

The Visitor

June / July 2023
Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Pastor Ponderings for June/July...

Wow! Has this year gone by fast or what? I can't believe it is already 6 months into the year. We've just passed Memorial Day and are moving toward Independence Day. Our heads are full of red white and blue, patriotic songs, and thoughts of freedom. What does freedom mean to you? Constitutional freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, or freedom to bear arms? How about in the church? Does freedom mean everyone can do as he or she pleases? I think Paul's message to the Galatians helps us with this question:

"It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; That's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom." (Galatians 15:13-14)

"Use your freedom to serve one another in love." If I interpret this correctly, I am to look to meet others needs not my own. I am to look at how I can share God's word, and Jesus message of love with others. Rather than thinking about what I want and how I want to do church, it is important for me to hear others and find the voice of God in all that I do. This is a selflessness attitude based on love for others. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34) Paul said, "Love others as you love yourself." How amazing is God's love for us, God gave God's only son. How can we share love and what more do we have to give as the church of Jesus Christ?

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Diane



Greetings Bethlehem Members and Friends:

The Cemetery Board is responsible for developing, maintaining, and funding all cemetery administration and maintenance, under the laws of the State of Michigan. The quiet and peaceful Bethlehem Cemetery is located at 2801 Jackson Road in Ann Arbor, on 20 acres of land.

We know many of you know much about the Cemetery, are very proud of it, and note the Cemetery is one of Bethlehem’s strengths. (Lombard report) Still, we know there could be questions, suggestions, comments from members, and we want to make sure we hear from you. We have a mailbox at the Church office, or we can be emailed at bucc.cemeteryboard@bethlehem-ucc.org.

The Cemetery Board wishes to thank Sallie Stadel and Sue Buday for their many years of service and commitment to all the families and the community touched by cemetery operations. Both Sue and Sallie will be recognized for their service at the annual congregation meeting on June 11. There is no way possible to know in the many, many ways operating a Cemetery touch lives, but Sue and Sallie please know the rest of the board, the Cemetery staff, and local population feel relief when what might be a more stress full time, was handled with your dignity and steady confidence.

Members and friends, thank you for your attention; and on behalf of the Cemetery Board, interested volunteers, cemetery staff, and valued cemetery advisors,

Kind regards,
Mary Jean Raab
Cemetery Board Member



EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Bethlehem 2023-2024 Scholarship Application is available now on our website.

Deadline for filing is June 11.



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. Application form may be obtained by emailing: info@bethlehem-ucc.org. It can also be downloaded from the website: bethlehem-ucc.org.

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Adopt-a-Coffee Hour

What better way to enjoy the company of your fellow church members than over a good cup of coffee? We are looking for two volunteers a week to adopt-a-coffee hour on Sundays after the 10:00 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers will need to set up, make coffee and clean up. Please click the link [HERE](#) to be taken to the Sign Up Genius website where you can choose your slot. Your willingness to participate in this act of fellowship is sincerely appreciated.



Please make sure that the office receives all **Refrigerator Page and Email Blast** submissions by **9 am Thursday each week.**
July 15 is the deadline for items to be included in the August edition of the VISITOR newsletter.

Please email submissions to:

churchoffice@bethlehem-ucc.org

Memorials and Gifts

Gifts Received April 15 - May 31

CEMETERY ROADS FUND

Jay Katz Memorial

ORGAN FUND

Gail Jennings Honorarium

**Gifts listed were received through
May 31, 2023**



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

month at:

parishadministrator@bethlehem-ucc.org

Thank you all for your service to our church community.

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.

April 2023	Year to Date	YTD Target	22 /23 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$333,169	\$366,685	\$400,020
Expenses	\$461,872	\$489,617	\$534,128
Net	(\$128,703)	(\$122,932)	(\$134,108)

BUCC HAPPENINGS

June 2

- Bethlehem Veteran's Breakfast, Alpha Koney, 8:30 am

June 4 Communion Sunday

- Baptism of David Rowe III, 10:00 am
- Graduate Recognition, 10:00 am
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am
- Youth Group, Youth RM, 11:30 am
- Dexter-Ann Arbor Run-Street Closures

June 7

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

June 10

- Food Gatherers Volunteer Day, 1 Carrot Way, 9:00 - 11:30 am

June 11

- Annual Congregational Meeting,, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

June 13

- Bethlehem Ladies Breakfast, Alpha Koney, 9:30 am
- Facilities Ministry Team, Lounge 3:30 pm

June 14

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

June 18

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

June 21

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- Member Care Ministry, Lounge, 4:00 pm

June 22

- Worship at Brecon Village, 10:00 am
- Leadership Council, Lounge, 6:00 pm

June 25

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

June 28

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

July 2

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

July 5

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

July 7

- Bethlehem Veteran's Breakfast, Alpha Koney, 8:30 am

July 9

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

July 11

- Bethlehem Ladies Breakfast, Alpha Koney, 9:30 am
- Facilities Ministry Team, Lounge 3:30 pm

July 12

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

July 16

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

July 19

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon
- Member Care Ministry, Lounge, 4:00 pm

July 23

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

July 26

- Busy Christian Hands, Schmale Lounge, 12:00 noon

July 27

- Worship at Brecon Village, 10:00 am
- Leadership Council, Lounge, 6:00 pm

July 30

- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am



Thank You!!!

Facilities Ministry Team would like to thank all of those who came out to help at the Clean Up Day, Saturday, May 13th: Judy Coucouvanis, Steve Darr, Ron Dechert, Jan & Joe Eadie, Nan Lefton, Katie & Jim Rowan, Tim Schenk, Jim Stadel, Jennifer & Edgar Vasquez, and Ron White You did an outstanding job!



OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach Ministry Team - Bethlehem United Church of Christ

As the 2022-23 Fiscal Year for Bethlehem comes to a close, we want to thank everyone who supported the Outreach Ministry Team's efforts this year with both monetary contributions and volunteering.

Here is a recap of some of the highlights of the activities of this year's OMT efforts:

- Habitat for Humanity - Huron Valley: \$1,336
- Participated in CROP Walk 2022 and raised - \$3,695
- From Bethlehem's Operating Budget - dispersed to Peace Neighborhood Center, Alpha House & Food Gatherers: \$4,000 each
- Education Ministry Team (with support from OMT) for the SCS Lenten Project - AAPS Support Students Fund: \$3,925
- Provided meals for Alpha House on a Sunday in August (2022) and January (2023) Our next time to provide a meal is in May.
- Meals prepared the first Sunday of every month at the Community Kitchen thanks to Ron & Alice Dechert, Jamie Dylenski, Tom Ziesemer, Marty & Laura Seyfried for volunteering.
- Volunteers helped weekly on Fridays at Peace Neighborhood Center with food distributions (special thanks to Katie Rowan, Kathy Warner, Dave Gilmore, Sue Muir for volunteering weekly).
- Volunteers helped at Food Gatherers Warehouse on a Saturday in June (2022)
- The war in Ukraine prompted our team to establish an appeal to raise monies for Ukrainian refugees. Women of Bethlehem presented a check for \$5,000 for this endeavor and a challenge for the congregation to match their gift. To date, a total of \$11,105 has been raised!

We are grateful this past year for the dedication of our OMT members: Jane Schmerberg, Eileen Koprowski, Mary Jean Raab, Jamie Dylenski, Laura Seyfried, Katie Rowan, and Sue Wortman. Ron Dechert attended our meetings as the Leadership Council liaison.

Roy and Sue Muir, Co-Chairs

BETHLEHEM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

LOCATED AT: 2801 JACKSON AVENUE, ANN ARBOR, MI 48103

PHONE: 734-761-6878 (VOICE MAIL)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

423 S. 4TH AVENUE, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

PHONE: 734-665-6149



Memorial Flags

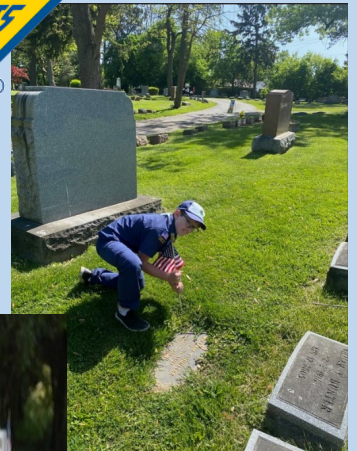
Each year the American Legion Post 46 places over 500 flags on military veterans gravesites at Bethlehem cemetery around Memorial Day. This year the Bethlehem Veterans and Friends took part in assisting And I would like to thank Mike & Dindy Haab, Tom McDonnell, Ron White, Gary Dresselhouse, Scott Lovelace, Jim Judson, Joe & Jan Eadie, Mary Friend, John Schmale and Carol Aldrich.

Thank you to Cub Scout Pack 131 for coming out and helping us as well!

I also like to thank Am. Legion coordinators: Dave Draper and Glen Johnston for their leadership.

Thank you Vets and Friends,

Tom Zieseimer





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
 9:00 am - 2:00 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.

Diane White Associate Pastor of Pastoral Ministry

pastordiane@bethlehem-ucc.org

Naki Kripfgans Dir. of Music Ministry

musicdirector@Bethlehem-ucc.org

Jim Rowan Hand Bell Director

jrowan@umich.edu

Gwenda Mayes Office Supervisor

parishadministrator@bethlehem-ucc.org

Aimee Winchester Administrative Assistant

churchoffice@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:

Assoc. Pastor: Diane White

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann

Office Supervisor: Gwenda Mayes

Administrative Assistant: Aimee Winchester

Director of Music: Naki Kripfgans

Organist:

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

Welcome: Jane Schmerberg

Outreach: Sue Muir/Roy Muir

Fellowship:

Youth & Young Adult: Katie Rowan

Bethlehem Cemetery:

Nominations Committee:

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: