



The Bethlehem STAR

Pride in Our Past – Faith in Our Future

August 2026



ALL AGES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
RALLY DAY**



**AUGUST
16**

Pastor's Perspective



It has been a big summer around here. We have done some redecorating (more than once! The Fellowship Hall was temporarily King David's Castle before it received its new flooring late last month).

We had the best time at Vacation Bible School, learning about David—from shepherd to the royal throne! And none of us will soon forget the thrill of renting out the movie theater for our private viewing of *David*.

This past month, we hosted a fundraiser where everyone who passed through the doors felt welcome and excited to be part of an effort to house our neighbors. (Incidentally, everyone seemed to have the same response to the crowd, "I did not expect it to be this big!") Together, we raised more than \$25,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

As I write, 30 folks are signed up for a weekend retreat together at Pennyrile State Park. We are looking forward to the time away to unplug and enjoy fellowship together.

There have been so many things to celebrate this summer, but that's only one side of the story. This summer has also seen lots of heartache. We have lost those we love and those we love have lost those closest to them. Our prayer list has swelled as so many have received difficult news. We have leaned heavily on the Spirit to intercede for us when our hurts have been too deep for words.

Life together means holding joy and sorrow in the same hands—a holy mess of contradiction. Our faith does not spare us from grief and pain, but it does allow us to lift those same hands—and all they hold—to God in hope for a future where all things will be made new.

Work from home Wednesdays!

Beginning in August, Pastor Emily will be working from home on Wednesdays. This will allow her some more sustained focused time to prepare sermons, Confirmation lessons, and other items that benefit from fewer interruptions. While you will not find her physically on campus, please know that you can reach her via email or her cell phone as needed. The Church Office will also be open (10-3) as usual.



Canned Fruit for the Tri-State Food Bank

The next collection of canned fruit for the Tri-State Food Bank will be this Saturday, August 1, and Sunday, August 2. As we remember the Lord's Supper at the communion table, let us remember those whose table is empty. Please bring canned fruit (with pull-tabs, if possible) to worship and place them by the altar. Last month's total was 68 items. As a reminder, canned fruit is collected every communion weekend for delivery to the Tri-State Food Bank.



Back to SUNDAY SCHOOL!

♥ Faith Formation, Fellowship and Fun! ♥



RALLY DAY Breakfast!

 **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH**

 **9:00 AM**

Children, youth, and adults are invited for breakfast, a chance to reconnect, and learn about our classes and events for the year.



CLASSES Resume!

 **SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD**

 **9:00 AM**

Sunday School classes for children and youth will officially start back!



♥ We can't wait to see you there! ♥  **Contact Margaret for more information.**

Adult Sunday School

Classes begin August 23

Eosin Sunday School - Eosin Sunday School class meets in the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall. We will be looking at issues in our everyday life and how our Christian teachings help us navigate our lives. We are a relaxed group where everyone is welcome. Leader: Debbie Havens dkhavens49@gmail.com.

YAC - The YAC class, which was once the Young Adult Class, still enjoys welcoming all newcomers, even if "young" no longer typifies most of its members! This class explores the influence of current events on one's faith journey, and how cultural, economic, and political trends impact efforts to follow the teachings of Jesus. The group meets in the library adjoining the Fellowship Hall on Level 3. Leader: Steve Worthington stevesusanworthington@gmail.com.

Join Us for a Church Outing!

A DAY OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & MUSIC



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 30TH**



AFTER WORSHIP

Pick up your
pre-ordered boxed
lunch in the
church kitchen
before we leave!



CARPOOL TO LOUISVILLE, KY

Enjoy the ride together as
we head to the show!



3:00 PM EST

See *Jesus Christ Superstar*
presented by Redline
Performing Arts at the
Actors Theater of Louisville.



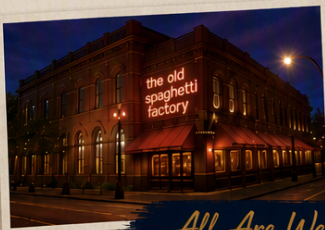
AFTER THE SHOW

We'll enjoy dinner together
at The Old Spaghetti
Factory in downtown
Louisville.



THEN... HEAD HOME

A full day of music, community
and great memories!



All Are Welcome! ♥

REDLINE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR



AT THE ACTORS THEATER
OF LOUISVILLE



Featuring
Margaret's nephew
Cooper Bartlett
playing the role of
CAIAPHAS!



Registration



Cost: \$40 per person

Includes theater ticket and boxed lunch.



Registration & Payment Deadline:
Friday, August 7



Register with Margaret



Dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory
is on your own.

Dinner at
The Old
Spaghetti
Factory is
on your own.



Margaret Eberhart

margaret@bethlehemucc.org



859-576-1442

Bethlehem STAR 5

News from the Green Team

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle



“Blessed Tomorrow:” It was (almost) standing room only at the viewing of the first film in this series designed to help us steward the earth. The format is: 9:00 – sharing; 9:15 – film; 9:35 to 10:00 discussion. The photography was gorgeous; the message was thought provoking; and the discussion was encouraging. We hope you will join us in August.

- August 2: Break for the Church Retreat
- August 9: “Holy Water: Protecting What Connects and Sustains Us” (Conference Room)
- August 16: Break for Rally Day
- August 23: “Climate Justice: Sacred Voices Rising” (Breakout room in Youth room)
- August 30: “Healing Creation: Honoring Nature and Each Other” (Breakout room in Youth room)

After Rally Day, some adult classes may reconvene. All are welcome to join us as we conclude the series September 6 (Breakout room in Youth room) with “Young Leaders: Creating Hope for the Future.”

Please join us! We have a seat for you!

Metal Recycling: Saturday, August 15, from 8:30 - 11:30 am

We all know about bringing metal for recycling to Bethlehem. Few of us know what happens to it afterward. Manfred Stahl to the rescue!

Manfred hauls the collection to scrap metal yards in Evansville. They prepare it for the appropriate size to go to the smelter. For instance, an 8-foot beam may be cut to a 3-foot to a 4-foot beam. Lighter metals are bailed into 2 ft x 2 ft bails.

The metals are divided before they leave Evansville: separating yellow brass
continued

and red brass; aluminum sheets and heavy aluminum and heavier aluminum; cast iron, steel, and iron, with copper being graded and classified, as it is the most valuable, especially if it is heavy.

Some of the recycled metal goes overseas by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. Less stays in the USA because of regulations which are meant for protection, but result in greater expense.

The funds received by Bethlehem support the Green Team, who uses them on behalf of the congregation. Our gratitude to Manfred and all those who assist with this project and as stewards of God's world.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ
**ANNUAL METAL
RECYCLING DRIVE**

August 15, 8:30 - 11:30 AM

**Any metal item is welcome
except those containing Freon, and TVs.**

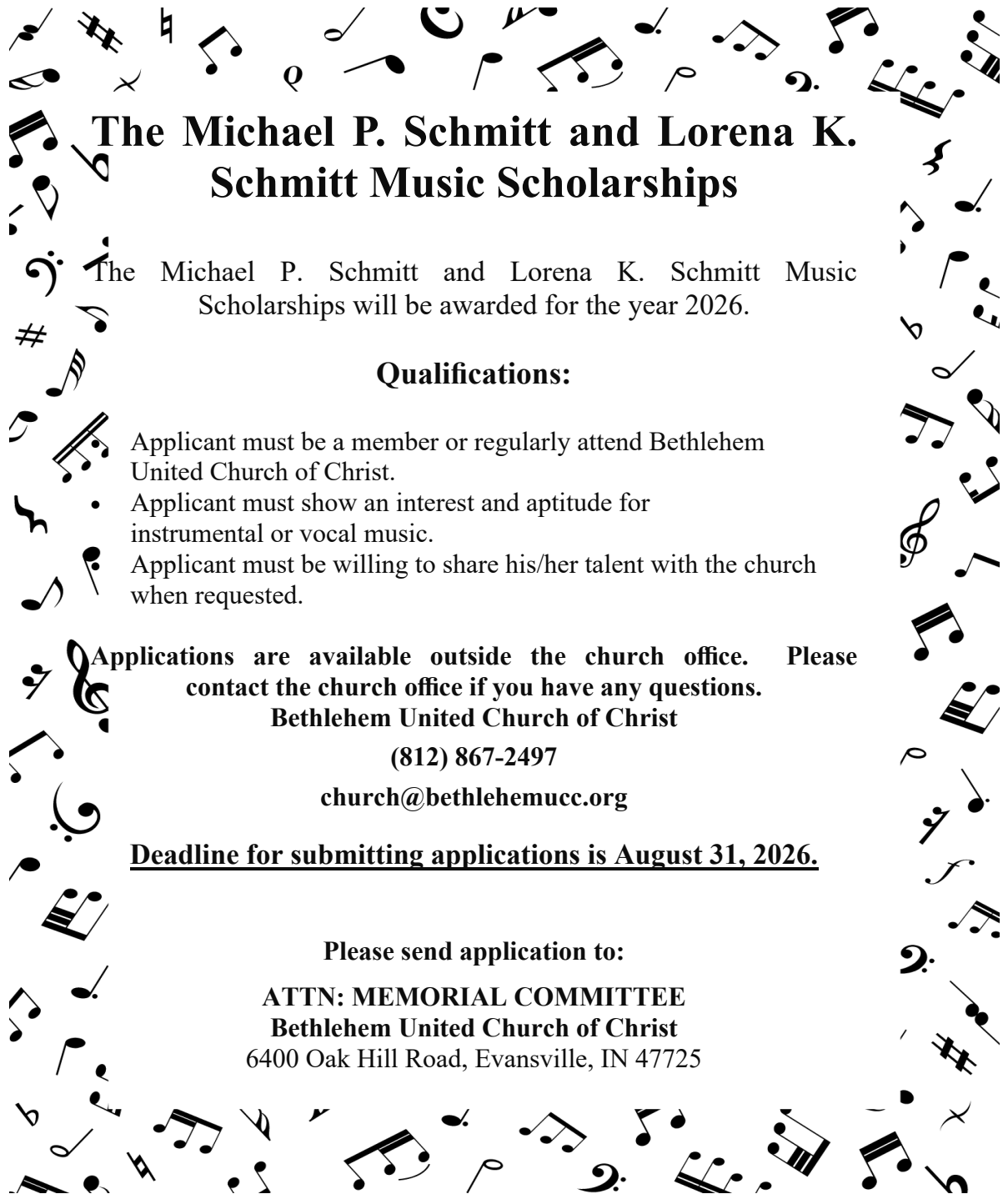


Red, White, and Blueberry Brunch



Summer Worship





The Michael P. Schmitt and Lorena K. Schmitt Music Scholarships

The Michael P. Schmitt and Lorena K. Schmitt Music Scholarships will be awarded for the year 2026.

Qualifications:

Applicant must be a member or regularly attend Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

- Applicant must show an interest and aptitude for instrumental or vocal music.

Applicant must be willing to share his/her talent with the church when requested.

Applications are available outside the church office. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

(812) 867-2497

church@bethlehemucc.org

Deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2026.

Please send application to:

ATTN: MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

6400 Oak Hill Road, Evansville, IN 47725

CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings, Congregation!

It is so hard to believe that it is already August! I'm not really sure where the time goes.

As everything in my life, the life at Bethlehem UCC is buzzing all the time! After an incredible Habitat fundraiser, they got started right away on the flooring. Stop in to see the new floors in the Fellowship Hall and library! It looks amazing!

Also, we are entering our time of generosity. Please check in at church or online each Sunday to witness amazing videos that Troy has made showing us about the vibrant life of our church and what every single dollar means.

As always, reach out to me if you have any problems, concerns or questions.

Blessings,

Amy Spurling
Church Council President



Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Join the evening Bible study at 6:30 pm anytime on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. See the schedule below listing the dates and scriptures covered. Please contact Pastor Doug with any questions.

August 4	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15* Matthew 14:22-33*	September 1	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
August 18	Exodus 1:8-2:10* Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	September 15	Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

*Denotes scripture covered by Pastor Emily for the upcoming weekend.

Altar Flowers

Donate Sunday morning altar flowers to celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one. Prices are \$40 for two vases and/or \$35 for one centerpiece. To view available dates and sign up, see our website bethlehemucc.org. Paper forms are always available in the vestibule (office entrance open 24/7), church office hallway, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex.



Upcoming available dates August 9, 23, 30 & September 6, 20, 27
If you have any altar flower questions, please contact Carol Kolb or
carolrkolb@yahoo.com.

Everything to gain!

Don't forget to join us on Sunday, August 16, at 1:00 pm to learn about Back Bay Mission (Biloxi, MS) and the adult mission trip planned for October 31 - November 7, 2026.



The majority of the services provided at Back Bay are accomplished by VOLUNTEER GROUPS who volunteer, one week at a time, to assist in many capacities including carpentry, home projects and painting, but also cooking, office, and food pantry help. We always need willing hearts and helping hands. There is - literally - a place for everyone to serve!

Come learn more at the information meeting at Bethlehem!

Feel free to contact Lee Ann Shafer at lashafer75@gmail.com.



Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment

“And what does the Lord require of you?

But to Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly with your God”

Micah 6:8

Greetings and Peace to you!

CAJE is a diverse, interfaith organization of 26 Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, Unitarian Universalist and Islamic congregations located in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Posey counties. We continue to work together to seek **Justice** (equitable distribution of public resources) for those in our community who are marginalized, ignored or forgotten. The work of the past year culminated in a successful Nehemiah Action on May 11th! We petitioned the Vanderburgh County Commissioners to do their part in providing financial support for the UCS Diversion program; they listened and agreed to act. Within 2 months, they had allocated and delivered a check for \$50K to UCS in support of hiring of a second Social Worker for the program. Many (40) members of Bethlehem showed up and helped make this possible! Thank You!

The work of Justice continues; this is the season of Planning and Discernment for the CAJE Community.

The Bethlehem CAJE Network will be meeting on Wednesday, August 19th, at 6:30pm, to begin planning our Fall Listening process. Listening Home meetings will be scheduled as opportunities for us to meet and share the justice issues that we are concerned about in our greater Evansville community. This process will be happening across our 26 member faith communities. These shared concerns will be coalesced and brought to our Community Problems Assembly on November 9th. At this assembly, leadership will be elected and the ISSUE for ACTION will be determined through a democratic voting process. Then the research and planning will begin for the May 2027 Nehemiah Action.

To learn more about the BUCC CAJE Ministry and how you can participate, please plan to attend the meeting on the 19th.

Grace, Peace, and Justice,
Rev. Kimron Reising
(reisingsun@gmail.com)



Linda "Dianne" Hickey Bromm, 80, of Evansville passed away on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at her home. Dianne was born February 28, 1946 in Evansville to the late R.T. and Margaret (Hedges) Hickey.



Dianne was a 1964 graduate of North High School and Tri-State beauty college. As a child she attended Keck Avenue Baptist church, which was founded by her parents, where she later married her husband. She is currently a long-time member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Dianne had owned and operated Tangles Salon during her career.

Throughout the years, Dianne volunteered at Gilda's House as well as other various organizations. Dianne enjoyed her family, traveling, music, and a good glass of wine. She was an avid Otters Mom, donating room and board to team players, for several years. She attended games frequently and had her own seat reserved. Some former players are still in contact with her.

Dianne is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Bromm, brother Ed Hickey, and daughter-in-law, Kim Bromm.

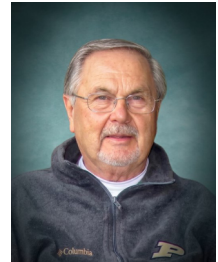
She is survived by her son, Scott Bromm; daughter Traci Bromm; grandchildren Austin Bromm, Luke Wahnsiedler (Megan) and Hannah Wahnsiedler; brother Ronald (Bobbie) Hickey; cousins, nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Alexander North Chapel where a celebration service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 3, 2026 at Bethlehem UCC, 4600 Oak Hill Rd., officiated by Rev. Emily Slade. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Friends visited from 9:00 a.m. until service time on Friday at the church.



William “Bill” Craig, 90, of Newburgh, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. He was born June 19, 1936, to William and Iva Craig. Raised in Winslow, Indiana and a graduate of Winslow High School, much of who he was came from growing up in a small town during tough economic times.



He spent most of his life in Indiana living in Winslow, Richmond, Evansville, and Newburgh. He spent 10 years in Huron, South Dakota with his wife Janice, where he retired as Vice President of Northwest Public Service.

He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Married Janice Lee Stewart in 1959. They purchased a convertible Pontiac and drove America’s route 66 to California. Full of free spirit and love, this was the beginning of their journey together that lasted 64 years until her death in 2023.

Bill was a successful Professional Engineer that loved his family and friends. He was devoted Christian that was active in his Church, Bethlehem United Church of Christ. A member of Winslow High School Alumni Association, and the Boonville Country Club. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling, playing cards, all things Purdue University, and spending time with his family and friends. He had a deep connection to music which he often displayed from the pews of Bethlehem.

He took immense pride in his family, finding his greatest joy in their milestones and successes. At his core, he was an engineer—blessed with the precise knowledge and tools to fix, build, and improve the world around him. He poured that same intentional care into the people and projects he cherished most, ensuring they would thrive. Through the lens of his favorite cameras, he captured a lifetime of beautiful moments, leaving behind a visual legacy he loved sharing with friends and family.

Bill is proceeded in death by his parents, William and Iva; his beloved wife, Janice; his sister, Winifred Helen (Toni or Tiny), and Great Granddaughter, Maya. Bill is survived by his brother, Tom Craig (Stella); daughter, Linda Craig (Jo); son, David Craig (LaDonne); daughter Sandy Alter (Craig); grandchildren,
continued

Danielle Davis (Rusty), Will Craig (Alexis), Alexandria Winkler (Dylan), Sydney Alter (Nate), Nicholas and Ethan Alter; great grandchildren, Jackson and Liam Davis, Tatum Winkler, Miles Craig and several nieces and nephews.

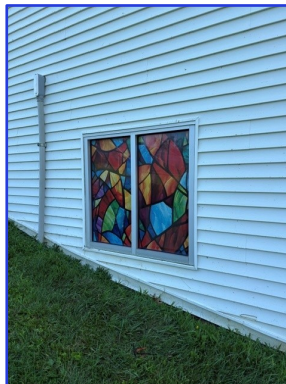
Funeral service was at 10:00am, Monday, July 13, 2026, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 6400 Oak Hill Road, Evansville, Indiana, officiated by Rev. Emily Slade, with burial followed in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Campbelltown, Indiana.

Family and friends visited from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Sunday, July 12, 2026, at Alexander Newburgh Chapel, 5333 State Road 261, Newburgh, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethlehem United Church of Christ.



Take a look at some important security additions to our building! The film to the exterior prevents those outside from being able to see in, but preserves visibility to the outside.



In Loving Memory

Rose (Metzner) Crockett, 66, of Evansville, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on July 21, 2026. Rose was born on September 26, 1959, and grew up in Chesterton, Indiana, where she met and married her high school sweetheart.



She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and her family was her greatest accomplishment and joy. In what feels like a beautiful final gift, Rose spent her last weekend surrounded by all five of her children, their loved ones, and her grandchildren in her hometown, making memories that her family will cherish forever. Her warmth, kindness, and love will be remembered by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Dr. Charles Crockett; her children and their loved ones, Christina (Lt. Col. David) Dickinson, Corinne Crockett, Erica (Kyle) Hirsch, Jacob Crockett and his fiancé Ashley Baxter, and Benjamin (Amber) Crockett; her six beloved grandchildren, William, Luke, Xander, Savannah, Gabriel, and Hayes; her twin sister, Rhonda (Rodger) Farney; her brothers, John Brock and Brian (Linda) Brock; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

A celebration of life will be held on August 1, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Bethlehem United Church of Christ 6400 Oak Hill Rd. Evansville, IN 47725. Friends may call on the family from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. A luncheon will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her honor to the [Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association](#).

Thank You!

The window project is now complete, and we would like to thank Pastor Emily for the meaningful dedication ceremony she performed on June 28. Thanks, also, to Thom Solecki for repairing the windowsill and to Dave Hunt for installing the plaques.

Thank you to our families for supporting us in the project and to everyone who attended the dedication ceremony. It was a pleasant surprise to see how many were there. If anyone hasn't seen the windows, please take time to look at them. We are so pleased to see how beautiful they are.

Sincerely,

Lois Schultheis, Judy Koch, and Diane Gaffney



Thank You!

My thanks to the Spiritual Council and the congregation for recognizing the 50th anniversary of my ordination. A special thanks to Pastor Emily for her insights into the various aspects of my ministry. Her words touched the softest part of my heart. The flowers were beautiful and are being shared with the Good Samaritan Foundation and Envive. The cookies were delicious as evidenced by the chocolate around the mouths of some little ones. The conversation around the table and among those standing up were friendly. Thank you!



There are lots of hard parts about being a minister. One of the hardest is finding a congregation that welcomes you in retirement and pastors that accept you as a regular member of the congregation while allowing you to use any gifts you have to offer. Bethlehem and Rev. Slade and Rev. Turner have done all that for me.. I'm grateful to you in more ways that I can say. I am so glad that we are on this pilgrimage together, following the One in whom all are one.

Grace and Peace
Stephanie Weiner

To the Congregation of Bethlehem United Church of Christ,

Barry Jones and Mike Dean and the Habitat Committee are so grateful for your thoughtful and heartfelt support and call to volunteer at the Bethlehem Habitat Summer Social held on July 12. Your support will make a substantial difference in the lives of those we serve, and through your contributions of food, gift cards, family activities, merchandise, and hard work during the social, we were able to raise \$25,000 to donate to Habitat for Humanity. Our contribution, when added to the next house build, will allow Habitat to begin
continued

building months ahead of schedule so that the next family will take ownership of their home. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission at Bethlehem UCC, where we believe that our ministry (and God's love) exists beyond the walls of our church. Members of all ages support and participate in a variety of local missions, allowing us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe those who have none, and care for our neighbors in need. We fulfill these needs by volunteering our time and using our financial resources to support those who do good works. Our work with Habitat for Humanity helps further assist the Evansville community by strengthening families through home ownership.

We truly appreciate your commitment, and again, thank you for your kind support.

Dear Rev. Slade and Outreach Committee,

Thank you for your generous support of the EVSC Foundation. Your books for all-school reads donation of \$1,400 for Vogel Elementary's book request provides opportunities for students and teachers through enrichment programs, innovation, and resources that make a real difference in our school.

One student recently shared:

"Because of the Foundation, I was able to participate in opportunities I never thought were possible. Thank you for believing in us."

Your generosity is opening doors and shaping brighter futures. We are truly grateful for your partnership in supporting public education.

With sincere thanks,

Melanie Atwood
EVSC Foundation President



Thank You!

Dear Rev. Emily,

Summer brings people together in special ways, and your generosity is at the heart of that connection. Thank you for your gift of \$4,000.00. Because of you, families in Vanderburgh and Posey Counties are moving closer to a safe and stable place to call home.

In our most recent fiscal year, we are celebrating the completion of 25 homes. Each one represents more than a house. It is a place where children can grow, routines can take shape, and families can build a future filled with hope. That kind of progress happens because of people like you who believe in our mission.

This season, we are especially inspired by the relationships forming within our Volunteer Center and across our build sites. Our Core Crew continues to show up week after week, building not only walls but lasting friendships. They often tell us how meaningful it is to be part of something bigger than themselves. Your support makes these moments of connection possible and gives our volunteers and future homeowners a true sense of belonging.

On behalf of our future homeowners, volunteers, and staff, thank you for being part of this work. You are helping build homes, communities, and hope right here in Evansville.

With gratitude,

Jerry Rairdon
Director of Development
Habitat for Humanity of Evansville



Thank You!

Dear Bethlehem UCC,

Your generosity means more to us than we can say. Thank you for standing with Back Bay Mission and believing in this work- not just as a charity, but as a movement for justice and dignity on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift to Friends of Mission allows us to respond immediately when a family is on the brink of losing power, when someone has nowhere safe to sleep, when a homeowner is

fighting to stay in the house they've worked their whole life for, or when a neighbor simply needs food on the table and someone to listen. Because of you, we can show up quickly and compassionately, meeting urgent needs without hesitation.

Every day, your support helps push back against the systems that keep people struggling. It helps us keep our doors open wide as a place of welcome, a place of safety, and a place where every single person is treated with the dignity and respect they so deserve.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and your courage to invest in a more just and loving community. This work is only possible because of people like you. Thank you for walking alongside us.

Grace and peace,

Rev. James Pennington
Executive Director



More memorable VBS moments!



Summer Social







BETHLEHEM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6400 Oak Hill Road
Evansville, IN 47725

Please contact the church office if you are aware of any address changes.

(812) 867-2497 (Office)

email: church@bethlehemucc.org

website: bethlehemucc.org

Follow us on Facebook,
Instagram, and Twitter

Office Hours

Monday 12:00 - 3:00 PM

**Tuesday - Thursday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

***Striving to welcome all who seek God; to grow in faith;
and to love neighbor as self through action.***