

# EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This weekend will be another exciting one in worship! Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott will be with us in both services to offer his message, Holding Each Other Up, based on Exodus 17.1-16. Following both services there will be a light reception and an opportunity for you to greet Chad. I hope you'll make plans to join us!

---

The past weekend, Pastor Emily completed a two-part series on the 10 Commandments. If you missed one or both messages and would like to catch up, listen by using the buttons below.



Listen to March 2/3 Worship Message



Listen to March 9/10 Worship Message

**Sign Up Spot**

 Worship Acolytes 



# Worship Liturgist



## SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Please use the button above to see the **list of available dates** and to order **altar flowers**. If you'd prefer a paper form for your flower donation, they are currently available outside the church office. Please contact Cindy Carwile with any questions (812-430-6935 or [ckcarwile@gmail.com](mailto:ckcarwile@gmail.com)).



Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve as ushers. The group assigned to cover in March is the U10 group.

## Prayer List

Family and friends of Sherry Phillips (passed away March 13)  
Family and friends of Ann Peter (passed away March 11)  
Family and friends of Dave Marshall (passed away March 4)  
Family and friends of Betty Worthington (passed away March 5)  
Darlene Heck (in rehab at River Point)  
Carol Thewes (upcoming surgery, mother of Peter Thewes)  
Michelle Fehr (friend of Chris Jones, recovering from a stroke)  
Arvell Gates (health issues, mother of Kelly Gates)  
Tim Slade (undergoing chemo treatment)  
Dianne Bromm (health concerns)  
Deloris Feagley (recovering from cancer treatments)  
Middle East  
Victims of gun violence  
All those battling addiction and facing the daily struggle to stay clean.  
Students and Teachers  
Our military



The flowers on the altar are given by Martha and Richard Royalty to the Glory of God. Two single white roses are in memory of beloved members Ann Peter, who passed away March 11 and Sherry Phillips, who passed away March 13.



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.



This weekend we welcome our Indiana Kentucky Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott. He will bring the message at both of our worship services that weekend as well as meet with our Confirmation class during the Sunday School hour. Please make plans to join us as we welcome him!



## Special Offering

**The Lenten offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will continue throughout the month of March. We warmly invite you to participate!**

One Great Hour of Sharing is a pillar among the United Church of Christ's special mission offerings. This Lenten offering provides crucial support to the disaster, refugee, and development ministries within Love of Neighbor ministries. **Giving envelopes are available in the pews and on tables by the office and Welcoming Area entrances. If using another envelope, please note "One Great Hour of Sharing" on your check. Gifts may also be made online at [bethlehemucc.org](https://bethlehemucc.org).**

## CONFIRMATION

## UPDATE

Since some time in the early 2000s, Confirmands at Bethlehem have shared their Statements of Faith in worship prior to their Confirmation. Crafting the statement offers them an opportunity to really think through what they believe based on what they are learning in class.

However, what is meant to be an affirming and life-giving exercise has often also been a source of extreme anxiety. (As we believe it would be for our adult new members if they were required to complete the same assignment!) This has led the Spiritual Council to consider if the sharing of the Statements of Faith is sometimes causing more harm than good.

No matter how many times kids are assured it's okay not to have everything figured out, it is hard for 13- and 14-year-olds not to feel a tremendous burden of "getting it right" or "believing the right things." And, in fact, that goes against what many adults in this congregation believe about the life of faith: that it's a journey and that it's less about certainty and more about committing to continue the journey in spite of our lack of understanding.

What is more, the Confirmands already do make a public statement about their faith during the Confirmation service by affirming their baptismal vows. On Confirmation Sunday they will be asked to respond to these questions:

- **Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?**
- **Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new**

## life in Christ?

- **Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and savior?**
- **Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ disciple, to follow in the way of our savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?**
- **Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ mission in all the world?**

We are all interested to hear where the kids are on their own spiritual journeys. However, a statement shared under duress is not the same as a joyous sharing of testimony. Therefore, the Spiritual Council has decided that sharing of the Confirmands' Statements of Faith in worship will be optional. Note: All Confirmands will still complete their statements and share them with their individual mentor as well as the Senior Pastor.

If you have any questions or concerns about this decision, you are welcome to speak with any one of the current elders or pastors. We look forward to continuing to support our Confirmands as we get closer to the big day on April 21! We are so blessed to have these young people as part of our church family!

Steve Worthington

Spiritual Council Chair on behalf of Spiritual Council

## (Men's) Lenten Breakfasts

This is a UCC/DOC (Disciples of Christ) initiative that shut down during Covid. It is a lay-led initiative during six Saturdays prior to Easter, during Lent. While we have retained the moniker "(Men's) Lenten Breakfasts", it now includes women, and they are encouraged to attend and participate. The two remaining hosts for the Saturday breakfasts are:

**March 16 @ Zoar UCC, 4600 Church Road, Evansville**

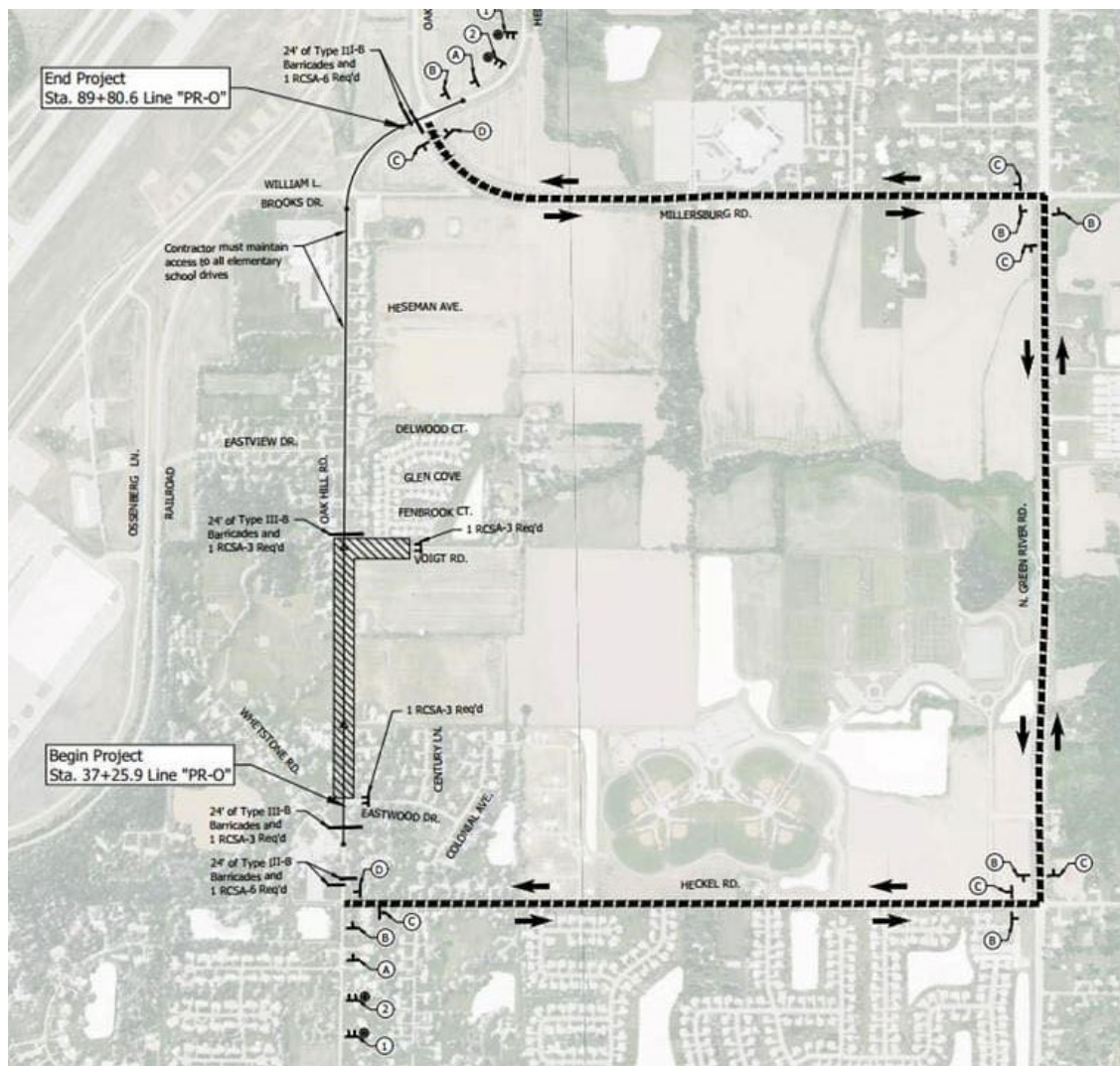
**March 23 @ St. Paul's German Township, 8701 Big Cynthiana Road, Evansville (Communion)** ***Please RSVP by this Wednesday to Rich Steedman ([richardbsteedman@gmail.com](mailto:richardbsteedman@gmail.com)) or Dan Carwile ([dan.carwile@oldnational.com](mailto:dan.carwile@oldnational.com)).***

Breakfasts begin at 7:30 a.m., with a service to follow at 8:30 a.m. Again, this is a lay-led initiative, and the men and women of the churches will put on the breakfast and lead the service to follow. Free-will offerings will be used to offset expenses for the day, and then will benefit United Caring Services and Tri-State Food Bank.

We encourage the men and women of Bethlehem to participate in these meaningful services at each location. Moreover, for the men and women of Bethlehem, we will need many volunteers when we host on Saturday, March 9. Barry Jones is heading up the kitchen crew, and Rich Steedman is heading up the service (arranging the speaker, music, ushers, etc.).



**Beginning March 27 through August 1, 2025, please use an alternate route when traveling from the north on Oak Hill. Our parking lot entrances will not be affected. A map and full details are below.**



“Beginning on or after March 27, 2024, Oak Hill Road will be closed to all through traffic between Heckel Road and Millersburg Road. This closure is required for the reconstruction of Oak Hill Road. The detour around this road closure will be Heckel Road, Green River Road, and Millersburg Road. The first phase of the reconstruction will be done between Eastwood Drive and Voigt Road. For the duration of the construction, the road will only provide access to local traffic. During the first phase of construction, all residents south of Voigt Road will have to access their properties from the south end of the project near Heckel Road. All residents north of Voigt Road will have to access their properties from the north end of the project at Millersburg Road. All Oak Hill School traffic will be required to enter and exit the school to the north towards Millersburg Road.

Once the first section of the reconstruction is completed, the portion of Oak Hill Road between Voigt Road and Millersburg Road will be reconstructed during phase two of the project. An updated notice will be sent out when the change in traffic patterns takes place when phase two begins.

The project is expected to be completed by August 1, 2025.”

Announcement via the [Vanderburgh County Commissioners](#) and Vanderburgh County Engineering Department.

## Make plans to join us for Holy Week at Bethlehem!

Palm Sunday worship opportunities:

Saturday, March 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 at 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday service:

Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday worship\*:

Sunday, March 31 at 10:15 a.m.

(with egg hunt to follow)

\*Consider bringing live flowers from  
your yard to add to our Easter cross!

**Help Wanted**  
**Easter Egg Stuffers**



Please consider joining Mrs. Margaret in the youth room to stuff Easter Eggs on Friday, March 22, at 10 am. For those who are free when we are done, let's head to lunch together! Please text or email Mrs. Margaret to RSVP ([margaret@bethlehemucc.org](mailto:margaret@bethlehemucc.org)).

## UPCOMING NEW MEMBER SERVICE

Our next New Member Sunday will be April 7. If you're interested in joining the church, please reach out to Pastor Emily (812-459-1270, [emily@bethlehemucc.org](mailto:emily@bethlehemucc.org)).



*Bethlehem United Church of Christ*

## ANNUAL METAL RECYCLING DRIVE

**August 24 8AM - 11AM**

Please note: the annual recycling drive has been moved to August 24. We have plenty of time to start collecting items that can be recycled. Any metal item is accepted, except those containing freon. Feel free to share the event details with family, friends, and neighbors.

## EMILY'S EDITION NOW ON OUR WEBSITE

Looking for another source to view Emily's Edition? Find it on the left side of our home page ([bethlehemucc.org](http://bethlehemucc.org)), under the current STAR newsletter.



### All-Church Spring Workday

April 20

8-12:00 pm

Coffee and donuts will be ready for the early birds starting at 7:30 am.

## Lenten Devotional

Lenten Devotional

## 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 **this Tuesday at 11:30 am at Carriage Inn**. If you would like to join the group for lunch, please RSVP to Barry Jones at [Twinpapa02@yahoo.com](mailto:Twinpapa02@yahoo.com) by Monday morning. **New faces are always welcome!**



Coming Up

**Thursday, March 14**

9am – 1pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd. (Wiseman)

10:30 – 11:30am

Office Staff Meeting

Resource Office

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, March 15**

9 – 10am

History Cmte. Meeting

History Storage Room

**Saturday, March 16**

7:30 – 10:30am

(Men's) Lenten Breakfast

Zoar UCC

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

**Sunday, March 17**

9 – 10am

Confirmation Class w/Dr. Chad Abbott

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship - Dr. Chad Abbott

Sanctuary

**Monday, March 18**

8:30 – 10am

Library Rsvd. - Worthington

5 – 6pm

Executive Committee Mtg.

Library

6 – 8:30pm

Church Council

BUCC Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, March 19**

10:30am – 12pm

Bible Study Group

Motley Crew Room

5:30 – 6:30pm

Outreach Cmte. Meeting

Library

**Wednesday, March 20**

8:30 – 10am

P.E.S.T. Mtg.

Motley Crew Room

6 – 7:30pm

Den 346 Cub Scout Meeting

6 – 7pm

Boy Scout Troop 346

Youth Room

**Thursday, March 21**

6:30 – 7:30pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Music Room

7:30 – 8:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Music Room

**Saturday, March 23**

7:30 – 10:30am

(Men's) Lenten Breakfast  
St Paul's German Township

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

**Sunday, March 24**

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship - Palm Sunday  
Sanctuary

11:30am – 12pm

Council Chat

Welcoming Area

3:30 – 5:30pm

UCS DINNER - Couples Small Group  
United Caring Services



**Bethlehem United Church of Christ**

6400 Oak Hill Road

Evansville, IN 47725

812.867.2497

[bethlehemucc.org](http://bethlehemucc.org)