



The Visitor

March 2022

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



How Can You Help?

Dear Bethlehem,

I am certain that all of you understand that it takes many people to support the work that is needed to be done in any organization. The vision and mission we share for Bethlehem is no exception. In order for the work of Bethlehem to continue, we rely on our staff, volunteers and members.

We come to the time in our church year where we annually assess our needs. To begin with, we need you to continue to engage in worship through in-person, live streaming, or radio broadcast. It is my hope that you will find the spiritual connection you seek during your worship moments. Worship services are the most visible of our activities but there are many other teams working behind the scenes to keep Bethlehem operating and serving our church community.

In the coming weeks, you will receive information asking you to reflect on your own time and talents and how those can best be used to support the myriad of activities conducted by our teams, staff, and leadership. As you reflect on ways you may be able to support Bethlehem, please consider also the numerous possibilities to volunteer. We need volunteer support in every possible way. Some of the volunteer positions require a scheduled amount of time throughout the year. Other activities may need much shorter commitments. For instance, we are currently asking for volunteers to be Liturgists during a Sunday service. We also need volunteers to help with our rotating shelter program from our community. You can also volunteer to serve as an usher or a member who opens or closes the church following a service. Other volunteer opportunities may involve staffing the church office during a service or ringing of the church bells. Do you like to sing? We would love to welcome you in our choir. Our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team need additional volunteers to help plan activities for our Youth, or even be part of a pool of volunteers willing to help with Youth Group meetings or outings.

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



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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2



Office Hours

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

(continued from page 1)

We have several ministry teams who are looking for additional support. If you have the time and are willing to help our ministry teams, please contact Cresson Sloten or the chair(s) of any ministry team you want to support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the same people (Cresson or ministry team chair) to have your questions answered. A list of our ministry teams and chairs can be found on our church website. Please contact the church office if you are uncertain who to contact with questions.

Soon, you will be asked to complete and return your Stewardship pledge cards. Most of our annual budget is supported through our individual gifts given to Bethlehem. Each year, Bethlehem prepares an annual budget to be approved at our annual meeting in late May or early June, this year will be no exception. Having you complete the Stewardship pledge cards allows our Finance Ministry team to develop a budget that supports the various programs at Bethlehem.

As you receive your Time and Talent and Stewardship cards, I ask that you consider how you can impact our church and our programs. Bethlehem cannot continue without the support of everyone. Giving of your time and/or financial support allows us to continue our programs, our worship, and our legacy.

I thank you all, in advance, for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration for support. God bless you for all you do, directly and indirectly, in the support of our church and our church family.

God's Love and Grace,
Ron Dechert-President



Welcome Our New Video Director

As part of our efforts to bring worship to members not able to join us in person, we have hired Dan Blakeney on a contract basis as our new video director. He will be working with Jennifer Vasquez, chair of the Worship Ministry Team, and learning from David Hahn's experience over the last 2 years.

Dan is really looking forward to working with the great people here and taking a break from filming live sporting events in rain or snow! He lives in Ypsilanti and is an alum of Eastern Michigan University, having earned a degree in Radio, Television, and Film. Dan has worked in educational, industrial, institutional, and live broadcast video production since the late 1980's. Around Ypsilanti he is known as a patron and supporter of the artist community.

Next time you're in church on Sunday, we hope you'll have a chance to introduce yourself and make him feel welcome. If you would like to contribute to our Video Fund to allow us to continue provided the livestream service in our new fiscal year, please make your donation online or mail your donation to the church office with a specific request that it be added to our Video Fund.

January 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	2020/2021 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$347,713	\$337,736	\$506,604
Expenses	\$298,830	\$356,114	\$534,171
Net	\$48,883	(\$18,378)	(\$27,567)

How to Watch BUCC Worship on YouTube



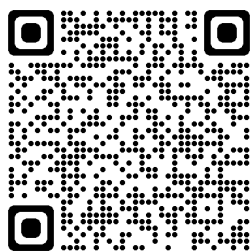
You can access our livestream/recorded services on YouTube a few different ways. Please note that we start the live stream at 9:50am every Sunday morning to capture the prelude and announcements before the worship service begins.

[Church Website](#): click on the "Watch" menu and you should see the live stream there every Sunday morning with a feed from our YouTube channel. There is also a link to our YouTube channel in order to access previous worship videos.

Smart TV: go to the "apps" on your smart TV at home to find the YouTube app. Open that and search for Bethlehem United Church of Christ Ann Arbor. When you find it, be sure to subscribe so it will be easy to find the next time. You can also hold the microphone button on your remote control and say "Open YouTube Bethlehem United Church of Christ Ann Arbor" and the search function should take you to our main YouTube page. From there, you can find the most recent videos and join a service that is in progress.

[YouTube website](#) or app on mobile device: Search for Bethlehem United Church of Christ Ann Arbor. Once you find one of our previous videos, click on the link to our channel to see all past videos. Be sure to subscribe so that you can easily access our service every Sunday morning.

Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone or mobile device to go to our BUCC channel on YouTube. Again, be sure to subscribe so that you can easily find us next week.



Member Care Ministry

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." Most of us know this famous quote by President John F Kennedy at his inaugural address in 1961. As we enter the 2022 Lenten season at Bethlehem Church, we can ask ourselves the same question. Ask not what your church can do for you – ask what you can do for your church.



During Lent this year, we are asking all the members of Bethlehem to consider giving something back as opposed to giving something up. We will be sending out Time and Talent Sheets so that you may prayerfully consider how you might use your gifts and talents to further the mission of our wonderful church. There are many opportunities listed or your talents and gifts may lie in a completely different area. You can fill in one area of interest or many. Whether you are 90 years old or 9, at home or have a job, always volunteered or never volunteered, etc, there is something that you CAN do. After all, many hands make light work. As you consider where to use your many talents, we are asking that these forms be returned to the church office on or before Palm Sunday, April 10th. Thank you in advance.

We are looking for a few more members to join Member Care Ministry Team, so if this is an area where you think that you might have gifts or talents, please contact either Beth Wenner at betha2@comcast.net or Karen Kennedy at klkennedy65@gmail.com.

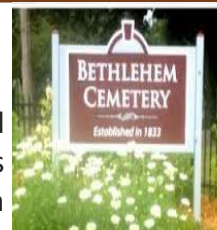
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

Greetings from your Cemetery Board

A friendly reminder that: All remaining Fall/Holiday arrangements and decorations will be removed from the cemetery beginning April 1.

Happy Spring, and Thank you for helping with our seasonal clean-up.

Your Cemetery Board,
Marty, Sue, Mary, Jim, Sallie, and Susan



ANNOUNCING THE 2022 YOUTH LENTEN MISSION PROJECT



“ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTS STUDENTS FUND”

The ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTS STUDENTS fund was chosen by the Education Ministry Team (EMT) and Youth and Young Adults Ministry Team (YYA), as this year’s focus of the 2022 Youth Lenten Mission Project. This fund provides vital support for the neediest students.

AAPSSS has devised simple ways the community can support these students who lack the minimum standards to learn and grow. Donations to the fund can provide students with basic daily necessities, as well as supporting teacher and social worker purchases districtwide for much needed supplies.

In making this decision, the youth and ministry teams were inspired to take action by the following truths:



Over 25% of the students at Ann Arbor Public Schools face poverty on a yearly basis.

Hundreds of local students experience food and housing insecurity



The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly added additional costs and needs for these students and families

Many students lack basic necessities including food & clothing



AAPSSS is asking for gift card donations in \$25, \$50, or \$100 denominations from Meijer, Kroger, Target or Walmart. The gift cards collected will be given to the AAPSSS Fund where social workers determine the distribution for the students with the most need.



Our goal is to raise \$2,000 for this fund over the course of the Lenten season. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, though Easter, we are asking our Bethlehem congregation to contribute to this campaign.

A collection box will in the office during the week. A collection box will also be in the Sanctuary at Sunday services to collect donations of money or gift cards. In addition, there will be a line item on the online giving site. Monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards.

As always, Education and Youth and Young Adult ministry teams appreciate the generosity and support of the Bethlehem community. Thank-you!

Eileen Koprowski
EMT Chair

OUTREACH MINISTRY PAGE

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

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 this year.

We are seeking to enlist 3-4 volunteers who will serve to stay overnight, provide information on where restrooms are, and answer other questions.

The time period for volunteers would be 8:30pm each day until 7:30 am the next morning.

If you are able to volunteer, we will give you additional information prior to the dates of the program.

Please use the link **Sign-Up Genius Link** below to sign up. If you would like to sign up without using the link, please contact one of the co-chairs to facilitate your sign up. Or feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

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 or 734-604-6128



Sign-Up Genius Rotating Shelter



HAPPENINGS



Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Distribution of Ashes will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 2 at 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

Youth at Bethlehem

This past month the Youth have zoomed, played board games, eaten pizza, played ping pong and foosball, packed Lunches with Love for Food Gatherers, and partnered with Member Care to send Valentines to some of Bethlehem's older members.



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=bHBSbzdkNTBqTkFSWEN3b2hUL1lwUT09>

Meeting ID: 710 7305 8780

Passcode: X7E1dG

Roundtable Pulpit



All are invited to participate in a "Roundtable Pulpit" with Pastor John on Tuesdays from 12-1:00 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.



- Mondays, Hand bell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00 pm, Sanctuary
- Tuesdays, Roundtable Pulpit 12:00-1:30 pm via ZOOM
- Wednesdays, 4:30 PM BUCCuleles via **Zoom**
- 3/2 Ash Wednesday - Distribution of Ashes at 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
- 3/3 Youth Group, 6:30 - 8 pm Youth RM
- 3/4 Veterans & Friends Breakfast, 8:30 am Alpha Restaurant
- 3/6 Food Gatherers Volunteer Day 12-2:30 pm at Delonis Center
- 3/8 Facilities Ministry Team, 3:30-4:30, Lounge
- Cemetery Board Mtg., 4:00 pm, Cemetery
- 3/13 Daylight Saving Time Begins - Turn Clocks Forward 1 Hour
- 3/14-20 Rotating Shelter Program
- 3/15 Worship Ministry Team, 5:30 pm via ZOOM
- 3/16 Member Care Mtg. 4:00 pm via ZOOM
- 3/17 Virtual Finance Mtg., 7:00 pm
- 3/24 Worship at Brecon Village, 10:00 am Leadership Council, 4:30 pm via ZOOM



Bethlehem Veterans' & Friends Monthly Breakfast

Friday, March 4
at 8:30 am

Alpha Restaurant, Jackson Rd.
(formerly Classic Cup Café)
Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer
Email: ziesemertn@gmail.com



Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 13. Set your clocks forward 1 (one) hour.



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Minutes from all Ministry Team Meetings are due to the church office by the 1st of every month. Please submit your February minutes by March 1 to:
churchoffice@bethlehem-ucc.org
Thank you all for your service to our church community.



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

Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received from January 15, 2022—February 15

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

John Nimz Memorial

CURRENT FUND

Mary Lou Wenk Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Ron Gentner Memorial

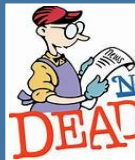
RADIO FUND

Joseph & Laura O'Reilly Memorial

Radio Sponsorship

January 16 – In memory of Gary Hentz

**Gifts listed were received through
February 15, 2022**



March 15 is the deadline for items to be included in the April 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.

*****PLEASE NO GLASS
CONTAINERS*****





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.
- ♦ Worshiping 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: Ron Dechert
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann	Facilities: Steve Darr	Vice President: Jim Rowan
Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:	Education: Eileen Koprowski	Secretary: Rachel Hemp
Financial Administrator: Betty Clark	Worship: Jennifer Vasquez	Treasurer: Pete Hendershot
Parish Administrator:	Member Care: Beth Wenner (co-chair)	At-Large Members:
Administrative Assistant: Gwenda Mayes	Karen Kennedy (co-chair)	Dindy Haab
Director of Music: David Hahn	Welcome: Jane Schmerberg	Pat Huibregtse
Organist: Gail Jennings	Outreach: Sue Muir/Roy Muir	Pam Rutledge
Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan	Fellowship: Jan Eadie	Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy
Video Director: Dan Blakeney	Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan	
Sunday School Nursery Teacher:	Bethlehem Cemetery: Marty Seyfried	
	Nominations Committee: Cresson Slotten	