

EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This weekend in worship we will be looking at some hard Scripture passages. On Saturday night, Pastor Doug will examine Matthew 10.24-39. I'll do the same on Sunday and add Jeremiah 20.7-13 to the mix. What does it mean to be resisted for truth-telling? Does all resistance confirm that spoken words are true? Let's wrestle with these hard passages together this weekend!



Friday is Juneteenth, a holiday that I confess I did not know about until I was in my mid 30s! And even today, as I'm writing this, I am learning more about the complicated process of emancipation in our country. It's way more complicated than what I learned in school, maybe what you learned too!

Did you know that the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 did not free all the slaves in the United States? It only freed slaves in states that had seceded from the Union. Slave states who had not seceded (border states) retained their slaves.

Emancipation actually happened in waves. Juneteenth celebrates the day the last slaves living in what had been the Confederate South learned that they were free. On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, TX, federal troops enforced emancipation for enslaved people who had not heard of Lincoln's proclamation two years prior.

Is this a "new" holiday?

Yes and no. It's new as a federal holiday, becoming official only in 2021. But Juneteenth (or "Jubilee Day") was celebrated in Texas beginning in 1866. By

the 1890s, there is evidence it was celebrated in other southern states. The increase in lynching violence made such celebrations more dangerous, and the Great Depression led black workers to relocate to cities where it was harder to take a day off work to celebrate. Thus, public celebrations waned. However, they revived in the middle of the last century. Today, we all get to celebrate this important data point on the long road to “freedom and justice for all*” in our country!

*Those liberated on Juneteenth were not the final slaves in America. Both Kentucky and Delaware legally retained their slaves until the 13th Amendment was ratified six months later, in December 1865.

I hope to see you at some of the Juneteenth celebrations around town! I'll be attending the early part of the gathering at Bayard Park and then the “Salute to the Negro League” baseball game at Bosse Field.






★ ★ EVANSVILLE'S ★ ★
7TH ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH
Community
CELEBRATION

Evansville's
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 Cultural Experience

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**EVANSVILLE
 CULTURAL
 EXPERIENCE**

HONORING FREEDOM. | CELEBRATING CULTURE. | UNITING COMMUNITY.

 **FRIDAY
 JUNE 19, 2026** |  **2PM - 9PM** |  **BAYARD PARK
 EVANSVILLE, INDIANA**

Everyone is Welcome!

Join us for a day of unity, culture, and celebration featuring community resources, voter registration, family fun, live entertainment, food, and more!

- 
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- 
VOTER REGISTRATION
- 
KIDS' BOUNCY HOUSES & GAMES
- 
FOOD, FOOD TRUCKS & FOOD VENDORS
- 
CRAFT VENDORS
- 
LIVE PERFORMANCES & DANCE TEAMS
- 
MUSIC & FUN FOR ALL AGES!

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AMPLIFY!







Indiana State Teachers Association



BRING YOUR FAMILY ★ INVITE YOUR FRIENDS ★ BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  [EVV JUNETEENTH](#) |  EVVJUN19TH@GMAIL.COM

CELEBRATING FREEDOM. HONORING OUR PAST. BUILDING OUR FUTURE.



Joy! Marriage of Emily and Chase Cline. Wedding is Saturday.

Theresa Cravens (health concerns)

Jim Grossman (recovering from fall and cervical fractures)

Toni Beumer (recovering from surgery)

Mike Dean (awaiting further testing)

Dianne Bromm (cancer has returned)

Bill Kreighbaum

Jeff Hoffman (renal cell carcinoma, friend of Tim and Amy Spurling)

Chris Dugan (serious car accident, son-in-law of Hungates)

Rose Crockett (health concerns)
Those affected by weather-related disasters
Middle East
Russia/Ukraine Conflict
Victims of gun violence
All those battling addiction and facing the daily struggle to stay clean.
Our military

Online  Giving

Whether giving to the church's general fund or a special offering, doing so online (24/7) is a quick and easy alternative to check-writing or having cash on hand. Simply click the button below.

Give



The flowers on the altar are given by Dan and Cindy Carwile in memory of our fathers and in celebration of Father's Day.

Please use the buttons below to view dates and sign up for altar flowers. If you prefer a paper form, they are always available in the vestibule (office entrance open 24/7), church office hallway, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex.

For altar flower needs, please contact Carol Kolb at carolrkolb@yahoo.com or (812) 589-8322.

Upcoming available dates

July 12, 19, 26

Upcoming Available Dates

[Altar Flower Sign Up](#)

Serve 

[Sunday Worship Acolyte - Click here!](#)

[Sunday Worship Liturgist - Click here!](#)

**Listen to Last
Sunday's Message**



[Listen here!](#)

Turning 90!

Bill Craig is turning 90! You are invited to celebrate with him at Cedarhurst in Newburgh from 1-3:00 pm on Saturday.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING IN JUNE

The Holy Spirit gathers us together. From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all. The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leaders across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit's call to be united in Christ. Some seek ways to strengthen youth ministry. Some hope to start new congregations or look for innovative ways to renew existing congregations. Some need help developing leaders.

If you have not, please make a gift this weekend to the Strengthen the Church Offering. Giving envelopes can be found in the pews and at church entrances. You may also give online at bethlehemucc.org. Thank you!

Jim Hitch is

100

Join us to celebrate!

June 27, 2026 2:00 - 4:00 PM

The Villas at Theater Commons

4500 Theater Drive, Evansville

Please - no gifts - your presence is your present!

Be sure to get your kiddo registered today!

DAVID

Young and young at heart will learn the story of David through crafts, games, and songs. Our 3-day event will culminate in a private screening of the film David, a beautifully animated, faith-filled retelling of one of the most beloved stories in Scripture. From his humble beginnings as a shepherd to his courage in standing against the giant Goliath, David brings to life the journey of a young man whose trust in God shaped his destiny.

PARTICIPATE

Children and Youth in Kindergarten through High School are invited to sign up. Children from our preschool class are welcome to attend with an adult. (Middle and High School students will be given leadership roles.)

VOLUNTEER

- VBS Work Day June 16th at 8:30 am (Fellowship Hall)
- Volunteers needed each night of VBS

SIGN UP AND VOLUNTEER LINK

[Click here!](#)

VBS 2026
JUNE 28-30
5:15-7:30



COLOR YOUR WAY TO VBS!

CHURCHWIDE COLORING CONTEST NURSERY TO ADULT DIVISIONS

To Participate:

1. Pick a coloring page (Located on the wall outside the church office)
2. Have fun coloring! Add your name and age.
3. Hang your completed masterpiece on the display in the vestibule.



WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF VBS!

Social Ice Cream and Dessert Makers

Sunday, July 12

Mark your calendar now for the annual Bethlehem Barbecue Dinner and Ice Cream Social! The Summer Social church-wide event raises thousands of dollars every year for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity.

We need ice cream and dessert makers. **If you can bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please click [HERE](#).** Paper copies of the sign up form are also available at church entrances and can be placed in the offering plate or given to the church office. Thank you!

ATTENTION ICE CREAM MAKERS!

When preparing your ice cream for the Social, please use the containers on the cart outside the kitchen. They are available any time from now until the Social. Provided containers make it easier for freezer storage and day-of serving.

Please write your ice cream flavor on the freezer tape on the top and side of each container.

**Thank You and Happy Churning!
Pam Wiseman and Ice Cream Committee**

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK

CHURCH RETREAT



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW—JUNE 30TH SPACE LIMITED

JULY 31–AUGUST 2

Cottage and lodge rooms are available for reservation. Lodge rooms are offered in either two queen beds or one king bed configuration and are priced at \$150 per night, which includes breakfast.

One- and two-bedroom cottages are also available starting at \$200 per night. These cottages are located across the lake from the main lodge. Breakfast is included; however, please note that the cottages are a short drive or a longer walk from the main lodge, where all group activities and meal services will take place.

Festivities will begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday morning with an outdoor worship service.

To reserve your spot, please call 270-797-3421 and
reference group code 2709

Contact Margaret Eberhart for further info. 859-576-1442

Important retreat info: If you are planning to stay overnight at Pennyrile during the church retreat, you must make your room reservation by Tuesday, June 30, as remaining rooms in our room block will be released to the public.

CHECK IT OUT

calendar

Bethlehem is an active church with many weekly events. The office makes

every effort to ensure your event or meeting is entered on the church's electronic calendar. If you arranged an event, please take a moment to confirm its place on the calendar using the link below. If it's omitted or scheduled for a different day/time, please contact the church office immediately by clicking [here](#) or by calling 867-2497.

[Check the calendar!](#)

R.O.M.E.O. CLUB

What is the Bethlehem R.O.M.E.O. Club? It is Retired Old Men Eating Out (just men gathering) every Tuesday for food, fellowship, and faith. ROMEO Club is open to anyone no matter your age! The Club will meet again this Tuesday at Casa Fiesta on Diamond Avenue. If you would like to join the group for lunch, please RSVP to Barry Jones at Twinpapa02@yahoo.com by Monday morning. New faces are always welcome!

**THANK
YOU!**

**Thank you to everyone who
has agreed to serve as ushers. ROMEO
members are assigned to June.**

Coming Up

Friday, June 19

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Wedding Rehearsal - Westrich/Cline
Sanctuary

Saturday, June 20

9am – 5pm

Wedding - Westrich/Cline

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

Sunday, June 21

9 – 10am

Sunday School - Adults Only

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

Monday, June 22

All day

Fellowship Hall & Welcoming Area Rsvd.

8:30 – 10am

Conference Room Rsvd. - Worthington

4 – 6pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd. - T. Vaupel

Tuesday, June 23

All day

Fellowship Hall & Welcoming Area Rsvd.

6:30 – 7:30pm

Evening Bible Study Group

Conference Room

Wednesday, June 24

All day

Fellowship Hall & Welcoming Area Rsvd.

Thursday, June 25

All day

Fellowship Hall & Welcoming Area Rsvd.

Friday, June 26

All day

Fellowship Hall & Welcoming Area Rsvd

Saturday, June 27

8:30am – 5pm

Pavilion Rsvd. - Russell

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

Sunday, June 28

9 – 10am

Sunday School - Adults Only

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

11:30am – 12pm

Council Chat

Welcoming Area

3:30 – 5:30pm

UCS DINNER - Eosin

United Caring Services

5:15 – 7:30pm

Vacation Bible School



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

6400 Oak Hill Road

Evansville, IN 47725

812.867.2497

bethlehemucc.org