

# The Visitor

## August 2022

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

#### UPDATE:

#### Lombard Mediation Process

Dear Bethlehem Members,

I am writing today to make you aware of new information being shared by the Lombard Mediation Team with our congregation.



## Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

A revised schedule is necessary to avoid conflicts with the summer Art Fair and the fall home football games. Registration for these two workshops is required so we can adequately plan space and lunch/snacks. Please take a moment to review these documents and consider attending the two workshops.

July 29-30:

Conflict in the [Church](#)

August 19-20:

Healthy [Congregations](#)

God Bless You for your dedication to Bethlehem and our church family.

Working together and listening to each other, we can grow as a church family and continue the mission that God has chosen for us.

God's Grace and Peace To All,

Ron Dechert-  
President

**Congregational Mediation Process:**  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
(Revised July 6, 2022)

Contracting Phase	May 26, 2022	Presentation to Church Council; assessment of leadership support.	
	June 12, 2022	Presentation to the congregation; assessment of congregational support.	
	June 13, 2022	Official letter of invitation received.	
Information Gathering and Education Phases	Week of June 27, 2022	Begin information gathering (phone interviews). Logistic Committee distributes Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) memo, questionnaire, return envelope and registration brochures for workshops to the congregation.	
	July 15, 2022	Deadline for returning questionnaire.	
	July 25, 2022	Pre-registration deadline for <i>Conflict in the Church</i> workshop.	
	July 29 & 30, 2022	<i>Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation</i> (Friday evening, all-day Saturday).	
	August 15, 2022	Pre-registration deadline for <i>Healthy Congregations</i> workshop.	
	August 19 & 20, 2022	<i>Healthy Congregations</i> (Friday evening, all-day Saturday).	
	August 25-27, 2022	Small group dialogue sessions (each person signs up for one 1.5-hour session).	
		Thursday, August 25, 2022	Session 1 – 5:30-7:00 p.m. Session 2 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
		Friday, August 26, 2022	Session 3 – 8:30-10:00 a.m. Session 4 – 10:00-11:30 a.m. Session 5 – 1:30-3:00 p.m. Session 6 – 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
			Session 7 – 6:30-8:00 p.m. Session 8 – 8:00-9:30 p.m. (if needed)
	Saturday, August 27, 2022	Session 9 – 8:30-10:00 a.m. Session 10 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.	
	September 19, 2022	Brief Report	
Restorative Phase	October TBD, 2022	Healing session 1, large group structured dialogue (8:30 am – 1:30 pm).	
	November 14, 2022	Interim assessment report.	
Problem-Solving Phase	December 3, 2022	Problem-Solving session 1, large group structured dialogue (8:30 am – 1:30 pm).	
	December 10, 2022	Problem-Solving session 2, large group structured dialogue (8:30 am – 1:30 pm).	
Closing Phase	January 2023 Specific dates to be determined	Final report. Congregational meeting to take official action on the agreements. Closing reconciliation worship service.	

# In This Issue

Lombard Project	Page 1	Congregational Sing-Along	Page 7
BUCC Happenings	Page 2	McKay Scholarship Awardees	Page 7
Memorial Gifts	Page 3	Bethlehem Veteran Breakfast	Page 7
Ukraine Crisis Response Fund	Page 4	Bill Husted	Page 7
Crop Hunger Walk	Page 4	2022 BUCC Graduates	Page 8
EMT Lenton Project	Page 4	BUCC Women's Breakfast	Page 9
Habitat for Humanity	Page 5	Clean Up Day	Page 10
Dr. Naki Kripfgans	Page 6	Affirming Sunday	Page 11
Choir Update	Page 6	Who Are We	Page 12



# BUCC HAPPENINGS

Sundays, Worship Service in-person and via live stream and radio broadcast (WAAM 1600 am) 10:00 am

## AUGUST

- August 3—Cemetery Board , Cemetery, 9:30 am
- August 3—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- August 5—Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island, 8:30 am
- August 7—Coffee Hour, Schmale Lounge, 9:30 am
- August 7—Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, Delonis Center, 12:00 noon
- August 8—Outreach Ministry Team, ZOOM, 7:30 pm
- August 9—Facilities Ministry Team, Schmale Lounge, 3:30 pm
- August 10—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- August 11—Youth Group, Youth Room, 6:30 pm
- August 16—Worship Team, ZOOM, 5:30 pm
- August 17—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- August 17—Member Care, ZOOM, 4:00 pm
- August 18—Youth Group, Youth Room, 6:30 pm
- August 18—Finance Ministry, ZOOM, 7:00 pm
- August 19—Healthy Congregations Workshop, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 pm
- August 20—Healthy Congregations Workshop, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am
- August 21—Habitat Coffee Hour, Sanctuary, 11:15 am
- August 24—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- August 25—Leadership Council, Schmale Lounge, 4:00 pm
- August 25—Youth Group, Youth Room, 6:30 pm
- August 25—LMPC Small Group Dialogue Sessions 1 & 2, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
- August 26—LMPC Small Group Dialogue Sessions 3 thru 8, Fellowship Hall, 8:30 am
- August 27—LMPC Small Group Dialogue Sessions 9 & 10, Fellowship Hall, 8:30 am
- August 28—Congregational "Sing-a-long" after Worship, Sanctuary, 11:00 am
- August 31—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

**Memorials and Gifts  
Gifts Received from  
May 15—July 15, 2022**

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND**

**Hugh Keppler Memorial**

**CURRENT FUND**

**Kathryn Barclay Memorial**

**Marian Vogel Cope Memorial**

**Carole Katz Memorial**

**Jill Schwartz Honorarium**

**David Alber Memorial**

**GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND**

**Beverly Hanselman Memorial**

**PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND**

**Shirley Maichele Memorial**

**John Nimz Memorial**

**RADIO FUND**

**Hugh Keppler Memorial**

**Margaret Keppler Memorial**



**REMINDER!!!**

August 15th is the deadline for items to be included in the September 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 is 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-](mailto:deb_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org)

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



There are many opportunities for you to donate flowers yet this year to beautify the sanctuary. If you are interested, please sign up either on the board in the hallway in front of the office or by SignUp Genius. If you have questions, please contact Gwen Mayes ([gwen\\_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:gwen_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org))



**MEETING MINUTES**

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

[gwen\\_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:gwen_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org)

Thank you all for your service to our church community.

June, 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	22 /23 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$27,118	\$33,335	\$400,020
Expenses	\$32,045	\$44,431	\$533,171
Net	(\$4,927)	(\$11,096)	(\$133,151)





**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**



**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk**  
Sunday, October 9, 2022

Every fall since 1975, Washtenaw / Ann Arbor congregations and organizations have walked together with a common mission: **to help the hungry and impoverished here and throughout the world with leadership from Church World Service.**

The 2021 Walk raised a total of \$28,733, close to our goal of \$30,000. This year we hope for at least 25 participating congregations and organizations, with a goal of \$35,000.



**Zion Lutheran Church (1501 West Liberty, Ann Arbor)** has kindly agreed to host the **2022 Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk**. Registration starts at 1 PM with group outdoor send-off at 2 pm, or you can walk virtually in your own neighborhood.

After walk food provided outside at Zion Lutheran Church by [fedupministries.org](http://fedupministries.org)!

**Mark your calendars: Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022**

Visit our website:

[www.crophungerwalk.org/AnnArborMI](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/AnnArborMI)  
[www.facebook.com/annarborcrophungerwalk](https://www.facebook.com/annarborcrophungerwalk)

**ALL AGES EVENT**

**2022 CROP TEAM**

**Co-Chairs:**  
Mary Pratt  
Barb Fichtenberg

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Hosts:**  
Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants+  
Bryan Weiner

**Treasurer:**  
Patti Yonka

**Route Co-Chairs:**  
Jen Chapin-Smith  
Alex Nemmers

**Members:**  
Sue Muir  
Donald MacGregor  
Rodger Wolff  
Charles Yonka

**Church World Service [CWS] Co-Ordinator:**  
Andrew Gifford

**Benefitting:**  
75% of funds raised go to CWS national and international communities.

25% of funds raised go to local non-profits which serve in the Washtenaw area. List of organizations to follow!

**CONTACT:**  
[m.pratt33@yahoo.com](mailto:m.pratt33@yahoo.com)  
734-975-5310

**SAVE THESE DATES:**  
Drive-Thru Recruiter Fair at Zion Lutheran on Tues., August 30, 2022, 5-7 PM

Virtual Recruiter Training: Wed., August 31 at 7 PM -zoom link provided later and will also be streamed to **FACEBOOK PAGE**.

Many small gifts make a BIG difference!

**EMT Lenten Project Donations Presented to AAPS**



The Education Ministry Team's 2022 Lenten Project was a success! Gift cards to Meijer, Kroger, Target and Walmart totaling

\$3925 were presented to Nancy Shore, Strategic Partnership and Volunteer Coordinator for the Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Division.

Your tremendous generosity benefits the AAPS Support Students Fund, which provides basic necessities for students and their families who are in need. Thank you Bethlehem!



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/annarborcrophungerwalk](https://www.facebook.com/annarborcrophungerwalk).

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

Sincerely,  
Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk Steering Committee



## BUCC Volunteer Day for Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley

Once again, Bethlehem is committed to local affordable housing and building strength, stability and new lives through our local Habitat for Humanity. Our volunteer day is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 9:00 - 4:00.



Eight volunteers are needed. BUCC, along with other area churches and community volunteers, are revitalizing 1104 Parkwood Ave in Ypsilanti. The house is a two-story home, and it will be matched with a family shortly since the family helps with the remodeling (250 hours). No construction experience is needed to volunteer. Projects will vary, but may include light demolition, insulation, blue board, house wrap, and perhaps painting or landscaping.

All you need to bring is sturdy closed-toe shoes and a can-do spirit! No experience is necessary, age 16 and up can participate.

Online sign up information will be coming soon, or you can contact Katie: rowank55@gmail.com  
You can learn more at: [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org).

The cost of the home remodel is \$135,000. Materials cost \$1,000 per build day and some money is also used to pay contractors. We hope to give a generous donation towards these costs.

You can contribute by supporting our upcoming Habitat Coffee Hours after church on August 21, or by donating on the Bethlehem website: [www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)

Click on GIVING where there is a line item for Habit Huron Valley.) Or drop a check at the church office or in the Sunday offering marked Habitat Huron Valley.

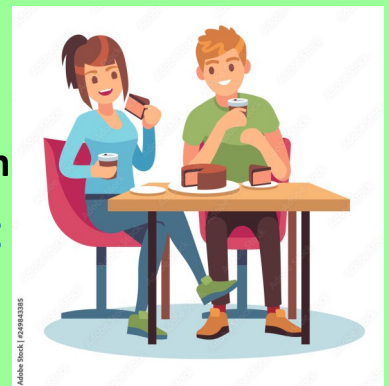
Here is a quote from Sharese Patterson who recently moved into our last Faith Build home. "Becoming a homeowner and being able to give my kids stability is a blessing ... I love my kids and having a home to call our own is so important and deserving of my family."



## Habitat Hosts Coffee Hour

To thank the congregation for last year's successful effort and to raise awareness of our current project, the Habitat group will host two coffee hours (with cake!) where we will accept free will donations.

Please join us  
after church on  
**August 21st**



## Introducing Dr Naki Kripfgans



Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans was born in South Korea and grew up attending a Presbyterian Church there. She started playing the piano at the age of four, and sang in church and school choirs. Singing in choir was one of the main reasons why she decided to pursue music; however, enthusiastic church members quickly put her on a piano bench soon after discovering her keyboard skills. Since then piano and organ performances - solo and collaboration with other musicians and choir - have been her main musical outputs, and she pursued her education in piano and organ as well. Working with choirs her entire life, she also started developing her interest and passion in learning choral conducting to become a more versatile church musician. Prior to the appointment at Bethlehem UCC, she served First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor for 20 years as their resident Organist, and later Minister of Music and Organist. She is absolutely humbled and honored to serve Bethlehem UCC as Director of Music Ministries.

Naki was hailed by Diapason magazine for her virtuosity and musicality, and was featured in an interview article "Women in Improvisation" in American Guild of Organists magazine in the December issue in 2020. As an international concert organist/collaborative pianist, competition winner, competition judge and recording artist, she has concertized regionally and internationally, including Japan, Germany, Russia, and South Korea. Naki received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Liturgical, Church, and Synagogue Music and a master's degree in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Northern Iowa. During her studies Naki received numerous scholarships and awards in piano and organ performance. She won the 2015 UM Life Science Orchestra Concerto Competition to perform Poulenc's Organ Concerto at Hill Auditorium in 2016. As a virtuoso improviser, she also won 2012 the Robert Glasgow Award for Organ Improvisation Competition at the University of Michigan, and served as one of the judges for the 2019 competition. Since 2012, Naki has been a Staff Collaborative Pianist for the String Department at the University of Michigan. She has also been teaching chamber music classes at the University of Michigan Residential College since 2016.

Naki enjoys cooking (including homemade meals for her family dog), travels, movies, and yoga. During the COVID pandemic, she found herself enjoying and becoming passionate about the amazing world of audio/video recording/editing technology, and she hopes to continue to develop her skills in the future.



Naki lives in Ann Arbor with husband Oliver, son Alexander who is going to be a senior at Pioneer HS this year, and dog Bella. Her daughter Sophie is currently studying in Germany. Naki and her family cannot wait to make pretzels for Oktoberfest at BUCC!

***"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." (Psalm 95:1)***

Hear ye, hear ye! Bethlehem Choir is starting once again - the first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, September 7**. We rehearse from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays**, and will sing one or two anthems for the 10 a.m. worship service on Sundays with a run-through morning rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. **EVERYONE** is welcome to participate in this music ministry, to enjoy fellowship, and to experience God's love and grace in our lives through the gift of music.



As your incoming Director of Music Ministries, I would love to hear from you - past and current choir members and congregation members who have never been in the choir but are interested in possibly joining - about you, your wishes for music ministries at BUCC, your past choir experience if you have any, or your favorite anthems! Email will be good for me to connect with you until we meet in person - my email address is [sungr@umich.edu](mailto:sungr@umich.edu)



## Congregational Sing-Along

Come one, come all! On August 28th, directly following the service, please gather at the front of the sanctuary for a time of singing favorite hymns and well-known popular songs. Absolutely no skill is required! Song sheets will be provided!

If you play the ukulele or guitar, consider this an invitation to play along. Be sure to let Angie Lewis know if you are interested by August 22nd so there are enough chairs and stands available.

It's all about having a good time in music and fellowship!



## Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast



Friday, August 5, 8:30 am  
Alpha Restaurant,  
4389 Jackson Rd.

*Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer*

## Handyman Bill



Please welcome Bill Husted, who has joined the BUCC team working part time as a facilities/maintenance person. Bill will help us keep the building in tip top shape!

The Education Ministry Team would like to congratulate the 2022-2023, McKay Scholarship awardees:

Brian Gotham  
John Schenk  
Katie Schwartz

The McKay scholarships are awarded to church members who are attending college or graduate education full-time. All these amazing students are starting their sophomore year at MSU in the Fall.

Please help us congratulate the recipients and their families who continue to make us proud. The McKay legacy goes on though their endowment.

Eileen Koprowski, chair,  
Education Ministry Team



# Congratulations to all 2022 BUCC Graduates!



**Sarah Kennedy**  
University of Michigan  
in December 2021  
BA in Biopsychology,  
Cognition &  
Neuroscience.

She is currently  
working at St. Joseph  
Mercy in the Pathology  
Dept.

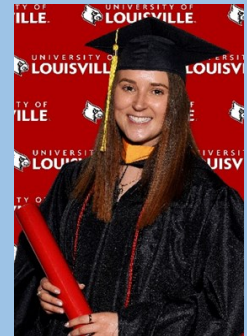


**Andrew Foster**  
University of Michigan  
December 2021  
BA in Cognitive  
Science

Andrew is looking for a  
job utilizing his degree  
in Cognitive Science.

**Jenna Slotten**  
University of Louisville  
Masters Degree in  
Sports Administration

Jenna is continuing  
her career in  
university athletics as  
she has been working  
in the University of  
Pittsburgh Athletic  
Department since  
January.



**Erin Foster**  
Grand Valley State  
University  
MSW

Erin accepted a  
position at Bethany  
Christian Services in  
Grand Rapids,  
MI She is working  
with refugee youth.



**Jacob Paton**  
University of Michigan,  
BBA from Ross  
School of Business

Jacob is moving to  
New York City in July  
to start employment  
with Cornerstone  
Research, which  
provides Finance and  
Economic Consulting  
and Expert Testimony



**Kelly Gotham**  
Hope College  
Bachelor of Arts in  
Geology

Kelly would like to find  
a job in the Geology or  
Environmental  
Science field.



*“Commit your work to  
the Lord, and your plans  
will succeed.”*





## Ladies Breakfast Gatherings



Several BUCC women gathered at Lake Forest Golf Club in May and June for the Women's Breakfast Gathering! Plan to join them for upcoming events!

The next Ladies Mini-breakfast gathering is scheduled for **Thursday, August 11, 9AM, at Lake Forest Golf Club.**

Come and be part of the talk, laughs, and fun of this get-together. ALL Bethlehem ladies are welcome!

For food planning purposes, please RSVP to Susan Iriwn, [siirwin46@gmail.com](mailto:siirwin46@gmail.com) or 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**



### RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

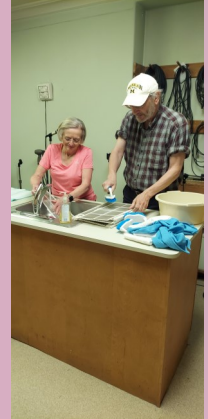
Please remember that a lot of folks count on the weekly Radio Broadcast of our 10 o'clock worship service. This program is funded by weekly radio sponsorships, memorials, and special donations.

**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.

# Clean Up Day 2022



Facilities Ministry Team would like to thank John Irwin, Steve Darr, Mike Haab, Ron Dechert, Michelle Loukotka, Jennifer and Edgar Vasquez, Katie and Jim Rowan, Nan Lofton, Teresa Beagle, Jane Schmerberg, Nancy Nicholson, Jan Eadie and Jim Stadel who came out to help at the Clean Up Day, Saturday, June 11th! You did an outstanding job!



**Get Involved with Worship!**

**Volunteers Needed**

We need people to serve as liturgists, sound techs, and ushers now that we are back in-person. Please contact the office or people listed below for more information:

- Liturgist:** Jennifer Vasquez, Email: [jenniferavasquez29@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferavasquez29@gmail.com)
- Sound Tech:** Gary Rogers, Email: [rogersg@courts.mi.gov](mailto:rogersg@courts.mi.gov)
- Usher:** Jane Schmerberg, Email: [jnmmd@med.umich.edu](mailto:jnmmd@med.umich.edu)



We are in need of Sunday morning volunteers to work in the church office. The volunteer would need to arrive at 9:30am and stay until the service is concluded. If interested, please contact Tom Ziesemer at [ziesemertn@gmail.com](mailto:ziesemertn@gmail.com).

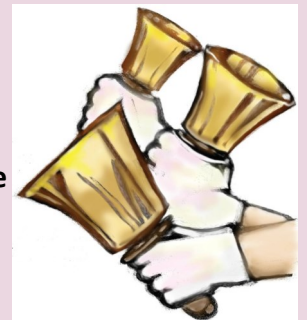
# Food Gatherers Volunteer Day



All Bethlehem members are invited to join the Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, at the Delonis Center, on **Sunday, August 7th at 12:00 noon.** Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Handbell Choir:

Rehearsals will be taking a break the rest of July and August but will resume the Monday after Labor Day, September 12th.





### 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.



## Affirming Sunday June 12, 2022



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.







**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>John Kennedy</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
pastorjohn@bethlehem-ucc.org	
<b>Gail Jennings</b>	<b>Organist</b>
gailpiano@yahoo.com	
<b>Naki Kripfgans</b>	<b>Dir. of Music Ministry</b>
musicdirector@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	
<b>Bill Husted</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>

### 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  
 Office Supervisor: Gwenda Mayes  
 Administrative Assistant: Debbie Ventura  
 Director of Music: Naki Kripfgans  
 Organist: Gail Jennings  
 Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan  
 Video Director: Dan Blakeney  
 Maintenance Personnel: Bill Husted

#### MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Finance: Tom Krell  
 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:  
 Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan  
 Bethlehem Cemetery: Sue Buday  
 Nominations Committee: Cresson Sloten

#### LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

President: Ron Dechert  
 Vice President: Jim Rowan  
 Secretary: P.J. Lindemann  
 Treasurer: Pete Hendershot  
 At-Large Members:  
 Dindy Haab  
 Pat Huibregtse  
 Barbara Schenk  
 Ex Officio: Rev. John Kennedy