

# EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Acolytes 



**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

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](#)



## ALTAR FLOWERS

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.



## Memorial Day Remembrance

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



## 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.



## 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](#).

**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 [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.**



The poster features a central graphic of a cross made of colorful building blocks (red, green, blue, yellow). To the left of the cross is a blue speech bubble with a megaphone icon and the text "SAVE THE DATES". To the right of the cross, the text "Building Faith" is written in a large, bold, red font. Below this, "Bethlehem UCC" is written in a blue font, followed by "VBS" in a red font and "June 22-24" in a red font. At the bottom, the text "Vacation Bible School" is written in a bold, black font. Below that, "Bring a friend! Rising 1 - 6 Grades" is written in a blue font, followed by "7-12<sup>th</sup> grades -- join us for a handbell workshop or as a VBS volunteer!" in a green font, and finally "5:15 - 7:30 pm (dinner included)" in a black font.

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Building Faith**

Bethlehem UCC  
VBS  
June 22-24

**Vacation Bible School**

**Bring a friend! Rising 1 - 6 Grades**  
**7-12<sup>th</sup> grades -- join us for a handbell**  
**workshop or as a VBS volunteer!**  
**5:15 - 7:30 pm (dinner included)**



# VBS Needs



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!

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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 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](mailto:Twinpapa02@yahoo.com) by Monday morning. New faces are always welcome!

**THANK  
YOU!**

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 – 6:30pm

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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