

We are only six Sundays away from Christmas! (Insert all the gasps <here>. It is coming just as fast as it always does and none of us knows how to slow it down!!!) This Advent, I'm going rogue: deviating from the lectionary and starting early, so we can get a bit more of the stories in as we wait on Christmas Day. So, we will begin this Sunday with Luke 1.5-25, when Gabriel announces the birth of John (who will become known as "the baptist").

On Saturday night, Pastor Doug will preach on the parable of the talents from Matthew 25.14-30. Are we getting a return on the gifts God has given us or, out of fear, are we burying them in the ground?

In both services we will celebrate Communion. The Outreach Team invites you to bring canned fruit for the Tri-State Food Bank.



Jacob Spurling (beginning pilot training and entering active duty in the Air Force)
Ruth Ann Krall (beginning radiation treatments on November 19)
Suzy Picking (upcoming back surgery on December 17)
Pastor Doug (vocal cord surgery scheduled for December 1)
Nancy Myers (recovering from car accident, former church janitor)
Karen Haines (recovering from brainstem surgery, Linda Turner's sister-in-law)
Kim Owen (recovering from bilateral hip replacement)
David Goodman (surgery coming up on November 20)
Debbie DeLong (recovering from hip replacement surgery)
Barbara Jo May (recovering from hospitalization)
Grant Wiseman (hospitalized at IU Medical Center)

Eva Heilman (home recovering, cards only)
Jerry Hollis (prostate cancer treatments)
Mike Dean (chemo treatments)
Bill Kreighbaum
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
Students and Teachers



Listen here!



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 the Schultheis family in celebration of the 91st birthday of Lois that was November 14.

November 22 is available.

Please use the buttons below to view additional dates and to 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

Altar Flower Sign Up



Sunday Worship Acolyte

Sunday Worship Liturgist



If you ordered an Eosin apple pie, please pick up your pie today between 2:00 and 5:00 pm.



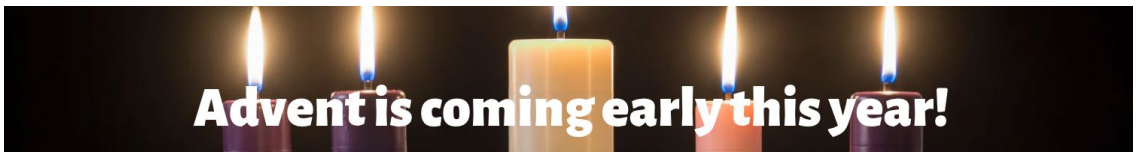
Last Weekend for Cake Mix Donations for the Rescue Mission

Bethlehem has again been collecting cake mixes for the Evansville Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving basket project. So far, 35 cake mixes have been

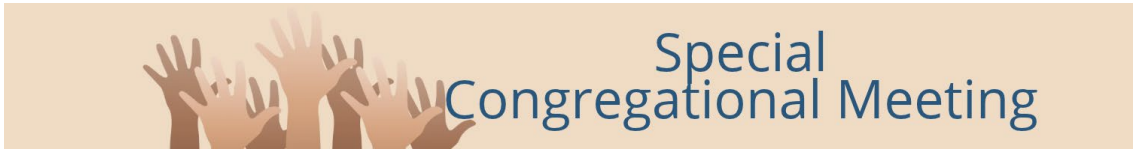
collected. This Sunday is the last day to bring in donations. Can we reach 75? Please place cake mixes of any flavor in the green labeled boxes found in the Welcoming Area and the vestibule by the church office. Thank you for helping the Rescue Mission with their 105th Gobbler Gathering!



This weekend at both services, along with the celebration of communion, we will be **collecting canned fruit** for the Tri-State Food Bank. Please bring cans of fruit, with pull-tabs if possible, to either the Saturday or Sunday worship service, and place them by the altar. 161 items were donated in October. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



We will be breaking with the lectionary for Advent on Sunday mornings this year. We will be looking at the birth announcements of John the Baptist and Jesus, and then the birth of both. To do this, we're going to need to get started early! We will begin with Luke 1.15-25 this Sunday.



This Sunday!

Please make plans for to join us for a special congregational meeting following worship on Sunday to approve the budget for 2027. A membership mailing was sent early last week. Please bring the materials with to the meeting. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact Patty Oglesby.



Happy November Church Family!

As the Advent season fast approaches, you may already be thinking about all the things you need to do: decorating your home, buying gifts for family and friends, baking Christmas cookies, attending church, and keeping up with all the normal everyday routines! So much to do!

In the middle of all the hustle and bustle, we want to help you keep Jesus at the center of your family's focus this Christmas season!

We invite you to join us for **Wondering to Bethlehem**, a special family event on **Sunday, November 29, at 5:00 p.m. in the Welcoming Area and Fellowship Hall.** Together, we'll use our wonder and imagination as we journey alongside Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem and take a closer look at the Christmas story.

This event is based on an Advent devotional by Vanessa Myers called *Wondering to Bethlehem*. This 24-day devotional, plus two bonus devotions, is

designed to help your children open their minds, ask questions, and begin to wonder about the True Wonder of Christmas: Jesus Christ! Each family will receive a copy of the book at the event so you can continue the journey together throughout December.

And the fun doesn't stop there! When you arrive, your family will sign the census, have a passport photo taken, visit activity stations, and enjoy some yummy food along the way!

We'll conclude our evening with a church wide hymn sing, a short, family-friendly devotion, and the presentation of your Advent devotional books.

We need your help to make this night a success! Please take a moment to complete the Google Form below to RSVP and let us know if you're available to VOLUNTEER! Having an accurate headcount is especially important as we prepare for this special evening. Do you not have young children in your life? We need you too!

REGISTRATION AND VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

We think this will be such a fun and meaningful night for our church. We hope you'll join us as we begin our Advent journey together!

Hope to see you in Bethlehem!

Sincerely,

Margaret Eberhart



Thank you to Peter and Kelley Felt for previously sharing at worship about the Civil Rights Book Study and Pilgrimage. They referenced additional videos that will help you learn more about our study and the sites we visited. Troy has created a convenient playlist to access the whole set of those recap videos. Click the button below to begin.

Click me!

The playlist begins with the 1 minute summary video shown in church Sunday, and then proceeds to four ~10 minute videos that go more in depth. On a desktop, you can easily navigate between the videos by using the list on the right side of the screen. On a mobile device, you can scroll through the videos on the playlist at the bottom of the screen.

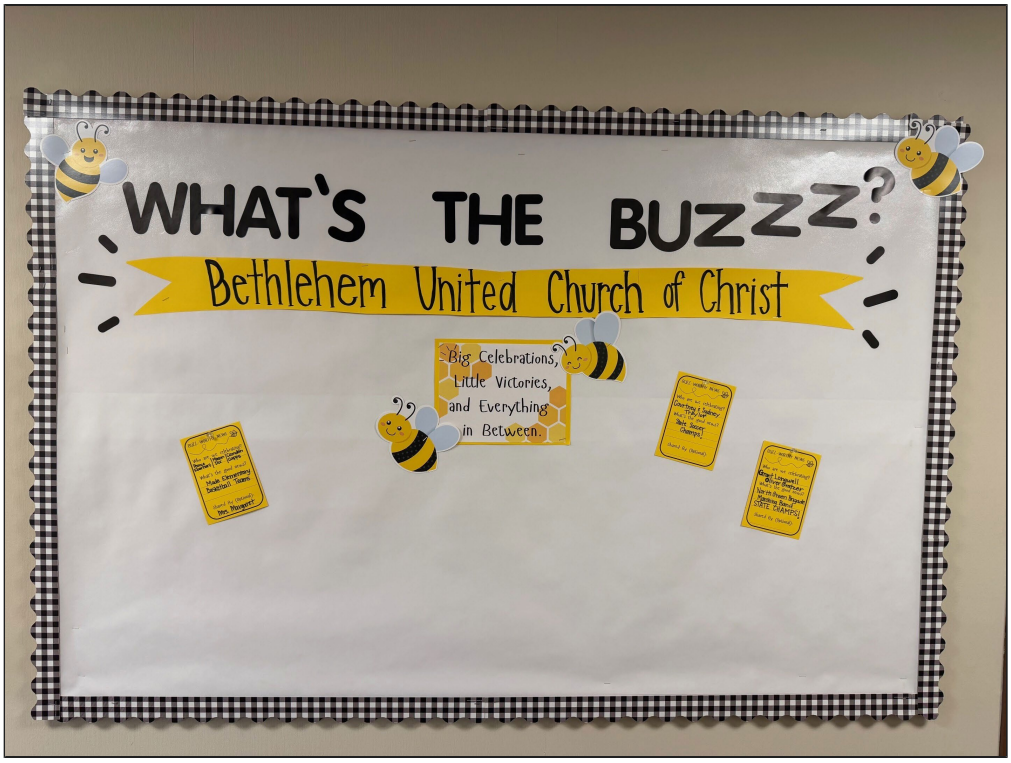
Additionally, the books we read in the study are available for you to borrow in the church library. I would recommend beginning with *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith and reading *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby second. Thanks for helping us extend the impact of our study, and thank you for your support in making it happen in the first place!

Year-end STAR Details

Content due this Monday!

Before we know it, the the final newsletter of 2026 will be here. Please plan accordingly with any announcements or articles, as the next issue will cover information for December 2026 and January 2027. **Articles are due Monday, November 16.** Please send your information to publishing@bethlehemucc.org. The next STAR newsletter in the new year will be February 2027.

What's the BUZZ at Bethlehem?



Our new celebration board is up, and we want to hear YOUR good news!

Whether it's a big celebration, a little victory, or something wonderful happening in between, we want to celebrate it with you! Maybe someone in your family made the honor roll, won a championship, started a new job, reached a

personal goal, or has a birthday or anniversary coming up. No accomplishment is too big or too small to share!

Look for the **What's the BUZZ?** board across from the church office and help us fill it with reasons to celebrate. **Celebration forms are located on the wall directly across from the board.** Simply grab a card, share your good news, and pin it up for everyone to see. Photos are welcome too!

Let's spread a little joy, cheer one another on, and celebrate all the wonderful things happening in our Bethlehem family!

Don't keep the good news to yourself. Share the BUZZ!



This year we welcome Haiden Hart (our Saturday night worship leader) to the 'editorial staff' of the Annual Report. Haiden will be collating the information that will become this year's Annual Report.

If you are a **committee head or team leader of a specific group**, we need you to do the following:

1. Determine the leadership for next year in your committee and email this information to Patty Oglesby by **Tuesday, December 1.**
2. **Begin writing your report** that summarizes the activities of your specific group for the 2026 year. Remember that these reports represent the life of Bethlehem Church.

Leaders, watch for more information from Haiden on how to submit your reports. **The final report deadline will be Friday, December 18.**



Do you love the way the sanctuary looks at Christmas time? It takes many hands to get it there! Please plan to stick around for a bit after worship on **November 22** to help with the Hanging of the Greens! Any and all are welcome to bring in the Advent season!

Cookie Walk

December 12 & 13 following worship

Lots of bakers, treat makers, and shoppers are needed!

Get your baking sheets ready to make this the best Cookie Walk ever! We will need cookies and treats to make the Cookie Walk a success. Mark your calendars for **December 12 & 13 after church.** If possible, we would like the goodies by noon on Saturday, December 12. The cost will be $6.00 a pound, and bakers will get ½ pound free!

To volunteer, please email your name and the item(s) you would like to donate —2-3 dozen cookies, candy, and/or a specialty item—to Patty Geske at psgeske@yahoo.com or Connie Crab at conniecrab2901@gmail.com. Alternatively, paper forms are located at church entrances. Please place the form in the Eosin mailbox by the elevator, in the offering plate, or drop it at the church office. Thanks for making this holiday season special with your cookies and/or candy!



The Altar Guild will again be selling poinsettias to decorate the altar and chancel for Christmas. The cost is $15.00 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 6**, and there is no exception to the deadline.

The donor list will be linked in Emily's Edition, available on Sunday, December 20, and on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias can be taken home following the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Remaining poinsettias will be used on Sunday, December 27. Any plants left after the service on December 27 will be discarded.

To order and pay online use the button below. Paper order forms are available in the church office vestibule, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex. We purchase our poinsettias from Steve Worthington's Kiwanis organization, who uses their monies to support various community projects

throughout the year.

Please contact Carol Kolb at carolrkolb@yahoo.com with any questions.

Order and pay here!



We are looking for a list of folks we can call on to serve as (paid) back-up for our janitorial staff. If you can cover occasionally when one of our custodians is out, please reach out to Amy Spurling at amyspurl@gmail.com, 812-453-5895, or let the office know.

LEAD BEYOND BORDERS

Become a Young Ambassadors adult leader and guide
the next generation of youth participants as they deepen their faith,
build friendships, and experience life with our partner churches in Germany.

What Does It Mean To Be A Young Ambassadors Adult Leader

The world needs leaders who can build understanding across cultures.
This ministry forms young people and their adult mentors to become
ambassadors of faith, peace, hospitality, and hope.

Responsibilites

- Mentor and encourage youth participants
- Help plan/coordinate activities and travel
- Build relationships with German leaders
- Welcome German guests to IKC
- Travel with the delegation to Germany
- Become part of an international ministry spanning generations

Leadership Qualities

- Enjoy mentoring youth
- Value international friendships
- Are active in the life of the church
- Can work collaboratively
- Are curious, compassionate, and flexible
- Want to make a lasting difference

SCAN TO APPLY!

Details

Indiana-Kentucky Conference group travel to Germany in 2028 for 17 days-
roughly between July 10- Aug 22 2028 with most of those 17 days in July
Wittgenstein-Siegen group will come here in 2029- dates TBD
We need two adult leaders for this trip.

electronics recycling drive

Fall Event: Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the former Roberts Stadium parking lot (Enter on E. Franklin St. directly behind Swonder Ice Arena)

Accepted items: TVs, computers, monitors, printers, hard drives, laptops, fax/scanners, cell phones, DVD players, digital cameras, modems, cables/cords

Not Accepted: copy machines, microwaves, appliances

NO BUSINESSES PLEASE



Several kinds of glass items (and other recyclables) are now being accepted at Tri-State Resource Recovery Monday-Friday 8AM-3PM at 1511 Harriet Street, Evansville. Recycling bins are accessed from Read Street, off Morgan Avenue, near Garvin Park.

Acceptable Glass

- Glass food & beverage containers (no lids but labels can be left on)
- Drinking vessels (pint, wine, mason jars)
- Candle jars (leftover wax acceptable)
- Windows
- Shower doors
- Table tops (frames and hardware must be removed)

Glass NOT Accepted: No mirrors, china, ceramics or dishware

Additional Recyclables Accepted.

- Glass
- Plastics #1-7
- Cardboard
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Mixed paper including newspaper, magazines, office paper

*Must be sorted and dropped into the individual containers labeled for each type of item:



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 on Tuesday at Turoni's on Weinbach. 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!





Thursday, November 12
2 – 5pm
Apple Pie Pick-Up

6:30 – 9pm
Welcoming Area Rsvd (Wiseman)

6:30 – 7:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

7:30 – 8:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

Friday, November 13
6 – 9pm
Confirmand & Mentor Fellowship Night
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 14
5:30 – 6:30pm
Worship & Canned Fruit Collection
Welcoming Area

Sunday, November 15
9 – 10am

Sunday School Classes - All Ages

10:15 – 11:15am
Worship - Communion & Canned Fruit Collection
Sanctuary

11:15 – 11:45am
Special Congregational Meeting
Sanctuary

11:45am – 12:45pm
Pastoral Relations Cmte. Meeting
Conference Room

2 – 6pm
UCS Board Retreat
Conference Room

Monday, November 16
STAR Newsletter Materials Due to publishing@bethlehemucc.org

8:30 – 10am
Conference Room Rsvd. - Worthington

5 – 6pm
Executive Committee Mtg.
Library

6 – 8pm
Church Council
Fellowship Hall

6:30 – 7:30pm
Green Team Mtg.
Conference Room

Tuesday, November 17
5 – 6pm
Outreach Meeting
Library

5:30 – 9pm
Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved (Markwell)
F.H. & Kitchen

6:30 – 7:30pm
Evening Bible Study Group
Conference Room

Wednesday, November 18
6 – 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall Resvd. (Cub Scouts)

Thursday, November 19
6:30 – 7:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sanctuary

7:30 – 8:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

Saturday, November 21
5:30 – 6:30pm
Worship
Welcoming Area

Sunday, November 22
9 – 10am
Sunday School Classes - All Ages

10:15 – 11:15am
Worship
Sanctuary

11:15am – 12:15pm
Hanging of the Greens

3:30 – 5:30pm
UCS DINNER - Youth
United Caring Services

5:30 – 7:30pm
Youth Friendship Dinner

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

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