



The Visitor

April 2022

Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Tying Up Loose Ends

Dear Bethlehem,

I am writing to update you regarding several activities that have been ongoing for the past several months. To begin, let me review the status of the congregational self-reflection survey submitted last October. The surveys were tabulated and summarized. All total, Council received 73 responses and I am very thankful to all who took the time to provide this valuable feedback and reflection. The summary graphs were distributed to all of our ministry team leads, standing committee chairs, and Council. Two meetings were held to discuss the data and each chair/lead was asked to reflect on how the information provided can be used to plan for next year. Attached is the document for your review and reflection. Please note the document is 25 pages if you intend to print. Please click [HERE](#) to access an electronic version of the results or you may contact the church office to request a printed copy.

We are rapidly approaching the end of our church fiscal year. This means that our ministry teams are being asked for their recommendations regarding next year's operating budget. A very significant aspect of budget planning is the distribution and collection of our Stewardship pledge forms. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete and send back your Stewardship card. The proposed annual budget will be presented to the congregation for approval on Sunday, June 12th following our church service, please mark this date on your calendar.

On a different note, over the past 10 months we had several times when emergency messages needed to get out quickly to our congregation. Our current system does not provide adequate emergency messaging. I am currently working with Gwen and Pastor John to implement a program called Remind. This program is used in many school systems and churches to send out text messages to any registered cellphone. In the coming weeks, we will test the system and as part of this test, you will be provided an opportunity to opt in or out of this emergency notification system.

Finally, we are continuing to seek volunteers in almost every area of our church; office, worship, leadership, music, etc. Please consider dedicating some portion of your time to become engaged with the operations that are needed to keep Bethlehem moving forward.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns you can best reach me by email (rdechert@umich.edu).

God's Blessing and Peace,
Ron Dechert - President

**Deadline for the May
Edition of the Visitor is
Friday, April 15**



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BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Phone 734-665-6149 Fax 734-665-3399
www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Office Hours

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



*For everything there is a season,
A time for every activity under
heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

*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)*

Happy Spring 2022!! As the winter is winding down, we now are starting to see signs of new life. Robins appear on our lawns, daffodils and tulips begin to show through the soil, and Easter is soon to be upon us. As we look forward to spending Easter morning in our beautiful sanctuary for the first time in 2 years, there are many blessings which we are made aware of.

Every household should have received a copy of the Time and Talent Sheet this past month in the mail. Member Care is asking that all of our members prayerfully consider giving something back during this Lenten season. We have requested that the Time and Talent Sheet be returned to the church office on or before Palm Sunday (April 10th). If you didn't receive a copy or need additional copies, they are available in the church office. As we see new life beginning this spring, it would be a wonderful time to bring new life and hope into Bethlehem by bringing our gifts and talents. Thank you for all that you do and continue to do in the life of our church!

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.

Women's Fellowship Board is sad to announce an end to the long-standing tradition of co-ordinating and serving Funeral Lunches for members of Bethlehem. The dwindling number of volunteers available to assist brought us to this conclusion.

We take pride in the many years we were able to provide this service and regret that it must come to an end. We salute the women, past and present, who made this possible.

Support Bethlehem by Grocery Shopping!

You can help support Bethlehem when you buy your groceries at Busch's or Kroger. A portion of what you spend will be contributed to the church.

You'll need an account on each website which includes your phone number or alternate ID.

For Busch's - on www.buschs.com log into your account and select Cash for Education under your name. Enroll in the 2022 Cash for Education by clicking the dropdown to select "Bethlehem United Church of Christ". Make sure to check the box "Add to Future Quarters" to make sure Bethlehem gets credit all year long. Enrollment is required each January for Bethlehem to continue to receive funds. When you shop at Busch's, use your phone number or alternate ID at the register.

For Kroger - on www.kroger.com log into your account and select My Account under your name then Community Rewards. Find Bethlehem United Church of Christ and click Enroll.



Thank you to all who have signed up to help bring money to Bethlehem just by grocery shopping!

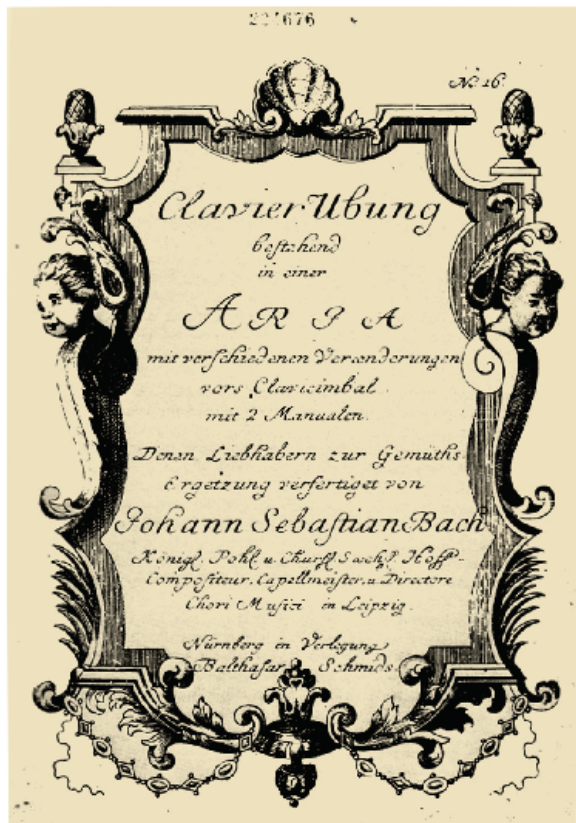
February 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	2020/2021 Budget
Offerings and Income	366,682	\$379,953	\$506,604
Expenses	\$350,443	\$400,628	\$534,171
Net	\$16,239	(\$20,675)	(\$27,567)



2022 Holy Week Schedule

- Apr 10** Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship In Person and via Live Stream and Radio Broadcast on 1600 WAAM
- Apr 14** Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM, Sanctuary
- Apr 15** Good Friday Service— 12:00 & 7:00 PM, Sanctuary
- Apr 17** Easter Morning Service, Bethlehem Cemetery - TBD
- Easter Worship 10:00 AM In Person and via Live Stream and Radio Broadcast on 1600 WAAM

GOLDBERG VARIATIONS JS BACH



May 7, 2022, Saturday at 4 PM
Bethlehem UCC 423 S. 4th Ave

Gail & Andrew Jennings - Organ & Violin

How to Watch BUCC Worship on YouTube



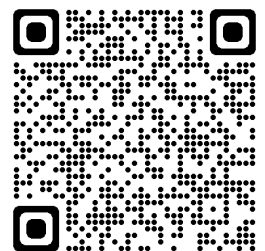
You can access our livestream/recorded services on YouTube a few different ways. Please note that we start the live stream at 9:50am every Sunday morning to capture the prelude and announcements before the worship service begins.

[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.



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 TEAM



On Sunday, February 27, Scott Roubeck from the Community Kitchen at the Delonis Center was highlighted during our Outreach Moment. Scott has been with Food Gatherers since 2008 as one of the Community Kitchen Managers. He thanked our congregation for its many years of support both financially and by volunteering. Scott has worked with Jamie Dylenski, Alice Dechert, and Ron Dechert (all pictured above) on the 1st Sunday of every month for over 15 years!

Scott shared with us how the mission of the Community Kitchen changed drastically with Covid. Food needs jumped from 6-7 million pounds of food per year to 9-10 million pounds. With only 24 persons at a time being able to eat in the Delonis dining room, hundreds of meals a day needed to be prepared for take-out, all of which required disposable containers. 35-40 volunteers per day dropped to 9 per day to help with the meal preparations and distributions, which resulted in their workloads being quadrupled.

Scott shared that thanks to Food Gatherers and many community groups and organizations giving incredible support, the Community Kitchen was able to continue serving our community.

We are so grateful for Scott, who offers comfort, stability, and hope to hungry clients, one nutritious and delicious plate at a time.

And thank you to Jamie, Alice and Ron and others in our congregation for your faithful volunteering at the Community Kitchen!



We heard from Scott Roubeck on February 27 how important any food contributions to Food Gatherers enables the Community Kitchen to provide hundreds of meals per day to our community. The need has never been greater.

We have a **FOOD BARREL** located in our building where contributions can be dropped off at any time the building is open. 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.**

We urge and challenge our congregation to be able to fill the Food Barrel completely up ever month!



Thank you to Sue Wortman, Kelly Williams, Jim Rowan, and Katie Rowan for sorting and stocking many, many pounds of food at Food Gatherers Warehouse on February 19 from 9:30-11:30 am.

As we learned from our Outreach Moment on February 27, food contributions are welcomed at the Warehouse (1 Carrot Way) or by contributing to Bethlehem's Food Barrel.

We will be offering other Bethlehem Warehouse Volunteer Days throughout the year. Please consider volunteering for one of those times!

HAPPENINGS

Food Gatherers Volunteer Day

Thanks to Kelly Williams, Sue Wortman, and Katie & Jim Rowan for processing a literal ton of food at Bethlehem's February 19 Food Gatherers Volunteer Day!



College Students Addresses Needed

Do you have a college student who would enjoy some encouragement this spring? The BUCC Youth will again be sending out College Care Cards to these students as they finish up the semester. Please send your student's mailing address to: rowank55@gmail.com. Please indicate if there is an end date that the address will be current.



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.

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



- Mondays, Hand bell Rehearsal 6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Room
- Tuesdays, Roundtable Pulpit 12:00-1:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)
- Wednesdays, 4:30 PM BUCCuleles via [ZOOM](#)
- 4/1 Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 am Alpha Restaurant
- 4/3 Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, 12:00-2:30 pm, Delonis Center
- 4/7 Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm Youth RM
- **4/10 PALM SUNDAY**
- New Member Welcome During 10:00 am Worship
- 4/12 Facilities Ministry Team Mtg., 3:30-4:30 pm, Lounge
- Cemetery Board Mtg., 4:00 pm, Cemetery
- 4/14 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
- 4/15 Good Friday Services 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
- **4/17 EASTER**
- Easter Sunrise Service, TBD, Cemetery
- Easter Worship, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
- 4/19 Worship Team 5:30 pm via [ZOOM](#)
- 4/20 Member Care Mtg., 4:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)
- 4/21 Virtual Finance Ministry Mtg. 7:00 pm
- Youth Group Pizza & Board Games 6:30-8:00 pm Youth Room
- 4/28 Worship at Brecon Village 10:00 am
- Leadership Council 4:30 pm via [ZOOM](#)



Bethlehem Veterans' & Friends Monthly Breakfast

Friday, April 1 &

Friday, May 6 at 8:30 am

Alpha Restaurant, Jackson Rd.

(formerly Classic Cup Café)

Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer

Email: ziesemertn@gmail.com



MEETING MINUTES

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

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



Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received from February 16 - March 15

BETHLEHEM EDUCATION MINISTRY FUND
 Rev. Kenyon Edwards Memorial

CEMETERY FUND
 Norm & Helen Grob Memorial

CEMETERY ROAD FUND
 Doris Niethammer Memorial

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND
 Bill Fellenberger Memorial
 Elsie Lovelace Memorial
 Hilda McLaughlin Memorial
 John O'Reilly Memorial

RADIO FUND
 John Schneider Memorial

RADIO SPONSORSHIP
 Feb. 20 - In memory of Edwin & Lucille Scherdt,
 Stan & Betty Scherdt, and Edward & Lenore Scherdt
 Mar. 6 - In memory of Jean Raab
 Mar. 13 - In memory of Ron Jaworowski, Laura Ann
 Jaworowski and Wilma Wahl

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



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.



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

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*****



RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

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.

- Click **here** to go to Sign-Up Genius and choose a date, and how you want your sponsorship to read.
- You can donate online at: bethlehem-ucc.org or leave a message at the church office (734) 665-6149 and someone will get back with you.



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
Office Supervisor: Gwenda Mayes	Member Care: Beth Wenner (co-chair)	At-Large Members:
Administrative Assistant:	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	