



The Bethlehem STAR

Pride in Our Past - Faith in Our Future

April 2026



HE IS RISEN!

Pastor's Perspective



As I write, plans are in place across the nation for this weekend's "No Kings" protests. I plan to participate in one myself. Clergy have been asked to wear our stoles as a sign that not all Christians place "nationalism" behind their faith claims. And I certainly do not. God so loved the world, after all. And God's love for the world long preceded and will long outlast America.

Still, I'm a bit conflicted about wearing my stole to a protest titled "No Kings", particularly when I will stand in the pulpit the very next day and celebrate the triumphal entry of God's Messiah into Jerusalem.

"No Kings" on Saturday, but then "Jesus is King" on Sunday? Something doesn't quite add up.

Jesus' entry into the Holy City is well-orchestrated political theater meant to "cast shade" on Rome's claim to power. Jesus is making a mockery of what Rome calls "peace" and is exposing the lies of those who claim Caesar as absolute. Jesus will pay with his life, yes. But he is telling the truth.

Jesus' week in Jerusalem is all about rejecting Rome's rule and offering an alternate vision of kingship. By week's end, he will be dressed in purple, he will wear a crown, and he will be hoisted high for all to see with a sign "King of the Jews" overhead. This is what divine kingship looks like: to lay down one's life for one's friends, to love the world enough to offer up your Son. This kingship is not self-seeking, it is not power-hungry, it is not of this world.

So, no, I don't subscribe to "No Kings". The crucified Christ is King, and the only one I'm willing to submit to.

The title of the protest gives me pause, but I will go tomorrow. I will protest because so much of what is happening in this country violates the values of the only One who receives my unconditional loyalty and allegiance. I will go to “No Kings”, precisely because of the will of the One who is King.

And then on Sunday, I will wave palm branches. And on Thursday, I will bear witness to the betrayal, the mockery, the grief, and the pain. And I will wait again for Sunday.

Because despite the lies of a world that tried to topple the only monarchy worth living for, our King lives again and forever. Even now, he sits at the right hand of God the Father. Thanks be to God!



Closing a Sunday morning Children’s Chat in prayer.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 6:30 pm

Easter Worship & Egg Hunt

April 5, 10:15 am

***Consider bringing live flowers from your yard for the Easter cross.**

Babies - 6th grade line up in the children's hallway for the Egg Hunt following worship.



What we're teaching in Sunday School in April!

Kids are currently preparing projects for the Time and Talent Auction while also listening to stories as we journey through the New Testament Bible Timeline. We will continue working through the timeline to the left for the remainder of the Sunday School year.

Students who complete each story—whether in Sunday School, at home, or a combination of both—will receive a prize.



Youth Curriculum for April

ANOTHER LOOK: A 4-Week Series from Luke on Jesus



SERIES OVERVIEW: Have you ever had a conversation that opened your eyes to something you'd never thought about before? Or maybe someone asked you a single question that completely shifted your perspective. Words have the power to change everything, and that's never been more true than with Jesus. He asked questions that changed people's perspectives and caused them to take another look at themselves, their lives, and what they believed about God. In this 4-week series from the book of Luke, we'll take a look at four big questions Jesus asked. Together, we'll ask: **What can you trust Jesus with today? Where did you notice Jesus' presence today? What can Jesus rescue you from today? How can you put Jesus' words into practice today?**



Sunday April 19 - Senior Sunday

Plan to worship and celebrate our graduating senior, Caroline Palmer.

Sunday April 26

The children and youth are hard at work preparing projects for the Time and Talent Auction! If your child is not currently involved in a project but would like to participate, please let [Mrs. Margaret](#) know.

Sunday April 26

The youth will serve at UCS. We will meet at the shelter at 3:45 to prepare dinner. Please RSVP to [Mrs. Margaret](#). Friends are welcome!

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Join the evening Bible study at 6:30 pm on any or all of 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.

April 7 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 I Peter 1:3-9
 *John 20:19-31

May 5 Acts 17:22-31
 *1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

April 21 *Acts 2:42-47
 *I Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

May 19 *Acts 2:1-21
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39

*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](#). Paper forms are always available in the vestibule (office entrance open 24/7), church office hallway, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex.

Available upcoming dates: April 12, 19, 26 - May 3 & 17

If you have any altar flower questions, please contact Carol Kolb or carolrkolb@yahoo.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

The season of Public Action continues:

April 13th at 6 pm is the CAJE Rally, a gathering of all the 27 congregations to get final details on the Nehemiah Action: Access to Mental Healthcare. We will gather to build enthusiasm for turning out people power, to let our elected officials know how they can serve the best interest of the people of our community.

May 11th at 6pm is the Nehemiah Action when we will gather over a thousand strong, to present our research and our solutions, to those who have the power and the responsibility to listen and act, in implementing a course of action that we will prescribe for them.

In this season it is prudent to remember the words of Jesus in Mathew 23: *“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; Justice and Mercy and Faithfulness.*

Participation in CAJE provides an opportunity to “Walk the Walk” in service to God’s Purpose as revealed to the Prophet Micah: a path for Loving Our Neighbor in the context of creating a community in which every person can thrive into the image of God, by Whom and in Whom, we were all created.

Wishing you all Grace, Peace and Justice.

Rev. Kimron Reising



The March collection of canned fruit totaled 94 items. The next collection date will be **Easter Sunday, April 5**. As you're gathering Easter baskets and flowers for the Easter cross, don't forget to bring some canned fruit for the Tri-State Food Bank!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings, Bethlehem Congregation!

Even though I have been a member of this church for 25 years, as the 2026 Council President I am learning so much about the busy and vibrant church family we have. After a very successful stewardship campaign in 2025 and in spite of rising costs, our finances are doing well – thank you all for that!

There are so many ways to be involved! In addition to Holy Week activities, please consider participating in the UCS Pickleball fundraiser (see flyer in this STAR). This will be a fun event for everyone at any skill level.

Also, remember if you have questions or concerns, you can contact me anytime) or the designated council representative after church on the last Sunday of each month. I'm looking forward to seeing and chatting with many of you throughout the year to connect, reconnect, and expand the mission that God has in store for us all.

Blessings,

Amy Spurling
Church Council President



TIME AND TALENT LIVE AUCTION

It's almost here!

April 26 is the Time and Talent Auction!

Sunday, April 26, is the Outreach Team's Time and Talent Auction. This is a fundraiser for the 2026 Bucket Blitz, when 40 five-gallon buckets will be filled with clean-up supplies which will be distributed by Church World Service to people recovering from natural disasters.

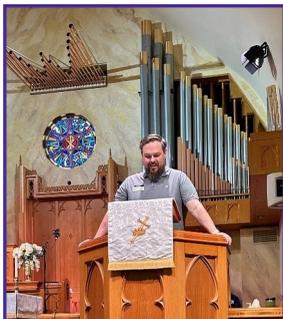
We will begin after the worship service with a lunch of lasagna, salad, breadsticks, and dessert. Following that will be a live auction, conducted by our own Mike Dean, assisted by Stephen Risinger. What a dynamic duo! A brief description of the items to be auctioned can be found on the next page. We also plan to have a display up in the next couple of weeks, which will give more details on each item.

Please be sure to check out the following page for the list of fantastic auction items and click the link below to let us know you're coming (or call the office at 812-867-2497). In addition to raising funds for the Bucket Blitz, the auction will be a great opportunity for fellowship and appreciating the many talents of our Bethlehem members. We hope to see you on the 26th!

RSVP Here!

- One complete car detailing from Wayne Gander
- A pair of wooden scone candleholders made and donated by John Small
- A truckload of firewood, delivered and stacked, from Dave Hunt and Denis Hirsch
- A parents' night out, provided by Bethlehem youth
- Artwork from Bethlehem youth at a fixed-price art table
- Eight hours of weeding and/or planting from Shirley Starks
- A hand-hooked rug made and donated by Chris Champion
- \$100 gift certificate to Grateful Threads and free design consultation from Tresa Miller
- Professional photography session in one of the following categories - Senior Portrait, Family Portrait, Newborn Portrait, or Professional Headshots from Troy Vaupel
- An opportunity to choose the hymns for a Sunday worship service
- A ceramic bowl made and donated by Cris Hochwender
- A chicken lasagna dinner for six from Andrea Gander
- Two handmade wood items from Thom Solecki
- A quilt made and donated by Karen Walthall
- 100 tulip bulbs provided and planted by Jerry Hollis
- Video repair from Steve Oglesby
- Afternoon pool party at the Gander home from Wayne and Andrea
- Crocheted Christmas ornaments made and donated by Mike Slade
- Pork butt, sides, bread, and dessert for 12 from Barry Jones
- A tour for two and the chance to print items for yourself on vintage printing presses at the UE LetterLab donated by Kristie Hochwender
- A commissioned artwork from Natalie Slade

LENTEN BREAKFAST AT BETHLEHEM



What a joy to have our children help lead us and participate in worship!



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



After some of our youth assembled Easter baskets for the Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center, they hung out for more fun!

Financial Recap

February General Account

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Monthly Beginning Balance	\$ 166,739.96	\$ 150,745.51
Monthly Pledge Deposits	45,531.49	57,125.77
Monthly Other Deposits	1,467.71	681.28
Monthly Operating Disbursements	(36,040.31)	(40,242.73)
Monthly Other Disbursements	3,428.86	5,720.31
Monthly Ending Balance	<u>\$ 181,127.71</u>	<u>\$ 174,030.14</u>

YTD General Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 168,584.96	\$ 170,535.44
Pledge Deposits	76,452.98	80,044.54
Other Deposits	8,037.49	2,654.30
Operating Disbursements	(83,201.09)	(89,129.45)
Other Disbursements	11,253.37	9,925.31
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 181,127.71</u>	<u>\$ 174,030.14</u>



HEALTH & WELFARE



The church has many health care items available for members and families to borrow after surgeries and/or illnesses. All items are located in the storage closet next to the youth room.

Simply select what you need and notify the church office and return the items when finished. If outside office hours, please leave a note or call and leave a message for Patty Oglesby.

Thank you to those who donated several new inventory items (indicated with *).

Questions? Please call the church office or Pam Wiseman 812-491-2854.

*Arm sling	Raised toilet seat
Bath tub seat full width	Shower head with hose
Bed mat (lambs wool)	Shower Seat with back
Bedside commode	Shower Seat no back
Boot-right foot (size 8-9)	Sock aid
Cane, metal with 3 prongs	Transfer disc
Cane with 4 prongs	Inflatable chair cushion lift chair
Crutches, metal	Raised toilet seat shower head with hose
Cushioned mat 80x36	Shower Seat with back
*Elliptical knee therapy exerciser	Shower Seat no back
Foam chair cushion	Sock aid
*Foam knee support	Transfer disc
*Foam side leg support	*Transition mat inflatable transport
Foot brace	Chair with legs
Gait belt	*Walker rollator
Grabber	Walkers wheeled
Head cushion	Walker, tray
*Ice wrap	Wheelchairs with foot support
Inflatable chair cushion	Wheelchair mirror
Lift chair	

A Path Forward in Today's Environment



That was the theme of the 2026 Tri-State Creation Care Conference. The speakers were both realistic and hopeful. The vendors and partner organizations offered tips and encouragement. The Islamic Society was welcoming, even in the midst of Ramadan.

The first speaker, Janet McCabe, former deputy director of the Environmental Protection Agency, affirmed the fact that every day we are not reducing greenhouse gases, we are exacerbating the problem. Our contributions to greenhouse gases are at a record high (3% increase per year), with transportation being the largest contributor. The result: 2024 was the warmest year on record; 2023 was the second warmest; 2025 was the third, globally.

As someone with experience in policy making, McCabe reflected on the ways it used to be non-partisan; now science is an issue people fight about. She focused on recent policy decisions dealing with mercury and toxic standards, emission standards for motor vehicles, coal ash, and the one this writer found most interesting, rulemaking that calls for quantifying cost but not benefits.

McCabe finds hope in the strides being made in universities. She was complimentary of our city government which has a full-time sustainability staff. She closed with concern for her colleagues who have done so much positive work and who are now out of their jobs.

Steve Rhodes, a designer and builder of green homes, his own included, followed with the admission that building is hard and building better is harder but with the encouragement that "we can do it." He focused on what we care about: human well-being, environmental health, and sustainability. He defined sustainability of meeting current needs without depriving future generations. So, what is wrong with the way we build? We emphasize size over function; style

over quality; the performance of materials without consideration for their side-effects; speed, wasting material to get the job done sooner; and the initial cost instead of the total cost. Rhodes observed that we want low cost, high quality, and large quantity. We can have 2 out of 3, but with the cost of the third.

This summary is being written on “World Water Day,” with the alarming information from one of the vendors, Citizens Action Coalition. By 2030, a handful of AI data centers will use more energy than all 6.8 million Hoosiers use in our homes today. A single data center can use from 1 to 5 million gallons of water per day, as much as a town of 10 to 50,000 people.

Conclusion: There is always more to learn about the environment. Education leads to action which is sorely needed for our planet to survive and people to thrive.

Stephanie Weiner, for the Green Team

Upcoming Recycling Community Events



Friday, April 10. Paper Shredding at Wesselman’s Woods Shelter 1 from 9AM - 12PM

Saturday, April 11. Electronics Recycling Day at C & I Electronics from 8AM– 12PM. 424 E. Inglefield Rd. TVs, computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, cords, etc.

Tri-State Resource Recovery recycles sorted clean glass, aluminum, tin, cardboard, paper, and plastics. Drop-off from weekdays 8AM-3PM. 1511 Harriett St., but enter from Read Street, just south of Morgan Ave. (3 blocks west of Bosse Field)



Eosin is a group formed in 1994 of adults that meet for Sunday School and dinner almost every month. Additionally, we do many activities for our church. When requested, we host funeral dinners, sponsor Undie Sundays clothing drive for EVCS students, make apple pies as a fundraiser, help with the annual Habitat for Humanity Summer Social, furnish casseroles for the Lenten Breakfast, and sponsor the Cookie Walk in December, to name just a few.

This year we decided to go to restaurants to meet instead of doing potlucks. All are welcome to Sunday School and/or to our meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Co-Presidents of Eosin Patty Geske or Connie Crab.

Everyone is welcomed to join us on the following dates:

April 12	Golden Corral at 5:30 pm
May 17	Casa Fiesta on Diamond Ave. at 5:30 pm
June 14	Barry Jones and Mike Dean's Home at 6:00 pm
July 12	Ice Cream Social
August 9	Gatti Town
September 13	To be announced
October 11	To be announced
November 12	Church to eat and make pies at 12:00 pm

PRIZES!



\$50
PER TEAM

Round robin tournament
Every team guaranteed 4 matches

APRIL 11, 2026

Wesselmans Park Pickleball Courts

RAIN DATE: APRIL 25, 2026

Fundraiser for United Caring Services

Scan QR
Code for
registration
and more
information



Can you help?

Recently, we began recruiting Sunday morning door monitors. These individuals greet people as they arrive and offer an additional layer of safety while the doors are unlocked during the Sunday School hour. Right now, we have a small team of dedicated folks serving in this capacity, but to protect against burnout and to accommodate schedules, we would love to have additional help. Is this something you could volunteer for—even just once a month? It will make a difference! If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Alan Crab at alancrab55@gmail.com or Pastor Emily at emily@bethlehemucc.org.

Dear Bethlehem United Church of Christ,

We would like to thank you for your faithful giving. It truly means so much and is making a difference. What a blessing we have been given to share the Gospel with so many children in Evansville. We pray for God to continue to richly bless this ministry and are especially grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Lesley King
Administrative Assistant
Weekday Christian



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you on behalf of the Evansville Tri-State Association for your support of our ministries and mission. Because of your gifts, we are able to serve the needs of the hungry here in Evansville through Sister Joanna's Table, help restore homes battered by storms in Back Bay, Mississippi, and be prepared to step in and assist in other needs as they arise. We are stronger together, and the ETSA is stronger because of Bethlehem's support!



--Rev. Emily Slade (wearing her ETSA President hat!)

Dear Bethlehem UCC,

Thank you for your tremendous generosity to the Sri Lanka Partnership of the IKC (Indiana-Kentucky Conference). Your support over the years has allowed us to offer direct support to our partners, including through some incredibly challenging times they have faced in recent years. Our recent partnership trip allowed us to strengthen these relationships and gave us a chance to see first-hand the ministry our partners do. This opportunity also gave us time to discern the future of this ministry. A lot is ahead!

Your support helps us join with our partners to live and serve like Jesus. Thank you!

Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan and the Sri Lanka Partnership Team

The Undie Sundays' donations were outstanding! We delivered all the 2,025 items to Hangers on March 4. Whether you bought items and put them in our bins or gave financial donations, you made a difference for many children in the EVSC with your generosity. Bethlehem has been amazing in their support of the Undie Sundays Drives over the years. Thank you so much for all do!



Pam and Lino Wiseman and the Eosin Class

Directory Update

Contact church office.





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.***