Come Home for Christmas
Our Advent theme this year is “Come Home for Christmas.” After a year of doing Christmas at a distance, it’s so nice that we will be able to gather with many of our Church family this year. As we enjoy our time of reconnecting with our church family, we wanted to offer an opportunity to get to know one another a bit more.

You are invited to participate in our “Come Home for Christmas Project.” Each person or family will take a provided Christmas card, slip a picture inside that depicts what “home” feels like for you, and then write a few sentences inside the card describing how your picture means “Home for Christmas” to you. We will display these cards in the Welcoming Area for all to see and read about.

This will be a great way to get to know one another a bit better as well as get our hearts and minds thinking about what “feels like home.” How does that feeling of comfort and belonging relate to our faith? How does it relate to the story of the Incarnation? Let’s keep thinking about these things!

Stumped? Here are some of my finalists for what feels like “home for Christmas” to me:

I know I’m “home for Christmas” when my mom tells the same story of how she bought this ornament from a huge bin at Woolworth’s.
I know I’m “home for Christmas” when I’m trying to wrestle my children into uncomfortable (but adorable!) Christmas outfits and get them to pose (somewhat) looking at the camera before we head out to the Christmas Eve service.

I know I’m headed “home for Christmas” when we’re all packed up and ready to drive to Pennsylvania to visit the Slade family.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council had a busy November meeting and is pleased to announce that we approved several recommendations by the Endowment Committee to fund equipment for the Good Samaritan Home, a request for the UCC “Securing the Future” initiative, and technology upgrades.

The Council made no changes to the COVID policy. Please take notice that cases in the Evansville area are increasing as we approach the holidays. Masks are recommended.

We are looking forward to celebrating Advent again this year! The church has many activities planned. If you know of someone who is looking for a church or has not attended in a while, this is a great time of year to let them know they are welcome to worship and celebrate the season at Bethlehem.
The Christmas/Advent season is truly one of mixed emotions. There is so much to keep us busy (distracted!), and obviously so much to celebrate with Christ’s birth. But there is also a lot of heartache in the Christmas story—we sometimes gloss over the burden to Mary and Joseph, the fate of the precious Christ child, and Herod’s horrific plot.

If your Christmas this year is a mix of joy and melancholy, you aren’t alone. I suspect that’s the way many of the characters themselves felt on that first Christmas. I suspect there are many others in our congregation who feel the same way. Bring your sadness, uncertainty, discomfort, questions, grief...whatever you’re carrying this holiday season, and join us for a special low-key worship service. Our Blue Christmas service will be Sunday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Welcoming Area.

In her Perspective, Pastor Emily referenced a card that each family is encouraged to complete as part of our Come Home for Christmas project. Please pick one up in the vestibule by the church office or the Welcoming Area. If you need your picture printed, please email it to publishing@bethlehemucc.org each week by Thursday at noon. They will be available to insert into your card that coming weekend in the Welcoming Area. Thank you!
Good news! The Sharing Tree is once again posted outside the church office. Please stop by right away to choose gift ideas for our friends at the Good Samaritan Home. For questions, please contact Debbie Havens.

Additionally, for over 20 years Y2K has adopted a family for Christmas. Each family is unique and in need year after year; however this year has an extraordinary circumstance, and we welcome your help to make the holidays a little brighter for them. The family consists of a mom (due to give birth to baby boy #4 on 11/28) and boys aged 13, 12, and 7. In the last couple weeks, they lost the dad to a cardiac event (which was witnessed by the kids), so they need our prayers for peace as much as any earthly donation we have to offer. Gift ideas (wrapped if possible) are on the Sharing Tree as well. Y2K will also VERY HAPPILY accept monetary donations to help ease this family’s worry and heartache this season. You can send a check to BUCC labeled "Y2K family" to church or in the offering plate, give any Y2K member a check or cash, or Venmo @Amy-Spurling-1 and they will make great use of the gifts received. Thank you for your help!
Children's Ministry

Thank you to all those who helped with the children's Advent presentation, "Waiting for Jesus". The kids enjoyed working on this project and worked so well together to create a Christmas program 2021 style!

The children's Sunday School rooms are decked out for Christmas. Please stop by to check them out. Many thanks to the Special Gifts and Memorial Committee for assisting with this project.

We are looking forward to the first Children's Christmas Market, which will be held on December 5th and 12th during Sunday School and immediately following worship. The kids have been working hard to earn tokens to buy Christmas gifts at the market for their families. It has been a joy to see them eagerly working on their checklists designed to help them build their faith, a servant heart, and a spirit of giving! Thank you SO much for the kind and generous donations to make this project possible.
Caleb, Natalie, and Bethany Slade were baptized November 28 by their mom, Rev. Emily Slade. Their grandfathers, Pastor Terry Farmer and Rev. Stan Slade, also participated in the ceremony.

---

### Financial Recap

#### October General Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$ 263,218.43</td>
<td>$ 212,654.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Pledge Deposits</td>
<td>$ 42,343.95</td>
<td>$ 29,489.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Other Deposits</td>
<td>$ 265.01</td>
<td>$ 87.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Operating Disbursements</td>
<td>(38,948.73)</td>
<td>(38,929.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Other Disbursements</td>
<td>(3,684.00)</td>
<td>7,812.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Ending Balance</td>
<td>$ 263,194.66</td>
<td>$ 211,113.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### YTD General Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$ 270,119.58</td>
<td>$ 223,593.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Deposits</td>
<td>$ 331,949.86</td>
<td>$ 308,496.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Deposits</td>
<td>$ 6,488.65</td>
<td>$ 10,747.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Disbursements</td>
<td>(346,075.56)</td>
<td>(331,605.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Disbursements</td>
<td>$ 712.13</td>
<td>$ 119.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$ 263,194.66</td>
<td>$ 211,113.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks to the choir and bells for their hard work and faithfulness this semester. A special thanks are due to Sheri for her dedication. She may be the only one with perfect attendance!

December 19th will be the “Music Heavy” Sunday at Bethlehem in more ways than one.

In the morning service, the Chancel Choir and Hand Bells will be featured, assisted by instrumental friends.

Sunday evening, December 19 at 7:00 pm, Bethlehem UCC is excited to welcome the “TUBA SANTAS” and TUBACHRISTMAS. This international event has been an Evansville tradition since 1984. Many of you will remember it from Washington Square Mall and later Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

The concert is free and open to the public. Bring your kids and grand-kids and sing carols with a choir of 35 (before covid number) Tubas (this includes Euphoniums, Baritones, Sousaphones, and Tubas). See their website for more information http://www.tubachristmas.com/.

Bethlehem Holiday Youth Dinner

Be sure to put this dinner on your calendar, as it’s an event our Youth always look forward to.

The Scoop:
Bethlehem UCC Youth (7th grade through HS) December 12, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
Please bring a $10-15 wrapped gift to exchange.
Please contact Niki for location information.
Did you know that Bethlehem has a Compassion Fund? If you hear of neighbors who have an acute need that we can help alleviate (a bill they can’t pay, groceries, etc), please let Pastor Emily know. We want to love our neighbors, but don’t always know where the needs are. Thanks for being our eyes and ears!

The weekend of January 22\textsuperscript{nd}-23\textsuperscript{rd}, Rev. Chad Abbott will be visiting Bethlehem and bringing the message in both our worship services. Rev. Abbott is the Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. We look forward to hosting him and sharing the joy of the ministries of our church with him!

Remember that the church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9-2. Stop by during those hours for any needs you have in the office! Additionally, Pastor Emily is also off on Fridays. But know that you can always reach out to her on her cell phone for emergencies. If it can wait until Monday, consider sending an email instead (emily@bethlehemucc.org).
At the end of the month, please note in your calendar there will be no children and youth Sunday School on December 26. Additionally, there will be no worship on Saturday, December 25 and January 1. Our regular schedule will resume the following week.

---

Altar Flowers

2022 Dates
You might like to celebrate a special occasion, honor a special person, or maybe you just enjoy seeing live flowers on the altar! Dates are first-come, first-serve, so reserve early! To reserve a weekend, email (judy@bethlehemucc.org) or call Judy Koch at (812-867-5403).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>13, 20, 27</td>
<td>6, 13, 20, 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Welcome, little one!

We celebrate the birth of William Andon Damm, who was born October 22 at 9 lbs. 15 oz. William was welcomed by parents Arika and Alex and siblings Oliver and Paisley.

---

Installation News
Rev. Rocky Sheneman was recently installed at St. John’s UCC in Mokena, IL.
Address/Email Updates

Contact church office.
Pies, Pies, and More Pies

Close to 150 apple pies were made by this hard-working group. Lots of happy customers happily came to pick up these Thanksgiving treasures!

Youth Serving at United Caring Services
As part of the income distribution from the Voigt Trust, 21 organizations, selected by the congregation, were sent funds to aid in their individual missions. In November, the church office received thank you notes from the following:

- Ambucs
- Hangers
- NAMI
- Team Rubicon
- United Caring Services

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Once again the Eosin Pie Sale was a great success. Many thanks to everyone who helped in some way – donating time, money, or just purchasing our delicious pies. The profit from this project goes to help missions.

Beautiful People
Beautiful Flowers
My Beautiful Friends

Thank you so very much. Some days are better. My memory is not so good. Rehab is going well. Haven’t forgot how to say thank you all.

Betty Cashen

The church office received a note of thanks from the UCC and Rev. Dorhauer for the donation of $1050.00 in support of disaster relief in Haiti.
Home at last. Our trip to Back Bay Mission took an unexpected “twist” when we arrived. I had extreme abdominal pain and was admitted to the Keesler AFB hospital for emergency surgery due to a twisted small intestine. I spent 7 days in the hospital and another week in recovery at the Mission before returning home.

Thanks for all of your prayers and cards. It is comforting to know the Bethlehem family cares. We are family!

John Small

A note from our Back Bay Mission Team:
We felt so much love and support from our Bethlehem church family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Dee Carithers
Your message last Sunday was wonderful and gave all of us a challenge to give and serve with compassion. Raymond Gilbert
Thank you, Emily! I loved hearing your sermon! Nancy Bock
We are more than thankful for everything that we have been given this past week—snacks, monetary donations, love and support, and more than anything, for all the prayers and calls for my John Buddy. We are so lucky to have a church and friends like those at Bethlehem. Pam and John Small

Evansville North Civitan Club is a community service organization. This past summer, members once again made buckeyes (chocolate covered peanut butter balls) for their Fall Festival booth. Due to COVID, it was decided not to participate this year. The club is now selling the buckeyes in packages of 3 for $1.00. If interested, please call/text Patty Geske or Barb Steedman.
JUDY SCHMITT
CINNAMON ROLLS

EOSIN
FUNDRAISER

Judy Schmitt's Cinnamon Rolls have become a Christmas morning tradition for many in the tri-state! They make great gifts for co-workers, teachers, bus drivers, neighbors, friends and family! All Cinnamon Rolls are baked fresh and ready to eat or freeze for later occasions.

All orders are due by December 6th with pick up on December 18th & 19th after church.

Cinnamon Rolls & German Kuchen are $10 each

Payment is requested at time of order.

Please make checks payable to EOSIN.

Qty: _______ Cinnamon Roll with Butter Cream Icing

Qty: _______ German Kuchen

Cinnamon Roll with butter cream icing, brown sugar & sprinkled with cinnamon

Name __________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________ Email ________________________________
The Altar Guild will again be selling poinsettias to decorate the altar and chancel for Christmas. The cost is $10.00 per plant in a 6 1/2" pot with gold foil cover and will be available in red or white. The **deadline for ordering your plant(s) is Sunday, December 12th.** A complete list of donors will appear in the weekend announcements email December 18th and available at worship services December 18th, 19th, and 24th. **Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after the Christmas Eve service.** However, if you have no specific plans for your plant, the Altar Guild would like to let them remain on the altar until after the 10:15 AM worship service on Sunday, December 26th, the Sunday after Christmas.

You may place your order form, with your check, in the offering plate, in the Altar Guild box near the office by the second floor elevator, or email the information to Judy Koch at judy@bethlehemucc.org with payment info. We purchase our poinsettias from Steve Worthington's Kiwanis organization, who use their monies to support various community projects throughout the year.

---

**Name of Donor**

__________________________________________________________

**Phone Number**

__________________________________________________________

**Email Address**

__________________________________________________________

**Listing Wording:**

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Total Number of Plants ordered ___________ Cash _________ Check#_________

COLOR: Red _____ White _____ No Color Preference _____

Orders must be pre-paid with checks made payable to **BETHLEHEM UCC.**

Please plan to take the plant(s) you order with you, as the Altar Guild can no longer deliver plants to nursing homes, etc. The Altar Guild appreciates your willingness to be a part of this special tradition.
December 07 Emily Shreffler
December 08 Joe Kaufman
December 10 Loren Carl
December 11 Marlow Elliott
December 12 Lucas Eckert
December 14 Cillian Akin
December 14 Emily Ozete
December 14 Rich Steedman
December 15 Brenda McCandless
December 16 Cherie Bourland
December 17 David Crow
December 17 Bob Suhrheinrich
December 18 Montreva Calhoun
December 19 Sydney Williams
December 20 Lois Durnil
December 21 Camille French
December 22 Reed Head
December 24 Gregg Bailey
December 26 David Goodman
December 29 Mary Mueller

A complete listing of December birthdays are available at www.bethlehemucc.org/estar. Please contact the church office if you would appreciate a paper copy of the list.

December 12 Julie & Jeff Wickham
December 14 Larry & Gretchen Byers
December 14 Floyd & Pat Wilhite
December 18 Elaine & Scott Shreffler
December 21 Gene & Norma Hartz
December 24 Betty & Ray Cashen
December 28 David & Sharon Morgan
December 31 Fred & Wilma Mason
December 31 Jay & Susan Picking
OUR VISION STATEMENT:

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