



# EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

I'm looking forward to being in both services this weekend as we look at an important passage from the book of Acts. Every time I work through this passage, I learn something new, and this week has been no exception. It's a rich text that continues to reveal to the Church the scope of God's invitation to humankind!

Our reading for this weekend will be Acts 9:43, 11.1-18. But, if you want to be a superstar student of the Scriptures (ask me for a star sticker, I'll have them on me!), take a look at Acts 9:43-11.18 and the book of Jonah (don't panic, it's only 48 verses!).

Whether or not you've "done your homework," I'll look forward to being with you this weekend at 5:30 on Saturday night or 10:15 on Sunday.

On Sunday, we will honor our seven high school graduates with a breakfast for them and their families in the Welcoming Area at 9:00 a.m. This will also be the last day for Sunday School until Rally Day!

Please remember that there is an all church work day Saturday morning from 8 to noon. If you can lend a hand, there will be a job for you!

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"You know, that one room by the choir room."

Since I've been at Bethlehem, the "room by the choir room" has gone by the name of the group that meets there on Sunday mornings (Motley Crew Room, Confirmation Room). But, the room is used throughout the week for many different meetings, and who meets there on Sundays changes as our needs do.

In light of all of this and in the spirit of clarity, I hereby exercise my ministerial authority (granted to me by my ordination vows) to declare the room be called the "Conference Room" henceforth and evermore (or until you hear otherwise).

Thank you for your attention on this matter!

## Sign Up Spot

# Worship Acolytes



## Worship Liturgist



## Listen to Last Weekend's Worship Message



## Prayer List

Pam Wiseman (recovering from knee surgery)  
Family and friends of Terry Yunker (passed away May 11)  
Sandy Gardner (brain bleed after falling, sister of Pam Wiseman)  
The family and friends of Hazel Pablo (passed away May 8, Pam Small's aunt)  
Glen Schlensker (recovering from knee replacement surgery)  
Jennifer Gander (being treated for cancer, Andrea and Wayne's daughter-in-law)  
Michelle Oglesby (recovering from surgery)  
Alan Mason (foot healing)  
Bill Shafer (treatment for pancreatic cancer; brother of Judy Kattman, Jane Jackson, and Lee Ann Shafer)  
Those affected by weather-related disasters  
Middle East  
Students and Teachers  
Victims of violence  
All those battling addiction and facing the daily struggle to stay clean.

## 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 Here](#)



The flowers on the altar are given by Tim and Amy Spurling in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary and Susie Kuhlenschmidt in honor of all the Bethlehem graduates.

## All-Church Spring Clean-Up Day

**This Saturday**

It's time for spring cleanup, and the Property Committee needs lots of helping hands of all ages for an All-Church Workday on **Saturday, May 17, from 8 am to noon.**

The Committee has a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks and looks forward to welcoming everyone with bagels, donuts, and coffee at 7:30 am.

The workdays are a fun opportunity to meet new people while deepening the meaning of caring for our creation and church campus. **We look forward to a**

great turnout, as many hands make light work for all!

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### **This Sunday!**

We will be celebrating our high school seniors this Sunday. CYMT (Children & Youth Ministry Team) will be hosting a breakfast for seniors and their families in the Welcoming Area from 9:00 to 10:00 am, and our graduates will be recognized during worship.

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## Civil Rights Study & Trip

As part of my sabbatical last summer, I took a ten-day Civil Rights tour through the southern US. I learned so much about our history and about the role of the church (for good and for ill) in the Civil Rights Movement.

I'm putting together a study group and trip to continue my own learning and to hopefully help share some of what I've learned with others. The books we will read are *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby and *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith.

The study portion will begin in the fall of 2025. In spring of 2026, I'd like to take a trip to Birmingham and Montgomery (and maybe a plantation in Louisiana--we'll let the group decide!).

I am exploring ways to keep our costs down. For now, I am looking for those who would be interested in participating. From there, we'll make plans as a group about how often and in what format (in person, Zoom, etc) we'd like to meet as we work through these readings together.

You can indicate your interest by emailing me ([emily@bethlehemucc.org](mailto:emily@bethlehemucc.org)) or by filling out this Google Form [HERE](#).



Please join us next Sunday immediately following worship in the cemetery for an observance of Memorial Day.

## **CONNIE and AUGUST KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2025**

The CONNIE and AUGUST KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND is administered by Bethlehem United Church of Christ. A \$1,000 scholarship may be awarded to anyone living in Vanderburgh County, Indiana in 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year. Preference will be given to applicants if they are members of Bethlehem and pursuing a course of instruction leading to a degree in a health or education-related field.

Detailed instructions and guidelines are available with the applications and may be obtained on the information wall outside the church office or by clicking [HERE](#).

**Please return the completed application, including a certified copy of your academic transcript, to the Memorial Committee mailbox (by the church elevator), no later than May 31, 2025.**

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# **BUILDING FAITH**

**5:15 - 7:30 pm**

Invite a friend!  
Rising 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> --  
Join us for a  
handbell workshop  
or as a VBS  
volunteer!

**Vacation**

**Bible**

**School**

**June 22-24**

**dinner included**



## VBS Needs



We need any rectangle box, including shoe boxes, cereal boxes, food boxes, Amazon boxes, and so on. The more the merrier! Additionally, we could also use any size empty clear plastic round or square pretzel, snack, or nut containers, similar those you may get from Sam's or Costco. We will collect them on the table in the youth entrance by the boxwood wall. Thank you!



## **Habitat Opportunity**

Habitat will have their volunteer day to landscape the UCC/DOC build on May 24 at 652 E. Louisiana from 7:30 - 2:30 pm. Our group will join the Catholics for Habitat, who are also doing landscaping that day on their build next door.

Sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer!



May 15th, 2025

Dear Emily,

Thank you again to everyone who joined us for the 63rd Annual Meeting of Good Samaritan Home. It was a meaningful evening—full of reflection, gratitude, and a hopeful vision for the future.

Whether you were with us in person or are catching up now, we want to share this brief summary of the evening's highlights and the exciting direction we're pursuing together.

We're grateful for your continued support, your thoughtful presence, and the spirit of partnership that makes this work possible.

Rev. Michael Erwin  
Executive Director

### **Good Samaritan Annual Meeting Summary**

#### **May 6, 2025 – “Now It Springs Forth”**

Last week, the Good Samaritan community gathered for its 63rd Annual Meeting at Bethel United Church of Christ in Evansville, under the theme:

*“Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)*

This scripture set the tone for an evening focused on hope, renewal, and forward movement. Sixty-five delegates from seventeen member churches and guests were welcomed by Board Chair Andy Mosier and Executive Director Rev. Michael Erwin. The Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of



the United Church of Christ, offered a meaningful invocation and blessing, and we enjoyed another excellent dinner provided by Acropolis.

One of the most poignant moments of the evening was the recognition of the late Rev. Mary Hurley, who served as Chaplain of the Good Samaritan Home for over 25 years and more recently as a member of the Board. Her deep impact was honored with a moment of silence and a prayer of thanksgiving.

The meeting also included a special tribute to Kay Vaught, who completed her fourth consecutive board term after twelve years of dedicated service. Many current board members credit Kay with creating a legacy of leadership that continues to shape Good Sam's future. We look forward to Kay's continued involvement with the Board as a Strategic Board Advisor.

### **A New Direction: One Plan, Two Initiatives**

The heart of the evening was the presentation of the Board's unified proposal for Good Samaritan's next chapter. This new plan is the result of over a year of discernment and research, initiated by the membership's 2024 call to explore needs related to poverty, mental health, and senior care.

Those three focus areas were brought together in one coordinated plan with two major initiatives:

- **Affordable Housing** – A \$5 million, five-year grantmaking initiative to support the creation and preservation of safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing in southwestern Indiana, along with wraparound services such as financial literacy and home repairs.
- **Mental Health & Senior Care Access** – A \$1 million initiative to expand access to care by investing in social work education and training through the University of Southern Indiana. The plan includes paid student stipends, a new full-time faculty position, and support for establishing community-based outreach clinics with many hosted by member churches.

Together, these initiatives reflect Good Sam's legacy of "providing a caring community through an atmosphere of Christian love and concern."

### **Thoughtful Dialogue and Unanimous Affirmation**

Delegates engaged in thoughtful and constructive dialogue during the Q&A, asking

important questions about implementation, partnerships, and long-term impact. After discussion, the membership offered unanimous affirmation and support for the plan and the Board's direction.

### **What Comes Next**

Over the coming months, the Board and Staff will begin implementing the framework for both initiatives. This includes:

- Developing a grant application process for the housing initiative.
- Collaborating with USI's Social Work Department to formalize the education and outreach partnerships.
- Making updates to policies, legal filings, and procedures to support the new mission.

We are excited to move forward with purpose and clarity, and grateful to be doing so in partnership with you.

***Good Samaritan is a ministry and member of the United Church of Christ.***

## **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. If you prefer a paper form, they are available in the vestibule (office entrance open 24/7), church office hallway, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex. Please contact Cindy Carwile with any questions at [ckcarwile@gmail.com](mailto:ckcarwile@gmail.com).

### **Available dates in the coming months:**

July 13, 20, 27  
August 17, 24, 31  
September 7, 21, 28

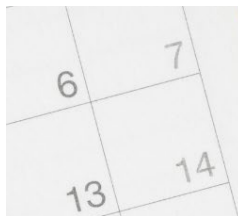
**Altar Flower Sign Up**

## **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 again at 11:30 am for lunch this 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](mailto:Twinpapa02@yahoo.com) by Monday morning. New faces are always welcome!



**Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve as ushers. The WEB group is scheduled for May.**



## Coming Up

### **Thursday, May 15**

5:30 – 7:30pm

Fellowship Hall Rsvd. - B. Jones

7:30 – 8:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Music Room

### **Saturday, May 17**

8am – 12pm

All-Church Workday

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

### **Sunday, May 18**

9 – 10am

Graduation Breakfast

Youth Room

9 – 10am

## Last Day of Children's Sunday School

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship - Graduation Sunday  
Sanctuary

### **Monday, May 19**

8:30 – 10am

Conference Room Rsvd. - Worthington

5 – 6pm

Executive Committee Mtg.  
Library

6 – 8pm

Church Council  
BUCC Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, May 20**

10:30am – 12pm

Bible Study on Tuesday Mornings  
Confirmation Classroom

### **Thursday, May 22**

7:30 – 8:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
Music Room

### **Saturday, May 24**

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship  
Welcoming Area

### **Sunday, May 25**

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship  
Sanctuary

Memorial Day Observance  
Following Worship in Cemetery

11:30am – 12pm

Council Chat

Welcoming Area

3:30 – 5:30pm

UCS DINNER - Outreach

United Caring Services



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