

I'm pleased to report that Pastor Doug is home and recovering from his recent hospital stay. We continue to hold him and Linda in our prayers and look forward to having them back with us soon.

This weekend, I look forward to being in both services. We will look at John 5.1-9. If you spend some time with the text before the weekend, see if you notice anything that makes this healing story a bit different from others. Is anything missing that you might expect to see?

As the summer kicks off, Pastor Doug and I will each be taking some vacation time (that just happens to overlap). Here is the preaching schedule for the next few weeks:

Saturday, May 24: Pastor Emily (communion service)

Sunday, May 25: Pastor Emily Saturday, May 31: Haiden Hart

Sunday, June 1: Rev. Stephanie Weiner (communion service)

Saturday, June 7: Brian Newton Sunday, June 8: Pastor Emily

Sign Up Spot





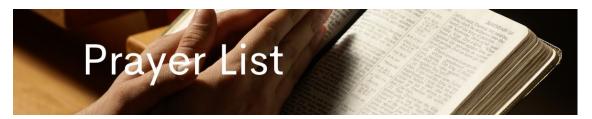
Worship Liturgist





Listen to Last Weekend's Worship Message





Family and friends of Alan Stahl (passed away May 20, brother of Quentin and Manfred)

Family and friends of Linda Scott (passed away May 17, sister of Donna Stahl)

Lynne Goodman (grandmother passed away on May 12)

Alan Mason (recovering from surgery)

Pastor Doug (recovering from hospital stay)

Jane Jackson (hip replacement surgery on May 27)

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)

Glen Schlensker (recovering from knee replacement surgery)

Jennifer Gander (being treated for cancer, Andrea and Wayne's daughter-in-law)

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.

Our military



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.



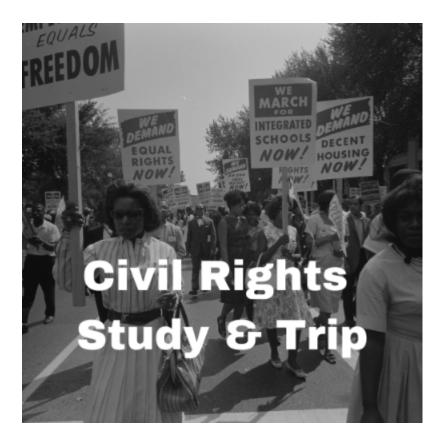
The flowers on the altar are given by Steve and Patty Oglesby in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. The white roses are in memory of Alan Stahl (brother of Quentin and Manfred) and Linda Scott, sister of Donna Stahl.



Please join us this Sunday immediately following worship in the cemetery for a Memorial Day oberservance.

2 Church Council Chat

A Church Council member will be available to answer any questions or concerns for the Council this Sunday following worship. All are welcomed to attend the Chat.



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) or by filling out this Google Form HERE.

CONNIE and AUGUST KOCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Due next week -- 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 <u>HERE</u>.

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.





We need rectangular boxes, specifically shoebox-sized and larger. The more, the merrier! Additionally, we could also use any size empty clear plastic round or square pretzel, snack, or nut containers, similar to 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

THIS SATURDAY!

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 ckearwile@gmail.com.

Available dates in the coming months:

July 13, 20, 27 August 3, 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 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 22

7:30 – 8:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Saturday, May 24

5:30 – 6:30pm Worship - Communion Welcoming Area

> Sunday, May 25 10:15 – 11:15am Worship Sanctuary

11:15am – 12:15pm Memorial Day Observance - Cemetery Flagpole

> 11:30am – 12pm Council Chat Welcoming Area

3:30 – 5:30pm UCS DINNER - Outreach United Caring Services

Monday, May 26

All day

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 27

 $4-6{:}30 pm \\$ Welcoming Area Rsvd. - Busy Mrs.

5:30 – 6:30pm Outreach Committee Mtg. Library

Thursday, May 29

7:30 - 8:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music Room

Friday, May 30

10am – 12pm VBS Workday Youth Room

Saturday, May 31

5:30 – 6:30pm Worship Welcoming Area

Sunday, June 1

10:15 – 11:15am Worship - Communion Sanctuary

> 11:30am – 1pm WEB Luncheon Fellowship Hall







Bethlehem United Church of Christ

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