

# The Visitor

## September 2022

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

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# BUCC HAPPENINGS



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

## SEPTEMBER

- September 2—Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Breakfast, Alpha Restaurant, 8:30 am
- September 3—U of M Football Parking, BUCC, 12:00 noon
- September 4—Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, Delonis Center, 12:00 noon
- September 6—FINAL LMPC Small Group Session, via ZOOM
- September 7—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- September 7—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- September 8—Bethlehem Ladies Breakfast, Lake Forest Golf Club, 9:00 am
- September 10—U of M Football Parking, BUCC, 8:00 pm
- September 11—RALLY DAY Luncheon, 11:15 am
- September 11—Youth Group, Youth Room, 11:30 am
- September 12—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- September 13—Facilities Ministry Team, Schmale Lounge, 3:30 pm
- September 13—Cemetery Board Meeting, Cemetery, 4:00 pm

- September 14—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- September 14—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- September 15—Virtual Finance Ministry Team, 7:00 pm
- September 17—U of M Football Parking, BUCC, 12:00 noon
- September 18—Loss Support Group, Youth Room, 11:15 am
- September 19—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- September 20—Worship Team, ZOOM, 5:30 pm
- September 21—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- September 21—Member Care Meeting, Schmale Lounge, 4:00 pm
- September 21, Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- September 22—Leadership Council, Schmale Lounge, 4:00 pm
- September 24—U of M Football Parking, BUCC, 12:00 noon
- September 26—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- September 28—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- September 28—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm

### Welcome Back Youth Group!

All Bethlehem Youth, 6th grade through high school, are invited to Youth Group! Our first meeting will be in the Youth Room immediately following the all-church Rally Day picnic on Sunday, September 11. Going forward, we will meet on Sundays, 1130 am—1:00 pm, every other week beginning in October. Here are our October Youth Group meeting dates:

October 2

October 16

October 30



Looking forward to seeing all of you very soon!

### Rally Day All-Church Celebration

**What:** Coffee Hour and Hotdog luncheon

**When:** September 11 following the 10:00 service

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Who:** Our whole congregation

The Education Ministries Team and the Welcome Ministries Team are inviting the congregation to a Rally Day Celebration.

We are so excited to have Sunday school finally starting back in person!

Please join us during coffee

hour after the church service for our first day back for our students since March of 2020.



Upper Room Booklets are once again available for pick up in the wall rack at the 5th Avenue entrance. If you would like to help offset the cost of

the booklets, please place your donation in the offering basket. Envelopes available in the wall rack with the Upper Room books. If you are unable to attend worship services and would like a copy of the Upper Room mailed, please contact the church office.



Bethlehem will be a sponsor for the upcoming Ann Arbor Pride Fest on September 11, in Wheeler Park, in Ann Arbor, from 12:00-5:00pm.

A table will be set up with give away buttons and information about Bethlehem. If you would like to help at the table, please contact Nan Lefton (nnansworld.aol.com)



### Food Gatherers Volunteer Day

All Bethlehem members are invited to join the Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, at the Delonis Center, on **Sunday, September 4th at 12:00 noon.** Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Loss Support Group

The Loss Support Group at Bethlehem Church offers fellowship and support to those who are impacted by the death of a loved one. **The group will meet Sept 18 th at 11:15 in the Youth room.** If interested, please contact Jim Rowan at (734) 846-2157 or [jrowan@umich.edu](mailto:jrowan@umich.edu).



**Rev. Diane White –  
Associate Pastor of Pastoral Ministry**



It is with great joy, Bethlehem UCC's Leadership Council announces the call to Rev. Diane White as BUCC's new Associate Pastor of Pastoral Ministry.

Diane, will begin working regular hours on Wed, September 7, 2022. Please join us in welcoming Diane in this new ministry.

Pastor Diane (or just Diane) is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with 10 years of senior pastor experience at Clinton UCC, Clinton, MI. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University, Master of Divinity and Master of Pastoral Care Degrees from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, MI.

Diane grew up in Bethlehem UCC and participated in many lay ministries and boards of the church including Christian Education, Fellowship, Elder, mission trips, and lay reader.

Diane also has a 30-year background in corporate leadership education and organizational development. She is excited to serve her home church community on this next path way of her life journey.



**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.

Please help us with our annual school supply collection. Supplies will go to Alpha House and Peace Neighborhood Center. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, September 11th which is Rally Day—the first day of Sunday School. There will be a basket in the sanctuary on Sundays and donations can be dropped at the church office.



**In-Kind Contributions**

The following school supplies are needed for all ages:

Backpacks (significant need)

Solar-Powered Scientific Calculators

Pens

Colored Pencils

Washable Markers

Crayons

Highlighters

Rulers

Pencil Sharpeners

Erasers

Scissors (blunt & pointed)

1" Binders

Notebook Paper

Small Tissue Packs

Hand Sanitizer

Soap and Lotion

Deodorant (significant need)

Lip Balm

Menstrual Products (significant need)

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

New Packages of Socks (significant need)

New Packages of Underwear (significant need)



**FELLOWSHIP "HOUR"**

**HELP IS NEEDED**



If you enjoy the coffee hour after the 10:00 am worship service—your help is needed this Fall.

Volunteers to set up, prepare refreshments, and clean up afterwards are necessary to provide a time of fellowship for everyone.

Please contact Jan Eadie at [jee21152@gmail.com](mailto:jee21152@gmail.com) to sign up for a week each month.





**UM FOOTBALL GAME** Volunteers are needed to sell parking spots on home football Saturdays.

This is a terrific fundraiser for our church and we hope you can donate some of your time to help. Please follow this [link](#) or the QR Code to access the online sign-up page for the following dates.



Some game times have not been announced yet, but we will keep it updated as we get more information. You may also contact the church office (add phone #) or Jennifer Vasquez (734-658-6692) to sign-up.

For every volunteer shift, your name will be entered in a drawing for one of two hand knit maize and blue wool headbands made by Jennifer Vasquez.



**Sept 10**

Game Time 8:00pm

Volunteer Slot: 12:00-3:00; 3:00-6:00

**Sept 17**

Game Time 12:00 Noon

Volunteer Slot: 8:00am

**Sept 24**

Game Time 12:00 Noon

Volunteer Slot: 8:00am

**Oct 15**

Game Time: TBD

Volunteer Slot: TBD (game time not announced yet)

**Oct 29**

Game Time: TBD

Volunteer Slot: TBD (game time not announced yet)

**Nov 12**

Game Time: TBD

Volunteer Slot: TBD (game time not announced yet)

**Handbell Choir:**

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



### ATTENTION LADIES!!!

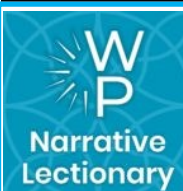
The next ladies breakfast gathering is scheduled for **Thursday, September 8th at 9:00 am at Lake Forest Golf Club.**

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



For more information and to RSVP, please contact Susan Irwin at 734-255-5661 or [siirwin46@gmail.com](mailto:siirwin46@gmail.com).

Do you enjoy watching the church service online, either on Sunday mornings or later in the week? We are so happy to bring that service to you. However, in order to continue that service, we do need more financial sponsors to keep us going. Please consider a donation to Bethlehem's Video Fund when sending in your pledge or weekly offerings. You can mark your donation to indicate the amount you would like to contribute specifically to the Video Fund. Thank you so much for supporting us!



### Narrative Lectionary Resource

Beginning on September 12, 2021, we started utilizing the **Narrative Lectionary** for the scripture readings for upcoming worship services. Please click this [LINK](#) to connect to the Narrative Lectionary to see the scheduled readings and themes for services for the upcoming year.

## 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.

Click on the QR code to sign up, 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 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."deserving of my family."

*"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 [musicdirector@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@bethlehem-ucc.org)



### REMINDER!!!

**September 15th** is the deadline for items to be included in the **October 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)





## IN CASE YOU WERE *wondering...*

- ⇒ Prayer cards are collected during the 2nd hymn.
- ⇒ Don't forget to sign the pew register.
- ⇒ If you would like to be put on the Prayer Chain, please contact the church office at (churchoffice@bethlehem-ucc.org).
- ⇒ If you have a more urgent need, please call Pastor John on his cell phone, which is listed in the church directory.



## Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast

Friday, September 2, 8:30 am  
Alpha Restaurant,  
4389 Jackson Rd.

*Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer*



A huge thank you to all of you who made the music so very special this summer!



SARAH ALBRIGHT  
ABBY BOWERS (PICTURED LEFT)  
CARY DUMAS  
JULIETTE FRIEDMAN  
ALDO PANDO GIRARD  
HAYOUNG JUNG  
PJ LINDEMANN  
MEG ROHRER  
KATIE ROWAN  
BRADLEY SMITH

## Memorials and Gifts

### Gifts Received

July 15, 2022 – August 15, 2022

#### CURRENT FUND

#### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Bill Fellenberger Memorial

Ron Gentner Memorial

Hilda McLaughlin Memorial

#### Radio Sponsorship

Gifts listed were received through  
August 15, 2022

July, 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	22 /23 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$48,048	\$66,670	\$400,020
Expenses	\$57,129	\$89,021	\$534,128
Net	(\$9,081)	(\$22,351)	(\$134,108)



**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**