

# The Visitor

November 2022  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

*1 Thessalonians 1: 2 -7*

*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers.*

Devotion by Rev. Diane White:

St. Paul was writing this letter to the church he, Silvanus, and Timothy founded in Thessaly, on the Aegean Sea. After leaving the city, and founding several more churches, Paul sent Timothy back to the Thessalonians to see how they were doing. This letter is in response to the glowing report from Timothy brought back to Paul.

How many times do we hear good things about others or have a wonderful experience created by someone and yet we fail to acknowledge their gift to us? So often we take and forget to give – give back in gratitude for all that has been given us by God through others. The post offices are closed on Saturdays and postage has gone up and up and up for lack of first class mail. The art of letter writing seems almost extinct, yet a note or a letter has a personal, positive lasting affect on the reader and, as we see in Thessalonians, on many others for 2,000 years.

Gratitude, appreciation, acknowledgement of the Holy Spirit working around and among us is what Paul is doing in this letter. He is bringing encouragement to the discouraged in a way that they can receive it over and over and over to gain strength. We can do the same thing in this day and age. We can make a difference in peoples lives with a simple note, card or letter of gratitude. It may be all they need to keep going.

*Prayer:*

*O God, help me see and acknowledge the goodness in others and be grateful to You for placing them in my life.*

Peace and grace,  
Pastor Diane



From the  
Pastor

# BUCC HAPPENINGS



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

### NOVEMBER

- November 2—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- November 2—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- November 4—Bethlehem Veterans & Friends, Alpha Restaurant, 8:30 am
- November 6—Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, Delonis Center (Meet at BUCC), 12:00 noon
- November 7—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- November 8—Bethlehem Ladies Breakfast, Alpha Coney on Jackson Road, 9:30 am
- November 8—Facilities Ministry Team, Schmale Lounge, 3:30 pm
- November 9—Cemetery Board, Cemetery, 9:30 am
- November 9—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- November 9—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- November 12—U of M Football Parking, BUCC, time TBA
- November 13—Youth Group, Youth Room, 11:30 am
- November 13—Installation of Rev. Diane White, Sanctuary and Live Stream, 3:00 pm

- November 14—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- November 15—Worship Team, ZOOM, 5:30 pm
- November 16—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- November 16—Member Care, Schmale Lounge, 4:00 pm
- November 16—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- November 17—Finance Ministry Team, Virtual, 7:00 pm
- November 20—Congregational Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
- November 21—BUCCeleles, Choir Room, 1:00 pm
- November 21—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- November 23—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- November 23—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- November 24—Leadership Council, Schmale Lounge, 6:00 pm
- November 26—Hanging of the Greens, 9:00 am
- November 28—Hand Bell Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm
- November 30—Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- November 30—Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:00 pm

# BUCC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

## Open Invitation To All

Dear Bethlehem members, visitors, and friends,

While I was attending the service this past Sunday (October 23rd), I was impressed by the many blessing our church has recently received. At Sunday's service, the congregation received Naki Kripfgans as our new Director of Music. Naki's leadership, backed up by our wonderfully talented organist Gail Jennings, our equally talented choir and our hand-bell choir, lifts us up during each service. It is truly an example of God's gifts to us all.

Another blessing we have received recently is the addition of Pastor Diane White who recently started as our new Associate Pastor. Pastor Diane has returned to Bethlehem to help lead us in the weekly services and spiritual leadership while Pastor John is on medical leave. Pastor John will remain on medical leave until mid-January based upon the information we have at this time.

Pastor Diane will be installed at Bethlehem on Sunday November 13, 2022 at 3:00 pm. All friends, visitors and members are invited to attend the installation and reception that follows. If you plan to attend we ask you to call the office to tell them of your plans. This will help us in properly planning the reception.

I appreciate the many members and visitors who are watching the service through our live streaming or radio listening. I am writing to invite everyone to come to our in-person service. Not only are your friends and church family waiting for you, but you will undoubtedly experience the beauty of these recent blessings firsthand. I believe that you will be moved by these special gifts.

If possible, please consider attending a service in-person. Come and experience what God's gifts can do.

God Bless You All,

Ron Dechert-President

## BUCC Special Congregational Meeting Announcement

Dear BUCC Members,

At our annual congregational meeting in June our congregation approved a six month budget with the intent to hold a special congregational meeting prior to December 15, 2022 to review and approve a budget for the second half of this fiscal year. This letter is notification to our congregation for this planned special meeting.

Leadership Council is calling a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Sunday service. There will be a very limited number of agenda items assigned to this meeting. Council will finalize the agenda by November 1, 2022. The primary agenda item will be to review and vote on the proposed second half budget. We are tentatively scheduling the meeting for 11:30am-12:30pm, immediately following our worship service. More details regarding the agenda item(s) will be sent out as Council finalizes the agenda for the meeting.

Please mark your calendar to attend this important event. We need a minimum of 25 members to hold this meeting. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Please contact me if you have any questions ([rdechert@umich.edu](mailto:rdechert@umich.edu)).

God Bless You

Ron Dechert-President

August, 2022	Year to Date	YTD Target	22 /23 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$74,021	\$100,005	\$400,020
Expenses	\$101,747	\$133,532	\$534,128
Net	(\$27,726)	(\$33,527)	(\$134,108)

# BUCC OUTREACH

**GLOBAL  
H.O.P.E.**

Humanitarian.  
Opportunities.  
Progress.  
Empowerment.

In response to the devastation of Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, the United Church of Christ has set up a **Hurricane 2022 Fund** to support those in crisis in the aftermath of these storms.

Your gifts will help with immediate needs while basic infrastructures are repaired and more complete assessments can be made.

To give directly to the UCC Fund, please use this link:

<https://support.ucc.org/donate--hurricanes-2022>

Checks also can be mailed or left in the church office made out to BUCC but please indicate it is for **Hurricane Relief**.



## ALPHA HOUSE

Our next time to provide an evening meal for Alpha House will be late January or early February.

A Genius Sign-Up will be sent out to recruit volunteers to provide meal items.



## CROP WALK 2022

Sunday, October 9



Thanks to our Team Walkers!

Roy and Sue Muir, Katie Rowan,  
Laura Seyfried, Jamie Dylenski,  
Steve—Jill—Carrie—Katie Schwartz

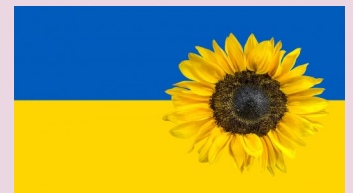
## WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

challenge the congregation to  
match their \$5,000 gift to the  
Ukraine Crisis Fund.

Donate online on our church website's Ukraine Crisis Fund:

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

Checks are also welcome  
made out to Bethlehem  
United Church of Christ—  
Ukraine Fund



## Food Gatherers Volunteer Day

All Bethlehem members are invited to join the Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, at the Delonis Center, on **Sunday, November 6 at 12:00 noon**. Plan to meet at BUCC!

# BUCC FAMILY

## SAVE THE DATE

*Hanging of the Greens*  
*Saturday, November 26th*  
*9:00 am*



Your help is needed to decorate the church.  
 Plan on joining us to get ready for the  
 Christmas Season!

For more information, please contact Jan Eadie  
 (jee21152@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS

The time is coming to green up the church with beautiful Christmas Wreaths! You can purchase one in memory of/or in honor of a loved one.

Look for forms that will be on the bulletin board outside the office with envelopes for payment soon.



Small wreaths: \$25

Large wreaths are \$30

**Totenfest Memorial Service**  
**Sunday, November 6**  
**At 10:00 am Worship**

At our Totenfest Memorial Service everyone will be invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

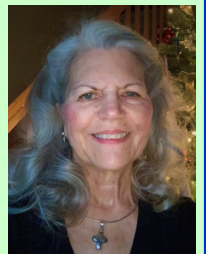
In addition, we will have a special insert remembering all who have passed away since November 2021.



## INSTALLATION OF PASTOR DIANE

Join in the celebration of Pastor Diane's installation as Associate Pastor on Sunday afternoon, November 13th at 3:00 pm. Rev.

Dr. Lillian Daniels will present the message at the installation followed by a reception.



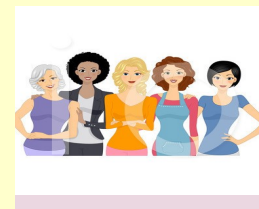


# BUCC FELLOWSHIP

## Bethlehem Women's Monthly Breakfast

Changes in location, day of the week and time of our gatherings!

Starting on Tuesday, November 8th (Election Day), the Bethlehem Women's Breakfast Group will be meeting at the Alpha Koney Restaurant (previously the Classic Cup), 4389 Jackson Road, at 9:30 am. Each of us will order directly from the restaurant menu and be charged separately.



From then on, we will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am at Alpha Koney.

Upcoming dates are November 8th, December 13th, and January 10th.

All Bethlehem ladies are welcome! PLEASE pass this information on to others. Come and be part of the talk, laughs, and fun of this get together.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Susan Irwin at 734-255-5661 or siirwin46@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



### HOMEBOUND FRIENDS

We have many dear friends who remain home-bound and they would love to see you and/or hear from you.

If you would like names and contact information, please reach out to Pastor Diane who can share that with you.



### Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast

Friday, November 4th, 8:30 am  
Alpha Restaurant,  
4389 Jackson Rd.

*Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer*

### BUCCuleles

We have a new format for our ukulele band entered on periodic sing - alongs after church. Please watch for the upcoming sing - along dates which will be publicized soon. We will practice the songs ahead of time and all who play guitar or ukulele are welcome:

**Monday, Nov. 21, 1PM, Choir Room**

**Monday, Dec. 5, 1PM, Choir Room**



### Memorials and Gifts Gifts Received

#### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

Matilda O'Reilly Memorial

#### RADIO SPONSORSHIP

Received September 15—October 15, 2022

# BUCC FELLOWSHIP

## Youth at Bethlehem

Youth Group has had a fun start to the year with an outing to Putterz mini golf, a Halloween themed scavenger hunt downtown, and a Halloween movie in the Bethlehem screening room. We also participated in the CROP walk.

All Youth grades 6 - 12 are invited to join for our upcoming meetings which are held Sundays, 11:30 - 1:00 in the Youth Room:

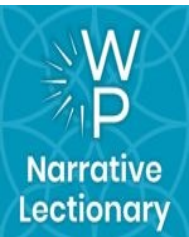
Nov. 13

Dec. 4

Dec. 18



# BUCC MISCELLANEOUS



## 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.



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.



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.

## REMINDER!!!



**November 16th** is the deadline for items to be included in the **December** edition of the VISITOR newsletter.

Please email submissions to:

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



**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](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://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.

**John Kennedy** Pastor  
[pastorjohn@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:pastorjohn@bethlehem-ucc.org)  
**Diane White** Associate Pastor of Pastoral Ministry  
[pastordiane@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:pastordiane@bethlehem-ucc.org)  
**Naki Kripfgans** Dir. of Music Ministry  
[musicdirector@Bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@Bethlehem-ucc.org)  
**Gail Jennings** Organist  
[gailpiano@yahoo.com](mailto:gailpiano@yahoo.com)  
**Jim Rowan** Hand Bell Director  
[jrowan@umich.edu](mailto:jrowan@umich.edu)  
**Gwenda Mayes** Office Supervisor  
[gwenda\\_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:gwenda_mayes@bethlehem-ucc.org)  
**Debbie Ventura** Admin. Assistant to Pastor  
[deb\\_ventura@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto: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  
 Assoc. Pastor: Diane White  
 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 Hustead

### 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 Slotten

### 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



**In recognition of all BUCC active and veteran members  
of the United States Armed Forces.**



Mike Ehnis	US Army	1963 – 1971
Jack Erwin	US Army	1960 – 1962
Dave Gilmore	US Army	1970 – 1972
Roger Hoxie	US Army	1967 – 1969
		1989 – 2005 Ret.
Dennis Huibregtse	US Army	1971 – 1976
Ron Karr	US Army	1968 – 1970
John Kennedy	US Army	1980 – 1982
Scott Lovelace	US Army	1970 – 1976
Gary Maki	US Army	1970 – 1973
Paul Neeb	US Army	1954 – 1956
Jerry Sutfin	US Army	1957 – 1962
Carl Waltjen	US Army	1956 – 1959
		1961 – 1964
Norm Wetzal	US Army	1968 – 1970
Jesse Wilcox	US Army	2008 – 2015
Tom Ziesemer	US Army	1966 – 1969
Jim Aldrich	US Air Force	1963 – 1969
Mike Haab	US Air Force	1965 – 1969
Larry Katz	US Air Force	1957 – 1960
Kristine Marshall	US Air Force	1989 – 1994
Gary Dresselhouse	US Marines	1954 – 1956
John Fischer	US Marines	1945 – 1946
Eugene Alber	US Navy	1949 – 1953
Jay Katz	US Navy	1955 – 1967
Bob Loukotka	US Navy	1961 – 1966 Ret. 1988
Jim Stadel	US Navy	1969 – 1973
Ronald White	US Navy	1968–1975
Jennifer Steinaway	Army National Guard	Active Duty