

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Refrigerator Page September 20, 2026

Sun., Sept. 20	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am	Worship Service, In-Person, Phone Stream & Live Stream
10:00 am	Sunday School during Worship
11:00 am	Community Time, Youth Room
11:30 pm	EC & Cemetery Board Meeting, Gallery
Mon., Sept. 21	Office Closed
Tues., Sept. 22	Office Open 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Wed., Sept. 23	Office Open 9:00 am-2:00 pm
12:00 pm	Bethlehem Crafters, Lounge
7:00 pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thurs., Sept. 24	Office Open 9:00 am-2:00 pm
6:00 pm	Leadership Council Mtg., via ZOOM
Fri, Sept. 25	Office Open 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Sat., Sept. 26	Office Closed
TBD	Football Game- U of M vs IOWA
Sun., Sept. 27	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am	Worship Service, In-Person, Phone Stream & Live Stream
10:00 am	Sunday School during Worship
11:00 am	Community Time, Youth Room

Pastor Matthew's Office Hours

IF THE PASTOR IS NOT IN DURING THE LISTED HOURS DUE TO A OBLIGATION PLEASE CALL 860-249-3576 OR E-MAIL PASTOR@BETHLEHEM-UCC.ORG

MONDAY	SABBATH
TUESDAY	9:30AM-5PM
WEDNESDAY	9:30AM-5PM
THURSDAY	9:30AM-5:30PM
FRIDAY	SABBATH
SATURDAY	REMOTE WORK
SUNDAY	BY APPOINTMENT OR MEETING



Are you following Bethlehem United Church of Christ on Facebook? Follow our page, interact with posts, and share them with friends to help more people discover what is happening in our church.

You can also support us by leaving a google review about your experience at Bethlehem. A few thoughtful words from you may be the invitation someone else needs to walk through our doors!

🏈 Game Day Volunteers Needed! 🏈

Get in on the excitement while supporting our church! We need **four volunteers for each game** to help make this fundraiser a success. It's a fun way to be part of the game day atmosphere, enjoy fellowship, and raise funds that directly benefit our church.

All volunteer dates are available in [SignUpGenius](#). Game times will be added as soon as they are announced, so you can choose the shift that works best for you.

Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or trying it for the first time, we'd love to have you on the team. Together, we can make every game a win for Bethlehem!

Ready to get in the game? Scan the QR code below to access [SignUpGenius](#) and claim your volunteer spot. Every volunteer helps us score a touchdown for Bethlehem!

9/26 vs Iowa: 3:30 PM

10/17 vs Penn State: TBD

10/24 vs Indiana: TBD

11/7 vs MSU: TBD

11/21 vs UCLA: TBD



CROP WALK, October 4th

This year's CROP walk is on **Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 2 PM** (registration at 1:00) and will be hosted by First United Methodist. You are welcome to join the Bethlehem team, the Pllamas. Sign up is on the CROP Walk website here: [CROP Walk Sign Up](#). You can also donate on this site. Packets will be available in the church office after Sept. 2. You can also **donate via the Bethlehem website donation page** on the CROP Walk line item, or write a check with CROP in the memo and drop it at the church office or in the offering. Let's see if we can beat last year's magnificent donation of \$1,772!

Pretzel Orders

You can place your order for pretzels by filling out the form below and returning it to the office. Additional forms are located outside the church office or you can call during business hours, Tues.- Fri. 9am to 2pm, to place an order. Orders are taken on a first come basis. A limit of 80 dozen pretzels will be made.

Payment is collected at pick up. \$15 per dozen (limit 6 dozen), \$8 per half dozen. Office # 734-665-6149

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

Thomas W.	Sarah H.	Andrew F.
Julie F.	Sandra S.	Deborah R
	Gwendolyn F.	

Dear Friends,

The Safety and Security Committee is continuing its work to improve the safety and security of our church building and grounds for all members, staff, visitors, and groups who use our facilities. As a result of our ongoing review of the building and grounds, several improvements are being initiated:

- 1. **First Aid Supplies** – All first-aid boxes throughout the church have been restocked and brought up to date.
- 2. **Fire Blankets** – New fire blankets will be purchased and placed alongside the fire extinguishers throughout the building to provide an additional safety resource in the event of a fire.
- 3. **AED Devices** – Three additional automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will be purchased and deployed, with an AED located on each floor of the building for quicker access in a medical emergency.
- 4. **Parking Lot Lighting** – New lighting will be installed near the **4th Avenue entrance to the parking lot** to eliminate the existing dark area and improve visibility and safety, particularly during evening activities.
- 5. **Anchored Flower Boxes** – Anchored flower boxes will be placed outside the **5th Avenue and 4th Avenue entrances**. In addition to enhancing the appearance of the entrances, these will help provide an additional physical safety measure around the building entrances.

These projects represent practical steps toward making Bethlehem UCC a safer and more welcoming place for everyone. We have received \$3000 in NOW grants from the Convenient Association to help offset the expense for these improvements. We appreciate the congregation's support as we continue to identify and address safety concerns throughout our building and grounds.

In addition, Bethlehem will be hosting the Houses of Faith security meeting next month. This involves many of the downtown churches who have decided to meet several times a year to share our individual efforts to improve safety at all houses of faith. The meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday October 21 from 3-5pm. The agenda for the meeting is still being developed. Bethlehem, as host, is expected to provide light refreshments and a few greeters to help direct everyone to the youth room. Members of Bethlehem are invited to attend if interested. More information will be sent out by the end of the month.

Safety is everyone's responsibility, and we are committed to doing what we can to protect our members, staff, visitors, and the many groups who use our facilities.
Please contact your Safety and Security Committee leads (Pastor Matthew, Ron Dechert, Gwen Mayes, Steve Darr) if you have any questions or feedback.

God bless you,

BUCC Safety and Security Chair
Ron Dechert

Pretzel Making!

Come and join us on Friday, October 9th or Saturday, October 10th to continue the Bethlehem tradition of creating fresh German pretzels. Sign up to mix the dough on Friday and/or to roll the dough on Saturday. Kitchen helpers and volunteers to clean up are also needed on Saturday. We will begin at 9 AM on both days. Come when you can and leave when you must. No experience is necessary but head covering is required (hair bonnets available). Lunch will be provided on Saturday. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Coucouvanis. Thank you!



BUCC PRETZEL ORDER FORM 2026

Order date: _____

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

_____ Dozen Pretzels: \$15 (limit 6) _____ Half Dozen Pretzels: \$8:00

Pick-up preference: PLEASE CHECK BELOW - we need to know how to handle the order

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Will pick up on baking day
October 10, 11:00- 12:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

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Will pick up Sunday
October 11, 11:15- 12:15 pm
in Youth Room

We strongly encourage you to pre-order. 80 dozen pretzels will be available for purchase. Once we have received orders for 80 dozen pretzels, no further orders can be accepted. You will be notified if your order cannot be completed.

Orders must be received by Tuesday October 6th at noon.

Office Use Only Below This Line

Order taken by: _____