

EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well, this winter is certainly making itself known! I do hope everyone managed to weather the recent ice storm. I know many of our church family members were without power for some time (and some continue to wait!). We give thanks for all those who worked through the storm to take care of our community, particularly the line workers and those who came even from out of town to help us in our time of need.

With more winter weather on its way, there are no guarantees, but we are hoping to gather for worship this weekend (see Snow Removal Update below). Pastor Doug will follow the lectionary and celebrate the baptism of Jesus at the Saturday night service (Luke 3.15-17, 21-22). On Sunday, we will try once more to celebrate Epiphany. Whether from my kitchen or the sanctuary, I'll be preaching on John 1, and we will wrap up the Christmas season together.

Sign Up Spot

 **Worship Acolytes** 



Worship Liturgist



Missed last Sunday's message?



Alan Mason (receiving treatment at Hamilton Pointe in hopes to avoid amputation of foot)
Brad Johann (recovering from procedure)
Wildfires in California
Rick Chandler (recovering from surgery, church custodian)
The friends and family of Bob Harrison, passed away January 5
Joshua Crab's sister-in-law, Valerie (suffering the trauma of a tragic car accident just before Christmas)
Suzy Picking (recovering from reverse shoulder replacement surgery)
Brian Johns (hospitalized, brother-in-law of Sheri Schenk)
Middle East
Students and Teachers
Victims of violence
All those battling addiction and facing the daily struggle to stay clean.
Our military



The flowers on the altar are given by the Altar Guild to the glory of God. The white rose is in memory of Bob Harrison.



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.



Snow Removal Update

The Council has voted via email on the plan below to address the snow/ice accumulation as it enters its second week!

The weather forecast for Friday is for an additional 3 inches of snow. Once the latest snow event is over, our plan is to hire someone to plow the parking lots in order to have worship services on Saturday night and Sunday morning. We also have a volunteer crew lined up to clear paths to the church entrances. When this cleanup is completed, we will make a final decision on the services. If we are able to hold our worship services, and this certainly is the plan, please be extremely cautious, as total removal under the current temperatures will be impossible. If you have any reservations, please be safe and stay home and join us on the live stream.

Please monitor our website, your email, or Facebook for any updates.

Thank you, be safe and we hope to see you this weekend.

Ecclesiastical Council Update

On Sunday, we were scheduled to host the association for the Ecclesiastical Council for Brian Newton. However, given the uncertainty of the weather and the distance some of our sister churches will need to travel to join us, the association has postponed this gathering. Please mark your calendars for the new date, March 16. We will look forward to hosting the association and seeing Brian through this next step on his journey toward ordination!

Church Mailing Volunteers Needed

It's that time of the year for the Annual Report mailing to be assembled. I'm looking for a couple more helpers for about an hour **this Wednesday at 11:00 am**. Many hands make light work and add to the fun, so if you are able to join us, please contact me at patty@bethlehemucc.org or (812) 867-2497.

Patty Oglesby
Administrative Coordinator

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

There are numerous opportunities in 2025 to donate Sunday's altar flowers. Click the button below to sign up for a weekend. Please contact Cindy Carwile with any questions at ckcarwile@gmail.com.

Available dates in the coming months:

January 19

February 2, 9, 16, 23

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Altar Flower Sign Up



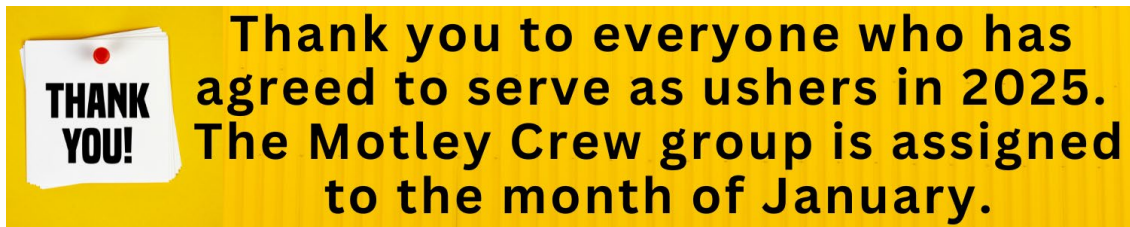
Thank you! To each and every one of you who served as an usher in 2024, and especially to group leaders who ensured people were assigned each and every week.

Since this program was so successful, we're going to continue with assignments in 2025. Many of you have already received your assigned month, and others will receive them soon.

I can't express enough how much your support and service to our church is appreciated!

Happy New Year!

Tricia Dremstedt Vaupel



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve as ushers in 2025. The Motley Crew group is assigned to the month of January.



An All-Church and Friends Event! Have some fun and show off your smarts! Register as an individual **or** a team (6-8 people). We will assemble teams from the pool of registered individuals.



FUN AND FOOD!

We know that January usually brings cold, cloudy, and dark days. For many, we transition from the most wonderful time of the year to the lowest time of the year. So, let's get together and try to brighten up January with a Friends and Family Trivia Night on **Friday, January 24th, at 5:30**. We will make soup and sandwiches to share. Register as an individual or a team. We will put together teams from the pool of registered individuals. If you're assembling your own team, it should be 6-8 people. There will be a potpourri of questions, some for the young, some for the middle-aged, and some for the more seasoned.

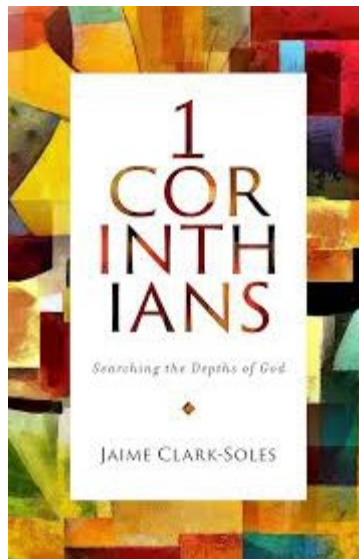
Hurry up and get yourself and your team (if applicable) registered using the button below. Need help signing up? Contact the office (812) 867-2497.

[Register Here](#)



This Sunday!

Let's try again! We welcome all ages following worship on January 12 for Dehanging of the Greens! Many hands make light work, as we will need to put away the Advent decorations until next year. This is a great fellowship opportunity, so please join the fun!



On Tuesday, January 21 (through March 4), the morning Bible study group will begin using the book *1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God* by Jaime Clark-Soles. We plan to meet from 10:30-12, and the book is available on Amazon. All are welcome to join!

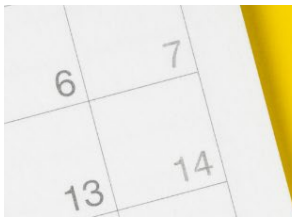


Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Please join us on Sunday, January 26, following worship for our semi-annual Congregational Meeting, where we will approve the 2025 budget and more. Bring your copy of the Annual Report and any supplemental sheets that accompany the mailing to the meeting.

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. ROMEIO Club is open to anyone no matter your age! The Club will meet again at 11:30 am for lunch this Tuesday at Jacobs Pub. 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!



Coming Up

Thursday, January 9

5:30 – 6:30pm

Property Committee Mtg.

Fellowship Hall

6:30 – 9pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd (Wiseman)

Saturday, January 11

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

Sunday, January 12

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

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

5 – 6pm
Cub Scout Leaders Meeting
Youth Room

Monday, January 13

8:30 – 10am
Confirmation Classroom Rsvd. - Worthington

12:30pm - 1:30pm
Funeral - Private Service for Bob Harrison
Sanctuary

6:30 – 7:30pm
Green Team Meeting
Library

Tuesday, January 14

All day
February STAR article deadline sent to publishing@bethlehemucc.org

Wednesday, January 15

12 – 2pm
Eosin Monthly Lunch
Fellowship Hall

5:30 – 7pm
Finance Ministry Team
Confirmation Classroom

6 – 7:30pm
Cub Scout Den 346 Meeting
Fellowship Hall, Welcoming Area & Education Wing

Thursday, January 16

6:30 – 7:30pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

7:30 – 8:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

Saturday, January 18

9 – 10:30am

Welcoming Area Rsvd. - Carwile

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship
Welcoming Area

Sunday, January 19

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship
Sanctuary



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

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