Pat Huibregtse
Pam Rutledge
Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy