



The Visitor July 2018

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

“And Every Gain Divine”

Rev. John Kennedy

As the 4th of July approaches, I think it is fitting to remember the values that make America (the U.S.A.) a great country, a country that was formed by immigrants leaving their homelands. What makes people leave their homeland to begin a new life in another country? Every single one of us has a story about our relatives/ancestors leaving their homeland and heading to America. The vast majority of us at Bethlehem have stories that tell a tale of our ancestors coming from Europe and/or the British Isles. Now that DNA testing is available and affordable, many of us have had our DNA analyzed through Ancestry DNA companies. Have you had your ancestry researched through DNA testing and/or genealogical research? My family’s testing revealed that we are 100% Western European (Germany and France) and from the British Isles

(Scotland, England, and Wales) and came to America between 1620 and 1659. All of them traveled in a ship across a large body of water to arrive here. All of them, like your families, were looking for a better opportunity and some degree of freedom from religious intolerance.

No matter who you are unless you are a Native American (North, South, or Central Native American), your family is descended from immigrants, aliens, or refugees. Before 1884, there were no laws governing immigration, so there was no designation as legal or illegal—we all got a free pass. In the 1880s, growing support for Darwinian **eugenics** eventually drove the U.S. government to adopt immigration laws. These laws were intended to end

(Continued on page 9)

AUGUST Deadline

Articles and photos
need to be
submitted by
Tuesday, July 31,
in order to be
published
in the August 5 Visitor.



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www.bethlehem-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

From Your President's Desk...

Notes from the President's Desk:

The President's desk now faces a wall, having been moved to allow access to a failed sump pump. (Not only the church has facilities issues!)

Thanks to all who attended the **Congregational Meeting** after worship on Fathers' Day, June 17. The Governing Body passed the motion: "The congregation endorses moving forward with sanctuary air conditioning and Fellowship Hall renovation."

Since that action, Leadership Council submitted two Unbudgeted Funds Requests to the Financial Ministry Team asking for funds to pay Phoenix Construction to prepare final drawings for the two projects, sanctuary air conditioning and Fellowship Hall refurbishment (ADA restrooms, new lighting, floor and ceiling treatments, painting, air conditioning, etc). The FMT granted these requests out of the Sanctuary Renovation Fund and General Memorials.

Phoenix will put these drawings out for bids and then present Council with a detailed proposal with specific costs to bring back to the Governing Body for approval. Work could start as soon as the Monday October 8, following our Heritage weekend (including Oktoberfest.) Council Vice President Ron Dechert is acting as our "point person" with Phoenix and has met with them, nailing down a number of details.

I was proud Leadership Council voted to endorse the **Poor People's Campaign** following a presentation by the Outreach Ministry Team. If you weren't able to attend Lilly Tinker Fortel's fine set of classes on that topic, I urge you to look into it. I attended (not as your president, but as a concerned Christian) one of the "Moral Monday" demonstrations held over the last few weeks at the Capital in Lansing (other were held in other state capitals). The Lansing demonstration I attended focused on clean water and culminated in a march to the Department of Environmental Quality where some trained and committed demonstrators were arrested as they blocked employees from leaving the DEQ. It was inspiring to see lay and clergy, wearing vestments, arrested by our State Police for demanding our state treat residents of Flint and Detroit humanely. As I write on the last weekend of June, thousands of PPC protesters have descended on the nation's capital demanding justice for the poor.

July will see the retirement of our **Parish Administrator, Carol Leyshock**. It only seems like a few months

ago that I and other Elders, functioning as the Personnel Committee, had lunch with her and recommended she be hired. It was a great decision! Carol has tirelessly worked behind the scenes to assure the "business" of Bethlehem United Church of Christ carries on. Not all congregants see or even know her, but church leadership does! Carol has worked closely with the Facilities and Finance Ministry Teams, our church Financial Administrator and has supervised the church Secretary and office volunteers. Carol has chased down details, reminded many of needed actions and been a real asset to Bethlehem. The search is on for someone with large feet to fill her shoes. If you have worked with Carol and want to say a formal goodbye, there's an event planned to do so on Wednesday July 25 at 4 PM in the Lounge. We wish Carol many happy years of retirement and thank her for spending her last working (for pay!) days at Bethlehem!

It isn't too late to **sign up for a parking lot shift** for Art Fair or the Soccer game the following Saturday!

Park Cars Get a FREE tan!

Bethlehem Fundraisers

- Art Fair Parking
- Soccer Championship Parking

Sign up next to the office or call the office at 734-665-6149



Parking cars in our lot is a profitable and fun way to fundraise for our church. **There are many slots yet to fill.** Please consider signing up!

Ann Arbor Art Fair - July 19, 20, 21, 22

Thursday, 7/19 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (2-3 hrs.)

Friday, 7/20 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (2-3 hrs.)

Saturday, 7/21 8am, 11am, 1:30pm, 4pm (2-3 hrs.)


Sunday, 7/22 8 am - 11:30am, attendant needed to monitor the lot for church parking
11:30am - 3pm (final shift + clean up)

Soccer Championship - July 28

Saturday, 7/28 2 pm - 5 pm

Upcoming Events and "Save the Date" Events


Outreach and Spiritual Development events are listed on page 6-7


NO PARKING NO PARKING IN CHURCH LOT  TUESDAY, JULY 4
 (Lot is being resurfaced)

WE WILL BE CLOSED
JULY 4th

BETHLEHEM VETERANS' MONTHLY BREAKFAST 
 July 6 and August 3, 8:30 a.m.,
 Classic Cup Café,
 Jackson Rd.

 **SEPTEMBER GOLF OUTING** 
 Mark your calendar for the Bethlehem Fellowship Golf Outing (scramble) that will take place on **Sunday, September 9th, 2 p.m.** at Brookside Golf Club. Sign up sheets for teams and individuals will be posted in August. Entry fee will include golf, picnic dinner, prizes and lots of fun.

SUMMER COFFEE CONNECTION 
 We will have ONE coffee hour between services in the lounge from July 1—September 2.

 **SUMMER BOOK SALE**
 In the Bethlehem Library now through Labor Day. Stock up! Books are 4 for \$1 and proceeds support Bethlehem Church.

FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE for Carol
Wednesday, July 25
4-6 p.m. Schmale Lounge

Carol Leyshock, our wonderful Parish Administrator, is retiring at the end of July. Join us to say goodbye.



Please RSVP by Friday, July 20.
donnawhitney@bethlehem-ucc.org
 You can use this email for gift donation questions as well.

Carol is the heartbeat of Bethlehem's office. Her professionalism and kind heart will be greatly missed. Looking forward to hearing from you.

SAVE THE DATE
FALL LUNCHEON AND BAZAAR
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9



HOT OFF THE PRESS

BETHLEHEM 2018 HABITAT TRIP

RETURNS FROM FLINT

Just as our July Visitor is going to press, our 2018 Habitat Group returned from their June 25-28 service trip to Flint! Here are some pictures from the trip. Watch for a more photos on social media, and a more detailed report in the August Visitor.

Huge thanks to our team for a wonderful trip!
Your service, dedication, and overall awesomeness inspires us all!

- Carol Aldrich
- Ben Hollenbach
- Vicki Hoxie
- Larisa Jaskiewicz
- Jamie Raab
- Katie Rowan
- Karen Slotten
- Lily Tinker Fortel
- Tony Whitney
- Crystal Wilcox
- Jesse Wilcox

Thanks to Bethlehem for supporting this trip through your contributions to the Cake Auction, and your emotional and spiritual support and encouragement.



All Ready to Go.

The group heads out on Monday, June 25



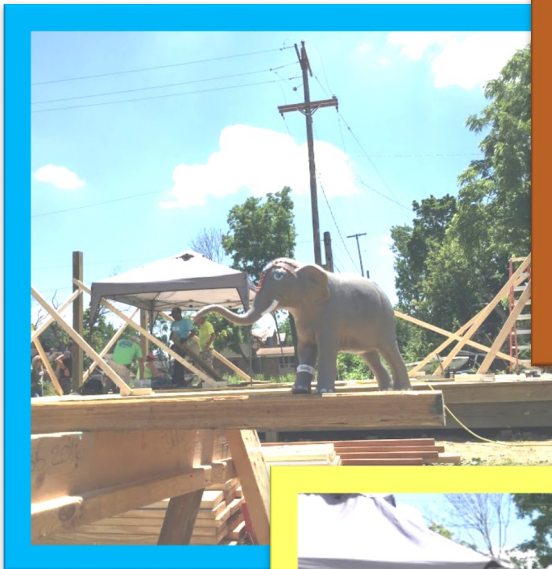
A group photo at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan on Monday, June 25



**Evening break at the
campground - putt putt golf.
Tuesday, June 26**



**After a rainy day at work, dinner at Bear Soup
Deli in Davison! Wednesday, June 27**



**Balto at the
build site in
Flint's Civic Park
Historic District**



**Group photo
on the stage we
helped build.
Thursday, June 28**



BETHLEHEM UCC

JULY 2018

Outreach Ministry

Service is a community-wide reality at Bethlehem UCC!



Reaching Out to our members, community, country, and the world through support and service is one of Bethlehem's Core Values. Bethlehem is an active church that reaches out to the community in a spirit of love, justice, and fellowship. The Outreach Ministry

Team supports the congregation in fulfilling this Christian responsibility.

JOIN US! Contact information at <https://bethlehem-ucc.org/outreach/>

Opportunities abound!

Outreach Ministry Team (OMT) relies on the support of BUCC members and friends. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for all kinds of outreach activities to help make our community a better place for all. Current opportunities include kitchen work at Alpha House and the Delonis Center, Art Fair parking at BUCC, local advocacy work including CROP Walk planning and the Poor Peoples Campaign, donating groceries to Food Gatherers, purchasing Groundcover News, and much more.

If you aren't able to give your time, OMT also welcomes your Outreach-designated contributions. In addition to your ongoing support of BUCC, an extra contribution in honor of a friend, family member, or an acquaintance recognizing their good work in the community will add to the funds OMT is able to commit to local partner organizations to enhance the programs and services they offer to those needing some extra help managing their day-to-day lives.

1

ALPHA HOUSE/IHN

Prepare and serve dinner for families at Alpha House; stay for the fun kid's activities

2

FOOD GATHERERS

Prepare meals at the Community Kitchen; donate fresh produce and non-perishables

3

PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Serve after school snacks; distribute fresh produce

Alpha House/IHN

Upcoming Opportunities

August 9
October 7

Food Gatherers Community Kitchen

Upcoming Opportunities

July 1
August 5
September 2

Peace Neighborhood Center

Upcoming Opportunities

Summer Break!
Enjoy!

I was hungry and you gave me food.

I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

- Matthew 25:35

Spiritual Growth and Development

Lily Tinker Fortel



Youth of ALL ages are welcome to join us for our one-room Sunday school June–August,



Bethlehem Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle will not meet in July due to July 4 holiday and Ann Arbor Art Fair. We will resume August 2.

Join us in the lounge as we pray for our church, our community, our world.

Wellness Wednesdays with Lily
July 11 at 11:30 a.m. at BUCC



Join us here at Bethlehem for a once monthly exploration on wellness and activity for people of all ages and physical abilities, or sign up to receive the email and practice at home. Following our activity, we'll share a light, healthy lunch!

Sign up on the bulletin board near the office or see Lily if you have questions.

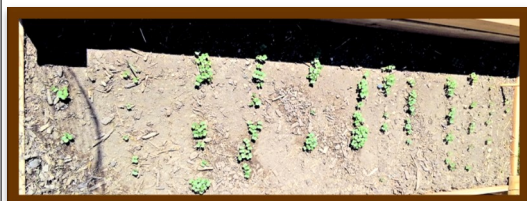


REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT

On July 5-8, Youth Group will travel to the UCC's Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (RYE) in Elmhurst, Illinois! We are excited for this opportunity for Bethlehem's youth to connect with other youth around the country!

FAITH IS LIKE A LITTLE SEED. IF PLANTED, IT WILL GROW

Stop by the Bethlehem backyard and see how OUR seeds are growing, and feel free to plant your own!



Guess what THESE seeds will grow into?

Mustard Seed Parable Exploration All Summer

A self-directed, experiential exploration of the Bible's Mustard Seed parable (Matthew 13:31-32).



Laminated guides are in the backyard by the new boxed gardens. In four phases throughout the summer, you'll explore at your own pace what the parable might have meant to different groups Jesus was addressing, what it means to you, and what it might mean for our world today.

This study time is inspired by Cory Pechan Driver who says, "Part of the genius of Jesus' parables was to speak on multiple levels to multiple groups with the same words."

Questions? Contact Lily Tinker Fortel.



Graduate and Teacher recognition



Lily presenting graduate gifts at the June 3 Recognition service.



Thank you to our morning readers, Mira and Allan Authier



Congratulations Graduates!
Kelly Gotham and Jacob Paton

Thank you Teachers!
Julie Feldcamp, Jenell Buday (and Kai), Jan Eadie, Jane Schmerberg, Kelsey Postler, Karen Samford, Nancy Pieske, C.J. Slotten.



"And Every Gain Divine"

(Continued from page 1)

the open immigration policy, which the Founding Fathers had permitted, in favor of preventing "racial taint" from immigrants who entered from undesirable countries. The limitations were entirely imposed on people who were other than white Europeans. In fact, the laws were designed to allow immigration almost exclusively from northern and western Europeans (eastern and southern Europeans were considered to be less desirable and had smaller quota numbers). Under these laws, Jesus would not have been eligible to immigrate to the United States. Jesus' features would have been the same as his parents and relatives. The truth is that Jesus was a Palestinian Jew with dark eyes, skin, and hair. He looked like the people we now think of as fitting the stereotype of a Middle Eastern Jew or Muslim. In today's culture, if Jesus were sitting on a plane with us we may actually fear his appearance. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, would not have been welcomed in our country clubs, restricted neighborhoods, fraternities, and even many of our churches just based on his physical appearance, his Jewishness, and Middle Eastern origin.

What does the Bible have to say about immigrants, aliens, and refugees? As "One Nation UNDER God," what does the Bible say that God, the Prophets, and Jesus have to say about how immigrants are to be treated? Rather than speaking for myself, I would like to quote a few of the Biblical verses that should help us reconnect with God's Word:

Exodus 12:49—*There will be one instruction for the native and for the immigrant who lives with you.*

Exodus 22:21—*Moses gives God's law: "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."*

Leviticus 19:10 and 23:22—*Moses gives God's law: "You shall not strip your vineyards bare...leave them for the poor and the alien."*

Leviticus 19:33-34—*When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*

Leviticus 25:23—*Moses receives God's law: "With me you are but aliens and tenants."*

Numbers 9:14 and 15:15-16—*"...You shall have one statute for both the resident alien and the native."*

Numbers 35 and Joshua 20—*The Lord instructs Moses to give cities of refuge to the Levites so that when the Israelites must flee into Canaan they may have cities of refuge given to them.*

Deuteronomy 1:16—*"Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien."*

Deuteronomy 6:10-13—*The people of Israel are made aware that the land had come to them as a gift from God and they were to remember that they were once aliens.*

Deuteronomy 10:17-19—*Because the Lord your God is the God of all gods and Lord of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn't play favorites and doesn't take bribes. He enacts justice for orphans and widows, and he loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt.*

Deuteronomy 24:14—*"You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land."*

Deuteronomy 27:19—*"Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien...of justice."*

1 Chronicles 29:14-15—*David praises God: "We are aliens and transients before you."*

Psalms 105—*Remembering their sojourn: "When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people..."*

Psalms 137:1-4—*"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept...How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"*

Psalms 146:9—*"The Lord watches over the strangers..."*

Ecclesiastes 4:1—*"Look, the tears of the oppressed—with no one to comfort them!"*

Jeremiah 22:3—*Do no wrong or violence to the alien.*

Ezekiel 47:21-22—*The aliens shall be to you as citizens, and shall also be allotted an inheritance.*

Zechariah 7:10—*Do not oppress the alien.*

Malachi 3:5—*The messenger will bear witness against those who thrust aside the alien.*

Matthew 2:13-15—*Jesus and his parents flee Herod's search for the child.*

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"And Every Gain Divine"

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Matthew 5:10-11—“Blessed are those who are persecuted.”

Matthew 25:31-46—“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Hebrews 13:1-2—“Show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels.”

In closing, here are what America’s poets and church hymn writers have had to say about the country that believes “all men (people) are created equal.” It is in our deepest values as a nation and as a nation under God.

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”
“The New Colossus,” Emma Lazarus, 1883

AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes prov’d
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America!
God mend thine ev’ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

*Happy 4th of July,
and God loves you
with no takebacks,*

Pastor John

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

In October, the Auxiliary/Mothers Study will assemble and mail Church World Service (CWS) School and Health Kits. Our goal is 50 of each. However, we will do more if we have the items. We have some items left from previous years, so following is a list of items we NEED. **We appreciate your help on this very worthwhile project. Thank You.**

School Kits

- Spiral Notebook (70 pages)
- 12 inch ruler
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener (with cover to catch shavings)
- Crayons (24 count)

Health Kits

- Hand Towel
- Toothbrush
- Fingernail Clippers
- Band Aids
- Bar Soap (bath size, in original package)

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
THANK YOU!**



Thank you for your recent gifts of \$60 in church offerings and \$485 in blankets and tools to Church World Service.

Your gifts provide comfort to neighbors in need both near and far!

We appreciate your generosity!

In peace. Heather Wilson, CWS.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

CHURCH SCHOOL FUND

Theresa Schmale Memorial

GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND

Norma Feldkamp Memorial
Eileen Smock Memorial

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Lily Tinker Fortel & 2018 Habitat Trip Honorarium
Mike & Dindy Haab Honorarium
Eileen Koprowski Honorarium

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND

David Zahn Memorial

RADIO FUND

Godfrey Keppler Memorial

Gifts listed were received through
June 30, 2018

RADIO FUND

June 10 In memory of **Frederick and Lela Keppler** from the family.

June 17 In remembrance of **Gene Slotten's** 93rd birthday and our 68th wedding anniversary by Marie Slotten.

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Patti Maki, Marilyn Pearson, Shelley Regensburg, Katie Rowan, and Linda Young for the evening they spent recently dismantling, polishing, and reassembling the handbells. These efforts provide necessary maintenance to the handbells that prevents problems and keeps the handbells in pristine condition.

Jim Rowan



PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

Glenn Pfeiffle—June 2, 2018

Veterans' Display Now through September

Many thanks to the Bethlehem archive group and Tom Ziesemer, for the wonderful Veterans' military display in the Schmale Lounge. And thank you to those who donated. We are continuing to add items each week.

Many of our Bethlehem vets and families have brought in photos, medals, and memorabilia from their own experiences as well as items from other family members over many years and conflicts. We invite anyone who would still like to add to the display to please drop items off at the church office. We plan on having the display stay up in the Schmale Lounge until the beginning of September.



Make sure and check it out during out SUMMER COMBINED COFFEE CONNECTION.



May 2018	Year to Date	YTD Target	2018 Budget
Offerings & Income	\$221,462	\$186,138	\$446,732
Expenses	\$242,966	\$223,939	\$537,454
Net	(\$21,504)	(\$37,800)	(\$90,722)



Covenant of Welcome

We, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, declare ourselves an Open and Affirming congregation where we celebrate Christ's extravagant love. We covenant with God and one another to welcome the diverse tapestry of all people, no matter their age, race, nationality, ethnicity, economic circumstance, marital or family status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We invite everyone—believers and questioners, seekers and skeptics—to share their gifts in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of our congregation.

Bethlehem Church—Our Core Values

- ♦ **Growing** spiritually in our faith journey together
- ♦ **Worshipping** 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

Bethlehem's Ministry Team

Rev. John Kennedy	Pastor
Rev. Orval L.E. Willimann	Pastor Emeritus
Lily Tinker Fortel	Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development
Carol Leyschock	Parish Administrator
Betty Clark	Financial Administrator
Donna Whitney	Parish Secretary
Thomas Burton	Director of Music
Gail Jennings	Organist
Jim Rowan	Director of Handbells
Kelsey Postler	Nursery/Toddler Teacher

The *Visitor*
is printed 12 times a year.

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.