

# The Visitor

June/July 2022  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

## Grapevines not Guns

*"The LORD will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.*

*Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The LORD of Heaven's Armies has made this promise! Though the nations around us follow their idols, we will follow the LORD our God forever and ever."* Micah 4: 3-5

As most of you know, I spent 12 years as a police officer in Austin, Texas. I worked in the most challenging area of the city – by choice. Shootings and stabbings were an almost weekly occurrence. Building and cars set on fire with an almost regularity. Drive by shootings with teenagers and children as the victims. Mothers screaming and crying as their child lay dead or dying on a street in front of a convenience store covered in burglar bars. The smell of blood and gunpowder in the air. This was my reality.

You may be asking, why is Pastor John bringing this up again? Because gun violence takes a toll! And while my visceral memories are not what is most important, it gives me a perspective that many people don't have. What is important is the hill that we must climb in the United States is extremely steep and rough. That being said, it has been a very tragic couple of weeks for so many Americans who have been victims of gun violence/mass shootings including those in Buffalo, New York; Laguna Woods, California and Uvalde, Texas. We are living in a time where children and teachers; parishioners and pastors; shoppers and store clerks are being slaughtered on a frequent basis. This is happening in houses of worship, schools, movie theaters, grocery stores, etc. We are still living in an era where minorities are disproportionately targeted, based on the color of their skin, their sexual orientation or religious affiliation. There is **NO** place that is sacred or spared!

The majority of suspects in mass shootings are almost 98% male and of those 52% are white, 20% black, 8% Latino and 4% Middle Eastern (National Institute of Justice). Most shooters purchase assault weapons within days of their attacks. How is it that an 18-year old can buy a semi-automatic assault style rifle along with high capacity magazines before they can even buy a 6 pack of beer or easier than they can purchase Sudafed from the pharmacy?

We in the church, not only here at Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor, but the Church as a whole, need to stand up. **We** need to be the change that stems the tide of this violence. **You** need to be the change, so that no one else, whether it is someone you love or a stranger, will ever be the victim of a shooting ever again! If Micah's words are to be fulfilled *"Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear."* This will only happen if we co-work with God and learn to turn our weapons into tools for peace.

God Loves Us All with No Take-backs!

Pastor John

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## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022**

**WILLIMANN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**AFTER WORSHIP ~ 11:15 am**

## Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received from May 15—June 15, 2022

### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

**Hugh Keppler Memorial**

### CURRENT FUND

**Kathryn Barclay Memorial**

**Marian Vogel Cope Memorial**

**Carole Katz Memorial**

**Jill Schwartz Honorarium**

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

**Beverly Hanselman Memorial**

### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

**Shirley Maichele Memorial**

**John Nimz Memorial**

### RADIO FUND

**Hugh Keppler Memorial**

**Margaret Keppler Memorial**



## 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](http://bethlehem-ucc.org) or leave a message at the church office (734) 665-6149 and someone will get back with you.

## Free Tutoring for Adults



At the Washtenaw Literacy Learning Center

Call 734-337-3336 to sign up for a tutoring time.

You must make an appointment before coming to the Learning Center.

☆ Due to COVID, all tutors and learners at the Center must be fully vaccinated and current on boosters ☆

### Free Tutoring

Reading  
Writing  
Math  
Computer Skills  
Speaking English  
GED  
Work Skills

Located in the  
Community Family Life Center  
1375 S Harris Rd, Ypsilanti



### Tutoring Hours by Appointment Only

Monday afternoons  
Thursday afternoons  
Fridays

April 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	2021/2022 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$424,674	\$464,387	\$506,604
Expenses	\$438,484	\$489,657	\$534,171
Net	(\$13,810)	(\$25,270)	(\$27,567)



### Church World Service

has set up an Ukraine Crisis Response Fund to assess and respond directly and through local partners with a focus on providing aid to people displaced by the conflict.



You can help those fleeing violence.

### Ukraine Crisis Response Fund

The Outreach Ministry Team at Bethlehem UCC is making an appeal to its members and friends to donate to this response fund. The situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries is unstable and ever-changing. While the details around the long-term needs are still developing, CWS is committed to help. Listed below are three ways you can give.

**Please consider supporting CWS's response to meet the needs emerging from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.**

Visit our church website and click on **GIVING** where a line item for the **Ukraine Crisis Response Fund** will be set up. All accumulated donations to this fund will be sent directly to CWS.

[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)

Visit Church World Service online to make a donation directly to the **Ukraine Crisis Response Fund**.

<https://cwsglobal.org>

A check can be mailed to Bethlehem UCC or left in the offering plate on Sundays for any contributions. Please mark your donations **Ukraine Crisis Response Fund**



May 11, 2022

Dear Sue Muir, Tom Ziesemer, Katie Rowan and the people of Bethlehem United Church of Christ,

Below is your **October 3, 2021 In Person / Virtual Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk Totals**.

Thank you for participating in this event. Our total funds collected were **\$28,733.27**. Thanks to **you** we were able to give **\$7,183.32** to Local Agencies that feed the hungry.

Your fund total = **\$4,471.61**

Your # of walkers = **10**

Bethlehem United Church of Christ is the **1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner** of the Blanca Torres CROP Award! Congratulations!

We also would like to let you know that the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk plans are underway! Zion Lutheran Church (1501 West Liberty, Ann Arbor) has kindly agreed to host the 2022 Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk. We will have a group outdoor send-off at 2 pm, or you can walk virtually in your own neighborhood.

Please mark October 9 on your calendar and visit our web site at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/AnnArborMI> or [www.facebook.com/annarborecrophungerwalk](https://www.facebook.com/annarborecrophungerwalk)

Many small gifts make a BIG difference, one step at a time!

Sincerely,  
Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk Steering Committee

## Mark your calendars for BUCC's

### Annual Spring Clean Day!

**June 11th (9:00am-noon)**

It's time to:

- Clean filters in sanctuary, chapel, Schmale Lounge
- Remove debris from storage, janitor, and boiler rooms. Includes old phones, vacuums, etc.
- Remove items left in basement classrooms.
- Remove unused items in the gym. Storage bins, old Christmas trees.
- Clean out outside sheds.
- Pull weeds by the 4th and 5th Ave area and add mulch.
- Rake leaves.
- A dumpster will be used to toss out items no longer useful.





# HAPPENINGS



- Sundays, Worship Service in-person and via live stream and radio broadcast (WAAM 1600 am) 10:00 am
- Mondays, Hand bell Rehearsal 6:00 pm, Choir Room

## JUNE

- June 1—BUCCuleles Practice, Choir Room, 1:00 pm
- June 2—Youth Group, Youth Room, 6:30 pm
- June 3—Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Breakfast at Alpha Restaurant, 8:30 am
- June 5—Coffee “Hour”, Lounge, 9:40 am
- June 5—Loss Support Group, Youth Room, 11:15 am
- June 5—Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, Delonis Center, 12:00 noon
- June 8—BUCCuleles Practice, Choir Room, 1:00 pm
- June 11—Spring Clean up @ church, 9:00 am
- **June 12—Annual Congregational Mtg, Willimann Hall, 11:15 am**
- June 14—Facilities Ministry Team, Lounge, 3:30 pm
- June 14—Cemetery Board Mtg, Cemetery, 4:00 pm
- June 15—BUCCuleles Practice, Choir Room, 1:00 pm
- June 15—Member Care Mtg, via ZOOM, 4:00 pm
- June 16—Virtual Finance Ministry Team, 7:00 pm
- June 21—Worship Team, via ZOOM, 5:30 pm
- June 23—Leadership Council via ZOOM, 4:30 pm

## JULY

- July 1—Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast at Alpha Restaurant, 8:30 am
- July 3—Coffee “Hour”, Lounge, 9:40 am
- July 12—Facilities Ministry Team, Lounge, 3:30 pm
- July 12—Cemetery Board Mtg, Cemetery, 4:00 pm
- July 19—Worship Team, via ZOOM, 5:30 pm
- July 20—Member Care Mtg, via ZOOM, 4:00 pm
- July 21—Virtual Finance Ministry Team, 7:00 pm
- July 28—Leadership Council viz ZOOM, 4:30 pm

## New BUCCuleles Schedule

The BUCCuleles have begun in person jams! Please join us each Wednesday through June 15th at 1:00 pm. We meet in the choir room.

You are still welcome to join by zoom, just let Katie know in advance: [rowank55@gmail.com](mailto:rowank55@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71073058780?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71073058780?pwd=bHBSbzdKNTBqTkFSWEN3b2hUL1lwUT09)

[pwd=bHBSbzdKNTBqTkFSWEN3b2hUL1lwUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71073058780?pwd=bHBSbzdKNTBqTkFSWEN3b2hUL1lwUT09)

Meeting ID: 710 7305 8780

Passcode: X7E1dG



## Bethlehem Veterans' & Friends Monthly Breakfast

**Fridays, June 3 and July 1  
at 8:30 am**

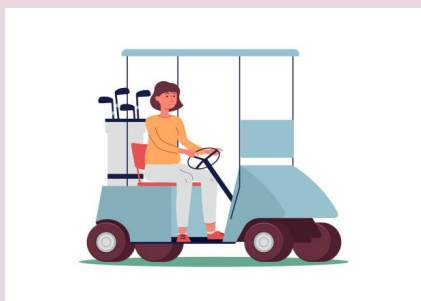
**Alpha Restaurant, Jackson Rd.  
(formerly Classic Cup Café)**

**Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer**

**Email: [ziesemertn@gmail.com](mailto:ziesemertn@gmail.com)**

## ATTENTION BETHLEHEM LADIES

What a joyous time we recently had reconnecting at the May mini breakfast! We will again connect on Thursday, June 9th at 9:00 am. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!** Lake Forest Golf Club on Ellsworth Road will comfortably accommodate our group. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Friends are welcome!



RSVP Susan Irwin at: [siirwin46@gmail.com](mailto:siirwin46@gmail.com). Questions? Call Susan Irwin at 734-255-5661

## 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\*\*\***



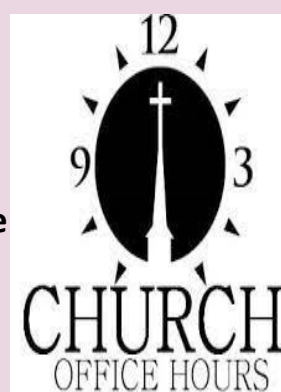
## REMINDER!!!

July 17th is the deadline for items to be included in the **August** edition of the VISITOR newsletter. As this newsletter will be covering two months, please plan ahead for any items to be included through July.

Please email submissions to:

[deb\\_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:deb_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org)

Pastor John will be available in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday each week from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Please contact Debbie by calling 734-665-6149, ext 212 or by emailing



[deb\\_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:deb_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org) if you would like to schedule an appointment.



MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from all Ministry Team Meetings are due to Gwen by the 1st of every month at:

[gwenda\\_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:gwenda_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org)

Thank you all for your service to our church community.

## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

*The Bethlehem 2022-2023 Scholarship Application is available now on our website.*

**Deadline for filing is June 12.**

Members of Bethlehem are eligible to apply for educational scholarships. Application is open to any qualified member attending full-time at an accredited college or university, at the undergraduate or graduate level.







# Easter 2022





**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)*

## Staff E-Mail Addresses

The following is a list of our current staff at Bethlehem and their email addresses. Please utilize these email addresses for all communications.

<b>Betty Clark</b>	<b>Finance Administrator</b>
bettyclark@bethlehem-ucc.org	
<b>David Hahn</b>	<b>Music Director</b>
musicdirector@Bethlehem-ucc.org	
<b>Gail Jennings</b>	<b>Organist</b>
gailpiano@yahoo.com	
<b>John Kennedy</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
pastorjohn@bethlehem-ucc.org	
<b>Gwenda Mayes</b>	<b>Office Supervisor</b>
gwenda_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org	
<b>Jim Rowan</b>	<b>Hand Bell Director</b>
jrowan@umich.edu	
<b>Debbie Ventura</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
deb_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org	

## 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

## STAFF

**Pastor: Rev. John Kennedy**  
**Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann**  
**Minister of Spiritual Growth**  
**and Development:**  
**Financial Administrator: Betty Clark**  
**Office Supervisor: Gwenda Mayes**  
**Administrative Assistant: Debbie Ventura**  
**Director of Music: David Hahn**  
**Organist: Gail Jennings**  
**Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan**  
**Video Director: Dan Blakeney**  
**Sunday School Nursery Teacher:**

## MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

**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

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**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**