

# EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you ready for Christmas? Just one week from today! I hope you are finding some quiet moments to pause and think about the true meaning of Christmas. It can be hard to make the time, but I do hope you'll make the time for worship this weekend! On Saturday night, Pastor Doug will offer a first person narrative from Joseph's perspective. On Sunday morning, we'll talk about John the Baptist and his role as "preparer" for Jesus (Matthew 11.2-11). In both services, we will light the Love candle.

## Invitation



Now is a good time to consider who you might invite to join you for worship on Christmas Eve. Bethlehem offers two services, both ending with candlelight: 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Our later service includes music by our chancel choir and communion. It will also be live-streamed. A string quartet will help us prepare for worship beginning at 8:30 p.m.

## Prayer List

Brooklin Shoulders (breast cancer, friend of Hallie Spurling and Lauren Ozete)

The family and friends of Candy Curie (passed away November 30, aunt of Pam Rardin)

Ann Hazen (upcoming open-heart surgery, friend of Dee Carithers)

Family and Friends of Jane Maher (former member of Bethlehem, passed away in Missouri)

Kathy Mandell (health problems, sister of Judy Heseman)

Amy Spurling (recovering from surgery)  
Bob Kolb (recovering from surgery at home)  
Wayne Gander (recovering from foot surgery at home)  
Leigh Ann Mindrup (recovering from surgery at home)  
Carl Kuebler (recovering at home)  
Rose Crockett (health concerns)  
Carolyn Dacy (Carleen Grossman's mother, leukemia)  
Bill Kreighbaum (moved to River Pointe)  
Tom Walthall (cancer diagnosis)  
Larry Knott (Chris Jones's uncle, in hospice care)  
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

## 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**

## *Poinsettias on the Altar*

The poinsettias are given by various donors in anticipation of the Christ child.

View the list of donors by clicking [HERE!](#)

A list of donors is available at sanctuary entrances.

*\*Poinsettias may be taken home following the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Remaining poinsettias will be used on Sunday, December 28. Any plants left after the service on December 28 will be discarded.*

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 with any questions at [carolrkolb@yahoo.com](mailto:carolrkolb@yahoo.com) or (812) 589-8322.

***Three donor weekends available in January!***

**Upcoming Available Dates**

**Altar Flower Sign Up**



# Serve

**Sunday Worship Acolyte - Click here!**

**Sunday Worship Liturgist - Click here!**



# Join us Christmas Eve!

**December 24, 5:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 24, 9:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion  
Worship with String Quartet  
(livestreamed at [bethlehemucc.org](http://bethlehemucc.org),  
music begins at 8:30 pm)

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Collection of the Christmas Fund special offering is underway, and will continue throughout the month of December. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.



Special giving envelopes can be found in the pews and at all church entrances. Please make checks payable to Bethlehem UCC and note "Christmas Fund" on the memo line. Gifts may also be made online at [bethlehemucc.org](https://bethlehemucc.org).

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## BETHLEHEM SPIRITWEAR PICK-UP

Preorders of spiritwear are now available in the Welcoming Area. Please contact Mrs. Margaret with any questions at [margaret@bethlehemucc.org](mailto:margaret@bethlehemucc.org).



## Church Council Chat

If you have any questions or concerns for the Church Council, feel free to bring them to the next Council Chat next Sunday, December 28. A Council representative will be available in the Welcoming Area following worship.

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The Advent season will quickly be behind us, and soon it will be time for Dehanging of the Greens. All ages are welcome on **January 4, 2026** following worship to help tidy up the sanctuary after the holidays. Many hands make light work for all, so



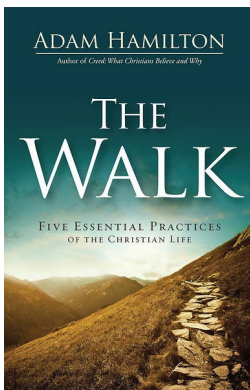


please join us!

## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION POTLUCK SUPPER



Epiphany, traditionally linked to the visit of the Magi to Jesus, is so much more than that. It celebrates the coming of the Christ to all the world. To celebrate this event, the former “U-10” group will be hosting an all-church “potluck supper” on **January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and we will see what feast we create (kind of like the story of Stone Soup). The evening will include a short lesson about Epiphany and the sharing of the story of “The Fourth Wiseman.” There’s no special purpose for this gathering other than good food and fellowship. Mark your calendars now so you won’t miss the celebration.



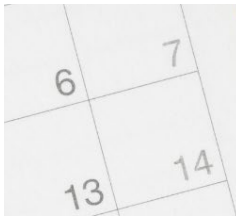
The Tuesday morning Bible study will begin their next book *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton on **January 13**. Books are available on the ThriftBooks website. They will meet for 6 weeks at 10:30 am. Please contact [Donna Marvel](#) with any questions.

## 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 not meet again until Tuesday, January 13, at Hill Top 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!



Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve as ushers. Altar Guild is scheduled for December.



# Coming Up

## **Saturday, December 20**

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

## **Sunday, December 21**

9 – 10am

Sunday School - All Ages

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

## **Monday, December 22**

8:30 – 10am

Conference Room Rsvd. - Worthington

## **Wednesday, December 24**

All day

Church Office Closed

5 – 6pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

BUCC Sanctuary

9 – 10pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Communion

BUCC Sanctuary

## **Thursday, December 25**

All day

Church Office Closed

3 – 8pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd. - Crab

**Saturday, December 27**

All day

Church Office Closed

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

**Sunday, December 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 - Brian Newton & Friends

United Caring Services



**Bethlehem United Church of Christ**

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