

The Bethlehem STAR

Pride in Our Past - Faith in Our Future

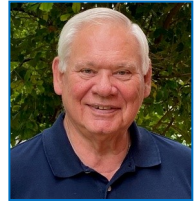
June 2024

June 23-25

INTERGENERATIONAL
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL

Come JAMM with us!

Pastor's Perspective



Think back with me, if you will, to a few months ago when we first heard of Pastor Emily's sabbatical and how far off it seemed. We heard snippets of this and that about what a sabbatical is and what she might be doing, but our attention to the matter wasn't great because we had all of our daily concerns to deal with or juggle. Well, friends, the time is at hand and the sabbatical, in fact, has already begun.

"While the cat's away, the mice will play" seems like it could be an appropriate phrase to describe what might be happening the next few months here at our church with Pastor Emily on sabbatical. However, the truth is that things here at Bethlehem are going to keep on going at their normal pace with regular activities such as worship on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings led by myself, as well as meetings of some committees and gatherings of some of our groups. There will even be a few extras thrown in these summer months to add a little excitement to our days.

Pastor Emily's Sabbatical Team (PEST for short) has been working hard this Spring to put together some summer programming for us that reflects some of the activities Pastor Emily and her family are doing during her sabbatical. Hopefully you have noticed or read some of the information around the church, in the *STAR*, and in Emily's Edition. You may have already shared in our "send-off" of Pastor Emily and her family just a few weeks ago – what a great time it was with some good food and fun.

This month we begin with the opportunity to tour the African American Museum here in Evansville where we can learn some history of the Evansville area – similar to what Pastor Emily and her family are doing as they explore several of our southern cities and learn more about some of the Civil Rights activities of the '60's and beyond. By the way, if you haven't signed up for a

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group tour, you can still visit the museum on your own. You can get free tickets from the church office vestibule.

And you won't want to miss this summer's "intergenerational" Vacation Bible School June 23 – 25. There will be learning opportunities, crafty activities, and fun-filled experiences for children and adults. It should be a great opportunity for our Bethlehem family to bond together in Christian fellowship.

The first week of June, I too will be out of the office, but rest assured that the other members of our more than capable staff, as well as our lay leadership, will be able to meet any and all needs that may arise. The Rev. Terry Farmer, Emily's father, will be covering for any pastoral concerns. Our Habitat for Humanity committee will be leading worship on June 1 & 2, and Mr. Brian Newton will share the message on June 8 & 9.

As we move into the summer months, many of you will be traveling and/or spending time away from home participating in a myriad of activities and adventures. While you are away and not worshipping at Bethlehem on Saturday or Sunday, remember you can tune into our livestream on Sunday mornings and share with us in worship.

Children and Youth Outing



Reminder: children and youth outing to the African American Museum on Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 am. We will meet at the museum, 579 South Garvin Street, Evansville. Following the tour, we will head to Mickey's Kingdom for a bring-your-own picnic!



Evansville African American Museum Tour

Saturday, June 1

10:00 am

During the time that Pastor Emily is learning about Civil Rights, there are plans for us to visit the African American History Museum and become familiar with people, places, and events that occurred right here in Evansville. The second tour is scheduled for this **Saturday, June 1, at 10:00 am**. Complimentary tickets will be issued to those attending and transportation to the museum can be provided. Those that want to carpool, meet at the church at 9:30 am. For those who are interested, we will gather at Turoni's on Weinbach for lunch at approx. 11:15. **Please sign up using the form in the church vestibule (office entrance) or in the narthex (back of church)**. Contact the church office with any questions 867-2497.

***For those who would like to tour the museum on an alternate day and time, extra tickets can be found in the church office vestibule. Please call ahead to the museum (812-423-5188) before you plan to go.**



While Pastor Emily is on sabbatical, you may be wondering what she is doing or where she might be. Throughout the summer we will be getting a little help from a well-known visitor to help us keep tabs on our wandering pastor. Keep your eyes and ears open to see who might be showing up to help us know “Where’s Emily?” (hint, hint)



Money will be collected and deposited in the big Habitat bank during both services on June 1st and 2nd. Please bring your Habitat banks to help fill the big bank. Money collected will be donated to the building of the 2024 UCC/DOC house. Banks are available in the Welcoming Area and by the office. If you don't have a bank, just bring your dimes, dollars, and checks to help fill the bank!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

In May, an all-church member mailing was sent detailing the proposed pavilion to be erected by the Burgoo building. On Sunday, June 9, immediately following worship, we are holding a special congregational meeting to vote on the project. Please join us!

CONNIE and AUGUST KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Now Accepting Applications

Application Deadline - June 15, 2024

The CONNIE and AUGUST KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND is administered by Bethlehem United Church of Christ. A \$500 scholarship may be awarded to anyone living in Vanderburgh County, Indiana in 2024 for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Detailed instructions and guidelines are available with the applications and may be obtained on the information wall outside the church office.

Please return the completed application, **including a certified copy of your academic transcript, to the Memorial Committee mailbox (by the church elevator), no later than June 15, 2024.**

Our High School Graduates

Allen Felt, Annarae Sansing, Lillian Zausch



June 23-25

INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come JAMM with us!

SUNDAY
J is for JUSTICE

Guests from the Evansville African American Museum will discuss the Civil Rights Movement. Susan Fowler will guide children through stories of the movement.

MONDAY
A is for ARTS

Get in touch with your creative side as the Traveling Artist guides you through creating your own work of art.

TUESDAY
MM is for Memory Making

BUCC history on display, Intergenerational conversations, games, Photo Booth, and a Foam Party!!!

NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

5:30 pm: Opening in Sanctuary

6:00 pm: Dinner

6:30-8:00 pm: Intergenerational Programming

Registration via link in weekly emails, our website, or call the church office.

812.867.2497 - bethlehemucc.org



OUTREACH TEAM NEWS



As part of Vacation Bible School, the Outreach Team will be coordinating a service project on **June 25**, the last evening of VBS. Hygiene Kits will be assembled and sent to Church World Service for distribution to people forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies.



Here are a couple of other dates for your calendar. On **July 7**, we hope you can stay for a few minutes after worship to help with a project we are planning to help some of our EVSC teachers. More details in the July STAR.

Finally, this year's Bucket Blitz will be **October 6**.



On weekdays, we often have special helpers quietly moving about the church, volunteering their time and talent to aid in building upkeep. For more days than we would like to admit, Kim Johann worked tirelessly to remove the aged wallpaper in the Motley Crew room. This was no small feat. Thank you, Kim!



Help the family of Bill Kreighbaum celebrate his 90th birthday on June 17 by sending a card.



Mail cards to:

Bill Kreighbaum
4410 Huntington Place
Evansville IN 47725



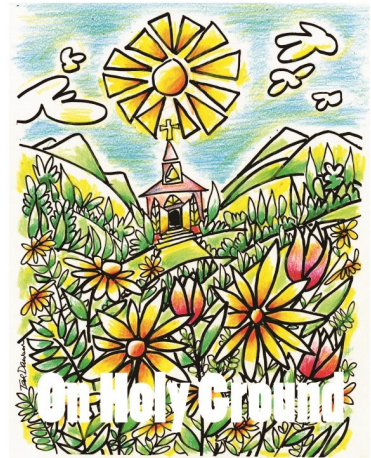
Pastor Emily had the chance to meet one of the administrators of the clergy renewal grants at the Homiletics Conference in May. She remembered our application, and I was thrilled to be able to thank her and Lilly Endowment for funding all of the exciting things that my family and Bethlehem will get to do this summer.

Giving envelopes for the Strengthen the Church special offering are now in the pews and on tables in the vestibule and Welcoming Area. Gifts can also be made online at bethlehemucc.org. This offering will be taken through the month of June.

Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. The Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and in the future.

Please join with people across the UCC in supporting the Strengthen the Church offering!

**Strengthening the Church
Special Offering**



Directory Updates

Darlene Heck
Solarbron
1501 McDowell Road
Terrace Section, #108
Evansville, IN 47712





Communion Class

We had a great turnout in May for the Communion Class!



Church Workdays

The Property Committee would like to thank all of those who were able to participate in our April workday. It was a great time of fellowship while completing many of the tasks, both inside and outside, of the church. There are still many items that need our attention. In the future, we are going to schedule workdays about every five to six weeks throughout the season to keep up with those needs. At this time, let's plan to get together on the Saturdays of June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, and October 26, as tentative workdays. In between these times, we will reach out as needed for any special tasks or projects. We look forward to getting together to continue the upkeep and enhancements of our beautiful campus.



Everyone is invited to celebrate our nation's independence at the annual Red, White, and Blueberry Brunch on **Sunday, June 30, at 9:00 am!** Please join us in the Welcoming Area for a time of food, fellowship, and song.

There will be breakfast casseroles, muffins, kuchen, and fruit to eat, along with juice, coffee, and milk to drink. If you have a patriotic food specialty that you would like to contribute, please contact Dee Russell (812) 455-4961 with questions. Sponsored and prepared by the WEB group, this brunch is free to everyone. See you there!!

Pastor Emily's Send Off Party



Altar Flowers

It's easy to be an altar flower donor to celebrate an anniversary or birthday or remember a loved one. Prices are \$40 for two vases and \$35 for one centerpiece.

View all available dates and online sign-up instructions at bethlehemucc.org. To streamline the process, please sign-up online if at all possible. Paper forms are available outside the church office.

Many dates available in August and September!



August dates: 4, 11, 18, 25
September dates: 1, 8, 22, 29

Financial Recap

April General Account

	2024	2023
Monthly Beginning Balance	\$ 207,024.66	\$ 295,008.42
Monthly Pledge Deposits	34,654.78	36,558.77
Monthly Other Deposits	825.30	1,897.94
Monthly Operating Disbursements	(43,516.37)	(36,109.36)
Monthly Other Disbursements	(189.18)	482.67
Monthly Ending Balance	<u>\$ 198,799.19</u>	<u>\$ 297,838.44</u>

YTD General Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 182,223.60	\$ 323,301.95
Pledge Deposits	141,450.05	137,616.87
Other Deposits	6,144.83	5,116.35
Operating Disbursements	(162,605.76)	(169,027.74)
Other Disbursements	31,586.46	831.01
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 198,799.18</u>	<u>\$ 297,838.44</u>

BBQ Dinner & Ice Cream Social



July 14!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Bethlehem Barbecue Dinner and Ice Cream Social! This church-wide event raises thousands of dollars every year for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. The scrumptious menu includes barbecued pork butts, baked beans, and cole slaw, ending with a homemade dessert, such as cookies, pie, or homemade ice cream. The price of a dinner this year will be \$12, and as always, this includes a bottomless bowl of ice cream.

Many volunteers are needed to cook and serve the food, as well as to contribute homemade ice cream and baked desserts. To volunteer to help cook or serve, please contact Barry Jones: twinpapa02@yahoo.com, or Jane Koch: jorpha49@gmail.com

If you can bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please contact Kathy Solecki: ksolecki@gmail.com. Or you can use the form below, place it in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office. Thank you!

*We are looking for silent auction donations to help make the event a success. Please see the office for a letter to share with merchants, and direct auction item questions to Barry Jones.

I would like to donate the following items for the Ice Cream Social:

_____ Homemade Ice Cream (flavors other than vanilla are especially popular) _____ Pie
_____ Cake (cupcakes also appreciated) _____ Cookies
_____ I can help in the kitchen or dining room

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Volunteers are asked to work in shifts from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, or 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Containers to bring your ice cream to church will be available outside the kitchen over the coming weeks.

Nonprofit Sales Tax Exemption Certificate

The Indiana Department of Revenue has revised the Sales Tax Exempt certificate to be used by nonprofit organizations. Certificates now have to be issued by INDOR for each vendor. Therefore, if anyone at Bethlehem will be needing a sales tax exempt certificate, the following is needed to receive a form.

1. Seller Name
2. Seller Address
3. If it's a 'Blanket Purchase' or a 'Single Purchase'
4. Description of items to be purchased

This information will be sent to the IN Department of Revenue and upon review, INDOR will issue a certificate specific to that vendor for Bethlehem.

If anyone will be needing a tax-exempt certificate, please get the information to Chris Champion two weeks before it is needed. It takes several days to complete the process.

The prior form that was used for Bethlehem's sales tax exemption is no longer valid.

The Finance Committee



We're hiring a part-time custodian to join our staff, working approximately six-eight hours a week. Please submit a resume to Kelley Felt at kafelt@msn.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL

May Update

We have a new treasurer - thank you to Chris Traylor for accepting the position mid-year.

Second, we will be having a special congregational meeting to vote on the pavilion project on June 9th immediately following worship. I hope everyone can make it!

We all have a tendency to get discouraged when it comes to fighting for justice and climate issues.

A quote from Edward Everett Hale that might be helpful:

"I am only one,
but I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the thing that I can do."



We rejoice with church family members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month. A full list of birthdays and anniversaries can be found on our website at bethlehemucc.org/estar or by contacting the church office (867-2497) for a printed list.

Pennyrile Forest State Park



Activity Program

Church Retreat

July 19-21st, 2024

*BUCC Contact
Margaret Eberhart
859-576-1442*

*Sabbatical Team Contact
Paula Courtney
812-455-3492*

Friday, July 19th

2:00 p.m.

Check In

Check in to the Pennyrile Forest State Park Resort anytime after 2:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner along your drive to the park or eat at the park restaurant.

6:45-7:00 p.m.

Registration

Have dinner, check in, get settled and then meet in the party room to the left of the lodge to register and meet and greet!

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Welcome and Games

Welcome to the BUCC 2024 Church Retreat! We will gather for information about the weekend, dessert, games and a special welcome gift!



9:00 p.m.

Lights Out / Night Owl?

Head to bed and rest up for a full day on Saturday or grab a lawn chair and sit overlooking the lake, read a book in the lobby, or start up a card game.

Saturday, July 20th

7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Continental breakfast is included with your stay in the lodge restaurant.

9:30 a.m.

Morning Hike



Meet in front of the lodge to explore two hiking trails, Indian Bluff Trail and Clifty Creek Trail. Each trail is .25 miles and rated as "easy". Indian Bluff Trail starts near the lodge parking lot and features a natural arch called "Indian Window" and a standstone bluff that formed a natural dwelling for Native Americans. This trail ends near the golf course entrance and the entrance to the next trail we will explore, "Clifty Creek Trail". Look for shagbark hickory and tulip poplar trees along this trail as well as a small waterfall! This trail ascends to an outlet along Cottage Road. Hikers can bear right to return to the trailhead entrance or bear left to cross the Pennyrile Dam and head back to the main lodge for a rest or a dip in the pool!

11:00 a.m.

Lunch

The dining room is open for lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m. Plan to eat lunch at your leisure in between activities. Keep in mind that if you would like to eat dinner with the group our reservations are at 6:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Boating and Beach Time

Meet at the boat dock for kayaking, canoe, pedal boats, paddleboards or bass boat rentals. Or grab a sandpail and play in the white sand or color treated water.



6:00 p.m.

Dinner Reservation

Meet in the lodge restaurant for dinner. We will have a group reservation under BUCC.

7:00 p.m.

Bingo

After dinner we will move to the Fireside Lodge for Bingo

8:00 p.m.

Smores, Sparklers, & Song

Bring your lawn chair and carpool to the campground where we will roast marshmallows, light sparklers, and sing your favorite camp songs.



Sunday, July 21st

7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Breakfast/Checkout

Continental breakfast is included with your stay in the lodge restaurant. Please note lodge checkout is at 11:00 am, cabin checkout is at 10:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Outdoor Worship

Meet in the courtyard overlooking the lake for Sunday morning worship led by Donna Marvel.



Please Travel Safely!

Things to Do!

- *Swim at the white sand beach & outdoor pool*
- *Boating*
- *18-hole golf course*
- *Pickleball*
- *Archery*
- *Monarch Butterfly Station*
- *Miniature Golf*
- *Hiking*
- *Basketball*
- *Tennis*
- *Fishing*
- *Arcade Room*
- *Playgrounds*
- *Boardgames/cards*



What to Bring!

- *Camp Chair*
- *Water Bottle*
- *Sporting Equipment*
- *Walking Shoes*
- *Swimsuit/Towel*
(if desired)
- *Toiletries*

Take Note!

Remind Group

To get text updates before and during the retreat please join our Remind Group. Send a text to 81010. Text this message @buccpe OR use this link <https://www.remind.com/join/buccpe>

Location

Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park
20781 Pennyrile Lodge Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408
270-797-3421

(1 hour, 28 minutes from BUCC)

Wifi

Tengo Internet- No password required for Lodge Rooms. For Cabins, username is your cabin number, password is Cottage1

* To reserve a lodge room, a cabin, or a spot at the campground, you must call Pennyrile directly at 270-797-3421. Be sure to provide our group code (2442) for discounted rates.



Dear Bethlehem UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift (\$828.50) to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to Friends of the Mission makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We - and those we serve - are ever grateful.

Grace and Peace,

James Pennington
Executive Director

What a wonderful day we had at the Culver Summer Giving Day. We had 11 volunteers from Bethlehem that made this event possible. Over 70 parents attended, and we served 169 EVSC students.

Thank you, Bethlehem volunteers, for making this event possible and reaching out to help our community.

Pam Wiseman



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Evansville

Dear Friends:

On behalf of YWCA Evansville, I want to thank you for your generous donation of assorted travel size

toiletries. Each day, we strive to provide hope and healing to the women and youth we serve, and your support helps us achieve this goal.



For 113 years, YWCA Evansville has served the local community as a shelter and safe haven for women and children. Our core programs include a domestic violence shelter, emergency housing for women and children experiencing homelessness, the YES! residential recovery program, and Live Y'ers after-school and mentoring program for vulnerable youth. Each of these programs addresses crucial needs in our community and grant our residents and students access to resources that help them reach their full potential.

Without your in-kind contribution, we likely would have expended funds that could be used to support our programs and services. Your kindness truly helps us fulfill our mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

Thank you for your donation and for being part of our donor family.

Erika N. Taylor, J.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

Thank you for donating your church meeting space for our special event. Your generosity helped make our banquet a success.

Sincerely,

The athletes, coaches, and families of B.P. Elite Gymnastics



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.***