

# The Visitor

September 2024  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ

*From the  
Pastor*



*Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

## **Beloved people of Bethlehem UCC, get ready to fly!**

First, I want to begin by thanking everyone who filled out an evaluation on my performance. I appreciate your observations, comments and critiques. There are some lingering questions about Lombard report, plans for our interim work, and when/how the search process will begin. Most of these things were addressed in detail in my annual report. If you need a copy of that report, please contact the church office. But here is the Reader's Digest version:

### Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) Report

I applaud you for bringing LMPC in to help you with conflict resolution. That is their forte. And I believe your engagement with them has benefitted you. Here are a number of the highlights from their report and your progress with them.

**Loss & Grief** – You all were in the depths of grief when I arrived in July of 2023. You have made great strides in healing and reconciliation. Continue your good work in that regard, by tapping into your God-given gifts of love, compassion, forgiveness and understanding. Remember, grief never goes away. It transforms over time.

**Communication concerns** – Communication is a sticky-wicket that challenges every congregation. In the LMPC report, there were many facets of communication challenges cited. Some of them pointed to leadership lacking clarity on decisions made, as well as a sense of uncertainty over roles and responsibilities felt by some leaders. LMPC attributed these and others to inadequate organizational structure, as well as the need for leadership training. We are responding with:

**Leadership workshops** – To assist our leaders, the first workshop (“Spirituality of Leadership”) is scheduled for September 8th. All elected and invited leaders have the opportunity to participate in this workshop. Another, (“Discovery in Leadership”) may follow.

**Other workshops** – Other workshops may be offered to the congregation at-large, to help with communication and team-building.

**ByLaws review** – The LMPC report specifically called for “revisiting the organizational structure.” That is precisely what the ByLaws committee is doing. It is painstaking work.

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Stay tuned for recommendations made on subsequent phases of the review process. Please give us your prompt feedback as we move along. Once this work is complete, and the entire congregation ratifies any changes to the ByLaws, we will have a strong foundation to build upon for future visioning. This is a crucial first step that will help with both communication and functionality of the church.

**Declining membership** – As I shared in my annual report, this is not a unique issue for Bethlehem. It is shared with most churches, across denominations. Yes, there were circumstances that contributed to Bethlehem's decline in recent years, including conflict that prompted consultation with LMPC. At this moment in time, BUCC has stabilized and begun to grow. The pace of growth is slow, and requires everyone to contribute to it. Here are some things required:

**Hospitality & Welcome** – You have made great strides in this regard! Healing within the congregation has contributed to renewed vibrancy – attractive to seekers. We still need everyone to be more conscious of new faces AND returning faces, greeting them with joy and the love of Christ. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself with a warm welcome – in the sanctuary AND at coffee hour. Do not let anyone new to the church stand or sit alone, especially at coffee hour.

**Coffee Hour** – The fellowship provided at coffee hour is an extension of the sacred space of worship. It is sacred ground where we have the opportunity and responsibility to BE the church AND the face of Christ. We cannot afford to fail in providing coffee hour. To not offer this time of fellowship, speaks loudly that 'this is not a friendly or welcoming community of faith, who simply does not care about others.' We do not want to give that kind of negative impression. It is extremely hard to overcome first impressions. And if that is how we are perceived, guests will not return. As you are able, sign up to be a coffee hour host. Need help? Just ask, those with experience will partner with you.

**Spiritual Relevance** – The church and both its purpose and worship need to be relevant to the lives of people today. What we do, beyond worship, needs to have a positive impact on the wider community. If people do not perceive that we are walking the walk, they won't give us the time of day. More on that below, under community engagement. As to worship, we are working to make worship relevant to today. This is why we have moved to using the New Century Hymnal, for contemporary, inclusive lyrics to old and new hymns. All of the NCH hymnals were donated to us. Both music and message need to provide hope in today's world. That is what we will continue to strive toward.

**Community engagement** – We need to engage more in the wider community. Some of you are doing this by partnering and participating with various community organizations. We need to do more of this. For example, at Ann Arbor Pride in August, the few of us who were there from BUCC provided a powerful counterpoint to those spreading hate and condemnation. We met so many who have been traumatized by the church (i.e. universal church), because of who they are. There were only a handful of churches present at AA Pride. We need to continue to be one of them. Some folks expressed a sincere interest in joining us for worship. One gentleman did on the following Sunday. We need to make our presence even bigger and better yet, at events like this and others. When folks, especially millennials and younger people, see us living what we claim that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here AND see us actually advocating for the marginalized, least of these in the greater community, they will be more inclined to join us.

**Aging building** – We can't change the age of the building. But we can and are pursuing diversified revenue streams to maintain and enhance this amazing structure. Decades ago, the lion's-share of financial burden fell to the congregation. Today, revenue diversification helps to augment what the congregation can provide. Here's what we're doing and what we might consider doing.

**Grants** – We've already received grants toward new Pride Doors (a powerful advertisement for the church) and for boiler repairs. We will continue to seek grants for specific building enhancements and improvements.

**Rental** – We are leveraging our building assets through good rental partners.

**Fund Raisers** – There are numerous fund-raising endeavors that are tried and true, like parking for the Art Fair and home football games. There are other possibilities that other churches have found successful, including in-person and virtual silent auctions, and online partners such as ShopRaise.

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If you're not familiar with ShopRaise, it is an organization that turns "everyday shopping into support for your church or faith community." They partner with thousands of online retailers, to glean a percentage of online purchases for the designated church or faith community. The possibilities of fundraising are as endless as our imaginations.

This highlights most of the main concerns lifted up by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Please note that LMPC accomplished what they initially set out to do. The torch has been passed to me, to get you to and over the finish-line. That is precisely what I intend to do. If anyone is interested in discussing the Lombard report in a small group setting, please let me know by September 15th, so that we can get it on the calendar.

### **What's Next?**

Beginning this fall, I will be engaging the entire congregation in the work we need to do, to prepare you to call your next settled pastor. Ultimately, we need to answer three BIG questions: **1)** "Who is Bethlehem UCC (today)?", **2)** "Who is our Neighbor?", and **3)** "Who is God calling Bethlehem to be/to become?" To answer these, we need everyone to participate in the upcoming workshops, surveys, etc. Through the various exercises, I will guide our focus in key areas that include: heritage, leadership (laity & pastoral), connections (within the congregation & the wider community), mission and future. These are explained a bit more in my annual report and will be explained further as we focus on each one. Why do we need to do all this?

**Discernment** – We need to discern who BUCC is and is becoming. Your discerned identity will not only impact church growth and its future path, it will directly impact who you call as a new settled pastor. That person needs to be a good fit, to partner with you into the future YOU envision, with the help of God.

**Church Profile** – The church profile is a document that serves as BUCC's ad and resume for prospective clergy. Your discernment process will generate much of the information needed for that church profile. Who writes the profile? – **the Search Committee.**

**Search Committee** – We will be ready to form and commission a Search Committee, once we have accomplished the lion's share of our discernment work together. As I consider who to recommend for the Search Committee, I need to look for a broad cross-section of the membership, who bring great diversity of ideas, perspectives and experience. Their first charge will be to complete the church profile. I will help them with that task. Once the profile is submitted and endorsed by the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ, it will be posted for clergy through the National setting. Then, the Committee will engage in the search and call process of reviewing clergy profiles that are received. Conference Staff will guide and support the Committee with the Search and Call process.

**Search and Call:** Based on the church's profile, the Search Committee will discern which candidates might be considered. Interviews of prospective candidates and their references, will help guide the committee in narrowing the field of candidates. The top candidates will be asked to preach in a neutral pulpit (at another church outside the greater Ann Arbor area), followed by further interviews. Once they have discerned the best candidate for Bethlehem, that individual will be invited for a Candidate Sunday. It is actually more of a candidate weekend, in which there are numerous opportunities for the congregation to meet and engage with the candidate, in casual settings. On Sunday of that weekend, the candidate preaches and leads in worship. Following the service, the candidate is sequestered away, and a congregational meeting is convened to discuss and ultimately vote to accept or reject the candidate for the next settled pastor. If accepted, plans are laid for transitioning to receive the new pastor. Many clergy have 90-day clauses in their call agreements. So, expect a delay from voting to the pastor actually starting to serve you. If rejected, the Search Committee goes back to the drawing board, perhaps looking more closely at another top candidate or receiving more clergy profiles.

As you can see, there is much to be done. And I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the process. Yes, it takes time. But I project that by the summer of 2025 you will be well underway in the search and call process and perhaps even preparing to receive your new pastor. What about me? I will be walking with you throughout the journey. As I said earlier, I intend to get you to and over the finish line. Even after I depart from you, you will remain in my prayers. Now, let's do this!

Blessings of Hope & Great Anticipation,

*Pastor Dawn*

***Have you seen God today?***

*"On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."* (John 14:20)

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase.

He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again she smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." But before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected." Author Unknown (and greatly appreciated!)

**Look around you. Have you seen God today? Has the Christ in you shown through?**

**Blessings,**  
*Pastor Diane*



August 15, 2024

**New news, and a repost of the July-August article**

Dear members and friends,

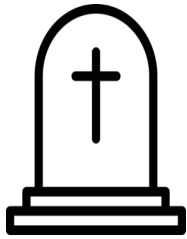
First, we celebrate our 191 years, since the beginning on August 26, 1833. Next, everything we were undertaking this summer has happened as planned, and then some. Please see the July-August Visitor article on the next page.

In addition to the projects outlined, we worked with Absolute Title to document all of the property deeds that together account for all the bequested and purchased land over time. As we have discussed in the history books and other discussions, the property began with a gift of one acre from the Allmingdinger family.

As we look to September and October, tree planting will be commencing. Eight to 12 trees will be selected, plotted, purchased and planted. We are grateful to have members Kevin and Sally Elminger lending their professional expertise, to us and Brad as these October plantings are accomplished. We will use funds from the tree donation fund, along with 2024 operational cemetery funds to accomplish this. (If you want to help replenish the Tree Fund, just make a notation on your donation to the cemetery.)

In closing, please join with us, your elected Cemetery Board in recognizing and appreciating our sacred ground at 2801 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor.

**Bethlehem Cemetery Ann Arbor**



## Bethlehem Cemetery Ann Arbor Update from the Cemetery Board

Reposted from June 15, 2024

**Greetings dear members and friends,**

We had our first regular meeting this past week, following the annual congregation meeting this past Sunday. Our first business item was to elect the board officers for this next fiscal year. We have a full slate, and first with sincere thanks to Jim Lutz for his most recent six years of service, in addition to past years of board service. Thank you, Jim for your steady hand, and wisdom leading and guarding our resources carefully. We welcome you in an advisory capacity, now and in the future, you are willing to provide.

Marilyn Pearson has joined the board in her first term as elected member, and Susan Irwin for her first elected term, as elected member, following her completion of one year, filling an unexpired term. Both Marilyn and Susan bring much knowledge and strength as previous board members, and past board presidents.

Elected for board officer positions, are Mary Friend, vice president, Shannon O'Reilly as secretary, Jamie Dylenski as treasurer, and Mary Jean Raab as president.

Several projects were approved at our meeting and will be in motion immediately. Another DTE light pole will be added at the front northeast corner of the property, adjacent to the easement coming off the Jackson Rd. I94 expressway exit to improve safety and security. Updated LED light will be used.

The black top, much of it laid last summer will be sealed/top coated, and the former dirt roads that had millings added in 2019, are ready for smoothing out and more millings added. Road maintenance, repairs and improvements are an every year project and expense. The cemetery bank account has a sub account for the roads, and we welcome donations, large and small at anytime.

Some larger projects, we will continuously update on; are our new website will have the data base of all internments added in the next couple months, and a feasibility plan for natural burials, also known as green burials is now being undertaken. The full proposal is laid out over the next four months.

Do you want to help your cemetery? In addition to donations, general purpose, or specifically dedicated; we welcome any and all volunteers. We have many tasks we need help with, and several of our areas of work, could use more hands, minds, and of course hearts. Email us at **BethlemCemeteryaa@gmail.com** or leave us a voice message at the church office number, 734-665-6149, extension 219.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 191st anniversary at 2801 Jackson Rd. 48103 with you, your family and community friends.

**Most sincerely, your elected cemetery board. Have a good summer.**

mark  your **Calendar**

### September 1 Communion Sunday

- Sunday School during Worship
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

### September 4

- Bethlehem Community Crafters, Lounge, 12:00 pm

### September 6 OFFICE CLOSED

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

### September 7

- U of M vs Texas, Parking at BUCC, 12:00 pm

### September 8

- Sunday School during Worship/Rally Day
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

### September 10

- Bethlehem Women and Friends Monthly Breakfast, Alpha Koney, 9:30 am
- Facilities Team Mtg., lounge, 3:30 pm

### September 11

- Cemetery Board Mtg., Cemetery, 9:30 am
- Bethlehem Community Crafters, Lounge, 12:00 pm
- Member Care Mtg., Lounge, 2:30 pm

### September 13 OFFICE CLOSED

### September 14

- U of M vs Arkansas State, Parking at BUCC, 12:00 pm

### September 15

- Sunday School during Worship
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

### September 18

- Bethlehem Community Crafters, Lounge, 12:00 pm
- Member Care Mtg., Lounge, 3:00 pm

### September 20 OFFICE CLOSED

### September 21

- U of M vs USC Trojans, Parking at BUCC, 3:30 pm

### September 22

- Sunday School during Worship
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

### September 25

- Bethlehem Community Crafters, Lounge, 12:00 pm

### September 26

- Leadership Council, Lounge, 6:00 pm

### September 27 OFFICE CLOSED

### September 28

- U of M vs Minnesota, Parking at BUCC, TBD

### September 29

- Sunday School during Worship
- Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall, 11:15 am

**WELCOME BACK  
TO SCHOOL**

# A Letter of Appreciation

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

*From Groundcover News*

My name is Mike Jones, Groundcover News vendor # 113. On behalf of Groundcover News, we say thank you, for being a graceful and honorable host. In 1833, German immigrants started Bethlehem Church in a log cabin, making it the longest standing church in Ann Arbor. On August 26, 1833, Pastor Schmid preached his first sermon to 33 families who gathered in the woods west of Ann Arbor. Thus began something great and that would stand the test of time through worship and community service. 190 plus years of physical and spiritual endurance that would not only benefit its members, but also the most vulnerable in our community, the unhoused, and those facing financial hardship.

In 2011, Bethlehem United Church of Christ opened its doors to Groundcover News. (GCN) is a Street newspaper that is produced, purchased, and sold by the homeless and those facing poverty. These newspapers provide a source of income and platform to interact and build relationships in the community.

People from all walks of life have come through these church doors seeking physical, emotional, and spiritual refuge, in so many words, Bethlehem United Church of Christ has become a home away from home for hundreds who struggle in this community. We at (GCN), know holding space for those in unfortunate situations like; being unhoused percent its fare share of challenges, and we especially appreciate your spiritual filled compassion and understanding during turbulent moment with vendors and participants. Thanks to all who serve at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, to those who served in the past, present and going into the future. Thank you for sharing your space with us!

Sincerely,

Groundcover News

**WELCOME BACK!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**RALLY DAY**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 8TH**

**10:00AM SERVICE**

**SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR & TREATS!**

**A MULTI-AGE LEVEL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
ALL AGE CHILDREN ARE WELCOME  
SIBLINGS WILL BE TOGETHER  
COME MEET YOUR TEACHERS**

**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS FOR  
OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE TO BENEFIT  
ALPHA HOUSE  
AND  
PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**



## 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

Pencil Cases



Scissors (blunt & pointed)

1" Binders

Notebook Paper

Small Tissue Packs

Hand Sanitizer





**50th Annual Ann Arbor Area  
CROP Hunger Walk**  
Sunday, October 6, 2024



**Zion Lutheran Church (1501 West Liberty, Ann Arbor)** is hosting our 50<sup>th</sup> year for **2024 Ann Arbor Area CROP Hunger Walk**. Registration starts at 1 PM with an **action-packed** outdoor send-off at 2 pm.



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

**SAVE THESE DATES!!!**

**Drive-thru Recruiter Fair at Zion Lutheran on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 PM**

**Look for Virtual Local Agency Roundtable** information to be announced!

**Mark your calendars: Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024**

Visit our website:

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

**2023 CROP TEAM CO-CHAIRS**

Mary Pratt  
Bryan Weinert

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Hosts:**

Bryan Weinert  
Rev. James Debner

**Treasurer:**

Patti Yonka

**Route Co-Chairs:**

Jen Chapin-Smith  
Alex Nemmers

**Members:**

Henri Avril  
Barb Fichtenberg  
Karen Koeppe  
Donald MacGregor

Charles Yonka

**CWS Co-Ordinator:**

Andrew Gifford

**Benefiting:** 75% goes to CWS national/international communities.

**25% of funds will go to:**

Saline Area Social Service,  
Breakfast Program  
@ St. Andrew's  
Peace Neighborhood  
Center  
Aid in Milan  
Hope Clinic  
Love Thy Neighbor  
FUMCAA  
Community Action Network  
FedUp Ministries  
Growing Hope  
Avalon Housing  
SOS Community Services

**CONTACT:**

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

**Many small gifts make a BIG difference!**





### Hello, Bethlehem's current and soon-to-be singers!



Another exciting choir program year at Bethlehem UCC is about to start! Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the sanctuary (with A/C!). On Sunday mornings, we will have a brief warm-up at 9:20 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this wonderful music ministry—to lead worship, enjoy fellowship, and, most importantly, experience God's love and grace in our lives through the gift of music. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Naki Kripfgans (Music Director and Organist) at [musicdirector@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@bethlehem-ucc.org).

**BUCC CHOIR** Looking forward to a joyful and musical year together!



### Bethlehem Veterans & Friends Monthly Breakfast September 6 @ 8:30 am

Alpha Koney Island, 4389 Jackson Rd.  
Questions? Contact Tom Ziesemer  
734-476-7515 or via email at:  
[ziesemerth@gmail.com](mailto:ziesemerth@gmail.com)



### Bethlehem Women & Friends Monthly Breakfast September 10 at 9:30 am

Alpha Koney Island, 4389 Jackson Rd.  
Contact Susan Irwin at 734-255-5661 or  
[siiwin46@gmail.com](mailto:siiwin46@gmail.com) for more info.

## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Gifts Received July 16, 2024 – August 15, 2024

### BROADCAST FUND

Patsy Hentz Memorial

### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

John Schulenberg Memorial

Arlene Connell Memorial

### CURRENT FUND

Ruth Bauer Memorial

### GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Eleanore Michelfelder Memorial

Gifts listed were received through  
August 15, 2024



Please make sure that the office receives all Refrigerator Page and Email Blast submissions by **12:00 pm Wednesday each week.**

**September 15** is the deadline for items to be included in the October edition of the VISITOR newsletter. Please email submissions to: **churchoffice@bethlehem-ucc.org**

### Would You Like To Use The New Phone App?

You have two options with this new phone-based system. Option 1: Call 1-855-669-8965 and listen to the service live or listen to the latest recording any time during the week. **Option 2: The new system will call you just before the service begins.** All we need from you is your name and the phone number the system should call. All you need to do is answer your phone about 5 min before the service begins. The audio portion of the service will run the entire length of the service (it is not limited to 60 min).

This will also allow us to bring the audio of non-Sunday worship services to you such as the Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve service, Good Friday services, etc. With this phone service, you will be able to hear the worship service wherever you are. **Please call the office (734-665-6149) to provide your name and the phone number we should use for Option 2.** We encourage you to share this message with anyone you know who relies on the radio broadcast to follow our worship services. Thank you!



MEETING MINUTES

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.



### Calling all Liturgists!

It's easy being a liturgist, everything is already written; all you have to do is read aloud. Sign up on SignUpGenius using this link [LITURGIST SIGNUP](#), or contact Pastors Dawn or Diane, or call the office at 665-6149

## Current Fiscal Year

May 2024	Year to Date	YTD Target	23 /24 Budget
Offerings and Income	\$65,238	\$70,333	\$422,000
Expenses	\$58,044	\$87,093	\$522,557
Net	\$7,194	(\$16,760)	(\$100,557)



**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  
 9:00 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.

- Rev. Dawn Christenson**      **Interim Pastor**  
 revdawnchristenson@gmail.com
- Rev. Diane White**      **Associate Pastor**  
 pastordiane@bethlehem-ucc.org
- Naki Kripfgans**      **Music Director / Organist**  
 musicdirector@bethlehem-ucc.org
- Gwenda Mayes**      **Church Administrator**  
 parishadministrator@bethlehem-ucc.org
- Jim Rowan**      **Hand Bell Director**  
 jrowan@umich.edu
- 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**

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP COUNCIL</u>
Interim Pastor: Rev. Dawn Christenson	Finance: Tom Krell	President: Jim Rowan
Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Diane White	Facilities: Steve Darr	Vice President: Open Position
Church Administrator: Gwenda Mayes	Education: Eileen Koprowski	Secretary: Barbara Schenk
Admin. Assistant:	Worship: Open Position	Treasurer: P.J. Lindemann
Director of Music/Organist: Dr. Naki Kripfgans	Member Care: Judy Coucouvanis Jenny Foster	At-Large Members:
Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan	Welcome: Open Position	Teresa Beagle
Video Director: Dan Blakeney	Outreach: Katie Rowan	Open Position
Maintenance Personnel: Bill Husted	Fellowship: Open Position	Ex Officio: Rev. Dawn Christenson
	Youth & Young Adult: Open Position	
	Bethlehem Cemetery: Mary Jean Raab	
	Nominations Committee: Open Position	