

# Bethlehem United Church of Christ

## Refrigerator Page December 22, 2024

<b>Sun., Dec 22</b> 10:00 am	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Worship Service with Lessons & Carols, In-Person, Phone Stream & Live Stream (No Sunday School, children remain in Sanctuary)
11:15 am	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	Advent Hymn Studies, Library
<b>Mon., Dec 23</b> 5:30 pm	<b>Office Closed</b> Handbell Practice, Choir Room
<b>Tues., Dec 24</b> 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>Office Open 9:00 am—2:00 pm</b> Brass & Choir Practice, Sanctuary Christmas Eve Worship, In-Person, Phone Stream & Live Stream
<b>Wed., Dec 25</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Thurs., Dec 26</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Fri., Dec 27</b>	<b>Office Open 9:00 am—2:00 pm</b>
<b>Sat., Dec 28</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Sun., Dec 29</b> 10:00 am	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b> Worship Service, In-Person, Phone Stream & Live Stream
10:00 am	Sunday School during worship
11:15 am	Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

### CHRISTMAS SERVICE



Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Worship  
7:00 pm

A Candlelight Service and a musical celebration featuring the Bethlehem Chancel Choir and Bethlehem Handbell Quartet

### Christmas Fund 2024

*"And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..." —Luke 2:9*



The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

You may donate online by clicking the link [HERE](#) and donating directly to the Christmas Fund via the PBUCC website. Thank you and God Bless You and Yours this Holy Season.



Happy birthday to the following Bethlehem members who are celebrating birthdays this week:

Karen S.	Nancy T.	Larry K.
Wanda M.	Hunter S.	Cynthia M.
Jacqueline K.	Jane S.	

### End of Year Contributions

As 2024 comes to a close, please remember that any charitable giving or Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA **need to be received by the Church Office no later than December 31, 2024.** Thank you very much for considering Bethlehem UCC in your year-end giving. We are truly grateful. Wishing you Christmas Blessings and a Joyous New Year!

Thank you to all who donated wreaths that decorated our outside windows during this Christmas season. Below are the names of those whose memory and/or honor they were given.

## Christmas Wreath Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of	Given By
Nancy Austin, Sally Gillies, & Lois Kerr	Jennifer Vasquez
Glenn W. Bailey	Judy Bailey
Betty & Richard Bowman	Gotham Family
Arlene Connell	Cathleen Connell
Kennyon Edwards	Violet Edwards & Family
Jay Katz	Jacque Katz & Family
Cliff & Pat Merryman	Ele Kotowski
Raymond & Elizabeth Lambarth	Joe & Jan Eadie
Robert & Jeanne Opperman	Coucovanis Family
Laura, Joe, John, Jean & Jennifer O'Reilly	Pat & Shannon O'Reilly
Chuck Raab	Mary Raab
Our Parents	Rev. Diane & Ron White
In Honor Of	Given By
Arlene Finkbeiner	Mike & Harriette Ehnis
Doris Whitlock	Mike & Harriette Ehnis

### Great News!

The Bethlehem website has been updated to include easy access to sign up for opportunities here at church. On the front page, at the bottom, are one click buttons that take you to sign up sheets. You can add your name to be a [Liturgist](#), provide [Flowers for Sunday Worship](#), [Adopt a Coffee Hour](#), or [Sponsor a Live Broadcast](#). If you do not have access to a computer or need assistance please call the church office at 734-665-6149

### Transitional Workshops

We will be hosting 6 transitional workshops January – March 2025 in the Youth Room after Worship from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. The following are the dates and brief descriptions of the upcoming workshops. Please mark your calendars now so that you can plan to attend some or all the workshops.

#### January 5, 2025 - Wall of Wonder

This is a fun exercise where participants are asked to insert themselves, family and events into the big-picture timeline in the history of the church shown on a full-wall paper banner. These things may include when they joined the church, baptisms, marriages, and so much more. This always leads to new and unexpected discoveries about and appreciation for each other.

#### January 26, 2025 - Who are We?

This is an important exercise to deeply explore who BUCC is believed to be today, especially given current members. Many perspectives, history and hope will be shared by those present. This is always an eye-opening experience.

#### February 9, 2025 - Who is Our Neighbor?

This exercise explores physical, ecumenical, service agencies, and more (not necessarily as obvious as you might think). We will be looking for opportunities for ministerial partners, as well as perceived "threats". We will think about how we might want to or are called to engage with some of these neighbors in new ways.

#### February 23, 2025 - Asset Mapping

This exercise will help us identify all of BUCC's assets, as well as those needed or desired; ranking/prioritizing them. Information generated through this exercise is of paramount importance for the next visioning workshop.

#### March 2, 2025 - I Can See Clearly

This is one of the most exciting workshops in which we will engage! This is where we will consider all of the information discerned to date and further discern who God is calling BUCC to be and what God is calling BUCC to do. This is where we develop the vision for the future of BUCC.

#### March 16, 2025 - Shepherding 101

This is the last big discernment piece, in which we will determine the qualities needed and desired in the next settled pastor for BUCC, in relation to the future vision of the church.